DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

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

Addendum

REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

MONGOLIA

[20 May 1985]

The Mongolian People's Republic believes that the limitation and cessation of the arms race, especially the nuclear arms race, is the most important condition for preventing a nuclear catastrophe and preserving peace and the security of peoples. It therefore consistently advocates the adoption of urgent and effective measures aimed at curbing the arms race in all spheres. Proceeding from this position, Mongolia attaches great importance to the limitation and reduction of naval armaments.

The intensification of the naval activities of the imperialist Powers in various sea and ocean regions is a source of tension in those areas. Such a situation, of course, within the general context of increasing military confrontation in the world, represents a threat to universal peace. This applies particularly to regions where there are hotbeds of tension and conflict.

The imperialist States are using their naval forces in a policy of interference, diktat, blackmail and aggression against independent States, and for the suppression of peoples' national liberation movements. For instance, provocative manoeuvres are held, a naval blockade is established or direct military intervention is pursued. In this connection, suffice it to recall recent events such as the United States intervention against Grenada and its provocative actions against the Republic of Nicaragua.
The military presence of the imperialist States is also being intensified at sea far from their own shores, presenting a danger to international sea lanes and hindering commercial relations between States and the peaceful exploitation of maritime resources.

Under such circumstances, the Mongolian People's Republic considers it essential to take urgent measures to limit the naval activities and naval armaments of the major naval Powers and to extend confidence-building measures to seas and oceans. As is known, Mongolia welcomed the proposals to begin negotiations in this field put forward by the member countries of the Warsaw Treaty in the Political Declaration of 5 January 1983 issued by the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty, and it voted in favour of resolution 39/151 I adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations at its thirty-ninth session.

The major naval Powers and other interested countries should begin negotiations to reach agreement on measures for the limitation and reduction of naval armaments. The principle of safeguarding the security interests of all sides should be observed in this respect.

Such negotiations should, above all, discuss as a matter of priority such important and pressing matters as the freezing of naval activities in areas of conflict and the withdrawal of vessels armed with nuclear weapons from specific areas, especially areas of tension and conflict.

Considerable attention should be devoted to naval fleets which operate at sea for long periods of time far from their own shores, with a view to limiting their activities.

In order to adopt concrete measures for the limitation and reduction of naval activities and naval armaments, it is essential to extend confidence-building measures to seas and oceans. This question should therefore have an appropriate place in the proposed negotiations.

The Mongolian People's Republic believes that the declaration of nuclear-weapon-free zones or zones of peace in various sea and ocean regions would serve to build confidence in this sphere. In proposing the conclusion of a convention on non-aggression and the non-use of force in relations between the States of Asia and the Pacific Ocean, Mongolia of course welcomed the idea of making the Indian Ocean a zone of peace and also the initiatives concerning the Mediterranean and Persian Gulf regions. The proposal to declare the southern part of the Pacific Ocean as a nuclear-weapon-free zone also enjoys our country's full support.

Mongolia believes that the negotiations should carefully consider measures for freezing the major types of naval vessels in quantitative and qualitative terms, limiting and reducing military manoeuvres intended as a show of force or threat, renouncing the policy of naval blockade and dismantling naval bases in the territories of foreign States.
In the opinion of the Mongolian People's Republic, discussion of this important question in the Disarmament Commission will serve as a good basis for preparing negotiations to limit and reduce naval activities and naval armaments and to extend confidence-building measures to seas and oceans.

All the major naval Powers and other interested countries should take part in these negotiations. They may be held on a bilateral, regional or multilateral basis. The Soviet Union, for example, has expressed readiness to discuss concrete measures for the limitation and reduction of naval armaments within the framework of bilateral negotiations with the United States. Mongolia sincerely welcomes such a constructive approach to these important issues.

With regard to multilateral negotiations, Mongolia believes that the Conference on Disarmament is a suitable forum for this purpose.

Obviously, political will is essential to achieve concrete results in the area of arms limitation and disarmament. Mongolia trusts that the major naval Powers, especially the Western States, will demonstrate the necessary political will and a constructive approach to this important question.

In our view, only by taking concrete steps in the area of limiting and reducing naval activities and naval armaments can States expect real safeguards for their legitimate commercial interests or their security.

As for the study which is now being undertaken, Mongolia hopes that it will help to identify specific areas of possible agreement and ways of achieving it. In that case the study, together with the recommendations which Mongolia expects will be adopted by the Commission on the basis of the discussion of this question, can make an appropriate contribution to limiting and reducing naval activities and naval armaments and to extending confidence-building measures to seas and oceans.

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