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RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Addendum

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BULGARIA

[Original: Russian]

[16 May 1984]

The People's Republic of Bulgaria attaches great importance to the question of the relationship between disarmament and development. The expanding arms race and the continuing growth in military expenditures unquestionably constitute a serious obstacle to solving the many economic and social problems confronting mankind.

Unfortunately, it must be noted that substantial material and human resources continue to be used for producing new and increasingly sophisticated weapons. Tens of thousands of nuclear warheads, whose destructive power is enough to annihilate the entire population of our planet many times over, have already been stockpiled in the world.

Every year 5 to 8 per cent of the world's production is used for military purposes. Tens of millions of people in the world are directly or indirectly engaged in military activities. The military industry consumes a vast quantity of very valuable raw materials and products.

The arms race is diverting enormous material and intellectual resources to unproductive goals, slowing down economic development and impeding the solution of global problems which affect all of mankind.

At the same time, hundreds of millions of people in the world suffer from malnutrition and are deprived of the opportunity to obtain education and medical care. The problems of eliminating poverty, hunger, illiteracy and disease have become exceptionally acute in many parts of the world, particularly in the developing countries.

Industrialization and economic growth, protection of the environment, the utilization of new energy sources and similar problems are no less important.

The Final Document of the tenth special session of the General Assembly points out that arms production is one of the main obstacles to the establishment of a new international economic order. Stressing the parallel need to strengthen the security of all countries by reducing the level of military confrontation and freeing resources for economic and social development, the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament clearly indicated the close relationship between these problems.

The extensive research conducted on the relationship between disarmament and development categorically refutes the imperialist theories to the effect that military expenditures have some kind of beneficial effect on the economies of countries. In fact, such research conclusively proves that the military sector of the economy undermines the entire economic machinery by increasing unproductive expenditures, absorbing scarce resources and technical and scientific personnel, and causing unemployment and inflation. The transfer of at least a part of

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military-industry resources to the civilian sector would increase economic growth rates and employment, remedy imbalances in the economy and result in high-quality civilian production.

In this context, arms-reduction and disarmament measures would have an especially favourable effect on the economies of the developing countries. While due regard must be given to the need to strengthen the national sovereignty of young States, it must also be borne in mind that militarization places a much heavier burden on their economies than on those of the developed countries.

For the same reasons, all States and peoples have an interest, both in economic and in political terms, in ending the arms race and achieving disarmament, which would liberate resources for development goals.

The disarmament policy of the socialist countries is in full agreement with the vital interests of the world's peoples. The participants in the session of the political Consultative Committee of the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty held at Prague on 4 and 5 January 1983 pointed out that "all States concerned about the future of their peoples and of all mankind have an objective duty to prevent the world from sliding towards war". In that connection, the participants in the session referred to the measures which would be most effective in averting the threat of war: a commitment by the nuclear States not to be the first to use nuclear weapons, agreement among the major military States on a freeze of their nuclear arsenals, speedy elaboration of a treaty on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapons tests, accelerating the elaboration of an international convention on banning and liquidating chemical weapons, beginning the elaboration of a convention banning neutron weapons, opening talks immediately on banning the deployment of weapons of any kind in outer space, completing the conclusion of an international convention banning radiological weapons, settling the question of strengthening security guarantees for non-nuclear States, preventing the deployment of nuclear weapons in countries where they do not exist at present, reducing substantially the level of conventional weapons and armed forces, and not increasing and subsequently substantially reducing military expenditures, primarily those of the States with a major military potential.

The implementation of these far-reaching measures is obstructed by the "position-of-strength" policy of the United States and some of its North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies, which has brought all disarmament negotiations to a virtual standstill. The propounding of such aggressive doctrines and concepts as "limited nuclear war", "pre-emptive first nuclear strike" and "protracted nuclear conflict", the implementation of the new United States programmes for developing and producing nuclear weapons, including means and systems for carrying out combat operations in outer space and from outer space, and the expansion of the United States military arsenal, inter alia in Europe, will ultimately destroy international stability.

The Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria believes that every effort must be made to pursue the measures being taken in the disarmament field both within and outside of the United Nations. It is essential, inter alia, to envisage practical steps aimed at preventing nuclear war, reducing nuclear weapons and

achieving nuclear disarmament. Subjects such as preventing the militarization of outer space and limiting the naval arms race are especially timely. Until the appropriate international agreements are concluded, all States must refrain from increasing their military expenditures. International security should be strengthened through a gradual process of disarmament which must begin with ending the arms race and reducing existing levels of armaments. The reduction of military budgets, primarily those of the largest and militarily most powerful States, would be an integral part of that process and would serve to translate into reality the direct interdependence between disarmament and development. The resources freed by reducing military expenditures would be used for the goals of economic and social development, including assistance to developing countries in those fields.

The People's Republic of Bulgaria reaffirms its conviction that the allocation of resources to the goals of development and the enhancement of the well-being of peoples should be achieved through a process of practical action taken by States to limit the level of armaments and achieve disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament.
