

REPLY BY THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF  
THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE SOVIET UNION

M.S. GORBACHEV

to the message from the leaders of Argentina, Greece, India,  
Mexico, Sweden and Tanzania

Mr. Raul ALFONSIN  
President of Argentina

Mr. Andreas PAPANDEOU  
Prime Minister of Greece

Mr. Rajiv GANDHI  
Prime Minister of India

Mr. Miguel de la MADRID  
President of Mexico

Mr. Ingvar CARLSSON  
Prime Minister of Sweden

Mr. Julius NYERERE  
First President of Tanzania

Gentlemen,

I wish to thank you for your message of 7 August 1986, in which you put forward a new concrete initiative designed to break the deadlock affecting a key issue in lessening the risk of nuclear war - that of ending nuclear weapon tests.

We are in full agreement with the conviction stated in your declaration that responsibility for protecting our planet is borne by all peoples living on it. The task of preserving human civilization and preventing it from perishing in the flames of nuclear catastrophe is indeed a common task for all States and all peoples. Once a nuclear war broke out, it would affect all and everyone.

We share your assessment of the fatal consequences to which the use of even a small fraction of the world's existing nuclear arsenals may lead. The process of upgrading and further stockpiling is continuing, and nuclear weapon tests are contributing to it. That is why there is no more urgent and important task today than that of putting a stop to all nuclear tests. Such a step could genuinely help to stop the qualitative and quantitative development of nuclear arsenals. This measure would mark a beginning of progress along the path leading to a nuclear-free world.