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CONSIDERATION OF THE DECLARATION OF THE 1990s AS THE THIRD DISARMAMENT DECADE

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REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

BULGARIA

[Original: English]

[10 May 1989]

1. A great deal of the elements of the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade retain their validity to date. They could be used by the international community in drafting a new declaration that would define priorities and tasks of the Third Disarmament Decade. Paragraphs 6, 7 (a), 7 (b), 7 (e), 7 (g), 8, 9, 12, 17, 18, 21, 23 (a), 24 and 25 of the 1980s Declaration are of particular importance. The Bulgarian Government wishes to submit, here below, some observations to supplement the above-mentioned provisions in drafting the 1990s Declaration.

2. The international community is entering the last decade of the twentieth century. This is a century of unprecedented progress in all spheres of man's creative endeavour. It is also a century of two world wars and numerous other military conflicts. The world has acquired the means for its own annihilation. As international intercourse widens, it has become increasingly evident that we all live in an interdependent world where the national security of one group of countries cannot be separated from the security of the rest of the nations. Mankind needs the combined efforts of all States to guarantee effectively a stable peace and security for all.

3. The positive changes in international life over the 1980s have fostered a useful peaceful dialogue. They have laid the foundations to proceed with the first acts of genuine nuclear disarmament. The contrast is there between conditions for international co-operation for peace back at the beginning of the past decade and now, demonstrating the positive role of the new political thinking and acting in behalf of the security of all nations. International peace and security cannot be truly achieved as long as States continue overarming themselves. The international community as a whole needs to be involved in efforts to put an end to the vicious cycle of mistrust and military preparations, and seek the means to ensure security for all. Of prime importance in this respect can be those decisions which take into account not only the military and political aspects of national and international security, but also the social, economic and ecological ones. Achieving common security requires a comprehensive approach.

4. Regrettably, the international community was unable fully to expand the initial impetus in disarmament activities in the 1980s in the aftermath of the adoption of the 1978 Final Document. However, that fundamental international instrument has lost none of its relevance to the present day. Along with the improved international climate, the 1980s bear witness, particularly in their second half, to certain important bilateral and multilateral developments, which have contributed to common security at lower levels of armament. Especially important among them are:

- The international recognition that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought, as well as that States should not strive for military superiority;

- The conclusion and the ongoing implementation of the treaty between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America on the elimination of their intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles;

- The agreement, in principle, between the Soviet Union and the United States on a 50 per cent reduction of strategic offensive armaments and their continued efforts to conclude a respective treaty while preserving the validity of the ABM Treaty, as signed in 1972;

- Other bilateral measures to reduce the threat of nuclear war, which, along with the agreement on the elimination of nuclear missiles, have greatly contributed to diminishing the risk of such a conflict;

- The successful outcome of the Third NPT Review Conference;

- The conclusion of the Treaty of Raratonga, establishing a nuclear-free zone in the South Pacific, as well as the ratification by the USSR and China of the relevant protocols to that treaty without any reservations;

- The conclusion, under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), of two international conventions relating to measures of prompt announcement and assistance to other countries in case of nuclear incidents;

- The consensus reached in January 1989 at the Paris conference on the prohibition of chemical weapons, as well as the progress at the Conference on Disarmament in drafting a convention to prohibit and eliminate those weapons;

- The measures adopted to strengthen international verification measures relating to the prohibition of biological weapons;

- The entering of some dangerous regional conflicts into their settlement stage;

- The launching of the World Disarmament Campaign under the auspices of the United Nations;

- The successful development of the all-European process on security and co-operation in Europe, including the beginning of negotiations on the reduction of armed forces and armaments, and on a new generation of confidence- and security-building measures for that region;

- The undertaking of important unilateral steps of military disengagement and disarmament in some regions;

- The actions of some countries to convert part of their military potential for civilian purposes, taking into account all the aspects of this complex problem;

- The implementation of unprecedented verification measures in nuclear as well as in conventional fields, against the background of a significant rapprochement of positions on verification, coupled with the growing international interest in larger openness, transparency and predictability of military activities in peacetime.

