

UNITED NATIONS - US - USSR : US REQUEST FOR
REDUCTION IN USSR AND OTHER MISSIONS*

On March 7, the US government officially informed the Soviet mission to the United Nations and the UN secretary general that the Soviet UN missions (Soviet, Ukrainian, and Byelorussian) must be reduced in four stages over a two year period from the current level of 275 to a staffing level of 170 permanently assigned personnel by April 1, 1988. Under this overall ceiling there is a subceiling of ten each for the Byelorussian and Ukrainian UN missions.

The US government has long been concerned about the unreasonably large size of the Soviet UN missions. The Soviet missions are larger than the next two largest missions combined. The current size of the Soviet UN missions is not warranted by the staffing needs for official UN business. Moreover, it poses a threat to US national security. Over the years, the US government has made clear to the Soviet authorities its concern that Soviet UN missions personnel have engaged in inappropriate activities. The Soviet UN missions, unfortunately, have continued to engage in activities unrelated to UN business, including espionage. Our action is a reasonable, prudent step. We have structured the reductions in a way intended to minimize dislocations for the Soviet UN missions. Even after the reductions are achieved, the Soviet missions to the UN will continue to be larger than that of any other country.

We have imposed this ceiling after careful consideration. It is consistent with our obligations under the UN headquarters treaty and under international law. We do not believe this move need have a negative impact on our bilateral relations. We look forward to continuing the effort begun by President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev in their Geneva meeting to build a more constructive foundation for US-Soviet relations.

*[The text of this statement dated 7 March 1986, by the US Department Office was provided by the US Information Service, Canberra].

UNITED NATIONS - US - USSRUS REQUEST FOR REDUCTION IN USSR MISSION ***USSR FOREIGN MINISTRY'S ORAL STATEMENT TO USA EMBASSY-1.
(FIVE TAKES)**

11/3 TASS V5-7

MOSCOW MARCH 11 TASS

THE USSR MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IS STATING A RESOLUTE PROTEST AGAINST THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S ILLEGITIMATE DEMAND FOR A REDUCTION OF THE PERSONNEL OF THE USSR PERMANENT MISSION AT THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK. THE U.S. ACTION IS ARBITRARY, UNFOUNDED AND CONSTITUTES A FLAGRANT VIOLATION BY THE UNITED STATES OF THE OBLIGATION, ASSUMED BY IT AS THE COUNTRY WHERE THE HEADQUARTERS OF U.N. CENTRAL AGENCIES IS LOCATED, TO ENSURE THE NECESSARY CONDITIONS FOR THE NORMAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNO AND FOR UNIMPEDED PARTICIPATION OF THE U.N. MEMBER NATIONS IN ITS WORK.

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.USSR FOREIGN MINISTRY'S ORAL STATEMENT TO USA EMBASSY-2

11/3 TASS V5-7

THE SOVIET SIDE IS TURNING DOWN AS UTTERLY FAR-FETCHED AND UNFOUNDED THE ASSERTIONS THAT THE STAFF OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE USSR AT THE UNITED NATIONS ALLEGEDLY ENGAGE IN ACTIVITIES WHICH HAVE NO BEARING ON U.N. WORK. AS FAR AS THE U.S. SIDE'S ALLUSIONS TO THE INCREASE IN SOVIET PERSONNEL IN THE RECENT YEARS ARE CONCERNED, THEY CANNOT SERVE IN ANY WAY AS A JUSTIFICATION FOR THIS PROVOCATIVE ACTION, SINCE THE U.N. ACTIVITIES HAVE CONSIDERABLY GAINED IN SCOPE OVER THE PERIOD AND THE NUMBER OF U.N. BODIES, OF THEIR SESSIONS AND CONFERENCES HAS MORE THAN DOUBLED. BESIDES, UTTERLY ILLEGITIMATE ARE ANY COMPARISONS BETWEEN THE SOVIET STAFF LEVEL AND THAT OF THE U.S. MISSION AT THE UNITED NATIONS. THE FUNCTIONING OF THE U.S. MISSION IS ENSURED BY BOTH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND BY PRIVATE FIRMS WHEREAS THE SOVIET MISSION PROVIDES EVERYTHING IT NEEDS ON ITS OWN.

.USSR FOREIGN MINISTRY'S ORAL STATEMENT TO USA EMBASSY-3.

11/3 TASS V5-7

NOTHING IN THE EXISTING INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS, INCLUDING THE 1947 AGREEMENT ON U.N. CENTRAL AGENCIES, GIVES THE U.S. GOVERNMENT A RIGHT TO IMPOSE NUMERICAL RESTRICTIONS ON THE STAFF LEVELS OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF U.N. MEMBER NATIONS WHICH, AS IS KNOWN ARE ACCREDITED NOT AT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT BUT AT THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATION.

