



Prime Minister

CDP

13/3.

ms

PS/Prime Minister

cc PS/Secretary of State

SOVIET STATEMENTS ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS

1. The Prime Minister raised the question of the Soviet attitude to the complete elimination of nuclear weapons in connection with a reference to this in Mr Gorbachev's election speech on 12 March.

2. I attach for comparison some other recent Soviet statements on the same point.

NHRA Broomfield

13 March 1985

(N H R A Broomfield)



REPLY BY CHERNENKO TO A LETTER FROM A CANADIAN STUDENT

(Pravda 25 January 1985)

Excerpt

"As early as 1946 the Soviet Union proposed prohibiting for ever the production and use of nuclear weapons, the destruction of stockpiles of them. Imagine what the world would be like today if our proposal had been accepted? How much more easily the world would breathe if other states were to follow our example and undertake the obligation not to use nuclear weapons first. The Soviet Union is in favour of freezing nuclear arsenals, completely banning tests of nuclear weapons and the construction and use of other weapons of mass destruction. Our country is in favour of space for ever remaining peaceful. The ultimate aim of these initiatives is the elimination of nuclear weapons completely and everywhere."

CHERNENKO'S ELECTION SPEECH

(Pravda 23 February 1985)

Excerpt

"And thirdly we want a real reduction of stocks of arms, the destruction to begin with a significant part of them, rather than the creation of more and more new weapons systems either in space or on earth whether they are offensive or allegedly defensive systems. Our ultimate aim is the complete destruction of nuclear weapons everywhere on this planet and the total removal of the threat of nuclear war."



GROMYKO'S TELEVISION INTERVIEW

(Pravda 14 January 1985)

Excerpt

"I should say that one of the main aims of the (Geneva) talks as has been stated by both powers is the total exclusion of nuclear arms from the arsenal of weapons. This is a very important agreement, it is included in the joint statement. Nothing has been said about this in previous Soviet/American joint statements... this is a great and noble aim. The USSR is not setting this aim only today we set this aim immediately after the appearance of nuclear weapons. In 1946 we introduced into the United Nations a proposal on these lines but it did not then find support especially from the United States."