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DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

REDUCTION OF MILITARY BUDGETS

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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CANADA

/Original: English/

/14 May 1981/

Canada believes that openness in the reporting of military budgets is a prerequisite to making progress on the reduction of military expenditures. Canada thus supports the efforts made over the last several years to develop an international budgetary reporting instrument or matrix which would allow the military budgets of States to be meaningfully measured and compared and assist in the verification of any declared reductions. The Governments and officials involved in these efforts are performing an invaluable service and deserve recognition from the rest of the world community.

Consistent with these efforts, the Government of Canada has contributed its views at various stages and has recently completed, for the second time, the reporting instrument developed by the Group of Experts on the Reduction of Military Budgets. As the budget of the Canadian Department of National Defence is not presented in Canada in the format used in the international reporting instrument, considerable time and effort have, therefore, been necessary to complete this instrument. These resources were expended, however, in the hope that other States would conclude that their security also would not be threatened if they were to participate in this exercise. Canada believes that this type of openness contributes to confidence-building among States.

Conversely, secrecy in the reporting of military expenditures promotes mistrust and suspicion. Sufficient mutual trust does not exist in today's world to allow States to take on faith the declarations of other States that their military budgets are being reduced without some indices to confirm that this is actually being done. In the same vein, some States say that the verification function is not necessary and argue that mutual trust should be substituted for verification provisions. However, such provisions are necessary precisely because mutual trust does not exist in today's world.

Canada, therefore, insists that one of the principles which must be followed to allow any hope of progress in this area is that of openness, at least to the extent of providing sufficient details of military expenditures so that the budgets of States may be adequately measured, compared and verified.

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JAPAN

/Original: English/

/14 May 1981/

Japan is of the view that the freezing and reduction of military expenditures may be realized as progress is achieved in attaining concrete measures for disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, but believes that in examining this question the security requirements of each State must be fully taken into consideration.

Japan also believes that the prerequisites to achieving a reduction of military expenditures are the establishment of a fair method of calculating and comparing the expenditures of each State on a uniform basis as well as the provision of effective verification measures.

Japan considers it important to foster, step by step, mutual trust among nations through careful deliberation on and study of the above-mentioned matters with the participation of all the Member States of the United Nations.
