

Soviet foreign policy, including disarmament policy, is founded on an understanding of the profound changes in the world.

We believe that the Soviet proposals of 15 January 1986 for the elimination of nuclear weapons throughout the world by the year 2000 are fully in keeping with the requirements of the present day.

We have displayed readiness to seek compromise solutions to problems which are causing controversy and suspicion.

The Soviet Union has placed a package of constructive proposals on the table at the Soviet-American talks on nuclear and space weapons.

Recently we submitted to the United Nations, as an alternative to the "Star Wars" programme, a programme for the establishment of "Star Peace" and the creation of a world space organization.

At the same time we know with whom we are dealing. Therefore the security of our country is sacred to us. This must be clear to all. This is a matter of principle.

This is our starting point in replying to any challenges from the United States, including the notorious SDI. Let no one plan to intimidate us or push us to unnecessary expenditure. If need be, we shall promptly come up with the answer, and it will not be the answer expected in the United States. But it will render the "Star Wars" programme valueless. I have one aim in saying this: let the American Administration weigh again and again the true value of new military programmes and the arms race as a whole from the viewpoint of the interests of the United States and its security. In truth, the main harm done by SDI is that it undermines the prospects of talks and broadens the area of distrust. Herein lies the whole problem. It is as much a political as a military problem. For that reason we call once again for a shift from a world armed to the teeth to a world without weapons.

Thus, comrades, the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, and the Soviet Government, having thoroughly and scrupulously weighed all the pros and cons, and bearing in mind their responsibility for the fate of the world, have decided to extend the unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions until 1 January 1987.