DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

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

Addendum

REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

POLAND

[13 May 1985]

1. The degree of implementation of the objectives of the Second Disarmament Decade, set forth in General Assembly resolution 35/46, cannot but cause deep concern. The first half of the Decade has witnessed an accelerated arms race and a serious increase of tensions in international relations. In the resulting political climate both multilateral and bilateral disarmament negotiations encountered serious obstacles and failed to yield concrete results.

2. As of the beginning of the 1980s, the NATO member States, especially of the United States, Great Britain and the Federal Republic of Germany took measures totally incompatible with the spirit and the objectives of the Second Disarmament Decade. The deployment by the United States in certain Western European countries of new types of nuclear weapons has dangerously aggravated international tension and, as a consequence, has seriously complicated the possibility of ridding the continent of nuclear arms. This move has represented a part of a broader action testifying to a return to the policy from strength. The striving to gain military superiority on the part of certain countries can in no way provide a basis on which to seek the attainment of the goals of the Second Disarmament Decade. Such a course only leads to the undermining of international stability and initiating yet another, more costly, spiral of the arms race.

3. Highly disturbing and incompatible with the objectives of the Second Disarmament Decade is the tendency of certain countries to approach disarmament negotiations as a matter of expediency in order to gain military advantage.
Attempts are being made to negotiate from a position of strength in violation of the principles of equality and equal security. Such attempts contradict the letter and spirit of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly which, in paragraph 29, proclaims: "The adoption of disarmament measures should take place in such an equitable and balanced manner as to ensure the right of each State to security and to ensure that no individual State or group of States may obtain advantages over others at any stage."

4. The second half of the 1980s should become a time when both the Governments and the United Nations undertake a determined struggle against militarization of outer space. Already at this time, the plans to place in outer space super-sophisticated weapons systems give rise to serious international concern. The development of such weapons systems can trigger off considerable growth of military spending and waste of substantial resources and in consequence can destabilize military balance. Thus, it can increase the danger of the outbreak of nuclear conflict. For those reasons, the efforts of States with a view to halting the arms race in outer space should form an integral part of the Second Disarmament Decade, representing their response to General Assembly resolutions 38/70 of 15 December 1983 and 39/59 of 12 December 1984 on the prevention of militarization of outer space.

5. Another gravely disturbing aspect on the arms race which has recently emerged with total sharpness is the technical and doctrinal preparation initiated by the United States of America to wage and win a nuclear war, whether a limited or global one. Such preparations must bring about countermeasures. In this connection, it is extremely urgent and highly important for the nuclear Powers which have not yet done so to commit themselves not to use nuclear arms as the first party. These steps should be followed by firm measures against attempts to persuade public opinion that a nuclear conflict can be won, that its destructive impact can be limited, that it can, therefore, be politically and socially acceptable. A special role in that regard should be played by the United Nations which in the context of the preparation of societies for life in peace should increase efforts aimed at picturing and explaining to the public at large the effects of nuclear war.

6. It is beyond question that the state of Soviet-American relations determines the overall international disarmament efforts. These relations have had major importance also for the results of the Second Disarmament Decade. The particular responsibility of the two Powers for peace and security obligates them to make sustained efforts in search of and support for measures aimed at arms limitation and disarmament. In this context, Poland welcomes with satisfaction the opening in Geneva of Soviet-American disarmament negotiations. The comprehensive formula of this dialogue allows for the halting of the nuclear-arms race and of the militarization of outer space. Concrete, positive results of these negotiations, so anxiously awaited by the international community, would certainly represent a major accomplishment of the Second Disarmament Decade.

7. Poland has made and is determined to make in the future every effort to translate the goals of the Second Disarmament Decade into reality. We prove our determination in this regard together with other States members of the Warsaw Treaty, by our activity at the United Nations, in the Disarmament Conference, at
the Stockholm Conference and in the Vienna negotiations. We pledge our readiness
to take a constructive part in all activities promoting peace and international
security, promoting the cause of general and complete disarmament.

8. Poland highly appreciates the overall role and efforts of the United Nations
in the realm of disarmament. The bringing by the United Nations of the total impact
of its authority and dedication to the cause of disarmament is an indispensable
premise for ensuring and consolidating peace and international security. Poland
will, therefore, continue to strive so that the implementation of the objectives of
the Second Disarmament Decade serves also the interest of further consolidation of
the role of the United Nations in the field of arms limitation and disarmament.