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UNGA 42: SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER'S SPEECH, 23 SEPTEMBER

SUMMARY

1. A WELL-CONSTRUCTED SPEECH, ADDRESSED FIRMLY TO ITS AUDIENCE, WHICH WENT DOWN WELL. EMPHASIS ON ARMS CONTROL/DISARMAMENT, GLASNOST/PERESTROIKA, A COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF SECURITY AND THE GULF.

DETAIL

2. SHEVARDNADZE ADDRESSED THE ASSEMBLY ON 23 SEPTEMBER. HIS SPEECH WAS WELL-CONSTRUCTED AND EFFECTIVE AND ADDRESSED SQUARELY TO A UN AUDIENCE. IT WENT DOWN WELL.

3. SHEVARDNADZE BEGAN BY SAYING THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY THE IDEA OF NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT WAS CLOSE TO THE BEGINNING OF ITS FULFILMENT. THE SUPER-POWERS HAD FINALLY SPOKEN TOGETHER THE FIRST WORD IN A NUCLEAR-FREE VOCABULARY. THE QUESTION NOW WAS WHETHER ALL WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION COULD BE SCRAPPED. HE LOOKED FORWARD TO AGREEMENT ON CW AND CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS.

4. THE ENTHUSIASM FOR THE INF AGREEMENT SHOWED THAT THINGS WERE ON THE RIGHT TRACK. THE SOVIET DELEGATION KEENLY FELT THAT ALL WERE TRULY UNITED NATIONS: TO APPLAUSE HE EXPRESSED THANKS FOR 'THIS WONDERFUL FEELING', WHICH SHOULD BE CARRIED FURTHER. SENECA HAD WRITTEN THAT WE WERE BORN TO LIVE TOGETHER, BUT ONLY TODAY WAS THIS IDEA UNDERSTOOD AS THE IMPERATIVE DEMAND OF OUR TIME.

5. PASSING ON TO GORBACHEV'S ARTICLE ON 'REALITY AND THE GUARANTEES OF A SECURE WORLD', HE SAID THAT SUCH GUARANTEES LAY IN A COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF SECURITY AND WERE A NATURAL UNDERTAKING FOR THE UN. THE ARTICLE REFLECTED SOVIET HISTORY. THE PROCESS OF RENOVATION UNDER WAY IN THE SOVIET UNION WAS MORE THAN A DOMESTIC AFFAIR: PERESTROIKA AND GLASNOST WERE LINKED AND

INSEPARABLE. AFTER AN ACCOUNT OF SOVIET DEVELOPMENT SINCE THE REVOLUTION, SHEVARDNADZE CONTINUED THAT THE DISTINCTIVE FEATURE OF PERESTROIKA WAS TO CONSOLIDATE THE VICTORIES AND PREVENT REPETITION OF THE ERRORS OF THE PAST. NO-ONE SHOULD HAVE THE ILLUSION THAT PERESTROIKA WOULD INVOLVE BORROWING FROM OTHERS THEIR RULES OF DEMOCRACY: IT WOULD BE CONDUCTED ON A SOVIET SOCIALIST BASIS. IN A FURTHER OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO PRESIDENT REAGAN'S ADDRESS OF 21 SEPTEMBER TO THE ASSEMBLY, HE SAID THAT THE UN WAS NOT A PULPIT FOR PREACHING FREE ENTERPRISE, LECTURING THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ON GOOD POLITICAL BEHAVIOUR OR DELIVERING PASTORAL ADMONITIONS TELLING THE ORGANIZATION THAT IT HAD STRAYED. ON THE CONTRARY, THE UN WAS THE PLACE WHERE NEW POLITICAL THOUGHT SHOULD RAISE ITS VOICE. NEW POLITICAL THOUGHT SHOWED HOW PEACE COULD BE ASSURED OTHER THAN BY NUCLEAR WEAPONS, THROUGH A COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY. ITS OBJECTIVE WAS TO ENSURE PEACE EXCLUSIVELY THROUGH THE UN AND THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON THE BASIS OF STRICT OBSERVANCE OF THE CHARTER. BUT THE CHARTER, IDEAL AS IT WAS, COULD NOT DEAL WITH NUCLEAR HOLOCAUST. QUOTING SAKHAROV, HE ASSERTED THAT THE U S SDI PROGRAMME IMPEDED NEGOTIATIONS ON DISARMAMENT. THE OCEAN OF SPACE SHOULD BE LEFT TO PEACEFUL VESSELS SO THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS MIGHT NOT HAVE TO BUILD SPACE MINE-SWEEPERS.

