DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

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

Addendum

REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

[28 May 1985]

The Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic supported the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session, and fully agrees that its goals should consist in halting and reversing the arms race, particularly the nuclear-arms race; concluding and implementing agreements on disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament; developing the results obtained in the field of arms control in the 1970s; strengthening international peace and security in accordance with the United Nations Charter; and making a substantial part of the resources released by disarmament measures available for peaceful purposes, inter alia, to promote the economic development of developing countries. The position of the Ukrainian SSR on this question was set forth in a letter addressed to the Secretary-General in April 1980.

The Ukrainian SSR notes that recently, through the fault of forces which are determined to achieve military superiority and which propound a policy of strength and diktat, the international situation has seriously deteriorated and the threat of nuclear war has increased.

During the first half of the Second Disarmament Decade, not only have the goals of the Decade not been achieved but, in some important areas, movement has been in the reverse direction owing to the positions of those who have adopted a course of seeking military superiority. The development, manufacture and deployment of new strategic weapons and American medium-range missiles in Europe, the refinement of non-nuclear weapons of great destructive force, the sharpening of
confrontation and the undermining of mutual confidence in relations among States have led to a heightening of international tension and an increase in the threat of nuclear war.

A number of important Soviet-American agreements have not been brought into effect. Negotiations on various disarmament issues have yielded no practical results while, on the other hand, acceptance has been given to the concept of "strategic defence", which maintains that by broadening the arms race, and specifically by developing space weapons, it is possible to achieve the liquidation of nuclear weapons. This, however, is not the case. Just as the appearance of nuclear arms did not eliminate conventional types of weapons but merely escalated both the nuclear and the conventional arms race, so the development of space weapons would have just one effect - the acceleration of the arms race in all areas, including new ones, which would lead to the collapse of many existing disarmament agreements and place mankind on the brink of disaster.

The situation is aggravated by the fact that certain forces regard confrontation almost as a natural state of affairs. The Ukrainian SSR, on the other hand, regards confrontation and brinkmanship as an abnormal condition. The only way out of this situation is through the immediate cessation of the arms race on earth, particularly in respect of both strategic and medium-range nuclear weapons, and the prevention of an arms race in outer space, the adoption of specific measures to avert the threat of nuclear war, the normalization of international relations and the creation of an atmosphere of mutual confidence.

The Ukrainian SSR attaches great importance to the Soviet-American negotiations which are being held in Geneva at the initiative of the USSR. Provided that they are approached in good faith by both sides and the Geneva agreement is fully observed, these negotiations should lead to the cessation of the arms race on earth and its prevention in outer space, and ultimately to the destruction of nuclear weapons. The proposals and steps undertaken by the Soviet Union bear witness to precisely such an approach on its part to the negotiations.

An important role in this respect is played by the Soviet Union's undertaking not to be the first to use nuclear weapons, its announcement of a unilateral halt until November this year of further deployment of its medium-range missiles and the suspension of implementation of other countermeasures in Europe, and many other peace initiatives by the USSR and the other socialist countries.

The United Nations has an important role to play in the area of curbing the arms race and moving towards disarmament. The numerous United Nations decisions in this area should be translated into concrete action. It is essential to implement United Nations resolutions, inter alia, on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests and the declaration of a moratorium on all nuclear explosions prior to the conclusion of an appropriate treaty, the prevention of the development and manufacture of new types and systems of weapons of mass destruction, the freezing of nuclear arsenals and the renunciation of the first use of nuclear weapons. It is time to ban chemical weapons completely. The position of the USSR and its proposals in the Conference on Disarmament on that question offer a possibility for the earliest conclusion of an appropriate convention.
Regional measures to curb the arms race can be of great benefit. A whole range of constructive proposals on limiting armaments, freeing Europe of chemical weapons and reducing military expenditures and armed forces in Europe has been made by the parties to the Warsaw Treaty. Particular importance in this respect attaches to the programme advanced by the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries for the strengthening of confidence and security in Europe, and particularly the proposal to conclude a treaty on the non-use of military force and the maintenance of peaceful relations.

The Ukrainian SSR supports the idea of holding negotiations on limiting naval activities and naval armaments and the proposal to convene a conference on transforming the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace.

Implementation of the above-mentioned measures and other steps to curb the arms race and achieve disarmament would lead to the attainment of the goals of the Second Disarmament Decade, which was declared by the United Nations in the hope of blocking the arms race, establishing a dialogue and easing international tension.

The second half of the Second Disarmament Decade is now beginning. This year, the international community observes the fortieth anniversary of a historic victory in the most destructive and bloody war and commemorates the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations. It is essential to make every effort to ensure that this jubilee year marks a definite turn towards arms limitation, disarmament and the normalization of the international situation. The arms race must be prevented from going out of control and entering a qualitatively new and extremely dangerous spiral. The Ukrainian SSR will contribute in every possible way to achieving that objective.