AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE WORLD
DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

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75-09951 /...
INTRODUCTION

1. By resolution 3260 (XXIX), the General Assembly invited all States to communicate to the Secretary-General, before 31 March 1975, their comments on the main objectives of a world disarmament conference, in the light of the views and suggestions compiled in section II of the summary appended to the 1974 report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference. 1/

2. By note verbale dated 6 January 1975, the Secretary-General invited all States to communicate to him, before 31 March 1975, their comments pursuant to General Assembly resolution 3260 (XXIX).

3. At its 18th meeting on 7 April 1975, the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference requested the Secretariat to circulate, on 16 April 1975, all the comments received from States up to 15 April 1975 2/ and all other communications received at a later date as an addendum to the first document. These communications are reproduced below.

4. In addition to the communications included in document A/AC.167/1 and the present addendum thereto, communications were received from Barbados, Belgium, Fiji, Malaysia, the Netherlands and Sweden.

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2/ Issued by the Secretariat on 16 April 1975 as document A/AC.167/1.
DENMARK

[Original: English]
[8 April 1975]

The Government of Denmark adheres to the views concerning a world disarmament conference, which are reflected on page 67, in fine, of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference (document A/9628).

FINLAND

[Original: English]
[25 April 1975]

The Government of Finland firmly supports all measures that further the cause of disarmament and, consequently, has from the beginning given its full backing to the convening of a world disarmament conference. The Government of Finland believes that a distinct opportunity exists for successful disarmament negotiations and that a world disarmament conference would play an important role in furthering such negotiations.

The world disarmament conference would give the international community an opportunity to rededicate itself to the aims of general and complete disarmament, to restrengthen the political aims of disarmament and thus to determine goals for the future disarmament negotiations and establish their order of importance. At the conference, due priority should be given to mass-destruction weapons, particularly nuclear weapons, as well as to the reduction of conventional armed forces and armaments to the levels necessary for the maintenance of international peace-keeping.

In addition to the general goals of disarmament, the Finnish Government considers all measures that are aimed at regional limitation of armed forces and armaments useful for the promotion and realization of disarmament. Recalling the different efforts and achievements undertaken on a regional level with a view to the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in various parts of the world, the Government of Finland took the initiative which led to the adoption of the resolution 3261 F (XXIX), approved unanimously by the United Nations General Assembly on 9 December 1974. In this resolution, the General Assembly decided to undertake a comprehensive study of the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all of its aspects under the auspices of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament. All these regional efforts should be kept in mind also in the context of the world disarmament conference.

The world disarmament conference, adequately prepared, should be realized as soon as possible under the auspices of the United Nations. The conference should be universal. The participation in the disarmament conference of all the permanent members of the Security Council, as well as all the significant military powers, obviously remains an essential prerequisite for the attainment...
of meaningful results. From such a conference new ideas could emerge to the benefit of disarmament and a more peaceful world order.

The Government of Finland expresses its appreciation to the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference for the valuable work it has done, especially in preparing the summary of the views and suggestions expressed by the Governments on the convening of such a conference and related problems. It is to be hoped that further progress will be achieved in the Committee before the thirtieth session of the United Nations General Assembly, so that the General Assembly could take decisive steps with a view to the convening of a world disarmament conference at an early date.

FRANCE

[Original: French]
[20 May 1975]

The French Government stated at the outset its support for the convening of a world disarmament conference in the preparation and work of which all nuclear Powers would participate.

The views of the French Government on this question have already been set forth in connexion with the survey carried out by the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 2833 (XXVI) and contained in document A/8817 of 25 September 1972.

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

[Original: English]
[29 April 1975]

The German Democratic Republic attaches great importance to the preparation and realization of a world disarmament conference. It has therefore worked actively for the proposal submitted by the USSR to convene such a conference and has already made numerous suggestions on how to implement this proposal.

Resolution 3260 (XXIX), which was unanimously adopted at the twenty-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly, reflects broad support for the holding of a world disarmament conference. The German Democratic Republic shares the view of the majority of States that calling such a conference would meet the peoples' aspirations to safeguard peace through effective disarmament measures.

The German Democratic Republic works for international détente to be strengthened and deepened, to be expanded to all regions, and to penetrate all spheres of co-operation among States.

To make peace and international security stable, a halt must be called to the arms race. This increasingly proves to be the decisive issue in the struggle to secure a lasting peace.

/...
The States of the socialist community have submitted numerous proposals designed to put an end to the nuclear arms race, to achieve the cessation of nuclear tests in all media and by all States, to prohibit chemical weapons and to reduce the military budgets of the five States permanent members of the Security Council by 10 per cent and utilize part of the funds thus saved for developing countries.

A major contribution towards limiting the arms race could be made by implementing the proposal approved at the twenty-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly to draw up a convention on the prohibition of action to influence the environment and climate for military and other purposes incompatible with the maintenance of international security, human well-being and health.

