

USSR - EXTENSION OF MORATORIUM ON NUCLEAR TESTS*

HAVING THOROUGHLY ANALYZED ALL +PROS+ AND +CONS+, AND BEING GUIDED BY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD, THE POLITBURO OF THE CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOVIET UNION HAVE DECIDED TO EXTEND THE TERM OF THE UNILATERAL MORATORIUM ON NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS TO JANUARY 1, 1987, DECLARED GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE MIKHAIL GORBACHEV IN A TELEVISED ADDRESS ON AUGUST 18.

THE USSR WILL CONTINUE REFRAINING FROM TESTS ALTHOUGH THE UNITED STATES, WHICH HAD THE LEAD IN THE NUMBER OF EXPLOSIONS FOR 40 YEARS, DETONATED DURING THE YEAR-LONG SOVIET MORATORIUM ANOTHER 18 NUCLEAR DEVICES, THREE OF WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN DECLARED, NOTED THE SOVIET LEADER. THE US ADMINISTRATION, WHICH IS CARRYING OUT THE LARGEST MILITARY PROGRAMMES, OSTENTATIOUSLY TIMED THE TESTS TO SOVIET STATEMENTS ABOUT THE EXTENSION OF THE MORATORIUM OR TO NEW SOVIET PEACE INITIATIVES.

KNOWING WITH WHOM IT DEALS, THE SOVIET UNION IS BOUND TO FEEL CONCERN. THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE CITED LETTERS AND STATEMENTS BY SOVIET PEOPLE ON THIS SCORE. ORDINARY SOVIET PEOPLE ASK: ISN'T THE RISK TOO GREAT, DOESN'T THE TIME WORK AGAINST OUR SECURITY WHEN EXPLOSIONS THUNDER IN NEVADA? WE HOLD SACRED THE SECURITY OF OUR COUNTRY, STRESSED MIKHAIL GORBACHEV. THIS SHOULD BE CLEAR TO ALL. THIS IS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE.

TOUCHING ON THE INCREASINGLY ARROGANT STEPS BY THE US IN THE MILITARY SPHERE, INCLUDING SDI, MIKHAIL GORBACHEV DECLARED THAT THE SOVIET UNION WILL QUICKLY FIND AN ANSWER IF NEED BE HOWEVER, THE USSR IS FOR MOVING FROM THE WORLD ARMED-TO-THE-TEETH TO A WORLD WITHOUT WEAPONS.

TAKING A DECISION TO EXTEND THE MORATORIUM THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT WAS GUIDED BY THE SIMPLE LOGIC -- IF THERE ARE NO TESTS, THERE WILL BE NO SOPHISTICATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS OF WHICH BOTH SIDES HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH. THE USSR ALSO TOOK INTO ACCOUNT THE PREVAILING OPINION OF THE WORLD PUBLIC, AND RESPONDED TO THE APPEAL OF THE DELHI SIX WHICH RECENTLY ADOPTED A MEXICAN DECLARATION, AND TO THE DEMANDS OF THE BULK OF NON-ALIGNED NATIONS.

THE DECISION OF THE USSR TO PROLONG ITS UNILATERAL MORATORIUM SHOWS HOW SERIOUS AND SINCERE IT WAS IN ADVANCING A VAST PACKAGE OF INITIATIVES TO PROMOTE DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY. THESE INITIATIVES ARE BASED ON THE REALITIES OF THE NUCLEAR-AND-SPACE AGE.

FIRST. HEAPS OF NUCLEAR AND ALL SORTS OF OTHER WEAPONS HAVE BEEN PILED UP, BUT THE ARMS RACE DOES NOT SLOW DOWN ITS PACE. MOREOVER, IT IS GAINING IN SPEED, AND THE DANGER OF ITS TRANSFER TO SPACE HAS EMERGED. THE RATES OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF MILITARY TECHNOLOGY ARE SO HIGH THAT THEY LIMIT THE TIME AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR MANKIND TO STOP THE SLIDING TO THE NUCLEAR PRECIPICE. THERE IS NO TIME TO WASTE. OTHERWISE THE

...2/

*[This statement by the General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, was provided by the Press Officer of the USSR Embassy, Australia].

2... SOPHISTICATION OF WEAPONS SYSTEMS WILL REACH A POINT WHERE AGREEMENT ON THEIR CONTROL WILL BECOME ALTOGETHER IMPOSSIBLE. NOW IT IS CLEAR AS DAY THAT THE OLD NOTION OF WAR AS A MEANS OF REACHING POLITICAL ENDS HAS OUTLIVED ITSELF.

