DECLARATION OF THE 1980s AS A DISARMAMENT DECADE

Report of the Secretary-General

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CAPE VERDE

The perpetuation of a system in which peace is merely the result of the continuing fear of mutual destruction cannot foster an atmosphere conducive to the creation of the necessary conditions for the attainment of the objectives of general and complete disarmament.

In the important process initiated by the international community with a view to reversing the arms race, limiting weapons of mass destruction, eliminating nuclear weapons and promoting general and complete disarmament, the United Nations has a central role to play and has assumed increased importance for the achievement of these major objectives.

We hope that both the Disarmament Commission and the Committee on Disarmament will succeed in accomplishing the tasks assigned to them and will be able to create the conditions necessary for the institution of fruitful negotiations and for tangible results, particularly as regards negotiations on nuclear weapons.

The Republic of Cape Verde also attaches great importance to the relationship between disarmament and development and hopes that the appropriate United Nations bodies will be in a position to propose specific measures for allocating a substantial portion of the resources released from the arms race for the purpose of meeting the basic social and economic needs of the developing countries, and especially the most disadvantaged among them.

The establishment of an enduring policy of international security enabling the world's peoples to devote themselves to essential development tasks and to enjoy well-being is the unanimous wish of the international community, which must be reflected not merely in resolutions, conventions and declarations but in tangible acts in international relations and specific actions in the field of disarmament.

FINLAND

The Government of Finland has welcomed General Assembly resolution 34/75 concerning the declaration of the 1980s as a disarmament decade. Although progress has been made towards the purposes and objectives of the First Disarmament Decade, the results achieved have failed to meet reasonable expectations. Therefore, it is essential to reiterate the call upon Governments to intensify their efforts for effective measures relating to the cessation and reversal of the arms race. The Government of Finland also considers that the United Nations Disarmament Commission is a most appropriate forum for the preparation of elements of a draft resolution on this subject to be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session, as provided for by resolution 34/75.
In the view of the Government of Finland, the purpose of a resolution declaring the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade is, first, to give further guidance to the international disarmament machinery for disarmament negotiations, which should be conducted in accordance with the principles and priorities already determined by the international community, in particular in the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly on disarmament. Secondly, it should aim at further dissemination of information with regard to various aspects of disarmament in the light of the above principles and priorities.

In line with those priorities, a declaration should reflect, inter alia, the following fundamental considerations:

(a) Disarmament and international security. The arms race, particularly the nuclear arms race, runs counter to efforts to achieve relaxation of international tension. Arms limitation and disarmament are indispensable for the security of the international community as a whole and that of each and every State. While the ultimate objective is general and complete disarmament under effective international control, all arms limitation and disarmament measures should aim at assuring the security of all States at as low a level of armaments as possible.

(b) Disarmament and development. The arms race continues to divert to military purposes both material and human resources which are urgently needed for development purposes, in particular for the benefit of developing countries. This massive diversion of resources threatens the achievement of the new international economic order. Efforts to release resources now being used for military purposes to economic and social development should be continued and intensified.

To emphasize further the links between disarmament and development, a declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade should draw on the results of the forthcoming eleventh special session of the General Assembly, which inter alia, is requested to assess the progress made in the establishment of the new international economic order. In mobilizing world public opinion, the interrelationship of the third United Nations development decade and the Second Disarmament Decade should be underscored.

While many of the targets of disarmament to be identified in the declaration would necessarily extend beyond the Decade, they should mainly reflect relative orders or priorities already agreed upon rather than rigid time frames.

HUNGARY

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11 April 1980

Preservation of peace and avoidance of a new world war remains the vital question for mankind. Bearing this in mind and in full conformity with its foreign policy principles, the Hungarian People's Republic, together with the Soviet Union and the countries of the socialist community as well as with all progressive and...
peace-loving forces, strives for the strengthening of international security, the
continuation of political détente and for significant progress in the limitation of
armaments and in disarmament.

Recently, as a result of the activities of its opponents the process of
détente has slowed down, and the conditions for progress in the field of disarmament
have also become more difficult. This requires the peace-loving forces to take a
resolute stand both in the field of bilateral relations and in the framework of
international organizations in order to halt and reverse the dangerous tendencies
developed. In this struggle as an organization established to maintain international
peace and security the United Nations itself should also play a role.

