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**Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force  
of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty**

New York, 11-13 November 2001

**Letter dated 9 November 2001 from the Permanent Representative  
of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the  
Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith to you as the depositary for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty the address by the President of the Russian Federation, V. V. Putin, welcoming the participants and guests at the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a Conference document.

*(Signed)* Sergey **Lavrov**



**Annex to the letter dated 9 November 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

**To the participants and guests at the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty**

I welcome the participants in the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT).

The Russian Federation has always considered the Treaty a most important instrument in the area of limiting nuclear weapons, strengthening the international nuclear non-proliferation regime and preserving strategic stability in the world.

We are convinced that the speedy entry into force of the Treaty and making it universal in nature meet the interests of the entire world community.

The Russian Federation approaches its obligations in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in a responsible manner. We intend to continue to comply with them while preserving strategic stability and the system of disarmament treaties established in recent decades as the basis for the further reduction and limitation of strategic offensive weapons. It is precisely for this reason that the Russian Federation has done everything possible to ensure the Treaty's speedy ratification.

We view with concern the current situation with regard to the entry into force of CTBT. In the five years that have passed since the Treaty was opened for signature, it has not appeared on the list of international treaties that are in effect and, unfortunately, for the time being it is far from that.

We place a high value on the importance of this Conference, which should support CTBT and facilitate its early entry into force in strict compliance with the provisions of article XIV of the Treaty.

*(Signed)* **V. Putin**

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