DECLARATION OF THE 1980s AS A DISARMAMENT DECADE

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

Brazil ......................................................... 2
Norway ...................................................... 3
Despite the sound principles motivating the Declaration of the First Disarmament Decade, the results of efforts by the international community during the 1970s towards disarmament have been practically nil. In the decade just concluded, particularly its last few years, mankind has witnessed an unprecedented escalation of the arms race, especially in strategic nuclear weaponry. The tenth special session on disarmament achieved little, merely restructuring the machinery for international debate and negotiation of disarmament themes and making no real progress in nuclear disarmament. Moreover, during the 1970s, it became obvious that for many countries there was no access to the régime set up by the non-proliferation Treaty because of the inequalities and inequities inherent in the text. Facing up to reality, it is essential for the international community in its declaration of the 1980s as the 'Second Disarmament Decade' to seek to correct the distortions observed in the course of the First Decade.

For the better operation of the international system of debate and negotiation produced by the tenth special session, and in order to define fundamental objectives in the sphere of disarmament, the following points should be covered by the draft declaration of the 1980s as a Second Disarmament Decade:

1. It must be recognized that nuclear disarmament, a field in which the United Nations has undertaken a principal role and responsibility for leadership, is both urgent and of top priority.

2. It must be recognized that the militarily nuclear Powers are effectively responsible for nuclear disarmament but that the fundamental and legitimate interest of the international community in disarmament matters cannot fail to be considered on an equal footing and without discrimination.

3. International commitments between nuclear and non-nuclear Powers in the disarmament sphere cannot be allowed to take on a discriminatory character or tend to perpetuate already existing imbalances or structures of hegemonic power.

4. There is a pressing need to insure that measures of nuclear disarmament and control of armaments in no way hamper the absorption and development of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

5. The funds liberated by disarmament measures should be channelled towards the promotion of the economic and social development of the less developed countries.

6. The already established multilateral machinery for dealing with and negotiating disarmament questions should be put to full use, at all costs avoiding dispersion of efforts and financial resources and, most especially, shunning the proliferation of international bodies dedicated to purely academic studies of the theme.
NORWAY

[Original: English]
[22 May 1980]

Norway has expressed the view that the following current disarmament and arms control measures should be given priority:

(a) Prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons;

(b) Conclusion of a comprehensive test-ban treaty.

(c) Limitation and reduction of nuclear and conventional weapons

(d) Restrictions on conventional weapon transfers;

(e) Prohibition of chemical weapons and of the development of new types of weapons of mass destruction;

(f) Restrictions on the development of weapons technology.

While it may not be possible to include every desired aim concerning arms control and disarmament in a declaration of the 1980s as a Second Disarmament Decade, it would have to note unfulfilled expectations of the First Disarmament Decade, as well as the more successful negotiations taking place during the Disarmament Decade of the 1970s, the entry into force of the non-proliferation Treaty, the Strategic Arms Limitation Agreement, the Treaty on the Prohibition and the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-bed and the Ocean Floor, the biological weapons convention and the Convention Banning the Military Use of Environmental Modification Techniques.

The major elements of the draft resolution should be based on the principles and purposes of the Final Document of the tenth special session devoted to disarmament. The role of the second special session on disarmament, taking place in 1982, would also have to be included in the context of the Second Disarmament Decade.