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DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

Note verbale dated 29 May 1980 from the Permanent Mission of Cuba
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and has the honour to transmit herewith, on behalf of the non-aligned countries participating in the work of the Disarmament Commission, a working paper on agenda item 4 (a) of the Disarmament Commission and kindly request to have this paper circulated as a document for the Disarmament Commission.

(Signed) Ernesto LOPEZ Paz
Chargé d'Affaires

Annex

Working Paper

Conclusions of the second substantive session of the
Disarmament Commission on item 4 (a) of its agenda

1. The Disarmament Commission took up "Consideration of various aspects of the arms race, particularly the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament, in order to expedite negotiations aimed at effective elimination of the danger of nuclear war".

2. Despite the consensus reached at the tenth special session of the General Assembly on disarmament, the Commission has noted with grave concern that the arms race, in the nuclear and also in the conventional field, among the great Powers and, especially, between the two military blocs, has further escalated. Efforts are under way to develop and deploy new types and new systems of nuclear weapons as well as new generation of conventional weapons of great destructive capability. There are grave prospects of further intensification and escalation of the arms race due to the current deterioration in the international situation as manifested by the ever more frequent use or threat of use of force against the sovereignty, territorial integrity and national independence of States, military intervention and occupation, interference in the internal affairs and the denial of the right to self-determination of peoples and nations under colonial and alien domination in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and other generally accepted principles of international law.

3. The Commission also noted with deep anxiety the stepping up of the escalation of foreign military presence, especially of the leading military powers in the regions of crises and tension, the intensification of rivalry between them leading to the division of the world into spheres of influence and domination, and attempts to establish foreign military bases and/or related installations and services conceived in the context of great power conflicts.

4. The Commission noted with profound dismay that the ratification of the SALT II treaty has been further postponed and that the expected early commencement of negotiations on SALT III is not in sight. At the same time, bilateral negotiations between the two leading nuclear-weapon States on certain disarmament and arms control measures have been suspended. It is a matter of particular concern that their protracted negotiations on the comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty and on the prohibition of chemical weapons have rendered it difficult for the Committee on Disarmament to discharge its responsibility for negotiations on these priority measures of disarmament.

5. On the contrary, decisions have been taken, which are bound to lead to a further and even more dangerous spiral in the arms race, particularly in the nuclear field. This is manifested, inter alia, in the considerable increases in military budgets and the announced intentions for further increases of military expenditures.

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6. The Commission pointed out that the present deterioration of the international situation, mentioned above, poses a grave threat to international peace and to the security of all States. The escalation of the arms race, increase in military expenditures, stepping up of confrontation and deployment of naval and military forces in regions of crises and tension and suspension of disarmament negotiations are not only contrary to the aspirations and interests of the international community but they also further exacerbate the danger to world peace and security. The States engaged in the arms race bear full responsibility for the above developments.

7. The Commission reaffirms that "enduring international peace and security cannot be built on the accumulation of weaponry by military alliances nor be sustained by a precarious balance of deterrence or doctrines of strategic superiority". Genuine and lasting peace can only be created through the effective implementation of the security system provided for the Charter of the United Nations and, the speedy and substantial reduction of arms and arms forces.

The Commission further reaffirms that the measures of collective international security, as required by the Charter, be proceeded with, parallel to agreements on the speedy and substantial reduction of arms and armed forces, in accordance with paragraphs 13 and 110 of the Declaration of the Final Document.

8. The Commission therefore calls upon all States, particularly the leading nuclear-weapon States, to undertake urgent measures to halt and reverse the arms race, particularly the nuclear arms race in all its forms. Immediate and meaningful negotiations should be initiated on substantial disarmament measures, particularly in the Committee on Disarmament. The Commission calls for:

- immediate ratification of the SALT II treaty and commencement of negotiations on SALT III in order to achieve the objectives of paragraph 52 of the Final Document of the tenth special session of the General Assembly;
- the conclusion without further delay of a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty;
- the early elaboration of a convention to prohibit the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and on their destruction.

9. The Commission affirms the importance for the achievement of disarmament measures and of strict adherence by States to the principles of the United Nations Charter especially those principles regarding respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States, non-use or threat of use of force, non-recognition of situations created by use of force in international relations, non-intervention and non-interference, the just and peaceful resolution of conflicts and disputes, self-determination of peoples under colonial and alien domination, as well as withdrawal of great Powers' military presence in regions of crises and tension, including withdrawal of foreign military forces and dismantling of foreign military bases.