

USSRMORATORIA ON NUCLEAR TESTS ***SOVIET GOVERNMENT STATEMENT**

Moscow, April 11. TASS. Follows the text of the Soviet Government's Statement. .

The nuclear explosion conducted by the United States on April 10, 1986 once again clearly demonstrated that what is really concealed behind the words of the United States administration about its devotion to the aim of liquidating nuclear arms is intent to further threaten mankind with the nuclear sword, to keep the world in the trap of fear of universal annihilation. Once again Washington has placed the egoistic, imperial ambitions of the United States military-industrial complex above the interests of mankind. The American Government's irresponsible actions are an open challenge not only to the Soviet Union but also to the peoples on all continents, to the world as a whole.

The alternative to nuclear madness suggested by the Soviet Union in its striving to help stop the buildup of nuclear arsenals is diametrically opposite to the policy of the United States administration. Last summer the USSR announced the termination of all nuclear explosions from August 6 to December 31, 1985.

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The Soviet Government persistently called on the United States administration to join this initiative and thereby make the moratorium mutual. This would have made it possible to drastically slow down the nuclear arms race, stop the qualitative improvement of nuclear arms and the development of new types of such arms, and to embark on the road of practical actions leading to the liquidation of nuclear arms.

After the Geneva meeting of the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachyov with the President of the United States Ronald Reagan the Soviet Government, despite the continuation of nuclear tests in the United States, made yet another constructive step by extending its moratorium till this March 31. Finally, in response to a call by the leaders of six countries - Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Tanzania and Sweden - to the USSR and the USA not to conduct nuclear tests in the period till the next Soviet-American Summit, the Soviet side again displayed good will and stated its readiness to refrain from nuclear explosions also after March 31 - till the first nuclear explosion in the United States.

This unilateral restraint in conditions of the continuing modernisation by the United States of its nuclear-missile arsenal and the fulfilment of big military programmes, including within the framework of the so called "Strategic Defense Initiative", clearly demonstrated the Soviet Union's desire to try out all possibilities of influencing the position of the other side by force of example. Had the American administration responded to the Soviet initiative, had it taken the step expected of it by the peoples of the world - the possibility of stopping nuclear tests on Earth would have become quite realistic.

Therefore understandable is the deep disappointment and general indignation touched off in the world by the new underground nuclear weapon test, which was conducted by the U.S. side contrary to the protests and will of the peoples, contrary to the voice of reason.

The Soviet Union has repeatedly given the U.S. administration a chance to confirm by practical deeds its statements on the striving for a nuclear-free world, and take the responsible

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decision to join the Soviet moratorium on nuclear blasts. At the same time, the Soviet leadership warned, which was also stressed in the Address by Mikhail Gorbachyov on Soviet Television on March 29, that if the United States continued nuclear testing after March 31, the Soviet Union would be forced to resume its nuclear testing.

Since contrary to these warnings, the USA conducted a new nuclear test, the USSR Government declares that from now on it is free from the unilateral commitment made by it to refrain from conducting any nuclear explosions. In the conditions that Washington is continuing its nuclear explosions, the Soviet State cannot forgo its own security and that of its allies.

At the same time, the Soviet Union believes, as before, that an end to nuclear weapons testing would be an effective practical step leading to the elimination of nuclear weapons, and is expressing readiness to return any time to the question of a mutual moratorium on nuclear explosions, provided the Government of the United States declares that it will refrain from conducting such explosions. Thus, the resolution of the question of ending nuclear testing depends, as before, on the USA, on whether the American administration displays a sense of realism and responsibility.

At the same time, the Soviet Government again reaffirms its proposal to start immediately talks on a full prohibition of nuclear weapons testing. The USSR is prepared for any form of talks, any type of agreement on that score, provided things advance toward reaching agreement.

The Soviet Government reiterates its proposal to the Governments of the USA and Great Britain on resuming and bringing to completion the tripartite talks, stopped in 1980, with a view to working out a treaty on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear weapon tests. The Soviet Union stands for an undelayed beginning of multi-sided talks within the framework of the Geneva Conference on Disarmament with the same aim. We are also prepared to reach agreement on spreading the terms of the 1963 Moscow Treaty banning nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and underwater to underground nuclear weapon tests for which the 40th Session of the U.N General Assembly called.

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In order to reach agreement on the termination of nuclear testing the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee proposed to the U.S. President to have a meeting in the immediate future in one of the European capitals. This proposal remains in force.

As to questions of verifying the compliance with an agreement on the termination of nuclear weapon tests, there are no insurmountable difficulties here, as is shown by the experience of many years of international discussions of these questions. For its part, the Soviet Union attaches exceptionally great significance to ensuring that provision be made for reliable measures to verify the observance of an agreement on the prohibition of nuclear testing. It stands for the strictest control, right down to on-site inspections. Toward this end only one thing is needed - the adoption of a political decision to terminate the tests.

It is the deep conviction of the Soviet Government that the problem of prohibition of nuclear weapon tests is one of the most urgent tasks of the present day, and the Soviet Union will continue to work perseveringly toward resolving it in the interests of ensuring international security and durable peace without nuclear weapons.