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DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

DECLARATION OF THE 1980s AS A DISARMAMENT DECADE

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 11 December 1979, the General Assembly adopted resolution 34/75, the operative part of which reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

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"1. Decides to declare the decade of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade;

"2. Directs the Disarmament Commission, at its substantive session of 1980, to prepare elements of a draft resolution entitled 'Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade' and submit them to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session for consideration and adoption;

"3. Determines that the draft resolution should embody, inter alia, an indication of targets during the Second Disarmament Decade for accomplishing the major objectives and goals of disarmament, as well as ways and means of mobilizing world public opinion in this regard;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to seek the views and suggestions of Member States and of relevant specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency on possible elements in the declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade;

"5. Calls upon the Secretary-General to give all necessary assistance, including the preparation of a working paper, to the Disarmament Commission in implementing the present resolution;

"6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-fifth session an item entitled 'Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade'."

2. Pursuant to paragraph 4 of the above resolution, by note verbale dated 7 January 1980, the Secretary-General invited Member States to communicate to him by 15 March 1980 their views and suggestions on possible elements in the declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade. Specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency were also invited to communicate their views and suggestions on the subject.

3. The Secretary-General submits herewith his report to the Disarmament Commission, which contains the replies received as of 14 April 1980 from six Member States to the note verbale mentioned in the previous paragraph (part II) and the replies received from the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency (part III). Further replies will be issued subsequently in addenda to this report as they are received.

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II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

CHILE

/Original: Spanish/
/26 March 1980/

(a) The failure to achieve the aims and objectives of the decade of the 1970s was due primarily to the serious difficulties encountered in implementing specific measures and machinery for putting into practice the good intentions expressed by States, particularly the great Powers.

(b) That situation was compounded by the fact that no dates were set for the targets, which led to extensive and burdensome delay in considering and adopting the measures needed in order to make progress.

(c) These facts are closely bound up with the "political will" of States to work towards the goal of slowing down the arms race, a fundamental element of the Declaration, which often takes the form of a mere statement of principles by an individual State rather than actual deeds.

(d) It is the Government's view that the drafting of international agreements on specific aspects of the many topics associated with disarmament, such as the proposal to draw up an agreement not to deploy nuclear weapons in regions which have no such weapons, would constitute an important step forward.

(e) All measures that contribute to the limitation and reduction of stockpiles of weapons should be accompanied by practical machinery for verification and monitoring by either the United Nations or specialized bodies established for the purpose.

(f) In particular, because of the risks they involve for all mankind, the limitation of nuclear weapons is one of the most important aspects of the Declaration, but it must be clearly understood that there must be no indiscriminate restrictions on the peaceful use of nuclear energy and that the right of all States to have this form of energy available for their development must be reaffirmed.

(g) The need to maintain the status of existing nuclear-weapon-free zones is a matter of unquestionable importance, and the obligation incumbent on the nuclear Powers to refrain from using nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States is an essential element of the declaration.

(h) Lastly and above all, it must be remembered that one of the most important consequences of arms limitation lies in the large volume of financial resources that could be transferred to other countries, particularly the least developed countries, which would significantly help to improve living conditions for our fellow-men.

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In an increasingly interdependent world, greater economic and social development of the poorest countries offers reciprocal benefits to nations having a higher level of economic development inasmuch as bringing the amenities of modern life to vast numbers of people obviously increases the flow of goods and resources among nations, with consequent benefits for all.

CUBA

/Original: Spanish/
/10 March 1980/

In this connexion, the Government of the Republic of Cuba wishes to mention the relevant paragraph of the Final Declaration of the Sixth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, which states that "the Conference also examined and welcomed the proposal, submitted to the United Nations General Assembly at its thirty-third session, that the 1980s be proclaimed the Second Disarmament Decade".

The Government of the Republic of Cuba believes that the declaration of the decade from 1980 to 1989 as the Second Disarmament Decade constitutes an important step that will sustain the aspirations for peace and progress of the international community and is in line with the interests of all people throughout the world who are struggling to strengthen and make irreversible the process of détente, so that it will benefit all peoples and be extended to all regions of the earth.

In connexion with the declaration of the Second Disarmament Decade, it should be borne in mind that while some important agreements on arms control and limitation were achieved during the Decade just concluded, it was not possible to realize during that period the purposes and objectives set by the Organization at the time when the first Disarmament Decade was declared, and that the goal of general and complete disarmament still seems very far off.