6. A COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF SECURITY HAD A POLITICO MILITARY ASPECT, WHICH ENTAILED NON-FIRST USE OF FORCE. IT WOULD PROVIDE THE KEY TO THE SETTLEMENT OF REGIONAL CONFLICTS. AFTER ANOTHER SIDE-SWIPE AT THE U S FOR INTERFERENCE OVERSEAS, SHEVARDNADZE DECLARED THAT THE UN PLAYED AN IMPORTANT PEACE MAKING ROLE IN AFGHANISTAN, WHERE IT COMBINED ORGANICALLY WITH THE POLICY OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION. IT WAS NOW BECOMING INCREASINGLY EVIDENT THAT THE AFGHANS THEMSELVES WERE ABLE TO DETERMINE THE FUTURE OF THEIR COUNTRY AND WERE DOING SO. THE NEW ENCOURAGING TREND CORRESPONDED WITH A SINCERE SOVIET DESIRE TO WITHDRAW ITS FORCES FROM AFGHANISTAN, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND WITH THE FULL UNDERSTANDING OF THE AFGHAN LEADERSHIP.

7. AFTER VERY BRIEF REFERENCES (ONE OR TWO SENTENCES ON EACH) TO CENTRAL AMERICA, CAMBODIA, THE KOREAS, SOUTHERN AFRICA, THE MIDDLE EAST AND CYPRUS, HE CAME TO THE PERSIAN GULF. THE SITUATION WAS CRITICALLY DANGEROUS AND COULD GET OUT OF CONTROL. THE GREATER THE MILITARY PRESENCE THE HIGHER THE PROBABILITY OF YET ANOTHER CONFLICT AND OF INVOLVEMENT IN IT OF A STATE NOT BELONGING TO THE REGION. THIS WAS A SOURCE OF ANXIETY AND STRENGTHENED THE SOVIET RESOLVE TO ACT IN A SENSIBLE AND CAREFULLY CONSIDERED MANNER. IT

WAS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO PRESERVE THE UNITY IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL AS A PREREQUISITE FOR IMPLEMENTING SCR 598. EACH MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL MUST ABIDE BY THE RESOLUTION. THE SAFETY OF NAVIGATION IN THE GULF COULD AND MUST BE ENSURED BY THE ENTIRE WORLD COMMUNITY, ON WHOSE BEHALF THE UN WOULD BE ACTING. IF NECESSARY, APPROPRIATE AND SUFFICIENT FORCES SHOULD BE MADE EFFECTIVELY AVAILABLE TO IT. "IT IS NECESSARY TO TRY TO SECURE, CONCURRENTLY AND IMMEDIATELY, A CEASEFIRE BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ AND TO WORK FOR THE FULFILMENT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S MISSION WITH RESPECT TO AN IMPARTIAL BODY TO INVESTIGATE THE QUESTION OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONFLICT. THE SECURITY COUNCIL SHOULD RECEIVE A REPORT WITHIN A CLEARLY ESTABLISHED TIME-FRAME." THIS WOULD ALSO MAKE IT POSSIBLE PAINLESSLY TO WITHDRAW FOREIGN AND OTHER NAVAL FORCES FROM THE GULF.

8. A COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF SECURITY SOUGHT ALSO TO PROMOTE COOPERATION IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD. IT WOULD BE HARD TO IMAGINE A MARCH OF DEMOCRACY FOR THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SADDLED WITH A TRILLION DOLLAR DEBT. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SHOULD AGREE TO REDUCE INTEREST PAYMENTS ON BANK CREDITS, INSTITUTE FURTHER BENEFITS FOR THE LDCS, LIMIT DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS TO FIXED PROPORTIONS OF EXPORT EARNINGS, ACCEPT EXPORT PRODUCTS AS PAYMENT FOR DEBTS AND REFRAIN FROM CHARGING ADDITIONAL INTEREST FOR LOAN PAYMENT RESCHEDULING OR DEBT REFINANCING. OVER THE LONG TERM IT WAS ALSO NECESSARY TO RESTRUCTURE THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY SYSTEM. DISARMAMENT WOULD HELP DEVELOPMENT.

9. A COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF SECURITY HAD AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT TOO, REFLECTING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MAN AND NATURE. IN PARTICULAR, NATIONS SHOULD COOPERATE IN ESTABLISHING OPTIMUM CONDITIONS FOR SAFEGUARDING FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS OF THE INDIVIDUAL. PRACTICAL STEPS SHOULD INCLUDE COOPERATION TO ERADICATE APARTHEID, RACISM AND NATIONALISM, AND GENERALLY DEAL WITH THE PROBLEMS OF NATIONAL MINORITIES OR REFUGEES AND SAFEGUARD THE RIGHTS OF EMIGRANTS.

10. FULL TEXT FAXED TO SOVIET DEPT, FCO.

11. SEE MIFT.

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