5. Bulgaria and the other States parties to the Warsaw Treaty have unilaterally cut their national armed forces and armaments throughout the 1980s, as officially announced.

6. All these positive changes have become prerequisites for accelerating efforts to curb the arms race and start disarmament. The momentum thus gathered has to be sustained and developed. Today's propitious international climate might be jeopardized should new actions to step up armament be undertaken. Those actions might prove particularly dangerous that are initiated as a sort of "compensation" for some military capabilities of which a given State or group of States have deprived themselves by virtue of the elimination of certain particularly destabilizing nuclear weapons. Such actions may complicate to a significant degree the ongoing negotiations in other fields of disarmament and confidence building, including those on conventional weapons.

7. No ideological or doctrinal considerations can justify policies of continuing accumulation of armaments. The elimination of existing imbalances and asymmetries should be accomplished through asymmetrical cuts by the States possessing a surplus of the respective arms and armed forces, taking into account the overall balance and structure of both sides' military potentials.

8. Military outlays, having doubled over the 1980s, have now reached the awesome figure of 1 million million United States dollars annually. The levels of armaments - both nuclear and conventional - have not been significantly reduced, whereas qualitative arms sophistication continues unabated. Harnessing top technologies to boost military capabilities is fast becoming a cause of deepest concern to the international community. A new military threat may well confront the world from outer space. Another lurking danger is that of the proliferation not only of nuclear weapons but of chemical weapons and ballistic missiles. The possibility for a nuclear conflict to erupt is, unfortunately, still very much with us, with its catastrophic consequences for mankind.

9. The international community needs, in view of the Third Disarmament Decade, a comprehensive strategy to restrict military potentials of States on a mutual basis. Such a strategy should aim at reducing and ultimately eliminating the danger of armed conflicts. To reach militarily significant agreements, the States should make full use of bilateral, regional and global multilateral approaches which complement each other.

10. Reducing nuclear arsenals radically: this is what must be carried over as a priority goal during the Third Disarmament Decade. Purposeful efforts are needed to elaborate specific steps to remove the risk of nuclear war. This is, indeed, the primary preoccupation of mankind. The Treaty to eliminate Soviet and United States intermediate- and shorter-range missiles should be fully implemented. It

must be followed without undue delay by an agreement to reduce by 50 per cent the strategic offensive weapons of both sides, preserving the ABM Treaty as signed in 1972. At one stage, the process of nuclear disarmament must draw in the rest of nuclear-weapon countries. The proper conditions for this should be subject to talks among the five nuclear Powers in order to maintain the pace of this process. High on the agenda also is the issue of starting negotiations to reduce tactical nuclear weapons, both land- and sea-based, being a highly destabilizing factor with respect to risks of a nuclear war. Reaching a comprehensive nuclear test ban through mutually complementary bilateral and multilateral efforts has to remain a priority goal of the international community.

11. The non-proliferation of nuclear weapons should certainly be a cardinal task over the Third Disarmament Decade. For non-proliferation is not just a prerequisite for a lower risk of nuclear conflict. It is an important condition for the unimpeded development of the nuclear disarmament process. The Non-Proliferation Treaty is invaluable in this regard and its duration should be extended further following the expiration of its initial validity period in 1995. Making the Non-Proliferation Treaty universal should be another important goal for the international community. All these tasks will be steadily promoted if nuclear disarmament is expanded; progress towards a comprehensive test ban is reached; new nuclear-weapon-free zones are created; effective international agreements on guarantees for non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons are concluded; and access to nuclear technologies and equipment under IAEA safeguards is guaranteed.

12. The principle of non-proliferation of various types of weapons has become a stepping-stone in disarmament, whether in the nuclear field, chemical weapons, ballistic technologies, outer space or restrictions on trade in conventional weapons.

