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### DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

#### RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

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## INTRODUCTION

1. On 15 December 1983, the General Assembly adopted resolution 38/71 B, the operative part of which reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"1. Expresses its conviction that increased solidarity in the field of development would serve the cause of international peace and security and that the resources released by the reduction of arms expenditures would contribute to the growth and stability of the world economy, and particularly the economies of developing countries;

"2. Invites Member States to communicate to the Secretary-General, by 1 April 1984, their views and proposals concerning the relationship between disarmament and development, in particular with regard to the following:

"(a) The evaluation of the burden of armaments in the world;

"(b) The impact of military expenditures on the world economic situation and development;

"(c) The contribution that a reduction in arms and military expenditures, in particular by nuclear-weapon States and other militarily important States, or a contribution by those States, as appropriate, would make to development tasks;

"(d) The ways and means that would enable this contribution to be made, in particular in the interests of the economic and social progress of the developing countries;

"(e) The consideration of proposals relating to the convening of a conference;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit the replies of Member States to the Disarmament Commission in good time;

"4. Requests the Disarmament Commission to include this item on the agenda of its next session in 1984, to consider the replies received and to make appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session."

2. Pursuant to paragraphs 2 and 3 of the above resolution, the Secretary-General submits herewith five replies received to date from Member States.

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REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

AFGHANISTAN

[Original: English]

[1 April 1984]

The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan is a strong supporter of disarmament both in its nuclear and conventional aspects. The billions of dollars which are presently being squandered on armaments in a world fraught with hunger, disease, malnutrition, illiteracy and many other miseries associated with class exploitation and age-old backwardness of the developing world, is irrational and immoral.

While precious human and material resources are wasted on building means which have endangered the very survival of mankind, a large section of the world population continues to suffer from a series of poverty related problems.

The spiralling arms race not only between the great military Powers, but also among the developing world devour the very scarce resources, which otherwise could be spent in sectors where they are needed most.

Currently, the developing world is lacking resources and expertise to follow the effective embark on the path of development.

We believe that by implementing comprehensive measures of complete disarmament, substantial resources will be released which in turn can be diverted to the development of the developing countries.

This could be done bilaterally or through an international organization possibly through convening of a conference on the subject with a view to finding appropriate ways and means of distributing the resources released from implementation of disarmament measures.

As was stated by Sultan Ali Keshtmand, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan before the Seventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries which was held in New Delhi from 7 to 11 March 1983, "... enormous resources, both human and material, which are being squandered on the unproductive arms race could be very usefully allocated to development activities and international economic co-operation".

He further added that "the present economic situation in the world reveals a disturbing picture. According to some accounts the annual world military expenditure now reaches \$600 billion, while there are 600 million people unemployed or less than fully employed, 900 million illiterate adults, 500 million malnourished and 1 billion people living in poverty.

"In view of the above facts, the achievement of a general and complete disarmament will release substantial additional resources for the socio-economic development of the developing countries. We hope that our Movement could play an

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effective role to put an end to the arms race, so that huge amounts of resources thus saved would be earmarked for the socio-economic development programmes and to promoting international peace and security at the same time."

AUSTRALIA

[Original: English]

[17 February 1984]

Disarmament and development have long ranked as the foremost goals of the international community. Australia strongly endorses the view that progress toward each of these goals, considered separately, would greatly enhance national and international security. We also believe that the gap between rich and poor nations is an important source of insecurity and conflict. Furthermore, Australia believes that the huge volume of resources diverted to armaments over the post-war period has been an important factor contributing to the economic difficulties experienced by most countries over the past decade and that sustained economic growth and development, including in particular a steady diminution in the gap between rich and poor nations, will be extremely difficult to accomplish if the world continues to divert resources to armaments on the present scale.

➤ In short, there is a close and multi-faceted positive relationship between disarmament and development. However, it is one thing to identify the strands of this relationship and quite another to make awareness of this relationship sufficiently strong to have a real effect on the way nations, individually and collectively, seek to provide for security.

➤ This awareness cannot simply be summoned into existence. It will have to be painstakingly built up through, for example, examination of the concepts of security and the extent to which military power can provide for security and deepening international understanding of the economic and social consequences of the arms race.

In this regard Australia considers the expert study group established under resolution 38/188 H on concepts of security to be a timely initiative. Similarly, Australia supports proposals for more thorough and comprehensive investigation of the economic and social consequences of the arms race and of the contribution that substantive disarmament measures could make directly and indirectly to meeting development needs. Past investigations of this kind have been severely hampered by the lack of reliable and comprehensive data. This point was forcefully emphasized in the study on the relationship between disarmament and development. 1/ Several of the recommendations made in this study and the similar proposals contained in resolution 38/71 B are crucially dependent on the availability of comprehensive data, particularly on States with large military programmes.

