DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

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

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GENERAL

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INTRODUCTION

1. On 17 December 1984, at its thirty-ninth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 39/148 Q, the operative part of which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

1. Decides to undertake at its fortieth session, in 1985, a review and appraisal of the implementation of the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade;

2. Requests the Disarmament Commission at its session in 1985 to make a preliminary assessment of the implementation of the Declaration, as well as suggestions to ensure progress, and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fortieth session;

3. Calls upon the Disarmament Commission to include in its assessment any relevant matters which, in the view of any Member State, require such review;

4. Requests Member States to submit to the Secretary-General their views and suggestions;

5. Calls upon the Secretary-General to give all necessary assistance to the Disarmament Commission in implementing the present resolution."

2. Pursuant to the above requests, the Secretary-General has to date received replies from Argentina, Bulgaria, Cuba, Egypt, Hungary, Romania and Viet Nam which are submitted herewith.

REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

ARGENTINA

[Original: Spanish]

[5 March 1985]

The Argentine Government regrets that the goals set in the Declaration have not even begun to be attained and that their attainment now seems to be as far off as when the Declaration was adopted, or even further off.

Since then, no negotiations have been held on any nuclear item on the agenda of the Conference on Disarmament and it has not been possible to free for development purposes the immense resources being wasted on the arms race, in particular on nuclear weapons, thus creating an increasing threat to the survival of mankind.

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Although the announcement that the bilateral disarmament negotiations are to resume is a very positive development, there is no way of knowing whether, or when, substantive progress will be made in those negotiations. As for the multilateral negotiations, they are either deadlocked or have not even begun.

The current situation with regard to disarmament is highly unfavourable and a source of serious concern. Consequently, the international community and public opinion must call for the implementation of the programme contained in the Final Document of 1978 and the adoption of a plan of action for that purpose.

BULGARIA

[Original: Russian]

[8 April 1985]

The Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria considers the General Assembly's Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade an important and timely initiative which has its place within a system of material, moral, political and international legal measures designed to achieve the ultimate goal in this field: general and complete disarmament under effective international supervision. The People's Republic of Bulgaria, taking a realistic view of the current state of international relations, is disappointed that the purposes of the First Disarmament Decade were not achieved, and disturbed by the fact that the objectives of the Second Disarmament Decade are also far from being attained. It is deeply concerned that a significant and ever-increasing part of the world's material and human resources continues to be squandered on the arms race, thus impairing international security and efforts to achieve a more just international economic order. It therefore again stresses the close relationship between disarmament and development, and it is convinced that the implementation of effective disarmament measures must release the resources being absorbed in the unproductive arms race for the execution of economic and social programmes, especially for the purposes of international economic co-operation.

At the same time, the People's Republic of Bulgaria, expressing its great alarm at the continued escalation of the arms race, particularly the nuclear-arms race, cannot but stress again its clear understanding that the source of this escalation is to be found in the militaristic circles of the major imperialist States, which are interested in maintaining international tension and are bent on achieving military superiority and finding an opportunity to impose their diktat on the socialist and other countries. These States are forever increasing their military expenditures, interfering in the internal affairs of sovereign countries, creating and maintaining hotbeds of tension in various parts of the world which they arbitrarily declare their "spheres of vital interest", elevating militaristic doctrines which contemplate the waging of nuclear war to the level of State policy, conducting foreign policy from positions of strength and engaging in hostile propaganda against other countries.
These same forces, at the Geneva Conference on Disarmament, oppose the start of any kind of serious negotiations on such urgent problems as the non-use of nuclear weapons, the freezing of nuclear arsenals, nuclear disarmament measures, the prevention of nuclear war, a complete nuclear-weapon-test ban, etc.

The Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, in full compliance with the relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, unsparingly follows a policy of strengthening international peace and security, a policy aimed at halting the arms race and at achieving disarmament, détente and international co-operation. "We are doing, and will continue to do, everything to restore détente and co-operation to the world," said Todor Zhivkov, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party and Chairman of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, "and we are staunch supporters of mutually beneficial co-operation with all countries and in all areas. We are not the only ones who need this co-operation and we believe that it will advance on an increasingly broad scale, brushing aside all artificial obstacles ... The idea of complete and general disarmament is inherent in the very nature of the socialist system, the most progressive and profoundly humane system, which has eliminated the exploitation of man by man and has rejected the enslavement of some peoples by others, a system in which there are no groups or individuals who are interested in making profits from the armaments industry and the delivery of military supplies".

This position of principle of the People's Republic of Bulgaria is reflected in its consistent efforts to implement the measures stipulated as part of the comprehensive programme of disarmament, Disarmament Week, the Second Disarmament Decade and the World Disarmament Campaign, and the measures aimed at the convening of a world disarmament conference. The People's Republic of Bulgaria continues to follow its already established practice of being among the first countries to sign and ratify disarmament agreements concluded under United Nations auspices. It takes an active part in the work of all forums in and outside the United Nations in which disarmament problems are discussed. It considers that the efforts of the member countries of the United Nations and of the Organization must focus on priority tasks, including primarily the limitation of nuclear weapons, nuclear disarmament and the prevention of the spread of the arms race to new areas, particularly into outer space, and that agreements reached in this field should take the form of specific, legally binding documents.

The People's Republic of Bulgaria attaches great importance to the negotiations started in Geneva between the USSR and the United States on the entire range of problems relating to nuclear and space weapons, which must be considered and solved together, and hopes that their successful completion will result in the elaboration of effective agreements to prevent an arms race in outer space and end the arms race on earth, to limit and reduce nuclear weapons and to strengthen strategic stability.

The People's Republic of Bulgaria regards the strengthening of the non-proliferation system for nuclear weapons as a matter of great importance, and stresses in this connection the importance of strict performance of the obligations entered into by the member countries of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the need to obtain the accession to this Treaty of all States which are not yet members.

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Together with efforts brought to bear at the international level, the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria has taken a number of domestic political measures which are directly related to the strengthening of peace. For example, article 63 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bulgaria stipulates the obligation of every citizen to help maintain and strengthen peace, and prohibits war propaganda as a serious crime against peace and humanity.

The mass media of the People's Republic of Bulgaria operate in full accordance with the requirements of the preparation of societies for life in peace and co-operation. They give wide publicity to all the disarmament initiatives put forward in the United Nations or in other forums, objectively report international events, explain the negative consequences of the arms race and reveal its true causes. Every year the Bulgarian public observes Disarmament Day and Disarmament Week, during which public meetings are organized in factories, institutions, universities, etc., at which the citizens of the country express their hatred of war and their determination to fight for peace and disarmament. In recent years many new books, articles, commentaries and interviews on disarmament problems have been published in the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

The People's Republic of Bulgaria is firmly resolved to continue its consistent pursuit of this policy. It is prepared to continue to do everything within its power to achieve the purposes of the Second Disarmament Decade, and to make its contribution to the implementation of effective measures to promote the achievement of general and complete disarmament under strict international supervision.

CUBA

[Original: Spanish]
[8 April 1985]

The Government of the Republic of Cuba, in accordance with its policy of peace, co-operates with and fully supports all efforts made, at both regional and international levels, to seek solutions and agreements conducive to the establishment of a climate of peace which would encompass all regions and benefit all peoples, and would bring about an improvement in international security which would facilitate, in a climate of détente, the attainment of practical disarmament measures.

To that end, the representatives of the Government of the Republic of Cuba in those forums at which disarmament and international security measures are considered have always advocated prohibiting nuclear weapons, ending the arms race and reallocating the resources currently devoted to those purposes to the economic and social development of peoples, particularly of the developing countries.

A clear example of this is provided by the full support which the Government of the Republic of Cuba gave to resolution 35/46, adopted by the General Assembly on 3 December 1980, by which the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade was adopted.

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On the occasion of the first review and assessment of the objectives and principles contained in the Declaration, which, in the view of the Government of the Republic of Cuba, constitute the very essence of this important document, it must be noted with regret that they have not been realized and that the situation, far from improving, has worsened.

