AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

CONTENTS

COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

Guinea

Peru

Page

2

3

75-17532
GUINEA

Original: French
27 August 1975

First of all, the concept of disarmament does not in itself imply the production and possession of a type of weapon, even one belonging to the category of so-called conventional weapons.

Rather, it is the purpose assigned to these means of destruction, be they nuclear, bacteriological, chemical or even conventional, which must be stressed. By way of proof, one need only consider the use of asphyxiating bombs in Viet-Nam or the so-called conventional weapons placed at the disposal of South Africa by the imperialist Powers which can be used in time of peace as well as in time of war to realize that there is actually very little difference between these two types of weapon.

In other words, the Government of the Republic of Guinea feels that while the problem of disarmament is of paramount concern to all countries, because it relates directly to the preservation of international peace and security, it is understood that the question in its technical and technological aspects concerns firstly the countries which produce nuclear, chemical and bacteriological weapons.

But, in addition, as we said at the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly, all countries must be associated in the various discussions concerning the problem of disarmament and the possible convening of a world disarmament conference. The problem of peace ... is of concern to the entire world. Peace must belong to everyone. Two, three or four countries cannot take decisions on behalf of all continents; hence the problem of disarmament, and, particularly, the problem of peace are not the exclusive concern of one nation, however great or strong it may be. All these matters, which are connected with the prohibition of the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, bacteriological and other weapons are of concern to the Republic of Guinea, but we wish to discuss them together with all other countries, without having piecemeal, biased or false solutions imposed upon us.

Moreover, we repeated at the plenary twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly that of all problems the problem of disarmament is unquestionably both the oldest and the most current, because it is the field in which so little progress has been made. It is talked about far more on an amateur level than out of real conviction. It goes without saying that a game of hide-and-seek is still being played: first between the possessors of those means of mass destruction and then between them and the rest of the world.

In conclusion, we believe that the existence of a lasting peace must be based on respect for the sovereignty and unity of peoples. Let no one tell us that it is with the purpose of establishing a certain balance of forces in the world that some Powers are arming the racist régime of Vorster or the Zionist State of Israel.
The problem of disarmament cannot be dissociated from that of the elimination of oppression and exploitation in the world, for as long as colonization persists, the germs of war will persist likewise. Therefore, what is needed is to strike at the root of the evil; in other words, to eliminate colonization in all its forms in order to open the way to international peace.

PERU

[Original: Spanish]
[27 August 1975]

Peru, a traditionally peaceful country and proud of its long efforts to promote conciliation and international friendship, has always been in favour of appropriate consideration of the subject of disarmament as an effective means of achieving peace and security. Among many other actions aimed at achieving that objective, Peru can cite its initiative in urging the Andean countries to limit expenditures for the acquisition of arms and thus promote the economic and social development of their peoples, resulting in the solemn "Declaration of Ayacucho", signed at the end of last year, of which the States Members of the United Nations have been informed. Peru can also mention its active participation in the work of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament which it recently joined and in the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference established by the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session.

In view of the foregoing and within the guidelines established by resolution 3260 (XXIX), I am pleased to inform you that Peru is in favour of the holding of a World Disarmament Conference with universal participation, particularly that of the nuclear Powers, and adequate preparation.

The purpose of this Conference, which should be held under United Nations auspices, should be the consideration of all matters relating to disarmament in general, including the negotiation and conclusion of specific agreements within the Conference, without interfering in or duplicating the work which in the sphere of concrete agreements may be developing satisfactorily elsewhere.

A Conference of this nature should therefore serve as the supreme body for dealing with questions of disarmament, backed by the moral and political authority of universality, and can make viable the essential objective of achieving general and complete disarmament, giving guidance to States, evaluating progress and achievements in the matter, facilitating the establishment of the necessary machinery and, finally, promoting the conclusion of agreements.

WDC should as a matter of priority consider the problem of nuclear disarmament, which curtails the suspension of nuclear tests in all environments and, consequently, the gradual elimination of stocks of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction, and then consider, at a later date, the problem of conventional weapons.
It should be noted that the holding of a World Disarmament Conference was originally an idea of the non-aligned countries reflecting the universal feeling which inspires the continuation of efforts to achieve disarmament.

Peru, which devotes most of the enormous effort it is making to the task of development, notes with concern the growing acceleration of the arms race and believes that a WDC which had the over-all objective indicated above and could perhaps be held periodically, if convened in the conditions which have also been outlined, should make it possible to give impetus to the current negotiations, alert world public opinion to the dangers of the present situation, centralize the consideration and discussion of the essential and ancillary aspects of disarmament and, by virtue of all this, strengthen the peace and the security of all States.