AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE REVIEW OF
THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS
IN THE FIELD OF DISARMAMENT

STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS
IN THE FIELD OF DISARMAMENT

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

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REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

DENMARK

[Original: English]
[13 May 1976]

1. General view

The pursuit of disarmament is one of the fundamental tasks of the United Nations, and the Organization has accordingly become the most important forum for multilateral disarmament negotiations. Results which compel appreciation and respect have in fact been achieved in the important field of arms control. Nevertheless, it would seem that the United Nations could play an even greater role in disarmament, the essential element, however, being the political will of Member States to cope with the steady spiralling arms race. In the wish to support all realistic proposals and efforts to this end, Denmark is taking part in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee.

2.a. Possible new approaches for achieving more effective procedures and organization of work in the field of disarmament, thereby enabling the United Nations to exercise its full role in multilateral disarmament efforts

With regard to the objective of the Ad Hoc Committee as set out in paragraph 3 (a) of resolution 3484 B (XXX) the Danish Government has repeatedly stressed the view that the main disarmament forums should be the General Assembly of the United Nations, especially its First Committee, and the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament in Geneva. It is therefore the opinion of the Danish Government that new permanent intergovernmental United Nations bodies should not be established in this field but that the Ad Hoc Committee should concentrate on improving the procedures and organizational work of the already existing United Nations bodies for disarmament and arms control measures.

As for the annual General Assemblies, the Danish Government finds that these are hardly the best suited forums for securing a realistic and in-depth deliberation on the many complex - technically and otherwise - questions of disarmament. This is true also, to some extent, of the First Committee. The principal forum for dealing in substance with the disarmament questions should therefore be CCD.

The Danish Government views with concern the tendency of late to refer disarmament questions to other forums than the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament and its Ad Hoc Committees. While lack of progress in the very difficult questions before the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament should not be an obstacle to entrusting other questions to that body, it might, admittedly, be useful, in exceptional cases, to set up ad hoc committees to deal with specific problems.

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On the agenda of the thirtieth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations were no less than 19 items on subjects of disarmament, and 25 resolutions were adopted relative to these items. This large number of resolutions and the considerable majority of votes by which they were adopted are in sharp contrast with the very modest advance achieved in the disarmament field. It is remarkable that the total of negative votes cast on the 25 draft resolutions accounted for less than 1 per cent of the votes available, while the votes in favour, taken as a whole, were over 90 per cent and abstentions 9 per cent. A review of the individual resolutions reveals, however, that the vast majority of them related to marginal fields. A great many were repetitions of drafts tabled at previous sessions of the General Assembly; others were merely of a procedural nature referring questions to deliberation elsewhere etc. This multitude of resolutions did not, however, bring about any solutions to the important disarmament issues which the world is faced with.

In order to achieve a more effective procedure in the First Committee, the Danish Government would recommend the following measures:

Limitation of the general debate. This would leave more time for discussion of individual items or groups of items. Related matters should be discussed in their proper context.

Furthermore, the Danish Government finds that the texts of many resolutions could be abridged without detracting from the substance and that the many repetitions in the different texts which often occur - sometimes even contradictory ones - should be avoided. In this connexion an earlier presentation of the drafts - informally if feasible - would be an advantage.

b. Ways and means of improving existing United Nations facilities for collection, compilation and dissemination of information on disarmament issues, in order to keep all Governments, as well as world public opinion, properly informed on progress achieved in the field of disarmament.

c. Ways and means to enable the United Nations Secretariat to assist, on request, States parties to multilateral disarmament agreements in their duty to ensure the effective functioning of such agreements, including appropriate periodical reviews.

As for the problems mentioned in subparagraphs (b) and (c) of paragraph 3 of resolution 3404 B (XXX), the Danish Government for its part does not see any special need of such measures. If, however, other Member States are of a different opinion, and if it is the general feeling that measures of this kind would be useful, the Danish Government will have no objections. The final position of the Danish Government on the questions involved will be determined in the light of the deliberations of the Ad Hoc Committee.
GUATEMALA

The Government of Guatemala suggests:

1. That the United Nations Secretariat should set up permanent functional inspection groups in order that the objectives of disarmament can be achieved under strict and effective control; and

2. That publicity concerning progress in the field of disarmament should be increased, both quantitatively and qualitatively, with a view to making world public opinion aware of the need to use the resources currently spent on armaments for the economic and social development of nations.