SECOND. AS A SOCIALIST STATE AND NUCLEAR POWER, THE SOVIET UNION DEEMS IT ITS HIGH DUTY TO DO EVERYTHING IT CAN TO ENSURE A PEACEFUL FUTURE FOR MANKIND. IN THE NUCLEAR AGE THE TASK OF SAVING THE EARTH FROM ATOMIC DEATH IS A TASK FOR ALL MANKIND, FOR ALL NATIONS.

THIRD. THE MODERN WORLD IS COMPLICATED, DIVERSE, AND CONTRADICTORY. AT THE SAME TIME IT IS OBJECTIVELY BECOMING MORE AND MORE INDEPENDENT AND INTEGRAL. IGNORING THIS SPECIFICITY MEANS DOOMING INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS TO FEVER, AND EVENTUALLY TO A DISASTROUS CONFRONTATION.

IN EFFECT, THE MENTALITY OF THE PRE-NUCLEAR AGE BECAME INVALID ON AUGUST 6, 1945. TODAY ONE CANNOT ENSURE HIS OWN SECURITY WITHOUT CONSIDERING THE SECURITY INTERESTS OF OTHER STATES AND NATIONS. SECURITY CANNOT BE GENUINE UNLESS IT IS EQUITABLE FOR ALL AND COMPREHENSIVE. ANY OTHER IDEA OF SECURITY IS WISHFUL THINKING.

THE SOVIET PROPOSALS OF JANUARY 15, 1986 ON THE TOTAL ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS BY THE YEAR 2000, AND OTHER PROPOSALS TABLED BY THE USSR AND ITS ALLIES AT THE GENEVA TALKS AND OTHER FORA AND CONFERENCES, FULLY MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF OUR ERA, EMPHASIZED MIKHAIL GORBACHEV. AT THE SAME TIME WE REALIZE THAT WE CANNOT DO EVERYTHING ON OUR OWN THE PROBLEM OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY IS A COMMON PROBLEM, SO THE CONCERN ABOUT IT AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR IT SHOULD BE COMMON AS WELL.

SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN NEGOTIATIONS IS INTERPRETED BY SOME AMERICAN POLITICIANS AS A RESULT OF THE GROWING US MILITARY MIGHT, OF THE ELABORATION OF THE SDI PROGRAMME. THE US ADMINISTRATION IS BUILDING ITS POLICY ON THE WRONG PREMISES. IT UNDERRATES THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AND THE NEWLY-FREE STATES, AND OVERRATES ITS OWN POSSIBILITIES. THE ENSUING TECHNOLOGICAL ARROGANCE AND ANYTHING-GOES POLICY DO NOT ALLOW THE US ADMINISTRATION TO EMBARK ON THE ROAD OF HONEST AGREEMENTS, TO START WORKING FOR A BETTER INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE.

EXTENDING THE UNILATERAL MORATORIUM, WE BELIEVE THAT PEOPLE IN ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD, POLITICAL CIRCLES AND THE PUBLIC AT LARGE WILL CORRECTLY ASSESS THIS PROLONGED SILENCE AT SOVIET NUCLEAR PROVING GROUNDS, SAID MIKHAIL GORBACHEV IN CONCLUSION. ON BEHALF OF THE SOVIET PEOPLE HE APPEALED TO THE REASON AND DIGNITY OF THE AMERICANS, URGING THEM NOT TO MISS ONCE AGAIN THE HISTORIC CHANCE ON THE ROAD TO HALTING THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE. THE GENERAL SECRETARY CALLED UPON US PRESIDENT REAGAN TO ASSESS ONCE AGAIN THE CURRENT SITUATION WITHOUT BIAS, TO BRUSH ASIDE EVERYTHING SUPERFLUOUS, TO OVERCOME THE WRONG IDEAS ABOUT THE USSR AND ITS FOREIGN POLICY.

THE SOVIET UNION IS CONVINCED THAT A NUCLEAR TEST-BAN AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED QUICKLY AND SIGNED BEFORE THE YEAR EXPIRES -- AT THE SOVIET-US SUMMIT. THE SIGNING OF THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT WOULD DOUBTLESS BE THE MOST IMPORTANT REAL RESULT OF THE MEETING, A MAJOR STEP ON THE ROAD OF HALTING THE ARMS RACE. IT WOULD BE A KIND OF A PRELUDE TO FURTHER PROGRESS AT THE TALKS ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS, TO THEIR ELIMINATION, AND A DRAMATIC IMPROVEMENT OF THE ENTIRE SITUATION IN THE WORLD.