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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Cuba
REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

CUBA

[Original: Spanish]

[6 May 1985]

The Government of the Republic of Cuba attaches special importance to the holding of talks aimed at the limitation and reduction of naval armaments, including nuclear armaments, and the extension of confidence-building measures to seas and oceans.

Since the triumph of the revolution in 1959, the Cuban people has been harassed and blockaded on the seas by successive United States Administrations. For a long time it had to endure the threatening presence of the United States Navy vessel Oxford and, despite the consistent opposition of the Government and people of Cuba, part of the national territory continues to be usurped at Caimaneras, Guantánamo, where the United States maintains a naval base imposed on Cuba by the United States Government at the beginning of the century.

The Government of the Republic of Cuba, which is engaged in a concerted development effort, is forced to devote a large part of its resources to defence, including the defence of its coasts off which the United States Navy is conducting naval military manoeuvres as a means of intimidation.

This situation, which is spreading to the entire Caribbean Sea area, cannot be viewed in isolation from the recent invasion of the island of Grenada or the manoeuvres in Central America which threaten Nicaragua, nor from the manoeuvres being tried out at the United States bases on the Puerto Rican islands of Vieques and Culebra and even in our own country, at the Guantánamo base.

It was for these reasons, among others, that Cuba voted in favour of resolution 39/151 at the latest session of the General Assembly.

Although it would clearly be useful to take practical steps in this connection, the attitude of the United States is seeking to achieve superiority in this sphere so that it can impose its wishes from positions of strength, under the veiled threat of aggression or naval blockade, in any part of the globe has, however, prevented any progress from being made in the reduction and limitation of naval armaments and in the application of other confidence-building measures to seas and oceans.

The Government of the Republic of Cuba is of the view that negotiations must be directed fundamentally at the freezing and reduction of the numbers of the main types of warship, in particular by the major naval Powers, the elimination of foreign naval bases, the cessation of intimidating manoeuvres, especially against small countries, and an end to the imposition of naval blockades and the adoption of other threatening measures against underdeveloped countries.

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The Government of the Republic of Cuba believes that the Conference on Disarmament could be an appropriate forum for the conduct of negotiations, without prejudice to bilateral activities between the major Powers. In view of the large number of items currently being discussed by the Conference on Disarmament, however, it might also be equally appropriate to hold negotiations in other forums.

The conduct of such negotiations and the subsequent application of agreed measures would have to be such that they did not adversely affect the security of any State or upset the existing balance of forces.

The Government of the Republic of Cuba believes that the study on the naval arms race could considerably assist the conduct of negotiations and, ultimately, the application of confidence-building measures to the seas, particularly if it is aimed at identifying areas of possible agreement and ways of arriving at such agreement.