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DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Addendum

REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

ARGENTINA

[Original: Spanish]

[10 July 1984]

The Government of Argentina is seriously committed to reducing military expenditures and manpower to the extent compatible with the requirements of national defence and to reallocating the resources thus released for purposes of economic, social and educational development. This policy, which the Government is implementing at the national level, leads it to seek formulas at the international level to enable resources resulting from concrete disarmament measures to be transferred to projects to improve the quality of life in extensive areas of the planet.

In dealing with questions pertaining to the relationship between disarmament and development, the following criteria should be borne in mind:

- (a) Measures taken should come within the process of general and complete disarmament;
- (b) Primary responsibility lies with the countries that possess the largest arsenals;
- (c) Priority should be accorded to the nuclear aspects of those arsenals and adhered to;
- (d) In considering measures for industrial conversion, special attention should be paid to converting nuclear industries designed for military purposes;

(e) The relationship established between disarmament and development should be such as to encourage advances in both fields and not give rise to a state of interdependence whereby lack of progress in one field could be used as a pretext or justification for avoiding effort in the other;

(f) The studies and proposals made should be practical and feasible;

(g) Measures linked to disarmament measures, such as safeguards, should never be used to the detriment of the promotion of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy for economic, social and technological development;

(h) Consideration should be given not only to concrete disarmament measures but also to the elimination of military measures such as closed zones, blockades and bellicose methods of intimidation, which restrict commerce, international transport and the economic exploitation of marine resources and affect the development of the geographical areas involved;

(i) No discriminatory measures affecting the defence industries or research and development for defence purposes in developing countries should be adopted.

In addition to the specific measures that need to be adopted, it is essential urgently to reduce the alarming degree of international tension which, by creating a situation of permanent insecurity and instability, is helping to step up the arms race. Also, the international community should redouble its efforts to achieve a negotiated solution to conflicts, open or latent, resulting from policies of intervention or the maintenance of colonial situations and which oblige the developing countries to draw constantly on their resources in order to defend themselves.