Australia has in the past responded to requests for information on its military effort, notably in connection with the reports on the economic and social consequences of the arms race. Australia was also one of the small number of

countries that participated actively in the development of a standardized international reporting instrument for military budgets and is involved in the follow-up work on the treatment of inflation and improving the international comparability of military expenditure.

Australia will continue to contribute to these activities and, to the extent possible, expand its national research effort. The Government is proceeding with its initiative to establish in the near future a peace research centre within the Australian National University. In addition to pressing for the effective implementation by all nations of existing recommendations and proposals Australia will also give serious consideration to possible new initiatives within the United Nations that could accelerate progress on the general question of the relationship between disarmament and development.

#### CUBA

[Original: Spanish]

[2 April 1984]

The Government of the Republic of Cuba reaffirms, as it has on many occasions, its position on and willingness to contribute to the force of disarmament and an end to the arms race. At the same time, it reaffirms its commitment to the struggle to bring about the new international economic order, to which all peoples aspire, particularly those of the developing countries. It also reaffirms its support for the elimination of current injustices in the economic relations between developed and developing countries, and for the promotion of genuine international co-operation on a just and equitable basis.

The Government of the Republic of Cuba considers, as it has stated at the United Nations and in other international forums, that there is a close relationship between disarmament and development.

The President of the Council of State and Government of the Republic of Cuba, in analysing these questions, in his statement as Chairman of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries at the thirty-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly proposed the provision of an additional flow of resources of not less than \$300 billion over a 10-year period, to contribute to the financing of the development of the developing countries, in the form of long-term, low-interest soft credits. He took the opportunity to make the point that if we wanted to have peace, such resources would be required, and that if resources were not found for development, there would be no peace.

In September 1981, on opening the 68th Inter-Parliamentary Conference, held in Havana, the Cuban President said: "On innumerable occasions we have insisted that what underlies the issue of peace - a cardinal concern of all peoples of the world - is the economic and social injustice prevailing in our planet. There will be no solution to the tensions, contradictions and political conflicts that threaten and perturb international relations, until a new economic order is

established in the world to promote the peoples' all-round development and reduce inequality among nations."

In his opening statement to the Tenth World Trade Union Congress, held in Havana in February 1982, the supreme leader of the Cuban Government reiterated Cuba's position that "the arms race not only endangers world peace, increasing the risk that war could lead to the destruction of mankind, but creates unstable and extreme conditions that make it impossible to counter the tragic, overwhelming problems arising from underdevelopment, and also make it impossible for workers in the industrialized countries to make progress in securing their rights and demands".

The Government of the Republic of Cuba reiterates its satisfaction with the report prepared by the Group of Experts on the relationship between disarmament and development. The report offers a serious, in-depth study and, in general, shows how the human and material resources currently being used in the arms race could be diverted to peaceful ends and contribute to the economic and social development of peoples, particularly those of developing countries, thus promoting the establishment of the new international economic order.

With respect to the advisability and feasibility of establishing an international disarmament fund for development, a question which, in the opinion of the Government of the Republic of Cuba, should be debated within the existing United Nations framework for co-operation for development, it is common knowledge that many of the recommendations proposed by the Group of Experts referred to practical steps to reassign funds currently being used in the arms race to economic and social development.

It should be stressed that such measures must obviously, for the time being, remain wishful thinking; before they could possibly be implemented by Governments, there would have to be, as a sine qua non, an end to the arms race and a climate of trust and international calm.

While the convening a conference on disarmament and development could help to mobilize public opinion and stimulate greater awareness of the broad gulf between arms build-ups and development, it is clear that the above-mentioned process is a prerequisite for such a conference, as are an end to the arms race, détente and international trust.

IRAQ

[Original: Arabic]

[27 March 1984]

The following paragraphs set forth the views and proposals of Iraq on the subject of the "Relationship between disarmament and development".

1. The current economic crisis has made it clear that, as is the case with regard to other areas of economic policy, expenditures in the military field could

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neither alleviate the acute impact of that crisis nor benefit from an effective - though artificial - stimulation of the economy.

2. A mere 1 per cent of the military budgets of the developed industrialized countries could cover the existing deficit in world assistance devoted to financing an increase in the production of foodstuffs and creating an emergency reserve of foodstuffs.