Not only has the arms race, particularly the nuclear-arms race, been neither halted nor reversed, but it is daily gaining in impetus and menace, and, as a result, none of these envisaged resources have been reallocated to the development of peoples, not even to combat serious ills such as, to cite only one example, the drought in Africa and the terrible illnesses afflicting entire regions.

The international agreements on disarmament adopted during the 1970s have not been followed by subsequent progress, and the negotiations held in good faith with a view to securing new and additional disarmament measures have not been successful, owing to the lack of the necessary political will to negotiate on a serious and constructive basis.

One specific example of this is provided by the SALT II agreements signed in 1979 following a lengthy negotiating process, which were never ratified by the United States, despite the positive attitude of the USSR.

While the appraisal of the objectives of the first Decade (1970-1979) reveals that it did not prove possible to achieve the desired goals, it was at least possible to reach, as a result of international détente, agreement in a number of disarmament areas which facilitated the adoption of several specific measures, legally embodied in international instruments of undeniable importance. It is disquieting that, as the midpoint of the Second Disarmament Decade draws near, it has not proved possible to formulate a single practical measure in this area at the international level.

In the view of the Government of the Republic of Cuba, Government circles in all countries need to display greater awareness of the dangerous international situation we are passing through and of the need to demonstrate the requisite political will so that, without prejudice to the interests of any State, practical measures can be adopted which will contribute to an improvement in international relations and to the establishment of a climate of peace and security throughout the world.

The arrogant and warmongering attitude displayed by the present Government of the United States, precisely since the start of the Decade, is without doubt the critical element which has hampered progress in the negotiations begun during this period. Once again the Government of the United States bears responsibility for the serious situation we are facing and, accordingly, should adopt a more conciliatory attitude which would make it possible to attain the objectives and goals established by the international community in declaring the decade 1980-1989 as the Second Disarmament Decade.
EGYPT

[Original: Arabic]

The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt sees many and varied indications in the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly concerning the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade. It reflects once again the considerable attention which the international community accords to matters of international security, its deep concern about the continuation of the arms race and its insistence on the need to take speedy and urgent measures to curb the arms race, particularly in the nuclear field, as a step towards general and complete disarmament under effective international control.

This resolution is also considered as a reaffirmation of the commitment of the international community to the priorities set by the General Assembly at its tenth special session, the first special session devoted to consideration of disarmament questions.

Considered from another angle, the declaration of the new Disarmament Decade is evidence of the sincerity and rightness of the efforts made by the international community during the first Disarmament Decade (the 1970s) and a reflection of the common will of the peoples of the world to continue the endeavour to achieve a society free from armed threat and the use of force in international relations.

As we are today midway towards the conclusion of the Second Disarmament Decade, we confront it and bear a great responsibility to study the results of our efforts so far and to assess our achievements and our mistakes, with the aim of correcting our course and our orientations and reinforcing our efforts.

At the outset of this Decade, we witnessed some achievements, represented in arrival at a convention on prohibitions on the use of conventional weapons which have indiscriminate effects or are excessively injurious. We also witnessed an international consensus on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. However, in spite of all that, we can now only express our deep regret at the meagreness of the achievements of the last five years in the field of cessation of the arms race and disarmament, particularly with regard to weapons of mass destruction.

The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt wishes to express its extreme concern at the emergence, during the preceding stage, of evidence that points to the disintegration of the consensus that resulted from the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament and the withdrawal of some from their commitment to the priorities and Programme of Action that were adopted by that special session and are regarded as a framework and programme for joint international action for many years to come. We must also emphasize and warn of the dangerousness of the new trends being witnessed in the international arena, particularly in so far as concerns the constant large-scale steady increase in military expenditures, the continuous and intensive development of new weapons and weapon systems and the transfer of the arms race, in particular in respect of weapons of mass destruction and, first and foremost, nuclear weapons, to new fields and horizons.

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We warn that these trends cannot lead to an increase in stability or security for any of the parties concerned. On the contrary, they will unleash a new arms race which will result in more destructive weapons and extreme dangers for the present and the future of mankind. This will lead to the consumption of more of mankind's resources, which could be better used for man's economic and social development.

