DECLARATION OF THE 1980s AS A DISARMAMENT DECADE

Report of the Secretary-General

 Replies from specialized agencies

INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

As a development finance institution and an United Nations specialized agency established as a follow-up to resolution XIII of the United Nations World Food Conference, Rome, 5-16 November 1974, International Fund for Agricultural Development is concerned with providing additional resources for agricultural production in its member developing countries. The action area which you have indicated in your two letters is outside the mandate of the Fund. Nevertheless, this area of action does possess an interest for the Fund in connexion with the belief often expressed that a deceleration of the arms race or disarmament would release much needed external resources for development of the agricultural sector, which is recognized as a priority area for concerted international action to eliminate absolute poverty and hunger in the world before the year 2000. The United Nations World Food Conference in 1974 expressed the hope that the elimination of absolute poverty and hunger could be achieved within 10 years. The said Conference also drew attention, in its resolution XIV, to the need for resources released through a reduction in military expenditure to be allocated in growing proportion to the financing of food production in developing countries. (Copies of the two resolutions quoted are annexed for ready reference).

The most recent emphasis on poverty eradication and the contribution that deceleration of the arms race or disarmament could make to it is contained in the recommendations made by the Independent Commission on International Development Issues. This report, entitled "North-South: a programme for survival", was presented recently by its Chairman, Herr Willy Brandt to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in New York and has been reviewed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development.
As an expression of the Fund's concern for the need for additional external resource flows for the agriculture sector, it would be relevant to quote below from its annual report for 1979:

"The flow of resources to agriculture is naturally linked to the over-all flows of bilateral and multilateral assistance. The shortage of funds earmarked for concessional loans and grants has been a serious constraint, particularly for the low-income countries. In 1976, the share of such funds to total net disbursements of medium and long-term capital to developing countries was only 28.6 per cent. This is a matter of special concern to the poorest countries for whom concessional assistance will continue to be of crucial importance since they lack access to commercial sources of capital for essential investment needs.

"In sum, the flow of development assistance has fallen short of requirements in volume, direction and terms. It therefore seems clear that without more assistance on concessional terms to the poorer food deficit countries, and increased domestic resources and policy support, food production in these countries cannot be accelerated further, as urgently required."
Annex

RESOLUTION XIII

International Fund for Agricultural Development

The World Food Conference,

Recognizing the need for a substantial increase in investment in agriculture for increasing food and agricultural production in the developing countries,

Recognizing that provision of an adequate supply and proper utilization of food are the common responsibility of all members of the international community; and

Recognizing further that the prospects of the world food situation call for urgent and co-ordinated measures by all countries,

Resolves that:

1. An International Fund for Agricultural Development should be established immediately to finance agricultural development projects primarily for food production in the developing countries;

2. All developed countries and all those developing countries that are in a position to contribute to this Fund should do so on a voluntary basis;

3. The Fund should be administered by a Governing Board consisting of representatives of contributing developed countries, contributing developing countries, and potential recipient countries, taking into consideration the need for ensuring equitable distribution of representation amongst these three categories and regional balance amongst the potential recipient representations;

4. The disbursements from the Fund should be carried out through existing international and/or regional institutions in accordance with the regulations and criteria to be established by the Governing Board;

5. The Secretary-General of the United Nations should be requested to convene urgently a meeting of all interested countries, mentioned in paragraph 3 above, and institutions to work out the details, including the size of, and commitments to, the Fund;

6. The Fund should become operative as soon as the Secretary-General of the United Nations determines, in consultation with representatives of the countries having pledged contributions to the Fund, that it holds promise of generating substantial additional resources for assistance to developing countries and that its operations have a reasonable prospect of continuity.
RESOLUTION XIV

Reduction of military expenditures for the purpose of increasing food production

The World Food Conference,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 3180 (XXVIII), which stipulates that the principal purpose of the World Food Conference is to devise ways and means by which the international community as a whole may deal concretely with the world food problem,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 3121 (XXVIII), establishing that the contributions to the World Food Programme must be augmented by substantial additional contributions from other sources,

Stressing heading 2 "Food" of General Assembly resolution 3202 (VI), entitled "Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order",

Considering also General Assembly resolutions 2667 (XXV), 2831 (XXVI) and 3075 (XXVIII), entitled "Economic and social consequences of the armaments race and its extremely harmful effects on world peace and security",

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 3093 (XXVIII), entitled "Reduction of the military budgets of States permanent members of the Security Council by 10 per cent and utilization of part of the funds thus saved to provide assistance to developing countries",

Noting FAO resolution 3/73 which recognizes that the guaranteeing of world food security is the joint responsibility of the entire international community,

Considering with concern that there is a severe world food crisis which must be confronted energetically by all States,

Recalling with equal concern that the Report of the Group of Experts on Disarmament and Development (A/9770) estimates that more than 200 thousand million dollars are spent annually for military purposes, which shows the enormous disproportion between the military expenditures and the present goals of agriculture development aid,

Calls on the States participating in the Conference to take the necessary measures for the most rapid implementation of the resolutions of the General Assembly and other organs of the United Nations pertaining to the reduction of military expenditures for the purpose of development, and to allocate a growing proportion of the sums so released to the financing of food production in developing countries and the establishment of reserves to deal with emergency cases.