3. A study should be made of the relationship between disarmament and development and the extent to which economic issues affect and are affected by problems of war and peace, with due regard for the close link between the two subjects. The achievement of any progress in the field of disarmament would assist greatly in the achievement of development. The resources released as a result of the implementation of disarmament measures must be devoted to the achievement of the economic progress of all countries, especially the developing countries, which would help to narrow the existing economic gap between the industrialized countries and the developing countries.

4. The arms race contributes dangerously to the increase in international tensions and endangers international peace and security. This, in turn, has negative repercussions on the world economic situation in general and development in the developing countries in particular.

5. The continuation of the arms race, particularly between the two super-Powers, will produce no conclusive result as long as the deployment of new weapons by one side is met by a similar measure on the part of the other side, so that new weapons lose the purpose of their creation and deployment.

6. The conclusion of agreements on arms reduction would contribute to the finding of a solution to strategic problems of dangerous dimensions, which would have a positive impact on the economic and social progress of the developing countries.

7. The promotion of measures to build confidence between States would contribute to the strengthening of international peace and security and provide the necessary basis for the establishment of a serious political dialogue whereby common interests might be identified without the need for any party to relinquish its values and ideological concepts.

8. Other requirements are the establishment of the new international economic order, recognition of the right of each State to choose the economic system suited to it and recognition of the sovereignty of States over their natural resources and all their economic activities.

PHILIPPINES

[Original: English]

[3 April 1984]

The following are the views and proposals of the Philippine Government regarding the five subparagraphs of paragraph 2 of this resolution:

Subparagraph A

Armaments in general constitute a negative factor to development and in particular give rise to problems of security. Present volume of resources channelled by rich countries for armaments enhances international tension and growing insecurity experienced by poor countries for which they are hardly responsible.

Subparagraph B

Security is a crucial cornerstone of economic and social development. Unabated appropriation of resources for armaments erodes security and deteriorates international environment as individual developing countries are compelled to appropriate considerable resources for defence and security purposes that could have otherwise been infused for development programmes. The resulting economic plight of these countries sharpens the chasm between developed and developing countries to the detriment of millions languishing in poverty and even starvation.

Subparagraph C

Savings of developed countries resulting from negotiated or unilateral disarmament and compensation based on armament expenditures could generate additional aid to developing countries. More importantly, disarmament eases tension and enhances security.

Subparagraph D

The right of security should be a guiding principle in formulating mechanism of channelling disarmament savings for the development of countries, victims of threats to national security. The right to compensation, another guiding principle, could be a basis for designing a system of mandatory taxation based on armaments expenditures. Revenues to be administered by existing and appropriate regional or international body, for distribution to developing countries in addition to aids currently being given.

Subparagraph E

In carrying out foregoing views and proposals, participation in conference should be based on equitable geographic and political representation. Conference should address itself to setting objectives for resources transfer leading to conclusions that would entail immediate implementation of mechanism for the release of revenues from armament taxation and resources from disarmament for development assistance.

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SWEDEN

[Original: English]

[6 April 1984]

The report of the United Nations Expert Group on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, as well as other recent reports, clearly demonstrates that military spending is a burden on the economies of all countries. It is partly due to these reports that there is today strong support for the view that the economic effects of military spending are overwhelmingly negative.

As emphasized by the reports, mass poverty and the growing economic and social gaps between and within the nations are a direct threat to world peace. The transfer of resources for basic development purposes is seriously affected by the escalating arms race. A growing part of such assistance has been diverted to military aid, thus generating no development effects, but increasing dependence on arms suppliers and causing a further militarization of many regions.

There are thus fundamental political considerations behind Sweden's long-standing interest in the disarmament/development issue. These considerations have been reflected in various initiatives over the past years in the General Assembly of the United Nations. The United Nations study of the relationship between disarmament and development was carried out by a group of governmental experts appointed by the Secretary-General, following a General Assembly resolution initiated by Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden. Sweden has endorsed the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on the basis of the recommendations made in the report containing the study, and related to the follow-up of the study (36/92 G of 9 December 1981, 37/84 of 9 December 1982 and 38/71 A and B of 15 December 1983).

Furthermore, a national Swedish study is being prepared in order to comply with the above-mentioned General Assembly resolutions, as well as with the recommendations made in the report. The main tasks of the national study are to:

- Describe in economic and social terms the nature and magnitude of Sweden's present defence efforts,
- Give examples of defence resources which, in the event of various degrees of disarmament in the region, could be redistributed to other purposes,
- State the feasibility of and the problems associated with defence-sector conversion and
- State how such a conversion could also contribute to Sweden's international development co-operation.