JAPAN

1. The Government of Japan believes that the highest priority in deliberations on disarmament should be given to the questions of nuclear arms control and nuclear disarmament. It wishes to emphasize, in this connexion, that nuclear-weapon States have special responsibilities for furthering the process of nuclear disarmament. In line with its position, the Government of Japan has participated, with other Member States, in international efforts in various forums, including the United Nations, to achieve nuclear disarmament.

Considering that the road to world peace through arms control and disarmament is naturally a long and arduous one, what has been accomplished in the past 30 years since the establishment of the United Nations can hardly be dismissed as negligible. However, the Government of Japan regrets to note that, as the Secretary-General stated in the introduction to his report on the work of the Organization in 1975 (A/10001/Add.1), no "decisive breakthrough" has been attained in spite of 30 years of effort in the United Nations. It must be recognized, on the one hand, that this is largely due to the absence of political will, particularly on the part of major Powers, to achieve disarmament and also to the lack of international political conditions favourable to disarmament. On the other hand, however, this does not necessarily mean that there can be no room for improvement in the operation and procedures of the existing disarmament organizations. It is in this context that the Government of Japan finds it timely and proper that resolution 34/84 B (XXX) was adopted in the thirtieth session of the General Assembly, by which the General Assembly decided to establish the Ad Hoc Committee on the Review of the Role of the United Nations in the Field of Disarmament to carry out a basic review of the role of the United Nations. This review could expedite progress in the task now being faced by the international
community, the attaining of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

2. In exploring measures for the strengthening of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament, the Government of Japan considers that the role which has been played by the existing disarmament forums should not be underestimated. While it would seem advisable not to overemphasize the importance of organizational changes, the greatest importance should be attached to the task of finding ways of increasing the effectiveness of existing forums.

The Government of Japan continues to believe that the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (CCD) has played a most important role as an effective multilateral disarmament negotiating body. In its opinion, the effective functioning of the CCD must in no way be adversely affected by this review of the role of the United Nations. In this connexion, the Government of Japan stresses that the participation of France and the People's Republic of China in the deliberations of the CCD is essential for progress in nuclear disarmament. Therefore, it hopes that when the CCD reviews its own organizational procedures, it will give most serious consideration to exploring ways and means of obtaining their participation in its work.

3. It goes without saying that the United Nations General Assembly and its First Committee have played important roles as forums for arms control and disarmament. It would seem desirable, moreover, that the role of the United Nations be strengthened, as a forum for the exchange of views among Member States, including States not participating in specific disarmament negotiations, and as a forum for giving a political impetus to disarmament efforts. It is noted that the number of agenda items and resolutions in the First Committee has been increasing rapidly in recent years. In the thirty-first session of the General Assembly, 25 resolutions were adopted under 19 agenda items. The adoption of a large number of General Assembly resolutions does not necessarily facilitate progress in the field of disarmament. Therefore, it might be worth while to consider ways of limiting the number of agenda items and draft resolutions. Furthermore, grouping together draft resolutions which are closely related to each other, selecting those agenda items most relevant to each session of the General Assembly and ensuring that draft resolutions are submitted to the First Committee before it starts its deliberations should also be considered.

4. With regard to activities concerning the collection, compilation and dissemination of information on disarmament issues, the Government of Japan is of the view that existing United Nations facilities should be improved within that Organization's mandate and resources.

5. The Government of Japan firmly believes that all disarmament measures should be accompanied by effective international control for the verification of fulfilment of obligations thereunder.

At the same time, it should be noted that disarmament questions have recently become increasingly diverse and complex due to ever advancing technological developments.
Under these circumstances, it is the considered opinion of the Government of Japan that the United Nations should be prepared to fulfil its functions with respect to international control of future disarmament agreements, upon requests from the parties to such agreements.

