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COMMUNICATION FROM THE RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS,
THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND
AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The attached letter and its Annex are being distributed at the request of the Resident Representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

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LETTER FROM THE RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS,
THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND
AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

20 September 1988

His Excellency,
Mr. Abdul Halim bin Ali
President of the IAEA
32nd General Conference
Austria Centre

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of our respective delegations to the 32nd General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, we would like to submit the attached statement relating to the issue of South Africa which will be taken up later in the General Conference. We would hope that this statement could be circulated to all delegations at the General Conference.

Sincerely,

(signed) R. Timerbaev
Resident
Representative
The Union of Soviet
Socialist Republics

G. Clark
Resident
Representative
The United Kingdom of
Great Britain and
Northern Ireland

B. Chapman
Resident
Representative
The United States
of America

STATEMENT BY THE DEPOSITARIES OF THE TREATY ON
NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

In mid-August, representatives of the depositary governments met with the delegation from the Republic of South Africa to discuss that country's position concerning possible accession to the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The depositary governments reported to the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency on those conversations in the letter of August 13, 1988, which has been circulated to members of the IAEA.

Since that time, the depositary governments have been advised that South African authorities have been in contact with a substantial number of other nations in Vienna and some other European capitals.

Several statements have been made recently by different governments on that problem which is of crucial importance to the IAEA.

In light of these developments and to be certain that the position of the three NPT depositary governments is clear, they would like to express the following views:

The depositaries take a firm and consistent position that South Africa should adhere to the NPT as soon as possible.

We understand that the issue of South Africa's accession to NPT remains under consideration by the Government of the Republic of South Africa.

The depositary governments are resolved to press South Africa further to accede to the NPT. Such accession we strongly believe is in the best interest of all countries of the region, and of the world as a whole.

