DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

DECLARATION OF THE 1980s AS A DISARMAMENT DECADE

Report of the Secretary-General

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UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

The 1970s, declared by the United Nations General Assembly as the first Disarmament Decade in its resolution 2602 E (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, was marked by the achievement of certain positive results in curbing the arms race. During those years, international agreements were concluded to prohibit the emplacement of weapons of mass destruction on the sea-bed and the ocean floor, the use of bacteriological weapons and the military use of environmental modification techniques, and agreement was reached on strategic arms limitation and the prevention of nuclear war. On the European continent, certain measures were initiated for the purpose of strengthening confidence. A definite procedure was established for disarmament negotiations on both a multilateral and a bilateral basis. The United Nations General Assembly held its first special session devoted to disarmament, at which useful decisions were taken. The task now is to translate those decisions into international agreements.

The results achieved during the 1970s provide a good basis for further progress towards reducing armaments and bringing about disarmament. They prove the feasibility of taking tangible action in this field.

Nevertheless, because of opposition by certain forces, the arms race has not been halted. The United States and its allies are continuing to increase military expenditure, and are taking steps to increase their stockpiles of weapons and to improve their quality.

As the 1970s give way to the 1980s, the world situation has grown considerably more complex. The responsibility for that fact rests with the forces in the United States and in certain other NATO member States which are unable to accept the fact that détente is becoming the dominant trend in international relations and which are maintaining their militarist and expansionist positions.

The Ukrainian SSR is, therefore, of the view that the efforts of all peace-loving States to strengthen peace, eliminate the threat of war and take tangible steps to curb the arms race and achieve disarmament must be encouraged. The main objective of the second Disarmament Decade is to maintain, strengthen and develop all the positive results achieved in the field of disarmament during the 1970s. It is possible to halt the arms race and achieve disarmament through negotiation and the adoption of mutually acceptable decisions arrived at on a basis of full equality and consistent with the security of countries. All negotiations in this field which have been initiated in recent years in various forums and on a bilateral basis but have now been suspended or postponed for one reason or another should be resumed and continued.

The Ukrainian SSR fully supports the realistic programme put forward by the Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist community, which covers virtually every aspect of the problem of halting the arms race achieving disarmament. In particular, efforts should be intensified in the years ahead with the aim of adopting the following measures:

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- Cessation of the production of all types of nuclear weapons and the gradual reduction of stockpiles to the point of their complete elimination, together with the immediate initiation, for that purpose, of appropriate negotiations among all nuclear-weapon States and a certain number of non-nuclear-weapon States. At the same time, measures should be taken to strengthen political guarantees of the security of States and those provided by international law;

- The further limitation and reduction of stockpiles of strategic weapons, and the further qualitative limitation of such weapons, with due regard for all factors affecting the strategic situation throughout the world, including that in Europe;

- The conclusion of a treaty on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests;

- The conclusion of a treaty on the prohibition of radiological weapons;

- The adoption of further measures to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, including the universal accession of States to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;

- The conclusion of a convention on strengthening guarantees of the security of non-nuclear States;

- The conclusion of an agreement prohibiting the emplacement of nuclear weapons in the territory of States in which none are now located;

- The creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones in various regions of the world;

- The limitation and subsequent reduction of military activities in the Indian Ocean, and the creation of a zone of peace in that region;

- The conclusion of a convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons;

- The conclusion of a comprehensive agreement prohibiting the development and production of new weapons of mass destruction and new weapons systems of that type;

- The conclusion of a convention prohibiting the production, stockpiling, deployment and use of neutron weapons;

- Cessation of the development of new conventional weapons of great destructive capacity;

- The achievement of agreement, among the Powers which are permanent members of the Security Council and the countries linked with them under military agreements, to refrain from increasing the size of their armies and the numbers of their conventional weapons;
- Limitation of the sale and supply of conventional weapons;

- The elaboration of an international agreement prohibiting or restricting the use of conventional weapons which are excessively injurious or have indiscriminate effects;

- Accession, by all States which have not yet so acceded, to the existing agreements on limitation of the arms race and on disarmament;

- Reduction, in absolute or percentage terms, of the military budgets of the States permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and of other militarily important States;

- The achievement of agreement on reducing armed forces and armaments in Central Europe;

- The conclusion, among all States parties to the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, of a treaty outlawing the first use of both nuclear and conventional weapons;

- The further expansion of confidence-building measures in Europe;

- The convening of a conference on military détente and disarmament in Europe;

- The convening of a world disarmament conference.

The Ukrainian SSR considers that the implementation of these measures will effectively help to halt the arms race and make the second Disarmament Decade a time of genuine progress in the struggle to strengthen the peace and security of peoples.