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The Soviet Union and other peaceful states are once again holding out their hands in friendship. World public opinion is entitled to hope that they are not doing so in vain and that the Western leaders will show that they have some understanding of their responsibilities.

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Cyrus Eaton Interview

Moscow, Soviet Home Service, Sept. 10, 1960, 1930 GMT--L

(Yuriv Fokin telephone interview with Cyrus Eaton)

(Excerpts) Fokin: What, in your opinion, is necessary for a definitive solution of the disarmament problem, and what is your attitude toward the Soviet proposals that heads of government should take part in the discussion of this problem at the forthcoming session of the U.N. General Assembly.

Eaton: I consider that it would be very good if statesmen of the United States realized the importance of those disarmament proposals made last September by Premier Khrushchev at the United Nations. It seems to me that it would be very useful if press and radio workers exerted an influence on public opinion in favor of universal and total disarmament. I am firmly convinced that the heads of state must take part in the U.N. General Assembly. They must address everyone and set out their point of view on the vital problem on which the attention of the entire world is centered.

I am delighted that Mr. Khrushchev is coming to New York for the General Assembly session. I am glad that the outstanding statesmen of various countries will travel to this international forum and will participate in the discussion of the most important questions of the day. I am very glad about Mr. Khrushchev's visit to the United States. In my opinion, he is a man of immense capability and irreproachable integrity. When Premier Khrushchev makes a speech he speaks directly and frankly, expressing his opinion in a forthright way and without bias. His present visit to New York, to my mind, is a very bold step and at the same time extremely wise. It will have a tremendous positive influence on the whole world.

(Editor's Note--L: Moscow Soviet Home Service at 1300 GMT Sept. 12 states that Cyrus Eaton has expressed the wish to meet Nikita Khrushchev in New York at the U.N. General Assembly. Eaton emphasized that the heads of governments of the United States, Britain, and Canada should attend the U.N. session. In my opinion, Eaton said, it would be worthwhile for Eisenhower to listen to the criticisms leveled at him in connection with the unsuccessful foreign policy pursued by him of late.)

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This decision has been interpreted as fresh proof of the Soviet Union's ardent desire to end the disarmament stalemate and bring about a favorable, constructive solution. The Soviet example has been followed by a number of other countries whose delegations will be led by their foremost statesmen. All this gives to the coming session a particularly representative character. It must be added that the composition of the U.N. General Assembly's 15th session will be different from that of the past.

The United Nations now counts among its members the states that have recently acquired their freedom and independence. As the face of the world changes, so too is the face of the United Nations changing. This is a positive fact because it helps the struggle against the obstinate desire of the imperialist powers to transform the United Nations into an instrument of their colonialist policy of aggression.

It is sufficient to consider the situation created in the Congo. There you will see that these desires, which are diametrically opposed to the U.N. Charter, have not been abandoned. The conscience of the world cannot and must not tolerate it. The United Nations can become a truly effective instrument of peace and international friendship. This will happen because history and the laws of social evolution are stronger than imperialist intrigues.

The coming session of the General Assembly can and will undoubtedly become an important milestone in the struggle of the peace-loving peoples to uphold the principles of the United Nations and the strict observance of the U.N. Charter. It follows that the struggle here too will bear mainly on the problem of disarmament. It is no accident that the Western powers, especially the United States, have been busy trying to keep this question from being debated at the coming session. For this purpose, they tried to get around it by convening the U.N. Disarmament Commission a short while ago.

Now, as they are getting ready for the General Assembly session, Washington and its allies have been trying to play down its importance beforehand. This move has failed. The New York TIMES felt obliged to admit with reluctance that "the 15th session of the General Assembly will be an exceptional affair." Exceptional is the right word. It is the right word because the new peace initiative of the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries offers the session a chance to make a real turning point in international affairs. There is no need for proof to show that any progress achieved in the quest for a favorable, constructive settlement would mean an important immediate easing of international tension which in turn would help to solve other disputed matters.