According to the position of the Hungarian Government, continuation of the
process of détente would create favourable conditions for the efforts aimed at
disarmament. In the interest of the stabilization of détente, measures should be
taken to extend it into the military field.

The Government of the Hungarian People's Republic is convinced that the
cessation of the arms race and measures for genuine disarmament are of primary
importance and urgency. The conclusion of an international treaty which would
definitely eliminate all forms of the use and threat of force in international
relations would be the most important among the necessary measures.

The Hungarian Government has always endorsed any initiative which served to
reduce international tension and to avert the danger of war. Bearing in mind the
attainment of general and complete disarmament in the foreseeable future as a
main goal it has lent support to all efforts which serve the reduction of the arms
race, even though partial measures. Hungary was among the first to sign and ratify
the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under
Water; the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the
Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies
and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The Delegation of the
Hungarian People's Republic played an active role in the elaboration of the Treaty
on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass
 Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof, and the
Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of
Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction. Hungary
is a co-sponsor of the draft treaty concerning the total prohibition and
destruction of chemical weapons, which has been before the Geneva Committee on
Disarmament since 1972. Representatives of the Hungarian Government are making
efforts to realize the initiatives and proposals aimed at the limitation and
cessation of the arms race, and other effective disarmament measures as well.

The Government of the Hungarian People's Republic appreciates the achievements
made so far for the limitation of the arms race and for disarmament but, at the
same time, it is clear and must be emphasized that further, even greater and better
co-ordinated efforts are required in order to reach the goals set out above in
details. Governments should increase their efforts during the talks on
disarmament for their successful conclusion. The Geneva Committee on Disarmament
should make its talks more intensive on questions on its agenda relating to
disarmament, which are ripe for solution. The international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations should more effectively promote the cause of disarmament in their own field and through their own means.

On the basis of the above, the Government of the Hungarian People's Republic deems it appropriate for the United Nations General Assembly to call the attention of the Governments and peoples of Member States to the importance of disarmament and to the dangers of the continuation of the arms race; therefore, it agrees that the 1980s be declared by the United Nations General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session as the Second Disarmament Decade.

Concerning the relevant resolution, the Government of the Hungarian People's Republic wishes to state that its concrete standpoint will be made final only during the preparations for the thirty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly and with full knowledge of the position of other Member States. According to its preliminary stand the resolution should give an objective evaluation of the results and experiences of the First Disarmament Decade; it should call attention to the real causes of the arms race and to the harmful consequences of the continuation thereof and should reaffirm the final aim of the efforts: general and complete disarmament.

The Government of the Hungarian People's Republic deems it necessary that the General Assembly's resolution concerning the Second Disarmament Decade should declare that in order to co-ordinate effectively the increasing efforts by the peoples and States of the world in the field of disarmament, and to elaborate concrete measures and agreements on disarmament, definite steps should be taken to convene, after due preparations and at an appropriate time, a world disarmament conference which should form an important and integral part of the Second Disarmament Decade.

POLAND

[Original: English]

[April 1980]

1. The efforts aimed at implementation of disarmament goals during the First Disarmament Decade announced in the 1970s by the United Nations have not brought about a radical change in curbing the arms race. That period, however, has been marked with numerous unquestionable accomplishments. In the first half of the 1970s in particular, Europe witnessed a development in the process of political détente and co-operation based on the principles of peaceful co-existence. A number of major international agreements have been concluded to limit, in particular, the race in defensive and offensive strategic arms systems. A ban has been introduced on emplacement of mass destruction weapons on the sea-bed and the ocean floor and in the ocean floor and in the subsoil thereof; a ban on and elimination of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons; and a prohibition of military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques. The regime of nuclear arms non-proliferation has been strengthened through an expansion of international control over the observance of the provisions of the non-proliferation Treaty.

/...
Progress has been reached in guaranteeing the status of a denuclearized zone in Latin America. Preparatory work has been continued and further draft international agreements to limit the arms race and bring the goals of general and complete disarmament closer have been worked out. These positive results have been appreciated by the tenth special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament, the effect of which was a unanimous adoption of the session's Final Document which specifies major principles, goals and a long-term programme of disarmament efforts.

In 1979, the United States and the USSR signed the treaty on the offensive strategic arms limitation till 1985 and agreed to continue negotiations on further limitation and reduction of strategic armaments taking into account their quantitative and qualitative aspects. In the general opinion it was a positive element of stabilization of global security and an announcement of an intensification of negotiations for assuring progress in the field of disarmament.