As a first step in this direction, it would be useful to establish a study-group under the Secretary-General to explore the possibilities of the United Nations playing a role with regard to certain aspects of disarmament and arms control measures, such as "fact finding", "verification" or "review of the implementation of treaty obligations": all these aspects would be closely linked with, or would have an important bearing on, any international agreements on disarmament, whether multilateral or bilateral.

MONGOLIA

\[\text{Original: Russian}\]
\[\text{18 May 1976}\]

The Government of the Mongolian People's Republic attaches the greatest importance to the problems of disarmament and cessation of the arms race. The practical steps which are taken in this direction serve to further the relaxation of international tension and to strengthen the peace and security of nations.

In the opinion of the Mongolian Government, the United Nations can play a significantly effective role in the field of disarmament. This role would be facilitated if all the States Members of the United Nations, and especially all the nuclear Powers, became parties to the many treaties and agreements in force concerning disarmament which have been drawn up and signed both in the United Nations and elsewhere, and if they participated constructively in the various forums where disarmament is being discussed. This is fully in accord with the spirit of Article 26 of the Charter of the United Nations and corresponds in the highest degree to the vital interests of the States Members of the United Nations.

The experience derived from the many years of discussions on the various aspects of disarmament has convincingly shown that progress in this matter ultimately depends on whether or not the Governments concerned have the political will to carry forward the cause of disarmament in the interests of universal peace and international security. The real reason for the lack of significant progress in the field of disarmament is therefore to be sought in the reluctance of some of the nuclear Powers to deal with this problem realistically. It must accordingly be pointed out in this connexion that the real causes of the lack of progress are not to be found in procedural short-comings or poor organization of work, nor in the incompetence of the relevant United Nations organs, nor in the ineffectiveness of the work being done by the United Nations Secretariat in the collection, processing and dissemination of information on disarmament questions. In our opinion, a concentrated effort must be made to solve the basic problems within the framework of the United Nations organs which are presently operating effectively in the field of disarmament. That is why the Mongolian delegation voted in favour of General Assembly resolution 3484 B (XXX).
A greater role for the United Nations in the field of disarmament must be in full accord with the basic principles of the United Nations Charter. Discussion of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament must not in any way be made to serve as a pretext for hampering negotiations being conducted on a bilateral, regional or multilateral basis or for reducing the role of the presently existing channels for negotiations on disarmament problems, particularly that of the Geneva Committee on Disarmament, which has proved to be a useful and competent body for multilateral discussions on this question.

In our opinion, the United Nations, instead of engaging in protracted discussions about possible new organizational machinery, should concentrate its efforts on the bodies which are already in existence. In particular, the United Nations Special Committee on the World Disarmament Conference can contribute greatly to strengthening the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament if the States which are members of that Committee, as well as all the nuclear Powers and the States having a large-scale military capability, will participate constructively in the Committee's work of expediting the practical preparations for and holding of the World Conference.

The Government of the Mongolian People's Republic expresses its willingness to take an active part in whatever efforts are made to seek a prompt solution of the substantive problems that exist in the field of disarmament and cessation of the arms race.

NORWAY

Original: English
18 May 1976

A central element in Norwegian foreign policy ever since the creation of the United Nations Organization has been effectively to strengthen the role of the world Organization in international affairs and to enhance its ability to contribute to the solution of problems facing the world community. The Norwegian Government, therefore, welcomed the initiative at the thirtieth session of the General Assembly to carry out a basic review of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament and voted for resolution 34/84 B (XXX).

While organizational measures in themselves cannot decisively influence the process of achieving effective disarmament and arms control measures, it is the view of the Norwegian Government that the possibilities of the United Nations in this field have not been utilized sufficiently. The Norwegian Government feels that the effectiveness of the United Nations in promoting the cause of disarmament and arms control and in paving the way for concrete measures can be significantly improved. The consideration and adoption of measures designed to strengthen the role of the United Nations should not - and need not - interfere with or prejudice the ongoing negotiations and the work of already existing bodies in the field of disarmament. It is also understood that neither the work of the Ad Hoc Committee nor the actual measures for the strengthening of the United
Nations role will deal with the substantive task of negotiating and implementing disarmament and arms control agreements.