The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt believes that, if we are practically unable, during the remainder of the Second Disarmament Decade, to complete the Programme of Action entrusted to us by the international community, the least that we can hope for and demand during the forthcoming stage is that we may all — and in particular the great Powers possessing military nuclear arsenals — take the necessary steps to achieve the following:

I. Refraining from developing the arms race to new horizons and from transferring it to other fields, including outer space.

II. Affirming the commitment of us all to the priorities laid down in the Final Document of the first special session devoted to disarmament, particularly with regard to nuclear weapons, the prohibition of nuclear testing and weapons of mass destruction, including chemical weapons.

III. Putting an end to the use of new resources for military purposes and the diverting of some of the resources currently so used to development.

The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt urgently appeals to all to work together to alleviate the acuteness of the tension in international relations, to halt the arms race, particularly in the nuclear field, to exploit the resources of our world for the development and prosperity of mankind and to bring about a world that is more secure and more stable through which general and complete disarmament can be achieved.

HUNGARY

[Original: English]

[17 April 1985]

Today mankind is being threatened by an extremely grave danger. Under these circumstances the most fundamental claim and right, as well as the most urgent task of every nation and people, are to strengthen peace and to avoid nuclear catastrophe. The Hungarian People's Republic takes a stand for curbing the arms race as well as for preventing its extension to new areas. Accordingly, the Government of the Hungarian People's Republic supports every initiative that contributes to the elimination of the danger of nuclear war, the complete and definite banning of nuclear weapons and — finally — to general and complete disarmament.
The Hungarian People's Republic pursues an active foreign policy in order to promote in Europe too, which went through the monstrosities of two world wars, disarmament and the elaboration of measures aiming at a lower level of armaments by taking into consideration the security of the States concerned and the preservation of the military balance of forces. Among these measures, we lay a special emphasis on codifying the renunciation of the threat or use of force in an international agreement. This would increase confidence between the States concerned, and finally would contribute to the establishment of a more relaxed international climate, indispensable for the elaboration of concrete disarmament measures, for strengthening peaceful coexistence as the only rational alternative, and mutually advantageous co-operation.

Looking back to the period passed since the proclamation of the Second Disarmament Decade - in full accordance with the relevant resolution of the General Assembly, 39/148 Q - the Government of the Hungarian People's Republic is of the view that the arms race has further increased; consequently the tension in international relations has also grown. Nevertheless, on the basis of initial positive developments of the last months, we can state that not only elements of tension and confrontation are present in international relations, but objective interests, too, that concern co-operation and peaceful coexistence, though, regrettably, negative tendencies still prevail. The Government of the Hungarian People's Republic remains to be convinced that there is no reasonable alternative to peaceful coexistence of States, to peaceful settlement of disputes and to international relations free from use of force and discrimination.

The Government of the Hungarian People's Republic has taken and continues to take a stand for the elaboration of concrete measures in the interest of disarmament both in its bilateral relations and in multilateral forums. According to our view, the year 1985 could be of great significance during which the parties concerned should take decisions of fundamental importance in connection with disarmament and the strengthening of world peace. The Hungarian People's Republic is ready to consider most seriously and to participate actively in the elaboration of disarmament proposals that take into consideration the interests of all the parties concerned.

The Hungarian People's Republic attaches particular importance to measures aimed at preventing nuclear war, especially those that may contribute to the establishment of effective political and legal conditions indispensable for their implementation. In this context we consider that unilateral commitments by nuclear-weapon States as regards no first use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances, are of prominent significance.

It has been stated several times that the lack of confidence among nuclear-weapon States, especially between the two countries with the greatest arsenals, has been of decisive importance in bringing about the present tense international situation. The renunciation of the first use of nuclear weapons - which the Soviet Union having first given a good example of - would strengthen significantly confidence in general and among States possessing nuclear weapons, especially if the States concerned would reaffirm it in an international legally binding instrument. Such a measure would, at the same time, mean renunciation of...
the use of nuclear weapons, and would be an outstanding step made on the road leading to the complete renunciation of the use of military force. Although this proposal has been raised as part of the European disarmament process, if it could be codified in a treaty, it would have a significance beyond its geographical framework.

