DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

CURBING THE NAVAL ARMS RACE: LIMITATION AND REDUCTION OF NAVAL ARMAMENTS AND EXTENSION OF CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES TO SEAS AND OCEANS

Addendum

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REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

BULGARIA

[Original: Russian]

[25 April 1985]

Guided by the conviction that the interests of peace and international security call for the effective limitation of the arms race in all spheres, at its thirty-eighth session the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 38/188 F entitled "Curbing the naval arms race: limitation and reduction of naval armaments and extension of confidence-building measures to seas and oceans".

In his letter to the Secretary-General, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria stated the position of the People's Republic of Bulgaria on the questions raised by the resolution and proposed specific steps which would help to lessen military confrontation and strengthen confidence and security in that sphere.

As a sponsor of the above resolution, the People's Republic of Bulgaria notes with satisfaction that a number of States conveyed to the Secretary-General their views on the possibility of commencing negotiations on the limitation of naval activities and naval armaments. The report presented by the Secretary-General (A/39/419) on the basis of States' views provided a good starting point for further work on the subject.

At its thirty-ninth session, the United Nations General Assembly again reiterated the unwavering interest of the majority of States in what is a new direction for the United Nations, but also an extremely timely one, in the struggle to reduce the danger of war, curb the arms race and bring about disarmament.

Resolution 39/151 I adopted at the thirty-ninth session reiterated the basic provisions of the earlier resolution and, in addition, invited "Member States, particularly the major naval Powers, to consider the possibility of holding direct consultations, bilateral or/and multilateral, with a view to preparing the opening at an early date of such negotiations". Paragraph 5 of the resolution requests the Disarmament Commission "to consider this question and to report to the General Assembly at its fortieth session".

The People's Republic of Bulgaria believes that, in fulfilment of the above resolutions, some initial steps could be discussed by the United Nations Disarmament Commission. It would be useful therefore for the Commission to have at its disposal, prior to the opening of its session this year, States' views on resolutions 38/188 F and 39/151 I as conveyed to the Secretary-General. The People's Republic of Bulgaria, for its part, is determined to take an active part in and make a constructive contribution to the work of the Commission.

The Bulgarian Government believes that the discussion of all the proposals put forward thus far, and also of any other views and proposals which might be presented to the United Nations Disarmament Commission, should be aimed at laying

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the groundwork for the commencement of direct negotiations. Attention could first be focused on discussing some specific measures for the mutual limitation of naval activities, and also on discussing appropriate confidence-building measures both for general application and for application to individual regions.

The possibility of conducting separate multilateral negotiations on this complex issue could also be discussed. The holding of such multilateral negotiations must not, of course, interfere with the consideration of these questions in the talks between nuclear-weapon States. All major naval countries and other interested States should take part in these negotiations.

The utmost use must also be made of the possibility of a regional approach to the limitation of naval activities and naval armaments.

The Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria would like to reiterate its hope that a business-like and constructive approach will prevail in the discussion of this problem so that progress can be made towards the principal goal of eliminating the danger of nuclear war and safeguarding lasting peace and security.

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

[Original: English]

[30 April 1985]

1. The German Democratic Republic reaffirms its views contained in its position of 13 June 1984 (A/39/419) concerning measures aimed at curbing the naval arms race by limiting naval activities, limiting and reducing naval armaments and extending confidence-building measures to seas and oceans. It emphatically supports the commencement of relevant negotiations in which, particularly, the major naval Powers should participate.

The German Democratic Republic was gratified to note that the prevailing view expressed in the replies by other States, including the USSR, favoured an early commencement of such negotiations.

2. It is therefore commendable that resolution 39/151 I, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session, orients on the practical preparation of such negotiations. Inviting Member States, particularly the major naval Powers, to consider the possibility of holding direct consultations with a view to preparing the opening at an early date of such negotiations, the resolution suggests a viable procedure to start negotiations. If, as the resolution requests, the Disarmament Commission considered this question, an opportunity would be provided for an initial broad exchange of views on the format and the subject of such negotiations.

As a result of such deliberations, the fortieth session of the General Assembly would be recommended to open consultations concerning the direct preparation of negotiations. In the view of the German Democratic Republic, in...
these consultations agreement should be reached on the purpose and the subject of future negotiations as well as on the scope of participants, the date and the venue. Such consultations could be held in the framework of the United Nations Disarmament Commission or the Geneva Conference on Disarmament, since there all nuclear-weapon States and major naval Powers are represented.

3. The implementation of resolution 39/151 I necessitates joint efforts of a wide range of States. Therefore, the German Democratic Republic expresses the hope that those States which so far have not been prepared for constructive discussions on measures to curb the naval arms race, particularly some nuclear-weapon States, reconsider their position. International security, the security of peaceful navigation on the oceans and seas, as well as the exploration and exploitation of marine resources require resolute and urgent action towards halting the naval arms race.