The question of whether the present pattern of work of the First Committee of the General Assembly, as related to disarmament items, serves the task of promoting the cause of disarmament as effectively as is desirable should be thoroughly discussed at the forthcoming session of the Ad Hoc Committee. A streamlining of the way in which resolution drafts are presented, discussed and elaborated in their final version seems necessary and it is, therefore, desirable that the Ad Hoc Committee, during its substantive session, give close consideration to the procedures and methods of work of the First Committee in the field of disarmament, as requested in paragraph 3 (a) of the resolution.

The tasks outlined in paragraph 3 (b) relate to an area which has not received the attention it deserves. The growing scope and complexity of the issues of disarmament increases the need for improved procedures for collection, compilation and dissemination of documents and information on disarmament. The growing public interest in disarmament issues, as well as the stronger awareness in world public opinion of the importance of these issues, needs to be met by improved United Nations facilities in the area of information. In this connexion, consideration should be given to the increasingly important contribution that can be made by non-governmental organizations, i.e., voluntary associations, research institutions etc., and to their role in providing and transmitting information and documentation.

The Norwegian Government also takes a favourable attitude to measures aimed at enhancing the capacity of the United Nations Secretariat and, in particular, its Disarmament Affairs Division to carry out their functions both in the information field and in contributing to the implementation of multilateral disarmament agreements, as agreed by the parties to these agreements. Efforts to enable the United Nations Secretariat to fulfil these tasks in the disarmament area more effectively, as suggested in paragraph 3 (c), will also serve to meet the objectives of paragraph 3 (b).

In the view of the Norwegian Government, there is a particular need for significant expansion of periodic international surveys of a factual and documentary nature within various sectors of the disarmament field. One example would be a systematic register of international arms transfers. Another contribution could consist in annual reports on the military forces and budgets of Member States, compiled on basis of data supplied by the Governments of Member States.

On the national level, the Government has continued to contribute to an increased awareness of arms control and disarmament among the public and in the media. To assist the Government in advisory capacity a Commission for Arms Control and Disarmament, with membership representing the political, academic and professional areas of interest, was set up in 1961. Its principal task has been to promote research and information on issues related to disarmament. In addition to yearbooks, published also earlier, a comprehensive survey of the disarmament problems will shortly be given a wide distribution.
The Government will soon also submit to Parliament a report on the question of arms control and disarmament, which will form the basis for the Parliament's deliberations in this important foreign policy field.

The Norwegian Government looks forward to the forthcoming second session of the Ad Hoc Committee, to take place in June this year, and will pay particular attention to the Secretary-General's report on the role played by the United Nations in the field of disarmament and his views and suggestions in this connexion. A comprehensive survey of the past and present United Nations activities in the field of disarmament seems to be necessary as a basis for a fruitful review of the future role of the world Organization at the thirty-first session of the General Assembly.

UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

[Original: Russian]
[18 May 1976]

The Permanent Mission of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, referring to General Assembly resolution 3484 B (XXX) on review of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament and to the Secretary-General's inquiry (PO 131/I(3-3)) of 19 January 1976, has the honour to communicate the following observations to the Secretary-General.

In recent years, amid a lessening of international tension and an improved political atmosphere in the world, the United Nations General Assembly has, on the initiative of a number of countries, in particular the Soviet Union, adopted important resolutions aimed at action to curb the arms race, to bring about disarmament and to supplement political détente with military détente. At the thirtieth session of the General Assembly as well, new proposals by the USSR on the general and complete prohibition of nuclear weapon tests and on the prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons met with a broad positive response from an overwhelming majority of States Members of the United Nations. It is of crucial importance to ensure that these United Nations decisions are carried out. Their implementation is a realistic means of strengthening the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament.

In the opinion of the Ukrainian SSR, which consistently favours strengthening the United Nations contribution to the task of halting the arms race with its attendant threat to peace, it would therefore be advisable at the present time to concentrate the efforts of all States Members of the United Nations on the search for ways and means of giving effect to these important United Nations resolutions on disarmament.