The German Democratic Republic holds the view that conditions for the calling of a world disarmament conference are more favourable now than ever before and that the time is ripe for taking the necessary steps. The continuing process of détente has had an exceedingly favourable impact on the settlement of major problems. The agreements between the USSR and the United States of America on the limitation of strategic arms and the prevention of a nuclear war clearly indicate this. As a result of their top-level meeting at Vladivostok, the representatives of the USSR and the United States of America declared that an agreement on the limitation of strategic offensive weapons can still be concluded between the two States within this year. Such a step would, no doubt, have a favourable effect on the realization of further measures of disarmament and arms limitation.

A world disarmament conference at which all angles of disarmament issues could be considered and agreements reached would doubtlessly contribute to making the process of international détente irreversible and to complementing it by military détente and would promote general and complete disarmament. It would be in line with this objective if all States could take part as equals in such a world-wide forum and if they could consider and agree on measures to limit and end the arms race involving nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and also conventional weapons. This should include the banning of certain types of weapons and their removal from arsenals throughout the world, as well as agreements that keep the arms race away from new fields it has not so far reached.

A world disarmament conference may give fresh impetus to the activities of already existing disarmament bodies and to the universal application of multilateral treaties already concluded.

Differences of opinion about various problems that would have to be solved by a world disarmament conference do not, in the view of the German Democratic Republic, in any way justify any further delay in preparing and holding the conference. In the past, there were quite a few occasions when world conferences were prepared and held without there having been unanimity on fundamental issues from the very beginning. This applies, for instance, to international conferences on the codification of important sections of international law, the World Population Conference and the World Food Conference.
The German Democratic Republic supports the view that all nuclear-weapon States should take part in preparing and realizing a world disarmament conference. The USSR has made special contributions to making this conference possible. The German Democratic Republic expresses the expectation that all nuclear Powers will take part in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference.

To a growing extent the solution of major political, economic and social problems hinges on whether or not the arms race can be stopped. The consequences of the arms race burden the process of the further recovery of the international atmosphere and even involve the risk of aggravating political tensions. Armaments swallow up vast financial means, rendering the solution of pressing economic problems difficult or impeding it. The safeguarding of peace, of economic and social progress of all nations, especially the developing countries, calls for greater efforts to call a halt to the arms race.

The German Democratic Republic expresses the expectation that at the thirtieth session of the United Nations General Assembly concrete decisions concerning preparations for, and the holding of, a world disarmament conference will be adopted. It will, for its part, contribute to attaining this lofty goal in the interest of safeguarding international peace and security.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

[Original: English]
[21 May 1975]

The Permanent Representative has the honour to inform the Secretary-General that the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany continues to support in principle the convening of a world disarmament conference at an appropriate time. In its view the conference would, however, have to be carefully prepared. As disarmament measures in the field of nuclear weapons are likely to be one of the most important topics of the conference, it would be necessary to secure the participation of all nuclear Powers already at its preparatory stage.

The views of the Federal Government on this question have already been set out in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference (A/9628).

HUNGARY

[See document A/10090]
ITALY

[Original: Italian]
[21 May 1975]

The Italian Government considers that the basic objective of a world disarmament conference should be to seek ways of achieving general and complete disarmament under effective international control.

The Italian Government is convinced of the usefulness of partial disarmament measures. However, such measures can be fully effective and produce lasting results only if they are carried out as part of a co-ordinated total disarmament programme. Within such a framework, the links between nuclear and conventional disarmament and between world-wide and regional disarmament should become apparent.

In seeking ways of facilitating the formulation of a disarmament programme, the conference should ensure that it does not duplicate the activities of bodies already working on disarmament questions and should avoid becoming involved in discussions of a general nature which could increase, rather than reduce, the divergencies between the different opinions and positions put forward. If such dangers are avoided, the world conference could not only give a new impetus to the cause of general and total disarmament but facilitate the co-ordination of specific disarmament measures already adopted or under discussion in a number of international forums.

For the above reasons, the Italian Government is convinced that the conference can succeed if it is properly prepared and if the specific topics for discussion are identified beforehand. The participation of the major military Powers, in particular, those possessing nuclear arsenals, in the preparatory work and in the conference itself appears essential if there is to be any serious and realistic consideration of disarmament questions and, above all, of nuclear disarmament.

JAPAN

[Original: English]
[24 April 1975]

The views of the Government of Japan on the main objectives of a world disarmament conference remain as they were presented in document A/8817, annex I.

In this connexion, the Permanent Representative of Japan has further the honour to refer to his statement at the 19th meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference on 4 April 1975. The gist of this is contained in document A/AC.167/SR.19, which reads as follows:

"Mr. Saito said that, with regard to the substantive issues involved /...
in the Committee's work in 1975, his Government's views were well known. However, it was of great importance to re-emphasize that participation of all nuclear Powers was necessary for the success of a world disarmament conference. More systematic liaison must be established with the nuclear Powers in the Committee's future work. He proposed that that should be placed among the matters to be considered by the Working Group."

KUWAIT

[Original: English]
[21 April 1975]

Kuwait has consistently supported the convening of a world disarmament conference, because it believes that all countries, big and small, have an equal stake in disarmament. For the past two decades disarmament negotiations have not been very productive, because they have been conducted in the form of a dialogue between the two super-Powers. Disarmament agreements have changed the nuclear arms race from a race of quantity to a race of quality. Kuwait, as a developing country, would like the race to end altogether.

