DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Addendum

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REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

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SUDAN

[Original: Arabic]

[15 May 1984]

1. The Sudan attaches extreme importance to having the question of the relationship between disarmament and development dealt with at the international level in such a manner as to take account of the harmful effects of military expenditures and the escalation of the arms race on the world economic situation. Such escalation continues to increase international tension and to hinder all efforts to establish international relations on a basis of peaceful co-existence, confidence and co-operation among all States and prevents the attainment of the goals and objectives of the Charter of the United Nations and, in particular, those principles calling upon States to show respect for sovereignty, to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State and to settle their disputes by peaceful means.

2. International treatment of the question of the relationship between disarmament and development should come within the framework of the search for effective measures for reducing military expenditures, in particular by nuclear-weapon States and other militarily important States, and converting the resources released thereby, through measures to be agreed upon, to the promotion of economic and social development, particularly in the developing countries.

3. The Sudan is of the view that, in order for international treatment of the question of the relationship between disarmament and development to be successful, the nuclear-weapon States and other militarily important States must show political commitment to the need for general and complete disarmament under effective international control and must believe in the need to allocate the resources saved as a result of the gradual implementation of disarmament measures to closing the economic gap separating the developed countries from the developing countries.

4. Given the presence of such objective conditions for international treatment of the question of the relationship between disarmament and development, it would be possible to arrive at the conclusion of a convention on the reduction of military expenditures and the automatic conversion of the resources saved thereby in the interests of economic and social development, particularly in the developing countries, and also to reach agreement on the gradual and balanced implementation of such a convention, taking due account of United Nations resolutions aimed at halting the arms race and strengthening political and economic security, of measures under the international security system laid down in the Charter of the United Nations, and of those declarations adopted with regard to the sound conduct of States, particularly the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order of 1 May 1974 and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States of 12 December 1974.

5. The Sudan fully endorses the proposal of France calling for the convening of a United Nations conference on the link between disarmament and development. The
Sudan's endorsement of this proposal stems from its conviction that such a conference would be the appropriate framework for international treatment of the question of the relationship between disarmament and development and for the carrying out of a thorough international evaluation of the effect of rising military expenditures on the international economic situation at a time when the entire world is suffering from an acute economic crisis and when millions among the peoples of the developing world are facing wretched poverty, hunger and disease. Such a conference would lend a new international impetus towards the realization of the purposes and objectives of the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, the acceleration of the economic and social development of the developing countries and the promotion of international economic co-operation for the benefit of all the countries of the world.

6. The Sudan believes that the success of such an international conference requires serious and purposeful preparation through preparatory conferences with the participation of the nuclear-weapon States, other militarily important States and the developing States, with due regard for equitable geographical distribution. These States, in co-ordinating the convening of the international conference on the relationship between disarmament and development, should study the options before them and any other proposals for the reduction of military expenditures and the conversion of the resources thereby released in the interests of economic and social development in the developing countries and, in particular, the least developed among them. In this context, the Sudan would like to express its readiness to participate seriously in the preparation of this conference in order to ensure its success.