*[The text of this statement was provided by the Consulate-General of the USSR, Sydney.]

THE U.S. PRETENSIONS TO ASSUME A RIGHT TO FIX STAFF LEVELS OF THE PERMANENT MISSIONS OF U.N. MEMBER NATIONS ARE TOTALLY INADMISSIBLE. THEY CANNOT BE QUALIFIED OTHERWISE THAN BEING INCOMPATIBLE WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW AND WITH THE GENERALLY -ACCEPTED PRACTICE, AND ARE AN INTERFERENCE IN THE AFFAIRS WHICH ARE EXCLUSIVELY WITHIN THE COMPETENCE OF COUNTRIES, AND IN THEIR RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATION. THE PURPOSE OF THE U.S. PRETENSIONS IS TO COMPLICATE THE ACTIVITIES OF COUNTRIES AT THE UNITED NATIONS AND THEREBY THOSE OF THE UNO ITSELF.

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.USSR FOREIGN MINISTRY'S ORAL STATEMENT TO USA EMBASSY=4.

11/3 TASS V5-7

THIS REFLECTS THE U.S. OVERALL APPROACH TO THE ACTIVITIES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS, THE APPROACH WHICH HAS MANIFESTED ITSELF IN A PARTICULARLY VIVID WAY IN RECENT YEARS, AND IN PARTICULAR IN HOSTILE STATEMENTS AGAINST THE UNO, IN BLACKMAIL AGAINST UNESCO, IN ARBITRARINESS AND DISCRIMINATORY RESTRICTIONS WITH REGARD TO THE MISSIONS OF MANY U.N. MEMBER NATIONS IN NEW YORK, AND THE CREATION OF AN ATMOSPHERE OF INTIMIDATION AND TERROR AROUND THEM. ALL THAT IS JUSTLY REGARDED BY THE WORLD COMMUNITY AS A LINE TOWARDS UNDERMINING THE EXISTING SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS, TOWARDS HAMPERING THEIR EFFORTS AIMED AT DEVELOPING RELATIONS OF PEACE AND COOPERATION AMONG PEOPLES, AND AS AN ATTEMPT AT PLACING INTERNATIONAL MACHINERY AND INSTITUTIONS UNDER U.S. DYKTAT. THEREFORE IT CANNOT BE CONSIDERED FORTUITOUS THAT A REACTION TO THAT MANIFESTS ITSELF IN RAISING THE QUESTION OF WHETHER IT IS APPROPRIATE THAT THE U.N. HEADQUARTERS IS LOCATED IN THE COUNTRY WHICH DOES NOT FULFIL ITS OBLIGATIONS TO THIS ORGANISATION.

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USSR FOREIGN MINISTRY'S ORAL STATEMENT TO USA EMBASSY=5

11/3 TASS V5-7

THE ABOVE-MENTIONED ACTIONS OF THE U.S. SIDE CANNOT, OF COURSE, BE VIEWED OUTSIDE THE GENERAL CONTEXT OF SOVIET-U.S. RELATIONS. THOSE ACTIONS NOT ONLY FAIL TO SQUARE WITH THE U.S. SIDE'S ASSURANCES AS TO A STRIVING TO STEER MATTERS TOWARDS AN IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, BUT ALSO DO DIRECT DAMAGE TO THEM. THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION MUST BE AWARE THAT

SUCH ACTIONS INCREASE DISTRUST OF ITS POLICY AND BY NO MEANS CREATE A FAVOURABLE BACKGROUND FOR A SUMMIT MEETING.

JUST AS IT MUST BE ALSO CLEAR THAT SUCH ACTIONS CANNOT BUT TELL MOST SERIOUSLY ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF CONTACTS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES IN VARIOUS FIELDS. IT IS HARD TO SQUARE ALL THIS WITH THE U.S. SIDE'S STATEMENTS IN FAVOUR OF IMPLEMENTING ACCORDS ON THE OPENING OF CONSULATES-GENERAL IN NEW YORK AND KIEV, ON THE EXPANSION OF CONTACTS AND EXCHANGES, INCLUDING THE FINDING OF THEIR NEW FORMS.

OF COURSE, THE SOVIET SIDE CANNOT PASS SUCH U.S. UNLAWFUL ACTIONS OVER AND WILL HAVE TO DRAW APPROPRIATE CONCLUSIONS FOR ITSELF.

FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE NEW DEFIANT, UNLAWFUL ACTION PERFORMED BY THE UNITED STATES WILL REST ENTIRELY WITH THE U.S. SIDE.

ITEM ENDS+++