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A COMMUNICATION FROM THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Note by the President

In response to the request made by the delegate of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in a letter which he addressed to the President on 22 September, the text of a message from the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Mr. A.N. Kosygin, to the twentieth regular session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency is reproduced below.

"COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS,
Mr. A.N. KOSYGIN,
TO THE TWENTIETH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE
OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

"Dear President,

"Permit me to transmit through you my wishes for a fruitful twentieth regular session to the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency - an important international organization whose activities are very directly linked with the maintenance of peace and the strengthening of co-operation between States.

"In the present international situation, for those interested in the maintenance of peace there is no more urgent task than putting an end to the arms race and achieving disarmament. It is incumbent on the Agency to help in achieving these aims, and all people of good will wish the participants in the Conference every success in this noble cause. This is also the wish of all Soviet citizens.

"The Agency is rightly regarded as the centre for co-ordinating the efforts of States in the peaceful utilization of atomic energy - in the development of nuclear power generation, the exchange of scientific and technical information, the use of underground explosions for peaceful purposes, environmental protection and controlled thermonuclear fusion.

"One should not forget for a moment, however, that the energy of the atomic nucleus can also be used as the most destructive weapon mankind has ever known. That is why the efforts deployed by the Agency to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons acquire special importance. Although the field of application of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons has recently expanded, new and even more effective measures are necessary to stop the further spread of nuclear weapons on our planet. This is one of the most important tasks before the Agency.

"The Soviet Union has rendered considerable and varied assistance to the Agency ever since it was established and I should like to assure the participants in the Conference that our country intends to continue contributing to the conduct of the work of this influential international organization, which is so valuable to the cause of peace.

"Permit me to express the hope that the twentieth regular session of the Agency's General Conference will help in strengthening collaboration between States in the interests of maintaining peace.

"Yours sincerely,

"A. KOSYGIN

"22 September 1976"