With regard to the evaluation of the burden of armaments in the world (para. 2 (a)), the impact of world military expenditure on the world economic situation and development (para. 2 (b)), the contribution that a reduction in arms and military expenditure, in particular by nuclear-weapon States, as appropriate,

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would make to development tasks (para. 2 (c)), and the ways and means that would enable this contribution to be made, in particular in the interests of the economic and social progress of the developing countries (para. 2 (d)) in the note of the Secretary-General and in General Assembly resolution 38/71 B, Sweden would like to stress the importance of further studies of those issues. Such studies should be done at an international and a national level.

Investigations of this character would be in accordance with earlier recommendations made by the General Assembly and with the recommendations in the report containing the United Nations study. Such national studies and standpoints, from industrialized as well as developing countries, could make a valuable contribution to the consideration of this question as well as decisions concerning the further action to be taken at the fortieth session of the General Assembly.

The impact of world military expenditure on the world economic situation and development is a matter of particular concern to Sweden. Serious attention should also be given to the question of reallocating resources released by disarmament to economic and social development and to the definition of appropriate ways and means for such a reallocation. Such consideration should occur at both the national and the international levels. This issue is also a subject being studied by the above-mentioned Swedish study.

Various ways of giving an institutional expression to the functional relationship between disarmament and development - paragraph 2 (d) - have been suggested in the past, such as the establishment of special funds. Several ideas of establishing special funds have been proposed. Such proposals were highlighted in the above-mentioned United Nations study. The United Nations study of the relationship between disarmament and development analyses various aspects of such proposals relating to both the principles regulating the financing of funds and to the utilization of their resources. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 37/84 a study of this topic is being carried out by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR). Pending the publication of the study and a careful examination of its findings, Sweden will in this reply to the Secretary-General limit itself to making some general remarks on the topic.

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Pond

The necessity of curbing the present arms build-up and thereby increasing international security and releasing resources for the use in economic and social development, particularly in the developing countries, gives grounds for a serious consideration of proposals to establish an International Disarmament Fund for Development. The lack of progress in achieving the internationally agreed target of 0.7 per cent of official development assistance should further serve to underline the need for new approaches in making use of potential sources of concessional financing for development purposes. The establishment of an International Disarmament Fund for Development could in a world characterized by the continued arms race and the decrease in non-military development assistance, serve to focus the attention of the international community on the link between disarmament and development and the urgency of promoting both objectives. One of the purposes of such a fund would be to mobilize additional resources for development.

Such a fund could be used to support projects which promote both disarmament and development, such as regional projects proposed by the countries in a region and designed, inter alia, to contribute to peaceful co-operation in conflict areas or enhance the abilities of countries to exercise peacefully their sovereign rights or otherwise to assist countries in regions particularly affected by international tensions, and projects related to the conversion of resources from military to civilian use or otherwise aimed at promoting security and development. The possibility of giving certain preference to the least developed countries should also be considered.

A fund could initially be financed by voluntary contributions in addition to resources devoted to official development assistance. Of particular importance, given the objective of the fund to further disarmament, would be contributions from the major military Powers. It could also be foreseen that a part of resources released by future disarmament agreements could, via a fund, be used for development purposes.

In connection with the establishment of special funds for development purposes, it has often been stressed that they should allow the total resources available for development purposes to be used efficiently and in a flexible manner. If a disarmament/development fund were to be established, it should be set up within an existing organization, such as the United Nations Development Programme, in order to allow for the most efficient management. Its establishment would require careful further consideration by all member countries of matters both of principle and of a practical nature. Due regard should be given, within their respective areas of competence, to the capabilities of specialized agencies and organizations currently responsible for the channelling of resources for development. It could be envisaged that the submission of the mentioned UNIDIR study to the General Assembly would facilitate considerations of this nature.

*Conf.* The proposal to convene a United Nations conference on the relationship between disarmament and development - para. 2 (e) - reflects the paramount importance of the questions dealt with above, particularly the need for continued and deepened assessment of the impact of military expenditure on the world economic situation and development. Against this background, Sweden will favourably consider such proposals. The aim of a conference should be to prepare recommendations for future action at the international and national levels. The work of the fortieth session of the General Assembly, based on the report of the Secretary-General and comments by member States, would make a major contribution to a conference. Such a conference has to be well prepared. To this end the possibility of establishing a Preparatory Committee with representative participation should be considered.

#### Notes

- 1/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.IX.1.
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