The qualitative and quantitative freezing of nuclear arms and armaments would be of similar importance, a measure by means of which the basic conditions for elaborating an overwhelming nuclear disarmament programme could be created.

There are few so well prepared and far-reaching proposals put forward to the Governments in question as that of the elaboration of a multilateral treaty on the general and full prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests. The Government of the Hungarian People's Republic attaches an especially great importance to this proposal, for Hungary, during the last, namely the thirty-ninth, session of the General Assembly, was a co-sponsor of the relevant General Assembly resolution, which was adopted by an overwhelming majority of the participating States. Special importance is attached to this proposal by the fact that only six months separate us from the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

In the series of the most urgent measures to be taken in the interest of disarmament, the fact that the extension of the arms race to outer space should be prevented plays an outstanding role. The Government of the Hungarian People's Republic welcomed with satisfaction and lends full support to the agreement between the Soviet Union and the United States on their intention to include in the negotiations of Geneva on the strategic and medium-range nuclear weapons the subject of the preventing of militarization of outer space in close interrelationship with the other two aforementioned matters of pivotal importance as regards the curbing of the arms race. The examination of this field in a complex way may create a good basis for establishing the pre-conditions of a lasting and long-awaited breakthrough in disarmament.

In the year of 1985, besides recalling the achievements of the Second Disarmament Decade made so far, there is also an opportunity to reveal a greater historical context: this year we celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the end of World War II, that of the victory over fascism. This anniversary should remind us of the date of the first atom-bombing. This event emphasizes in an especially sharp way the importance and at the same time the restricted character of the modest results so far obtained on the field of curbing nuclear armaments. This should encourage every State - within the framework of the United Nations, which commemorates its fortieth anniversary, and at every multilateral forum of outstanding importance concerning disarmament, as well as in their bilateral relations - to redouble their efforts for the sake of promoting disarmament and preventing arms buildup.

The Hungarian People's Republic celebrates this year the fortieth anniversary of its liberation. When recalling the results of 40 years of work, the task of our people is ever more clear: to do our best to secure the fundamental conditions for further peaceful work, to avoid a new cataclysm of unprecedented consequences, to enhance peaceful coexistence between countries with different social systems as well as mutually advantageous co-operation.
I. Romania participated actively in the elaboration and adoption of the United Nations General Assembly's Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade, in the belief that the realization of the objectives of the Decade could be an important contribution to the elimination of the danger of war and to the strengthening of international peace and security.

During the five years since the declaration of the Disarmament Decade, no significant progress has been made towards its implementation. On the contrary, the arms race, in particular the nuclear-arms race, has escalated as never before. Thus, programmes are now being established to develop and improve new types of even more destructive nuclear weapons, additional nuclear weapons are being deployed in the territory of certain European States, and the danger of extending the arms race to outer space has increased.

Military expenditures have reached a record high, and the most conservative estimates show that, even before the end of this decade, total world expenditure on armaments will exceed $1,000 billion.

The accumulation of huge quantities of weapons, especially nuclear weapons, over and above those needed for security reasons, has led to an increased risk of another world war which, in the present circumstances, would inevitably be a nuclear disaster.

Throughout this period, disarmament negotiations have been unable to produce any substantive agreement. Some negotiations have been broken off and others have scarcely gone beyond the stage of general discussions. The opening in January 1984 of the Stockholm Conference on Security and Confidence-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe and the initiation in March 1985 of negotiations between the Soviet Union and the United States of America on nuclear and outer-space problems are of course positive developments but, in order to change the situation and settle the grave problems which exist, the negotiations conducted in these two forums, as well as other negotiations on disarmament, must produce concrete results.