It should also be borne in mind that the Second Disarmament Decade is beginning in an atmosphere of distrust in which the forces of imperialism and reaction are bent on impeding the process of détente and reviving the ominous manifestations of the Cold War, as can be seen from the agreement to install new nuclear missiles in Europe, the arms escalation in the Caribbean Sea, in the Indian Ocean and in the Middle East, the establishment by the United States Government of the so-called "rapid deployment force" and the postponement of the ratification of the SALT II Agreements.

Those forces continue to increase their military presence throughout the world, strengthen their military bases in foreign territories, promote the resurgence of local conflicts, impede the liberation of peoples by all means, covert and overt, obstructing the independence process initiated by others and subvert friendly and co-operative ties which should characterize international relations. Those same forces are supporting Israeli expansionism and the denial of national rights to the Palestinian people and are collaborating with the South African régime, thus benefiting from its policy of apartheid.

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The draft resolution being prepared cannot ignore these facts and, accordingly, should recognize the need to put an end to such situations, which disturb the climate of peace and do not contribute to the effective progress of the disarmament negotiations.

The Republic of Cuba also believes that the draft resolution should take into account the continued squandering of the material and human resources that are absorbed by the arms race to the detriment of development - particularly the development of the developing countries - international security and the efforts to achieve a just and equitable new international economic order.

In that connexion, the Sixth Summit Conference of Non-Aligned Countries underscored again that "increasing material and human potentials were being wasted through investment in armaments, which considerably diminishes the availability of resources indispensable for development. The Conference again urged the immediate reduction of expenditures for armaments ... and called for concrete measures of disarmament the implementation of which would progressively enable a significant portion of the resources so diverted to be used for social and economic needs, particularly those of developing countries".

The need to free resources from the arms race in order to implement economic and social development programmes, as a manifestation of the close link between disarmament and development, should be an essential element of the draft resolution and a basic condition for the strengthening of peace throughout the world.

The goals to be established with a view to the achievement of the main objectives of disarmament in the Decade should take this reality into consideration and reflect it objectively in order to ensure its fulfilment, because as Dr. Fidel Castro, President of the Council of State and Ministers of the Republic of Cuba and President of the Non-Aligned Movement, observed in his statement at the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly, "If there are no resources for development, there will be no peace"; he proposed that the flow of financial resources for development be increased in the coming decade by an additional amount of not less than \$300 billion.

The Government of the Republic of Cuba also believes it is essential to ensure the participation of all nuclear-weapon States in the efforts to halt the quantitative and qualitative increase of those arms and to achieve their total elimination.

The draft resolution should, finally, refer to the need to increase in this decade the efforts aimed at the reduction of military budgets, the general prohibition of nuclear-arms tests, the attainment of a treaty banning chemical weapons, the prohibition of new mass-destruction weapons systems and the conclusion of a convention guaranteeing the security of non-nuclear-weapon States.

Together with general and complete disarmament, the preservation of peace should be a fundamental objective in the resolution. In that connexion, the

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President of Cuba, Fidel Castro, stated at the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly:

"Among the problems to be debated in the present session of the General Assembly, peace is a concern of the first order. The search for peace also constitutes an aspiration of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and has been the subject of great attention in the Sixth Conference. But for our countries peace is indivisible. We want a peace that will equally benefit large and small, strong and weak, a peace that will embrace all regions of the world and reach all its citizens."

The Government of the Republic of Cuba reiterates its belief that today more than ever the international community requires real political will on the part of all Governments in order to approach the disarmament negotiations in a spirit of frank co-operation which will permit important progress towards the achievement of measures for concrete and effective disarmament.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

/Original: English/

/14 March 1980/

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany welcomes the fact that the General Assembly of the United Nations at its thirty-fourth session adopted by consensus resolution 34/75, which declares the decade of the 1980s as the Second United Nations Disarmament Decade. This decision underlines the conviction of Member States of the United Nations that the question of general and complete disarmament under effective international control is of the utmost importance for the well-being of mankind.

The declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade is an appropriate step to enhance public awareness of complexity and importance of the problems of disarmament which affect the vital security interests of all States. During this disarmament decade, international efforts to promote knowledge and information about disarmament should be encouraged in order to create an international atmosphere conducive to the implementation of practical measures with regard to the cessation of the arms race and to disarmament.

