DECLARATION OF THE 1980s AS A DISARMAMENT DECADE

Report of the Secretary-General

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Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade

In joining the initiative to have the United Nations proclaim the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade the Nigerian delegation at the thirty-third and thirty-fourth sessions of the General Assembly was motivated by a desire to see an appreciable progress in the efforts to reduce the arms race in the decade of the 1980s. It had become clear that the Disarmament Decade proclaimed by General Assembly resolution 2602 E (XXIV) of December 1969 would not accomplish its objectives which were:

(i) That all Governments should intensify their efforts for effective measures relating to the cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament and the elimination of other weapons of mass destruction and for a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control;

(ii) Consideration of channelling a substantial part of resources freed by measures of disarmament to promote the economic development of developing countries.

To these ends two concrete measures were contained in resolution 2602 E (XXIV):

(i) That the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, while continuing intensive negotiations on collateral measures, should work out a comprehensive programme of disarmament;

(ii) That the Secretary-General and Governments should publicize the Disarmament Decade by all appropriate means at their disposal in order to acquaint public opinion with its purposes and objectives and with the negotiations related thereto.

Beginning with the tenth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament held in May 1978, the international community has shown its determination to pursue unceasingly all possible avenues of halting, reversing and eliminating the arms race. Though the special session adopted by consensus a Programme of Action on Disarmament, very little has been accomplished in carrying out the Programme.

Indeed, the decade of the 1980s has started with ominous signs that, if greater efforts are not made, the arms race will be intensified, international tensions will be exacerbated and the danger of war will be greater than even the pessimistic assessment of the special session on disarmament had foreseen. It is ironic that while intensive discussions are taking place in various forums on global economic problems and on the deterioration of resources available for international economic problems, proposals for an increase in the resources devoted to the unproductive and wasteful arms race are being made by the same developed countries that have been complaining of economic recession. An international group of distinguished statesmen under the chairmanship of the former Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Willy Brandt, has recently lent a sense of urgency to...
the call for disarmament especially in its economic dimension. In its report entitled "North-South: A Programme for Survival", the group observed:

"The world's military spending dwarfs any spending on development. Total military expenditure are approaching $450 billion a year, of which over half is spent by the Soviet Union and the United States, while annual spending on official development aid is only $20 billion. If only a fraction of the money, manpower and research presently devoted to military uses were diverted to development, the future prospects of the third world would look entirely different.

"In any case there is a moral link between the vast spending on arms and the disgracefully low spending on measures to remove hunger and ill-health in the third world."

It seems appropriate therefore that simultaneously with the declaration of the Third United Nations Development Decade in the 1980s, a Disarmament Decade be proclaimed.

In spite of all the discouraging signs, there are two factors which provide hope for the 1980s and on which a disarmament programme for the decade should capitalize.

First is increased public awareness of the dangers of the arms race and the urgent necessity for effective measures of disarmament, both as means towards increased security and to facilitate the concentration by Governments on social and economic improvement of their peoples.

Second is the representation and participation in the multilateral negotiating organ of all five nuclear-weapon Powers. This is significant when one bears in mind that, in his initiative which led to the declaration of the 1970s as the first United Nations Disarmament Decade, the Secretary-General had stressed:

"I would regard it of the highest importance that serious attempts be made to associate in one way or another all five nuclear Powers with the negotiations for disarmament. The full participation of all the nuclear Powers in all efforts to contain the nuclear arms and to reduce and eliminate armaments would not only be beneficial but is indeed indispensable for a full measure of success."

It would seem desirable that a Second Disarmament Decade should contain a programme of action to guide the Committee on Disarmament and the international community. Such a programme should identify from the international disarmament programme such measures that should as a minimum, be accomplished in the decade of the 1980s.

An essential condition for progress in the field of disarmament is the preservation of international peace and security, and the promotion of trust among States. It should therefore be stressed that détente, which has shown some positive aspects in the 1970s in the relationship between the two most advanced
military Powers, need be maintained. This implies a commitment on the part of the two most advanced military Powers to avoid actions likely to increase tension or create new areas of threat to international peace. It also implies a commitment by the super-Powers and their allies to expand the process of détente to all parts of the world and in their relationship with other countries. They should undertake scrupulously to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of non-aligned States.

Comprehensive programme for disarmament

Having been recognized as an important element in an international disarmament strategy the comprehensive programme for disarmament should be elaborated with the utmost urgency. The Committee on Disarmament should expedite its work on the elaboration of the programme with a view to its adoption no later than in 1982.

Priority items

Certain specific measures of disarmament which have been identified constantly by the General Assembly as worthy of priority negotiation by the multilateral negotiating organ should be concluded within the first half of the decade. These are:

(i) A universal and comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty;

(ii) A treaty on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and their destruction;

(iii) A treaty on the prohibition of radiological weapons;

(iv) An international agreement assuring non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;

(v) An agreement on the cessation of the qualitative improvement and development of nuclear weapon systems;

(vi) Cessation of the production of fissionable materials for weapons purposes;

(vii) Commence negotiations on the reduction of stockpiles of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery;

(viii) Agreement on the prohibition of the development of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons.

Negotiations on other forums

(i) It is necessary also that certain negotiations proceeding outside the Committee on Disarmament be brought to a successful conclusion in the early part...
of the decade. Thus the United Nations Conference on the Prohibition or Restriction of certain Conventional Weapons deemed to be excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects should seek to reach agreement on this category of weapons at its next session, and lay the basis for further work in this area.

(ii) Negotiations should be commenced by the parties concerned for the conclusion of the SALT III agreement, not later than 1985.

**Nuclear non-proliferation**

Efforts at preventing the spread of nuclear weapons in the 1980s should seek to widen the base established in the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Treaty of Tlatelolco. The conclusion of a comprehensive nuclear test-ban treaty will contribute significantly to the process. So also will the creation of additional nuclear-weapon-free zones in various parts of the world; and progress in negotiations for the cessation of qualitative improvement and development of nuclear weapons systems.

**Disarmament and development**

During the first years of the decade, a start should be made in the implementation of the specific measures whereby disarmament will contribute effectively to economic and social development and thus facilitate full and early realization of the new international economic order. To this end, renewed efforts should be made to reach agreement on the reduction of military expenditures, reallocation of resources from military purposes to economic and social development especially for the benefit of developing countries, and strengthening international co-operation for the promotion of the transfer and use of nuclear technology for economic and social development, especially in the developing countries.

**Conventional weapons**

The programme for the 1980s in the area of conventional weapons should take into account the regional aspect of the conventional arms race and the need to tackle the problem at its source. Therefore regional conditions should largely dictate agreements on the limitation and reduction of conventional weapons and armed forces.

**Public awareness programme**

In the course of the decade the United Nations should embark on further programmes to stimulate greater awareness of the dangers of the arms race and the interest of all peoples in promoting disarmament. Besides stepping up its publications and contacts with governmental and non-governmental organizations, the United Nations should organize regional seminars where issues of world disarmament in general and regional disarmament in particular can be exhaustively discussed.

The reports of the various studies undertaken under the auspices of the United Nations should be widely disseminated.