II. A preliminary consideration of the results of the Second Disarmament Decade clearly leads to the conclusion that the disarmament objectives and measures contemplated in the Declaration adopted five years ago are far from being realized, and that the situation has mainly developed in the opposite direction. The early halting of the arms race, particularly the nuclear-arms race, the conclusion and implementation of agreements on disarmament, the strengthening of international peace and security and the reallocation of a substantial part of the resources now absorbed by armaments to promote economic and social development programmes, especially on behalf of developing countries - the goals of the Disarmament Decade - remain goals which are more topical than ever, and very urgent.
III. In Romania's view, the starting-point for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Second Disarmament Decade should be the fact that the cessation of the arms race, the transition to disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, the elimination of the risk of another world war and the maintenance of lasting peace in the world are the fundamental problems of the contemporary era.

The Second Disarmament Decade, despite the totally unsatisfactory situation prevailing at present, may still prove to be a useful framework for mobilizing and organizing the efforts of all States to initiate a real disarmament process. Romania therefore feels that the upcoming appraisal should preferably be geared to the identification of new ways and means to revive the process of implementing the objectives and measures of the Decade.

It therefore believes that the suggestions which the Disarmament Commission was requested to formulate and on which it is to report to the General Assembly at its fortieth session should include reaffirmation of the interest of Member States in the objectives and measures of the Decade, which have, moreover, been set forth in a number of General Assembly resolutions, and confirmation of the firm commitment to work for their realization. This should be shown above all by an increase in efforts by all States, particularly nuclear-weapon States and other heavily armed States, to halt the arms race and to proceed to disarmament, by stepping up activity in all negotiation forums to reach specific agreements on disarmament and by mobilizing all policy-makers and public opinion to end the exacerbation of the international situation and to resume and develop the policy of détente, peace and disarmament.

Having regard to the fact that, during the period since the declaration of the Decade, changes which have occurred with regard to armaments have increased the priority of certain measures or have focused attention on new measures, it would be desirable to suggest that the General Assembly proceed to update and supplement the provisions of the Declaration adopted in 1980.

It is therefore appropriate to stress the extreme urgency of measures for the prevention of nuclear war and, in that connection, the priority which should be given to the banning of nuclear weapons and, in general, the use or threat of use of force in international relations; it is also urgent to halt the testing and production of nuclear weapons and to phase out these weapons until they are completely eliminated. In view of the current danger in Europe, Romania feels that the priority measures of the Decade should include those dealing with the immediate cessation of the deployment of additional nuclear missiles on the European continent and the withdrawal of all nuclear weapons from Europe.

In view of the special importance of the Soviet-United States talks at Geneva, it should be emphasized that these talks must be conducted in a spirit of heightened responsibility, so that they will culminate in appropriate agreements on the halting of the arms race, particularly the nuclear-arms race, the reduction of nuclear weapons until they are totally eliminated and the halting of the militarization of outer space. In order to build an atmosphere of confidence conducive to the development and successful conclusion of the negotiations, there should be a halt during the Geneva negotiations to the testing and production of
new nuclear weapons, to the deployment of additional nuclear missiles in Europe and to all activities connected with the militarization of outer space. The other European countries, especially the countries of the two military alliances, namely, NATO and the Warsaw Pact, should participate in one way or another in the conclusion of such agreements within the framework of these negotiations. There is also a need to intensify the negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament and the Stockholm Conference, as well as the Vienna Talks on Mutual Reduction of Forces, Armaments and Associated Measures in Central Europe, thereby exercising, in Romania's view, a positive influence on the successful development of the Soviet-United States talks at Geneva.

Other suggestions for the General Assembly should refer to the need to strengthen the role of the United Nations in the achievement of disarmament and, in this context, to step up efforts to make the public and the masses aware of disarmament problems and to inform public opinion more widely and objectively about the current armament situation and about the objectives and measures contemplated in the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade.

Accordingly, the activities carried out within the framework of the World Disarmament Campaign should be co-ordinated with those undertaken for the realization of the objectives of the Decade. Special attention should be paid to stimulating the interest of the younger generation and of scientists in questions arising out of the continued arms race, particularly the nuclear-arms race.

The Disarmament Commission could also recommend that the United Nations General Assembly should renew its appeal to all States, especially the nuclear-weapon States and other heavily armed States, to contribute effectively, by all available means, to the realization of the objectives and measures contemplated within the framework of the Decade.

True to its policy of peace and international co-operation, Romania expresses its determination to work, as it has in the past, together with other States both within the United Nations and in other disarmament forums, for the realization of the objectives of the Decade, for the early cessation of the arms race, particularly the nuclear-arms race, for disarmament, and for the elimination of the risk of war and the maintenance of lasting peace in the world.

VIET NAM

[Original: English]

[28 March 1985]

1. The Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade, which is based on the principles, recommendations and decisions of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (1978) reflects the international community's desire to maintain and bring into full play the initially positive results achieved during the 1970s and to attain greater success in the struggle to curb the arms race and for peace and disarmament in the 1980s.
2. But it can be said that up till now the international community has made no
step closer to the goals set out in the Declaration. On the contrary, right after
the 1978 special session, the arms race, especially the nuclear-arms race, has
increased in both intensity and scope while the economies of many countries, first
and foremost the developing countries, are fraught with difficulties. For the past
five years, not a single new disarmament agreement emerged while a number of
agreements of the 1970s were violated. All the disarmament negotiations either
broke off or came to a deadlock. The Conference on Disarmament, the only
multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, has not been able to agree on a final
draft of the comprehensive programme on disarmament and is at standstill on the
other priority issues: comprehensive and complete prohibition of
nuclear-weapon-tests; prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of
chemical weapons; prohibition of the development, production and use of radioactive
weapons; effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States
against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

3. It is the imperialist and international reactionaries who must be held
responsible for the above-mentioned situation; they too represent the main obstacle
to the implementation of the Declaration. The past five years have witnessed the
highest level of tensions in East-West relations and an explosive situation in many
regions where the conflicts are fraught with the danger of spilling beyond their
regional scope. Since the late 1970s, the United States has returned to its policy
of opposing peace and détente, creating conflicts in international relations and
rekindling the "cold-war" atmosphere: an unprecedented level of defence spending;
deployment of new nuclear missiles in some Western European countries; expansion of
the arms race into outer space with the "star wars" plan, etc.

4. The current international situation proves that disarmament is "an imperative
and most urgent task facing the international community" and that "removing the
threat of a world war – a nuclear war – is the most acute and urgent task of the
present day" (Final Document of SSOD I, 1978, paras. 17 and 18). The positive
results obtained during the 1970s in the disarmament field show that significant
measures in this field are possible only if the States concerned have good will.

5. Viet Nam holds that the future efforts towards implementing the Declaration of
the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade should ensure the principles,
recommendations and decisions adopted at the first special session devoted to
disarmament and which were reaffirmed in the Declaration itself. Viet Nam wishes
to stress the following aspects:

(a) Adoption of effective measures, including non-first-use of nuclear
weapons, freeze on nuclear weapons, agreement among nuclear-weapon States on
certain principles governing the relation among these countries, etc., to prevent a
nuclear war;

(b) Early conclusion of agreements on:
- Complete and comprehensive prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests;
- Prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical
  weapons;

/...
- Prohibition of the development, production and use of radiological weapons;

- Non-use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States which do not have them on their territory;

(c) Undertaking in good faith the negotiations to halt the production of all types of nuclear weapons and reduce the stockpiles of such weapons, as well as the negotiations concerning weapons of mass destruction, sale and supply of conventional weapons, etc.

6. All States, especially those having major space capabilities should make active contributions to the objective of using space exclusively for peaceful purposes and undertake prompt measures to prevent an arms race in outer space. Preventing the militarization of outer space is one of the most important goals for the current disarmament efforts.

7. Viet Nam considers measures for the establishment of zones of peace and regional disarmament as important contributions to the process of disarmament and strengthening security in the world as a whole. One of the essential principles underlying the establishment of zones of peace is equality, respect of the legitimate interests of the countries in the area, non-imposition on each other and non-interference from outside.

It requires a concerted effort of all the peace forces to improve the present international situation and achieve greater progress in the field of disarmament.