The Federal Government holds the view that the elements of a draft resolution entitled "Declaration of the 1980s as the second Disarmament Decade" which are to be prepared by the Disarmament Commission must be based on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session Devoted to Disarmament. These elements should stress the concern of all States with the maintenance and strengthening of international security.

The community of States is faced with the task of identifying elements which correspond to and appraise the situation in the world as it really is. These elements must take into account that the goal of general and complete disarmament can only be achieved as a result of a long-term, step-by-step process based on a whole series of measures in different fields. Furthermore, it must be borne in mind that disarmament and arms-control agreements will last only if the security and integrity of all States concerned are guaranteed. During the second Disarmament Decade, measures to reduce the size of military arsenals and armed forces should be accompanied by associated measures designed to create and increase confidence between States and to develop the necessary climate for comprehensive disarmament and arms-control negotiations. The significance of agreements on such measures has been made even more obvious by recent developments.

In the view of the Federal Government, the elements of the draft resolution should aim at a comprehensive approach, stressing that all disarmament issues must be dealt with in an appropriate context, whether bilateral, regional or multilateral. A realistic approach precludes the setting of target dates which could hamper fruitful negotiations, create disappointments and would not contribute to the achievement of disarmament agreements.

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The elements to be identified should underline the important task the United Nations has to play in the arms-control and disarmament field. It should be pointed out that the United Nations can encourage the parties concerned to enter into negotiations and help to establish a climate in which successful negotiations can be conducted. The will of Member States to negotiate arms-control and disarmament agreements must be maintained and strengthened.

Taking into account these considerations, the Federal Government suggests that the preamble of the draft resolution include the following elements:

(a) The solemn obligation, enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, of Member States to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State and the right of peoples to self-determination. The adherence of all Member States to the obligation laid down in the Charter of the United Nations to settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security and justice are not endangered;

(b) The conviction that arms limitation and disarmament can make a major contribution to furthering international peace and security and to the economic and social advances of mankind;

(c) Reference to resolution 2602 E (XXIV) of 16 December 1969 of the General Assembly, which declared the 1970s as a Disarmament Decade and to the efforts of Member States to achieve arms-control and disarmament agreements on a bilateral, regional and multilateral level;

(d) The necessity, laid down in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session Devoted to Disarmament, of ensuring a balance between the measures to be taken in different disarmament fields, in particular, between nuclear and conventional armaments, in order to avoid destabilizing effects;

(e) The recommendation to all States to accept proposals to take up disarmament negotiations without preconditions;

(f) The conviction that reciprocal benefits can be derived from conducting negotiations concurrently on different issues. This applies particularly to negotiations, on the one hand, on disarmament and arms control and, on the other hand, on associated measures;

(g) The significance of studies on disarmament and arms-control issues, including issues related to associated measures, for the identification of new ways leading towards general and complete disarmament, and the necessity to conduct these studies in a businesslike atmosphere which is free from political posturing.

The operative part of the draft resolution should contain the following elements:

(a) The conviction that the tenth special session devoted to disarmament laid the basis in its Final Document for an international disarmament strategy;

(b) The hope that the comprehensive disarmament programme to be elaborated by the Committee on Disarmament, elements of which have been identified by the Disarmament Commission at its first substantive session, will contribute to the implementation of the Final Document;

~~(c) The necessity for adequate measures of verification, in order to create the necessary confidence and ensure the observance by all parties;~~

(d) The urgency that States conduct negotiations on all priority items concurrently; negotiations on limited measures of disarmament should not preclude negotiations aimed at achieving general and complete disarmament;

(e) Consideration of arrangements for specific confidence building measures, taking into account the particular conditions and requirements of each region;

(f) Recognition of the close relationship between disarmament and development and the necessity to use resources released as a result of disarmament measures in a manner which will promote the well-being of all peoples and improve the economic conditions of countries, particularly the developing countries.

INDIA

/Original: English/

/11 February 1980/

The Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, which was unanimously adopted by all Member States and which lays down the foundations of an international disarmament strategy, should provide the basis for planning and action during the second Disarmament Decade.

