REVIEW OF THE DECLARATION OF THE 1980s AS THE SECOND DISARMAMENT DECADE

Addendum

REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

ITALY (on behalf of the Ten States members of the European Community)

[Original: English]
[6 May 1985]

1. The Ten States members of the European Community share the purposes and objectives of the Second Disarmament Decade proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in resolution 35/46 of 1980. They are convinced that progress in the arms control and disarmament process is of greatest importance and that the goals of true peace and international co-operation cannot be achieved in the absence of significant results in the disarmament field. Five years after its adoption the Declaration remains a basis for action by Member States and a guideline for world opinion.

2. The Ten States members of the European Community continue to be committed to the ultimate goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control and believe that this goal should be pursued through patient and constant efforts. They are obviously aware of the obstacles on the way to disarmament which have so far allowed for only limited progress in the process. However, they are convinced that all States must continue to play an active and constructive role to overcome these obstacles and, for their part, they have endeavoured over the last years to fulfil their responsibilities in this vital field. The States members of the European Community have worked hard in the recent past to promote a resumption of the dialogue and of disarmament negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union. They hope that these will lead to concrete agreements on the reduction of existing armaments and the prevention of the unconstrained development of new weapons.
3. The active involvement of the Ten in the arms control and disarmament process is reflected in the position they have taken and in the views they have expressed at the United Nations, whether on the occasion of the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament or in the First Committee and in the United Nations Disarmament Commission. The Ten express their satisfaction at the momentum acquired by the ongoing review of the relationship between disarmament and development, at the support received by resolutions tabled by members of the Ten on bilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations and chemical weapons, at the progress made in the drafting of guidelines for the implementation of confidence-building measures, and at the positive conclusion of the work on the study on conventional disarmament. They support the efforts made by the United Nations and in particular by the Disarmament Commission to reach consensus solutions to the important problem of the reduction of military budgets and deeply regret that limited progress has been made so far towards a greater transparency in military expenditures and a wider use of the standard instrument designed to contribute to this transparency.

4. The Ten States members of the European Community have been actively involved in the work of multilateral disarmament forums, including the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. They welcome the efforts which are taking place within the context of the work of the Conference in order to reach agreement on the text of a convention on a global and verifiable ban on the production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons. They believe that the Conference should continue to attach the highest priority to the conclusion of such an agreement and stand ready as in the past to make an active and constructive contribution to the achievement of this goal. The Ten also welcome the agreement recently reached at the conference on the establishment of an ad hoc committee with the mandate to consider issues relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space. They believe that this development, which was the result of lengthy negotiations, could set a favourable precedent for the work of the Conference on other issues as well.

5. The Ten have constantly promoted and actively supported the pursuit of agreement on confidence- and security-building measures and on disarmament measures in regional forums. They attach a particular importance to the work of the Stockholm Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe and are firmly convinced that a positive outcome of this work would significantly strengthen security and mutual trust in the European continent, thus reducing the risks of conflict in an area where there is the largest accumulation of weapons in the world. Those of the Ten who take part in the Vienna negotiations on mutual and balanced force reductions in central Europe, while regretting the slow pace of the talks and the limited progress achieved on basic issues which are essential to a positive result of the negotiations, are fully prepared to continue to seek with patience and good will mutually acceptable solutions in the belief that security and stability in the European continent should be ensured at a lower level of conventional forces through balanced and verifiable reductions.

6. Those of the Ten States members of the European Community who are signatories of the Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques and of the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof confirm their positive judgement on
the results achieved over the last five years by the said Convention and Treaty and express their satisfaction at the successful conclusion of the relevant review conferences, in which they have taken an active part. The Ten States members of the European Community attach significance to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects.

7. Those of the Ten who are parties to the nuclear non-proliferation Treaty believe that this Treaty has ensured to all States both essential benefits in terms of security and significant advantages in the field of technical assistance for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. They express the hope that the forthcoming third Review Conference will result in improving the effectiveness of the Treaty and are prepared to work actively to this end.

8. In the Ten's view a fuller understanding by public opinion of disarmament issues, of their interrelation with a number of factors connected with international stability and their treatment within the framework of the United Nations and of other multilateral forums and bilateral forums would be an important element in the pursuit of substantial progress in the path to disarmament. This can be achieved through a wider circulation in all member countries of objective information on disarmament, including publications of various kinds, seminars and conferences with an ample participation of scholars and experts, reports by Governments to parliaments and contacts with non-governmental organizations. Objective and detailed information on disarmament issues represents a need and a right for public opinion in all countries.

9. The Ten States members of the European Community firmly believe in the urgent need to stop and reverse the arms race and to take serious steps on the road to disarmament. They are convinced that each member of the United Nations should make its own contribution to the implementation of the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade. Efforts must continue to be made to gradually achieve the goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control. The international community should focus on the search for practical, balanced and verifiable ways to reduce armaments and preserve international security at the same time.

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