DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Addendum

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DENMARK

[Original: English]

[7 May 1984]

The international build-up of arms seizes a huge quantity of human and material resources which should be used instead for constructive purposes if today's challenges concerning economic and social development in all countries are to be met.

In accordance with this, Denmark promoted, together with the other Nordic countries, the United Nations study on the relationship between disarmament and development. This study is the only comprehensive examination which has to date been undertaken on an international basis.

Since the presentation of the study at the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly (A/36/356) many initiatives for follow-up of its recommendations have been brought up in international fora. In this respect the contributions made by Denmark together with other like-minded countries should be noted:

Letter dated 19 April 1982 from the permanent representatives of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (document A/S-12/18 of 30 April 1982),

Note verbale dated 28 June 1982 from the Permanent Missions of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretariat (document A/S-12/AC.1/49 of 28 June 1982),

The reply of the 10 member States of the European Community to the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 5 of resolution 36/92 Q (pp. 2-6 of document A/S-12/13/Add.2 of 22 June 1982).

A number of relevant questions with regard to the relationship between disarmament and development were raised in General Assembly resolution 38/71 B of 15 December 1983. Since the resolution refers directly to the conclusions of the comprehensive study mentioned above as well as to the related resolutions in which the General Assembly took note of these conclusions, the Danish Government regards the proposals forwarded and the questions raised in resolution 38/71 B as a further initiative to follow up the recommendations of the comprehensive study.

With regard to the evaluation of the burden of armaments in the world (item 2 (a)), the impact of world military expenditure on the world economic situation and development (item 2 (b)) and the contribution that a reduction in arms and military expenditure would make to development tasks (item 2 (c)), it should be noted that these three items are coherent and concern the question of how to establish a reliable data base regarding the relationship between disarmament and development. The Danish Government continues to hold the opinion that the need for further data is real. Many countries, among them some major participants in the arms build-up, do not make detailed information or analyses of resources
devoted to their military effort available. This is most regrettable, especially as the establishment of military and of development-related data as well as of the effect of possible measures in this context are of crucial importance in influencing political decision-makers in their respective countries.

The question of ways and means of the transfer of resources from military purposes to purposes related to international social and economic progress in the developing countries (item 2 (d)) is still not thoroughly examined.

The Danish views on this question are reflected in the above-mentioned Nordic reply (document A/S-12/18 of 30 April 1982, section VI). It should be noted that, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 37/84 of 9 December 1982, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research is carrying out a study concerning the modalities for the establishment of an international disarmament fund for development. Denmark is looking forward to carefully examining the findings of the study.

Denmark has noted with interest the specific new proposal made by the President of the French Republic in his statement on 28 September 1983 to the thirty-eighth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations to convene two successive conferences to discuss the problem of the relationship between disarmament and development (item 2 (e)).

To the extent that such conferences can be expected to contribute to the establishment of a reliable data base regarding the relationship between disarmament and development and to provide a real possibility of progress towards the aim of transferring resources from military to development purposes, Denmark regards with sympathy this proposal.

The possible convening of such conferences must, however, in no way affect the volume of existing or future official development aid negatively as the transfer of resources for economic and social development of the developing countries must not be delayed or made subject to the outcome of such possible conferences.

IRELAND

[Original: English]

[4 May 1984]

Ireland, in common with many other countries has long acknowledged the adverse effects which expenditure in pursuit of the arms race is having on socio-economic development worldwide. Historically, large-scale acquisition of weaponry and the build-up of military forces has always tended to divert resources which could be put to better use in the interests of human welfare.

But excessive military expenditure in pursuit of security is not only detrimental to the goals of development. It affects security itself through the ensuing lack of adequate development and hence of stable social and economic
conditions which are in themselves a necessary basis for security. In turn, the economic and social goals of all societies would be served by movement towards conditions of collective security and away from perceptions of security founded on acquisition of ever more sophisticated and destabilizing weaponry.

The growing interest in the relationship between disarmament and development, both major themes in the work of this Organization, is in part due to recent conflicts and what these have exacted in terms of human deprivation. But it is also a reflection on the seemingly relentless growth of military potential and its costs, both in particular developed countries whose level of armaments is well in excess of what could reasonably be argued to be necessary to deter a potential aggressor and in some developing countries whose expenditure on armaments is incompatible with their development needs.

One of the major conclusions in the United Nations study on the relationship between disarmament and development (A/36/356) was that in the long run military expenditures have a negative impact on economic growth and employment, if compared to the same amount of expenditures for non-military purposes. This conclusion has a very particular relevance in the situation in which military expenditures continue to rise steadily at a time of limited economic growth, while the international community has failed to achieve any significant measure of arms control in recent years. There is a compelling need, both on economic grounds and for reasons of international security, for all States, but particularly for those that are most heavily armed, to make renewed and more vigorous efforts to curb and reverse the arms race.

Any modalities to be developed for releasing for development purposes resources currently spent on armaments should be such as to promote both disarmament and development objectives.

As UNIDIR is currently examining the modalities for the linking of disarmament and development, Ireland will await the outcome of its findings before taking a position on future approaches to the use of resources released through disarmament for development purposes.

However, Ireland views positively the proposal contained in resolution 38/71 B to convene a conference on the various implications of the relationship between disarmament and development, including possible institutional measures for the international reallocation of resources from armaments to development.