With regard to Europe, Poland and other socialist States exercised in the 1970s a policy of not increasing their military potentials and spared no effort in seeking an agreement on mutual reduction of armed forces and armaments in Central Europe. The Soviet Union has made a unilateral contribution to this process by starting the reduction of troops deployed in that region. At meetings of political organs of the States members of the Warsaw Treaty held in 1978 and 1979, programmes of action were presented, designed for limitation and reduction of practically every weapons system and type of armed forces in Europe on a reciprocal basis. The socialist States have proposed an implementation of a broad range of confidence-building measures and military détente, combined with the realization of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

To recall the above-mentioned positive accomplishments of the 1970s is necessary for assessing properly what the policy of détente has been bringing about. That policy makes an important contribution to the task of consolidating international security, strengthening stabilization and peace and also for preparing favourable conditions for disarmament.

2. The beginning of the 1980s has brought about a substantial complication of international situation. Among the main reasons for it one should mention the increase in arms race, striving on the part of some States to undermine the foundations of the policy of détente, negation of the hitherto accomplishments of that policy and attempts to revert to the period of the cold war.

The implementation of the NATO decision on the production and deployment of new systems of American nuclear missile weapons in Western part of Europe in 1983-1984 may bring about particularly negative effects. This constitutes a threat to the existing strategic-military balance with all its negative effects in the political field and with detrimental impact on disarmament negotiations. The decision has met with resolute protests on the part of international public opinion, also in Poland. The Government of Poland holds the view that it is in the interest of the common security of Europe that the implementation of those decisions be stopped.

3. Poland considers the question of consolidation of peace and achieving
progress in disarmament as the paramount goal of its policy. Under the complex conditions of the early 1980s, when the arms race threatens with new, dangerous complications, it is necessary, in our view, to undertake increased efforts in disarmament talks at all levels and on all planes: within the framework of SALT III and in the Vienna negotiations on mutual reduction of armed forces and armaments in Central Europe; in the United Nations, and in the Geneva Committee on Disarmament in particular, as well as in bilateral and multilateral talks. It is in this spirit that the efforts should be made that the intensification of disarmament talks recommended by the General Assembly at its tenth special session would lead to finalization of the already advanced drafts of agreements and also to universal participation in disarmament accords. It is also necessary to consistently stimulate their implementation to make the system of already elaborated accords and of these agreements that will supplement them in the nearest future - including the ratification of the SALT II agreement - become an effectively operating infrastructure of peace and international security.

4. Poland has always attached great importance to regional solutions which guarantee progress of détente in Europe and prepare the proper ground for stabilization of peace and security on the continent which, in a decisive way, weighs upon the fate of security in the world. The present complex international situation calls for measures of particular kind. Such measures should, in an ambitious and at the same time realistic way, underpin the achievements of the policy of détente related to the implementation of the provisions of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. It is necessary to take new, important decisions, this time in the area of military-political relations between the 35 States signatories of the Final Act. Military détente has become a vital necessity. It should be followed by an introduction of accords on reduction of armed forces and armaments on the continent, which is rightly believed to be the area of the greatest build-up of modern armaments in the world. Taking due account of this historic necessity Poland has put forward an idea of convening in Warsaw, in a city which is a symbol of war destruction, of the rebuilding from the rubbles, and at the same time a symbol of continued strivings for peace, a conference on military détente and disarmament in Europe.

The convening in Warsaw of the conference on military détente and disarmament in Europe would constitute an important factor for improving the general international climate. It would be favourable for taking decisions to halt the arms race on the continent which would also influence the entire international security. The importance of such an undertaking goes beyond the regional framework. Together with the anticipated entering into force of the SALT II agreement, this could constitute the decisive moves favourably changing the course of events. Confidence building in the military sphere and embarking upon the road towards disarmament in Europe would constitute a key factor in the task of strengthening of the international security system provided for in the Charter of the United Nations. The convening of the conference would, therefore, be an important element of implementation of the aims and objectives of the Second Disarmament Decade.

5. The declaring of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade implies, of course, that it must refer to the most vital aims drawn up in the Final Document
of the tenth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. Similarly, as it is in the Final Document, it is also necessary to determine the high priorities to be accorded to the preparation of a comprehensive disarmament programme combining partial solutions with general ones which, in the outcome, will bring about general and complete disarmament. It is to be hoped that during the Second Disarmament Decade a world disarmament conference will be convened.

