

The Soviet Union is striving to convince the United States of the need for comprehensive strengthening of the ABM Treaty régime, which constitutes the fundamental basis for agreements on substantial reductions in strategic offensive weapons. It must be absolutely clear that without the complete preservation of that Treaty in its entirety, such reductions would be impossible.

In order to prevent an agreement on strategic offensive arms from being undermined by the deployment of weapons in space, we consider that the USSR and the United States must pledge not to withdraw from the Treaty for 10 years and must, in addition, agree on the list of space-based devices, the placing of which in space, including for test purposes, would be prohibited for the duration of that period.

I think that international public opinion is also well acquainted with our position of principle of the issue of nuclear tests. I will repeat what I have said before: the termination by the Soviet Union of its over 18-month-long unilateral moratorium was a decision that was forced, imposed upon us.

We have invited the United States again and again to begin full-scale talks on the complete cessation of nuclear tests under strict international control, including on-site inspections. One of the first steps towards that major goal in the course of such talks might be to examine the questions of the ratification of the Soviet-American agreements of 1974 and 1976 and of a substantial lowering of the yield threshold for nuclear explosions for which those agreements provide, with the simultaneous limitation of the number of such explosions. With a view to promoting the speediest possible ratification of those agreements, the USSR is willing to come to an arrangement with the United States for the conduct of appropriate calibration experiments at each other's test sites. We are in favour of use being made for such experiments both of the two countries' national seismic apparatus and of the seismic monitoring devices of the States comprising "the Six", providing, of course, they agree to that. We are also prepared to take immediate practical steps in connection with these talks: to reach, for example, an intermediate agreement with the American side on restricting the yield of underground nuclear explosions by means of a one-kiloton threshold, and on limiting the number of nuclear weapon tests to two or three a year.

In a word, the Soviet Union has no shortage of good will. We are open to all constructive ideas that go in the direction of genuine disarmament.

The noble aspirations of the leaders of the six States that are reflected in their joint statement not only have our full understanding and active support, but also strengthen our confidence in the ultimate victory of human reason and spur us on to still more energetic action on behalf of the realization of the dream of a nuclear-free world, on behalf of the preservation of human civilization.