DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Addendum

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The Federal Republic of Germany is pleased to note that resolution 38/71 B has again drawn the attention of the community of nations to the important subject of disarmament and development. It itself has made special efforts to help resolve this problem and achieve progress in these two major areas.

In a number of statements to the General Assembly, the Foreign Minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, has denounced the intolerable disproportion between the financial burden of armaments on the one hand and world poverty and underdevelopment on the other. Addressing the thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions of the General Assembly, he proposed the setting up of two registers as an indispensable and at the same time realistic prerequisite for such a solution, one which would record per capita spending on armaments and on development assistance, and another which would list world-wide exports and imports of weapons. Furthermore, the Federal Republic of Germany has, for the past four years, participated in the standardized reporting system of the United Nations which is designed to make military budgets comparable. It was also represented by an expert in the preparation of the study on the relationship between disarmament and development, which was eventually submitted as document A/36/356.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany takes the view that there exists no automatic link between disarmament and development, and refers in this connection to its explanation of vote on draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.54/Rev.2 which is set out in document A/C.1/38/PV.46. There is, however, a relationship between these two areas which will have to be studied in their political and economic context. The object must be to meet the legitimate desire of all nations for peace and uniminished security at the lowest possible level of military forces, thereby reducing defence costs and untying resources to be used for other purposes, including economic and social development.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany therefore agrees with the study's conclusion that the funds and other resources becoming available must be savings resulting from arms limitation and disarmament because only this approach will make sense in the long term, both politically and economically. But such economies presuppose substantive negotiations on verifiable arms limitation measures. This way will take time and patience, but it is the only realistic one.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany is convinced that real progress in the field of disarmament and development cannot be achieved without first creating world-wide transparency and that, to achieve that transparency, all nations should submit the necessary reliable data on military expenditures, including transfers of weapons and resources channelled to development.
The 1981 study pointed out in the introduction that the lack of information and data reduced its value because it was not as balanced and accurate as it might have been. In some chapters, which cover the same problems that have been raised again in resolution 38/71 B, the lack of statistical material and data is again given special mention. Therefore, the chances of this resolution producing substantive progress will depend essentially on how far all individual and groups of States are prepared to submit reliable statistical material and verifiable data. There have, incidentally, also been other studies and reports that have suffered considerably from this dearth of reliable data and comparability. One example is the report by the group of experts submitted in 1974 in response to resolution 3093 B (XXVIII).

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany would, therefore, emphasize in this connection the fact that every year since the introduction of the standardized United Nations system of reporting defence spending it has made available the data required. This reporting system represents a constructive effort on the part of the United Nations, but precisely here it is apparent that only a small number of countries - including most of the members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization alliance - are willing to reveal their military data, whilst the Eastern bloc countries refuse to meet this requirement.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany also supports the view expressed in the study on disarmament and development that, in the long term, military spending, if compared with corresponding expenditures for non-military purposes, has a negative influence on economic growth and employment.

Of course, this principle applies equally to all national economies. And although, admittedly, differences do exist between some groups of countries, it is a definite fact that for all groups of countries decreased military expenditure and increased development expenditure would yield higher growth and higher income. In other words, all groups of countries in the world would benefit economically from disarmament. It follows from this that all members of the community of nations must assume their share of the responsibility for systematic attempts to resolve the problems of disarmament and development.

Anxious to seek measurable progress towards a solution of problems relating to this important area of disarmament and development, the Federal Republic of Germany will give favourable consideration to the proposal for a United Nations preparatory conference on disarmament and development in Paris if the current discussions show a positive trend and nations a great willingness to supply the data needed to ensure transparency.

UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

[Original: Russian]

[29 May 1984]

The practical solution of the fundamental problems of world development cannot be separated from the prevention of nuclear war and the implementation of effective and practical disarmament measures. At the centre of international life today /...
stand issues which affect the fundamental interests of peoples - the struggle to avert nuclear war, to improve the international climate and to curb the arms race, which is being increasingly spurred on by the United States and its North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies, which have embarked on a policy aimed at the achievement of military supremacy and the unrestrained growth of military arsenals, first and foremost nuclear arsenals. The reports of the planned development by the United States of "third-generation" nuclear weapons are giving way to reports of proposed programmes to develop space weapons, anti-missile systems and new types and systems of weapons of mass destruction. Work is being carried out frantically to perfect chemical weapons and to develop new types and systems of conventional weapons.