13. The expected conclusion of a convention prohibiting and eliminating chemical weapons should become one of the major achievements of the Third Disarmament Decade. An event of such magnitude will be upgraded by regional measures, including the creation of chemical-weapon-free zones; concerted actions of signing and ratifying the future global convention by groups of regional countries or of certain military alliances, etc. All States should observe the provisions laid down in the 1925 Geneva Protocol. It is necessary to adopt and give effect to a United Nations mechanism for a timely and efficient investigation, on behalf of the Secretary-General, of reports concerning the possible use of chemical and bacteriological weapons that may constitute violations of that protocol. This would create an atmosphere of international intolerance to such acts and speed up finalization of the future convention.

14. Preventing an arms race in outer space is another urgent task of the international community. Initial efforts in this field should aim at the non-introduction of weapons on a permanent basis in that environment. The final goal could be achieved by stages. The prohibition of anti-satellite weapons and destruction of existing ASAT systems should be a matter of priority in bilateral and multilateral efforts.

15. The 1990s should bear witness to significant steps to reduce armed forces and conventional armaments, particularly in Europe. This should be coupled with the elaboration of a new generation of measures to strengthen confidence and security, encompassing military activities in all their varieties.

16. The international community should take up also the issue of arms trade. Its solution cannot but be greatly influenced by the attitude of the militarily important States. The 1990s disarmament agenda should also cover other issues long plaguing international peace and security. There is a need for talks on global aspects of naval disarmament, starting with appropriate measures for confidence- and security-building on high seas, particularly with respect to international sea lanes and straits. Naval disarmament negotiations should be conducted on a regional basis also, in order to take into account the specific characteristics of the respective regions. Long overdue for the United Nations is the taking up of the intricate issue of the conversion of military potentials in all its aspects. This is a matter requiring the broadest co-operation and exchange of experience among all countries. Appropriate limitations on advanced technologies for the development of qualitatively new weapons and weapon systems will ease the pressures of the arms race and diminish the risk of war.

17. Verification of disarmament agreements should also become a central task of the Third Disarmament Decade. The broad consensus on the conceptual basis of this issue may be a good basis to expect that an international verification mechanism could be set up which would allow all countries to participate in it, thus enhancing its overall effect. The United Nations should play an important role in this regard. Transparency and openness on military matters, a constant flow of objective information on military potentials and actions, the exchange of official data on armed forces and armaments of States, are important prerequisites for mutual confidence and security.

REPLIES RECEIVED FROM SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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[2 May 1989]

The constitutional mandate of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to raise levels of nutrition and standards of living, to secure improvements in the efficiency of the production and distribution of all food and agricultural products and to better the condition of rural populations, thus contributing towards an expanding world economy and ensuring humanity's freedom from hunger, is closely linked with peace and disarmament.

There is a growing awareness that hunger and poverty on a massive scale, accompanied by environmental disasters, pose a dangerous threat to peaceful relations within and between States.

Research carried out by FAO has revealed that, by the year 2000, the lands of most developing countries will scarcely be sufficient to feed their expected populations if traditional farming methods are continued. Two fifths of their land area, with 60 per cent of the total population, would be inhabited by more people than could be supported. One of the most disturbing features of this scenario is that population growth will be fastest precisely in those areas where land resources are least capable of meeting the needs of their populations and where the risk of desertification and fuel-wood deficiency is highest.

Other complex political and social factors, not least of which is the disproportionate shares of often limited national budgets being spent on swords rather than on ploughshares, will compound the dangers and delay solutions. The action taken over the next 40 years will be crucial to human history, as during this period it will be decided whether populations can be accommodated to national resources without widespread suffering from hunger and poverty; disruption; conflict or irreversible degradation of the environment. The outcome of current trends concerns not only the potentially critical countries but the entire human race.

FAO is working with developing countries to reverse these trends by (a) creating a climate conducive to agricultural development; (b) increasing food and agricultural production; (c) assisting with harvest and post-harvest phases of production; (d) managing and conserving the earth's natural resources; and (e) financing agricultural development activities.

FAO has made specific reference to the relationship between development and disarmament on numerous occasions, in such publications as Ceres (1986) and through World Food Day, which is celebrated on 16 October every year throughout the world.