Progress in disarmament efforts during the second Disarmament Decade should be sought strictly within the framework of the goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control and the highest priority objectives of the elimination of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction.

In order to ensure credibility and urgency for the disarmament process, negotiations should be conducted on agreed specific measures in the field of disarmament, with a view to successfully completing them during the second Disarmament Decade.

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A substantial portion of the funds and other resources released by disarmament measures in the second Disarmament Decade should be channelled for economic and social development, particularly of the developing countries, to whom it should be made available as additional assistance over and above what they are receiving already.

In order to generate the necessary political will and public support for disarmament, a conscious and determined effort should be made to mobilize public opinion in favour of positive action being taken by Governments towards achieving the highest priority objectives of disarmament during the second Decade.

JAPAN

/Original: English/

/15 March 1980/

1. In the draft resolution of the declaration of the second Disarmament Decade, the achievements of the first Disarmament Decade should be assessed. These include, among others, the conclusion and entry into force of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the sea-bed Treaty and other disarmament conventions; the adoption of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, which set the direction of future endeavours in the field of disarmament; and the improvement and strengthening of the deliberative and negotiating machineries for disarmament. Furthermore, the draft resolution should take into full consideration the Principles and the Programme of Action in the Final Document of the United Nations special session devoted to disarmament, as well as elements of the comprehensive programme of disarmament which the United Nations Disarmament Commission adopted in 1979.
2. The deadline for the implementation of measures to be included in the draft resolution of the declaration of the second Disarmament Decade should not be determined from the viewpoint of feasibility.
3. On the basis of the fundamental understanding as contained in paragraph 1 above, the Government of Japan is of the view that the draft resolution of the declaration should reflect, among others, the following principles and measures:
 1. Principles to be observed in implementing disarmament measures:
 - (a) The guarantee to each State the right of its own security;
 - (b) The inclusion of universally acceptable and effective verification measures;
 - (c) The maintenance of balanced responsibility and obligation between nuclear and non-nuclear-weapon States.

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2. Main measures:

- (a) Comprehensive nuclear test ban;
- (b) Strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation régime;
- (c) Chemical-weapons ban;
- (d) Confidence-building measures which take into account regional characteristics.

ZAIRE

/Original: French/
/14 March 1980/

1. Resolution 2602 E (XXIV), of 16 December 1969, which proclaimed the first Disarmament Decade, is far from having achieved its objectives. The arms race, and especially the nuclear arms race, is continuing at a faster pace than ever; military expenditures have more than quadrupled in 10 years; hotbeds of tension are multiplying and reviving, creating an increasing threat to peace and international security; the spectre of the cold war again haunts the international community.

2. The decade of the 1980s is beginning inauspiciously. The Disarmament Commission, which in resolution 34/75 was directed by the General Assembly to prepare elements of a draft resolution declaring the second Disarmament Decade, must approach that question with prudence and objectivity. Prudence first of all, in order to reconcile the views of all parties, and objectivity next, to ensure that the resolution is implemented. Those two postulates require a realistic approach to the definition of the objectives and measures to be adopted to ensure that the second Decade will be more successful.

3. In that perspective, the Republic of Zaire would like the following ideas to be taken into account in the draft resolution:

(a) A large-scale programme should be prepared to sensitize world opinion to the dangers of war in general and nuclear war in particular;

(b) Instruction concerning peace and disarmament should be provided throughout the world through the specialized agencies of the United Nations, and in particular UNESCO;

(c) The film on wars and their consequences should be distributed in accordance with the decision taken by the General Assembly at its thirty-third session under item 47 on the agenda of that session;

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(d) A 10-year programme should be prepared on the negotiations relating to priority disarmament questions in accordance with the spirit and letter of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session;

(e) International symposia should be organized for the youth of all countries, the theme of which would be not only disarmament itself but, above all, disarmament viewed from the stand point of peace, security and development in the world;

(f) Regional conferences on disarmament should be organized (in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas) in accordance with resolution 33/91 E;

(g) The reduction of military budgets should be stressed by imposing the deduction of a given percentage from military expenditures to establish an international fund that would help promote disarmament for the benefit of development;

(h) The IAEA inspection system should be applied on a mandatory basis and without exception, to all nuclear installations in the world, whether operated for military or peaceful purposes;

(i) A date should be set for the World Disarmament Conference, the purpose of which would be to take stock of the two special sessions of the General Assembly and codify the results achieved in that field;

(j) Finally, Governments should be invited to cultivate the spirit of peace through national education programmes.

III. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

/Original: English/

/19 March 1980/

The second Disarmament Decade to be solemnly declared by the United Nations opens at a time of increased tension in international relations and unprecedented threat to the survival of mankind.

Not only has this heightened world tension hampered progress in the disarmament negotiations but it has instead lead to a terrifying escalation of the arms race illustrated by increased world militarization.

FAO is deeply concerned about the countereffects that such deterioration in international confidence are likely to have on the development process as a whole, as well as on that of agriculture and food production.

Millions of people, throughout the world are undernourished. Like the poor and the unemployed, the hungry are not confined to developing nations only, although as FAO figures show, that is where most are found: 230 millions in south Asia, 85 in Africa, 70 in the Far East, 46 in Latin America, 20 in the Middle East.

Malnutrition today is not basically due to an insufficiency of food but to its inadequate and inequitable distribution, as well as to the lack of material and human resources to support increases in food production in developing countries.

Yet each year some \$450 billion are spent on armaments, and over half a million scientists and engineers throughout the world are being used for the development and proliferation of increasingly sophisticated devices of destruction, thus denying the full backing of the scientific and financial communities to such top priority sectors as food production, agriculture and rural development.

Such misallocation of money and brainpower constitutes an immense waste of scarce material urgently needed for ensuring to the massive numbers of malnourished people of the planet the basic human right to a diet adequate for survival.

Those suffering most from such misallocation of resources are the poor and among these the rural poor. History shows that unemployment and hunger both in rural and urban areas generate unrest and war, which, in turn, result in still more unemployment and more hunger and more unrest.

It is therefore imperative for the world community to remedy these constantly growing plagues by gradually converting its arms-race expenditure into constructive "swords-into-plowshares" programmes. A little over 1 per cent of the world's current expenditure on armaments or \$5.0 billion per annum would permit both the

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direct action and long-term development programmes needed to eliminate hunger. This could more than double the present flow of annual international aid for agriculture in developing countries and would bring the aid level close to the requirements estimated by FAO. The composition and nature of investment programmes which could utilize this increased level of aid are identified in FAO's long-term development study "Agriculture: Toward 2000".

Daily hunger is yet but one in the endless list of the world's economic and social deficiencies and inequities: water unfit to drink, the perpetual darkness of illiteracy, of ill-health, miserable poverty are but some of the economic-social problems plaguing the world today.

Not one will be solved by national military expenditures, no matter how extravagant.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

/Original: English/

/19 February 1980/

The Declaration adopted by The International Conference on Primary Health Care organized jointly by the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund in 1978 in Alma-Ata which, in article X, states:

"An acceptable level of health for all the people of the world by the year 2000 can be attained through a fuller and better use of the world's resources, a considerable part of which is now spent on armaments and military conflicts. A genuine policy of independence, peace, détente and disarmament could and should release additional resources that could well be devoted to peaceful aims and in particular to the acceleration of social and economic development of which primary health care, as an essential part, should be allotted its proper share."

The achievement of the objective of an acceptable level of health for all demands not only a more equitable distribution of health resources but also the generation of additional resources to satisfy essential or basic health care needs, which include adequate food and housing, safe drinking water, suitable sanitation, services for maternal and child health care - such as nutritional support, health education and immunization against the major infectious diseases of childhood - prevention and control of locally endemic diseases and simple care of injury and illness in all age groups. Reduced expenditure on armaments would release funds for investment in health infrastructures, in development of health manpower and in research aimed at generating new knowledge and applying existing knowledge.

In 1979 the Thirty-second World Health Assembly requested the Director-General to prepare a report on the further steps which WHO, as a United Nations specialized agency, would be able to take in the interests of international socio-economic

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development, and also with the aim of assisting in the implementation of the United Nations resolutions on strengthening of peace, détente and disarmament. This report will, no doubt, show elements which could be used for inclusion in the proposed declaration.

WORLD BANK

/Original: English/

/4 February 1980/

It is generally recognized that progress towards disarmament during the 1980s could greatly improve the climate of international relations and make possible the release of substantial resources for development. But since the subject of disarmament has not been studied within the Bank, we are unable to offer any official comments on the elements of such a declaration.