Urgent, effective and genuine measures are essential to avert nuclear war, prevent the arms race from spreading to yet other areas and spheres and to achieve a speedy reduction in weapons.

One of the adverse consequences of the arms race being whipped up by the imperialist forces is that it burns up massive material and intellectual resources, which are so badly needed for economic and social development. The hegemonist policy of the imperialist countries, their high-handed declaration of many regions of the world as areas of their "vital interests", the inclusion of developing countries in such areas, the kindling and instigation of local conflicts and the creation of "hot spots" are drawing more and more developing countries into the arms race. This results in the diversion of massive funds and resources which those countries badly need to accelerate social and economic development and to tackle such crucial problems as the elimination of hunger and disease, the struggle to overcome economic backwardness, the development of new sources of energy, the preservation of the environment, and so forth. The arms race also undermines efforts to restructure international economic relations and to establish a new international economic order.

The socialist countries, true to their peace-loving policy, consistently advocate the urgent adoption of genuine measures to halt the arms race - to limit and reduce weapons - which would enable considerable resources to be released for development, including assistance to the developing countries. The countries of the socialist community have put forward a number of specific proposals to that end. As early as 1957, the USSR, in proposing a reduction of military budgets, recommended that a portion of the funds thereby released should be devoted to the needs of States which had freed themselves from colonialism. In recent years, too, proposals of that kind have been advanced by the Soviet Union and other socialist States. Suffice it to recall the proposal on the reduction of the military budgets of States permanent members of the Security Council by 10 per cent and the use of part of the resources saved to assist the developing countries. Last year the States parties to the Warsaw Treaty appealed to the NATO countries for an urgent start to be made on practical negotiations for the freezing of military expenditure, followed by a mutual reduction in percentage terms or in absolute figures, so that the funds released could be utilized for social and economic development, including that of the developing countries.
On the basis of the need for urgent, practical measures to curb the arms race and to reduce military expenditure, the States parties to the Warsaw Treaty on 5 May 1984 once again placed before NATO member States a proposal on the limitation and reduction of military expenditure and the practical beginning of negotiations on that question, and transmitted to them the relevant document.

The limitation and reduction of military expenditure is the business of all States. At the same time, the adoption of such measures first and foremost by those States which account for the largest share of such expenditure, namely, the members of NATO and the parties to the Warsaw Treaty, would be particularly significant. However, a positive reply to that question has not been forthcoming from the NATO countries. This can be interpreted only as a reluctance on the part of Washington and its allies to proceed with the solution of the problem of reducing military expenditure, and their desire to ensure freedom to pursue an unbridled arms race and build up their military forces, with whose aid they would like to impose their will on other countries and peoples.

The question of the practical reduction of budgets is undermined by arguments and research concerning the "comparability" of military budgets, their "transparency" and "openness", the imposition of a "tax" on military expenditure, the need - on the pretext that there is a lack of military information - for an appraisal of "military efforts and capacities", and so on. All this delays and ultimately blocks a solution of the problem, and is resorted to in order to conceal the absence of political will to proceed with concrete measures to reduce military budgets and curb the arms race.

It is difficult to imagine how the convening of the proposed conference on various aspects of the relationship between disarmament and development could assist in releasing resources for development. Such a conference, in no way connected with concrete disarmament measures, could, on the other hand, be utilized in order to create a semblance of disarmament efforts and at the same time could serve to mask a reluctance to proceed with genuine disarmament.

The release of resources for disarmament is possible through implementation of the numerous proposals submitted by the socialist countries on all problems of limiting the arms race and disarmament.

Under conditions of growing international tension and the accelerating arms race, action to freeze and reduce military expenditure and military arsenals is assuming special importance and urgency. The Ukrainian SSR, together with all other socialist countries, is firmly resolved to free the peoples of the world from the burden of military expenditure, put an end to the arms race, avert the threat of war and ensure the economic and social progress of mankind.