The conference should seek to safeguard the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all States.

The conference should be mindful of the fact that foreign occupation, colonialism and apartheid sow the seeds of conflict and compel the oppressed to seek arms in order to liberate themselves through armed struggle from these evils.

One of the essential prerequisites for the success of the conference would be to secure universal participation in it.

The agenda of the conference should include a wide range of topics which have not been successfully broached or dealt with by the CCD.

Kuwait attaches particular importance to resolutions adopted by the General Assembly aimed at the establishment of nuclear-free zones in various parts of the world, including the Middle East. Kuwait believes that universal adherence to the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons would be a first and essential step for the implementation of these resolutions.

In addition to horizontal non-proliferation, the conference should secure vertical non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. Disarmament measures can only be successful if applied against the big Powers themselves.

Kuwait believes that practical steps to realize general and complete disarmament, in stages, are an essential prerequisite for employing the world's scarce human and natural resources for constructive purposes and for channelling valuable resources to accelerate the pace of economic and social development in the developing countries.

/...
MADAGASCAR

[Original: French]
[6 May 1975]

The Permanent Mission wishes to draw attention to the fact that the views of the Malagasy Government are already set forth on page 40 of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference (A/9628). These views were reaffirmed by the representative of Madagascar in the First Committee in his statement of 8 November 1974.

The Malagasy Government considers that the primary objective of the conference should be the total elimination and destruction of all nuclear weapons and weapons of mass annihilation.

It shares the view that the conference should provide an opportunity for all Powers, large and small, nuclear and non-nuclear:

(1) To evaluate the disarmament measures already taken at the international, regional and bilateral levels;

(2) To engage in a free exchange of views on:

- The various aspects of the threat to international peace and security, such as nuclear or conventional weapons, or the establishment of military bases and of a foreign presence;

- The responsibilities of each State in the gradual or immediate attainment of general and total disarmament;

- The means to be used jointly in order to achieve these aims.

MONGOLIA

[See document A/10098.]

NORWAY

[Original: English]
[11 April 1975]

A world disarmament conference, held under the auspices of the United Nations, and with the full participation of all militarily important States, including, in particular, the nuclear Powers, could help to focus the attention upon the urgent need to reduce and control the armament race in all parts of the world and could give additional insight into the complex problems of arms control and disarmament.

/...
Such a conference could thus serve as a stimulus for intensified efforts in the field of disarmament. It could provide an opportunity for all States Members of the United Nations to participate more actively and directly in the various aspects of this work. A world disarmament conference with participation of all nuclear-weapon States could be the starting point for constructive world-wide efforts in the area of disarmament.

Neither the preparations for nor the holding of a world disarmament conference should delay or interfere with the ongoing arms control and disarmament talks in other fora. On the other hand, such a conference could contribute in a positive way to make disarmament efforts more effective by serving as a co-ordinator of current global and regional disarmament efforts.

QATAR

[Original: English]
[13 May 1975]

The Government of the State of Qatar supports the convening of a world disarmament conference with all Member States participating.

We believe that the holding of such a conference which aims to effect general and complete disarmament by banning the future production of nuclear weapons and the destruction of stored nuclear weapons would constitute a concrete step in our efforts to maintain world peace and security.

ROMANIA

[See document A/10083.]

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

[Original: English]
[21 May 1975]

The United Kingdom Government have already expressed detailed views on the objectives of a world disarmament conference in response to a previous communication from the Secretary-General and in the Ad Hoc Committee. These views remain unchanged. However, the United Kingdom take this opportunity to remind the Secretary-General that it is a major element of the policy of the Government of the United Kingdom to play a full part in efforts to achieve general disarmament. They believe that multilateral disarmament under effective international controls is an essential ingredient for a safer world and the means of reducing world expenditure on armaments and devoting greater resources to peaceful purposes.
In the light of this policy, the Government of the United Kingdom see the main objective of a world disarmament conference as being to promote efforts to reduce international tensions and the risks of armed conflict by reviewing in depth, with the active participation of all the major military Powers including all the nuclear Powers, all such aspects of arms control and disarmament as might thereby be given new purpose and direction. New direction could be given by, inter alia, the review by the conference of the efforts and composition of existing disarmament bodies with a view to making recommendations for the continuation and extension of their work.

The achievement of these objectives by a world disarmament conference will require thorough and careful preparation. It will be necessary to define clearly the subjects which it is to study and for the participants to see a genuine prospect of a broader and more constructive discussion of the issues than is already possible in the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly. The Government of the United Kingdom believe that the expertise of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, to which the United Nations has entrusted the conduct of the negotiations on disarmament, should be fully utilized in the preparations for a world disarmament conference.

In the light of such considerations and of the attention which the United Nations has given to this question, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom affirmed together with General Secretary Brezhnev in their joint statement of 17 February 1975, the belief that "the convocation of a world disarmament conference may contribute to the solution of the pressing problems of disarmament" and confirmed the intention of continuing co-operation with the United Nations Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference.