



International Atomic Energy Agency

INFORMATION CIRCULAR

INF

INFCIRC/593
22 November 2000

GENERAL Distr.
ENGLISH¹
Original: RUSSIAN

TEXT OF COMMUNICATION OF 14 NOVEMBER 2000 RECEIVED FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY CONCERNING NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

The Director General has received a communication dated 14 November 2000 from the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the Agency, attaching a statement by the President of the Russian Federation.

The text of the communication and, as requested therein, the text of the statement of the President of the Russian Federation, are attached hereto for the information of Member States.

¹ An official translation from Russian into English has been provided by the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation.

00-04323

ПОСТОЯННОЕ ПРЕДСТАВИТЕЛЬСТВО
РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ
ПРИ МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫХ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯХ
В ВЕНЕ



PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
IN VIENNA

Erzherzog-Karl-Str. 182
A-1220 Wien

Tel. (043 1) 282 53 91, 282 53 93
Fax (043 1) 280 56 87

№ 396-н

14 November 2000

Dear Director General,

I have the honour to forward herewith a text of the statement of President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin made on November 13, 2000.

We believe it is particularly important to reconfirm a clear-cut, consistent and constructive position of the Russian Federation in favour of maintaining and strengthening strategic stability in the world especially now when the international situation overcomes a complicated transitional period, when crucial issues of security and disarmament remain unresolved and when a well known factor of uncertainty, caused by the transition of power in the United States, still exists.

It would be highly appreciated, if the text of the statement could be distributed as an official document among the Member States of the IAEA.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Loshchinin'.

Valery V. LOSHCHININ

Ambassador,

Permanent Representative of the
Russian Federation to the
International Organizations in Vienna

Dr. Mohamed ELBARADEI
Director General
IAEA

Vienna

Unofficial translation from Russian

FROM PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SERVICE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

2000-11-13-002

The text of a statement of President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin is given below:

"At the juncture of two millennia the world has reached a crucial frontier in the matter of nuclear disarmament, the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the ensuring of strategic stability. Over the recent period there have been indisputable achievements here: exceptionally responsible decisions were adopted by the participants of the NPT Review Conference, an informative dialogue on disarmament issues took place at the Millennium Summit in New York, and the First Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations endorsed a number of important resolutions. Russia also has made its contribution, having ratified the Treaty on the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (START-2), the package of the New York 1997 understandings with respect to antimissile defense, and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. In the international community there has taken shape a consensus that there should be no pause in nuclear disarmament, and that the disarmament process should be intensified. Radical progress in this direction is really called for. "Russia is ready for this.

"We see no grounds that would hinder further deep reductions in strategic offensive arms. As is known, we have suggested to the U.S., including at the highest level, that the attainment of radically decreased levels of our countries' nuclear arsenals - down to 1,500 warheads for each country - should be set as an objective, which can quite feasibly be reached by the year 2008. But neither is this the limit - we are ready subsequently to consider even lower levels. We agree with the view being expressed in the United States that for the achievement of this agreement it will not be necessary to conduct protracted negotiations and to start it all from scratch - we have accumulated considerable experience, and there are juridical mechanisms under START-1 and START-2. We hope that the Senate of the United States will follow the example of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation and complete the ratification of the START-2 Treaty and the ABM-related understandings. But the main thing now is for Russia and the

U.S. to start without delay moving together or in parallel towards radically reduced ceilings on nuclear warheads.

"That goal should be achieved in conditions of the preservation and strengthening of the 1972 ABM Treaty. We are told that the situation in the world has changed significantly in the past three decades as new missile threats have arisen which allegedly require corresponding changes in the ABM Treaty. The situation has indeed changed, but not to such an extent as to warrant breaking the existing system of strategic stability by emasculating the ABM Treaty. Measures to counteract the spread of missiles and missile technologies can be taken without going beyond the framework of the ABM Treaty and acting primarily by political and diplomatic methods. A vivid example is the intensive dialogue between the USA and the DPRK on the problems of missiles. Ways to improve the political and legal mechanisms of missile non-proliferation are being actively discussed in multilateral format, work is underway to develop a new code of conduct in this field and to create a Global System of Missile and Missile Technology Control.

"For the countries which raise the question of a military-technical "safety net" we offer broad cooperation in the sphere of theater missile defense that fits into the ABM Treaty. The technological developments for that already exist. The Moscow Center on Missile Launch Data Exchange now being created by Russia and the US which must in future be open for all the interested countries could provide an element of such cooperation. We have already invited European and other representatives to join this work. I hope that the new US leadership will not object to the such use of the Center in the interests of strengthening regional and global stability.

"Russia is ready, without a pause, to continue the dialogue with the US on the issues of the ABM over which we differ, a dialogue started more than a year ago. The obligation to consider all the issues affecting the ABM Treaty is contained in the Treaty itself. Accordingly, we are open to the continuation of such a discussion within the Permanent Advisory Commission, a negotiating forum which has been functioning successfully under the Treaty since 1973, and if necessary, agree on upgrading the level of representation of the parties in the Commission.

"The implementation of a pragmatic and long-overdue program in the field of real nuclear disarmament proposed by Russia will make it possible to really strengthen strategic stability and international security on the threshold of the new 21st century."

The Kremlin, Moscow, November 13, 2000