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STATEMENT MADE BY M.S. GORBACHEV, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE  
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ON SOVIET TELEVISION

Good evening, dear comrades!

At today's encounter with you, I should like to make a statement concerning one of the key problems of international politics.

The unilateral Soviet moratorium on nuclear tests, which, as you know, the Soviet Union strictly observed for one year, expired several days ago, on 6 August.

This decision was painful, extremely important and, I may say, difficult for us to take. On what was it based? What were the reasons which prompted it?

In brief, it was based on the realities of the nuclear space age.

What are these realities? How do we view them?

Firstly, mountains of nuclear and every other type of weapon have been built up, yet the arms race is not abating, but accelerating. The danger has arisen that it will be transferred to outer space. The militarization of the United States and the entire NATO block is proceeding at high speed. It is important to emphasize that the pace of development in military technology is so rapid that it leaves less and less time for peoples, States and politicians to awaken to the real threat, and limits the scope for mankind to stop the slide towards the nuclear abyss. There must be no delay, or such sophisticated weapons systems will emerge that agreement on their control will be altogether impossible.