During the Second Disarmament Decade, the problems of nuclear disarmament should be treated as before, as the most important ones. It is necessary to take more decisive steps to effect - under an appropriate international treaty - a ban on the development, production and deployment of new systems of weapons of mass destruction, in particular the nuclear ones, including neutron weapons. Experiences gained in the past few years indicate that regardless of the efforts to limit strategic armaments there are open the possibilities that new systems of mass destruction weapons will appear. The questions of curbing their development as well as of their elimination and prohibition should focus United Nations attention and endeavours in the 1980s during the Second Disarmament Decade.

Similarly, no effort should be spared to finalize a universal ban on the use, production, development and deployment of chemical weapons, and also to completely eliminate their stockpiles.

The questions of conventional weapons reduction, decrease in the level of military spendings as well as curbing of proliferation of modern, highly sophisticated systems of conventional weapons should be the subject of an appropriate negotiating process, taking into account the principles of undiminished security of States and reciprocity of obligations and limitations.

6. Poland is of the opinion that in the programme of the First Disarmament Decade declared by the United Nations much attention was rightly paid to the problems of the negative socio-economic results of the arms race and to the questions of development related to disarmament. A programme of releasing the means engaged for military purposes and allotting a part of them to development purposes has met with solidarity and support both in Poland and in other socialist countries.

In the declaration of aims and objectives for the Second Disarmament Decade this postulate should be retained.

At the same time, it seems necessary to make efforts that the Second Disarmament Decade implants in people's minds, to a wider extent than before, the comprehension of the simple fact that without endeavours for the halting of the arms race and disarmament the prospects for socio-economic development in the world cannot be favourable. The priority of the struggle for peace and disarmament must become an international objective, on a global scale and in every region of the world. The Polish initiative to convene a conference on disarmament in Europe gains in significance as a stimulating factor in the general activities for disarmament in the 1980s. The implementation of this objective has also a favourable impact on the questions of development beyond the European continent.
7. The creation of public awareness in favour of peace is of great importance to the endeavours for the strengthening of peace, stabilization of international security, elimination of armed conflicts and effective disarmament.

In keeping with the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace adopted by the thirty-third session of the General Assembly it should be sought to implant in people's minds the best favourable comprehension of peaceful co-existence and friendly international cooperation. The aims and objectives drawn up in the Declaration should become not only an object of formal dissemination in the Second Disarmament Decade but also should gain force in shaping ways of social thinking in categories of peace.

In Poland's opinion elements of political struggle for peace and disarmament, the quest for social and economic development of peoples and the shaping of people's awareness on the best patterns of a world free from wars and the arms race, are inseparably connected with one another and should therefore form a coherent structure of efforts to be pursued also during the Second Disarmament Decade declared by the United Nations for the 1980s.

SWEDEN

[Original: English]
[21 April 1980]

The Swedish Government shares the view that declaring the decade of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade could play a role in contributing to mobilize world public opinion for disarmament. Among other things this offers an opportunity to draw the attention of world public opinion to the fact that the objectives of the first disarmament decade have not been fulfilled.

When elements of a declaration of the 1980s as a Second Disarmament Decade are discussed, the importance of not creating several parallel documents with similar objectives has to be borne in mind. A central document concerning priorities and measures in the field of disarmament that States should undertake as a matter of urgency already exists in the form of the Programme of Action of the Final Document of the tenth special session of the General Assembly. Moreover, the United Nations Disarmament Commission in 1979 adopted elements of comprehensive programme of disarmament, and negotiations on the formulation of this programme is now on the agenda of the Committee on Disarmament. In order to avoid creating confusion it is therefore important that the declaration of the 1980s as a Second Disarmament Decade does not encroach upon what has already been agreed in the Programme of Action, and what is the subject of negotiations in the Committee on Disarmament. As regards the indication of targets during the Second Disarmament Decade for accomplishing the major objectives and goals of disarmament, it is the understanding of the Swedish Government that this indication does not mean target dates. It has to be kept in mind that the credibility of the United Nations cannot be promoted by the determination of obviously unrealistic objectives to be attained within equally unrealistic time-frames. This should however not mean that the objectives of disarmament efforts should not be appropriately specified and expressed in concrete terms.