The Ukrainian SSR believes that the real cause of the continuing arms race is the opposition of the opponents of disarmament to the implementation of numerous proposals, including those indicated above, and, in general, the unwillingness
of a number of big States to halt the arms race rather than defects in negotiating procedures or the fact that other procedural and organizational questions have not been resolved. In the existing circumstances, the discussion of such questions will essentially serve only to divert the United Nations from practical action and to enable certain States to evade both participation in negotiations and the assumption of obligations with regard to disarmament. That is why we consider it doubtful that the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Review of the Role of the United Nations in the Field of Disarmament will produce any useful results.

As regards implementation of the decisions taken by the General Assembly, the Ukrainian SSR attaches special importance to the speedy completion of preparations for the convening of a world disarmament conference. Such a conference could afford States an opportunity to discuss the full range of disarmament problems on a basis of equality and to determine, through joint efforts, the most effective, constructive and acceptable ways and means of solving those problems. The conference could also discuss, inter alia, the question of the role of the United Nations in solving disarmament problems.

There are a number of other problems connected with disarmament whose solution would be facilitated by enhancing the role and authority of the United Nations. At the recent Twenty-fifth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the following tasks, inter alia, were proposed with a view to immediately halting the growing arms race with its attendant threat to peace and moving forward to the reduction of weapons stockpiles and to disarmament:

- To do everything possible to conclude international treaties on the general and complete cessation of nuclear weapon tests, on the prohibition and destruction of chemical weapons, on prohibiting the creation of new types and systems of weapons of mass destruction, and on prohibiting action to influence the environment for military and other hostile purposes;

- To endeavour to ensure that the present steady growth in military spending by many States gives way to the practice of systematically reducing such spending.

It is quite obvious that the achievement of these goals depends primarily on the political will of States, on their serious, firm intention to create conditions conducive to the further deepening of détente and to making it irreversible. The Ukrainian SSR, for its part, will make every effort to ensure, through joint action with other States Members of the United Nations, truly effective international peace and security.

The Permanent Mission of the Ukrainian SSR to the United Nations requests the circulation of this note as an official document of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Review of the Role of the United Nations in the Field of Disarmament.
General considerations

Venezuela heartily welcomed the proposal made by the Government of Sweden at the thirtieth session of the General Assembly, for it considers that the time has come to review the United Nations machinery in the field of disarmament and, accordingly, to make such changes or introduce such new approaches as are necessary to facilitate the substantive consideration of these problems from the procedural point of view.

Despite the special attention which has been given by the United Nations, from the time of its founding, to the problems of disarmament, it is in this area that the results achieved have been the least encouraging. Far from slackening, the arms race continues headlong, and the refinement and sophistication of some types of weapons have gone beyond what anyone could imagine.

The failure to take specific measures that might help to check the arms race has not, as we know, been the fault of the United Nations. The responsibility for this rests with the States that make up the United Nations, and particularly with the military Powers. The lack of political will has been evident in this area.

In the face of such a situation, however, an attitude of passiveness or resignation must be rejected out of hand. This situation must not be allowed to thwart the efforts to bring about procedural changes in the competent bodies of the United Nations so as to provide a better basis for dealing with disarmament matters. Past experience has shown that the existing procedures in the relevant bodies can be made more effective, that better use can be made of Secretariat facilities in the field of disarmament and that the dissemination of information on disarmament can be intensified with a view to mobilizing world public opinion.

Venezuela is convinced that a review of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament is opportune and that it would, despite the substantive difficulties and limitations involved, contribute in some measure to the adoption of effective measures based on realistic expectations.

Possible new approaches for achieving more effective procedures and organization of work

First Committee

Last year, the First Committee of the General Assembly had on its agenda the unprecedented figure of 19 items concerned with disarmament and adopted 25 resolutions on this subject.
Although the profusion of items and decisions relating to disarmament undoubtedly reflects the growing and deep-seated concern over the appalling arms race and clearly reveals the vastness and complexity of these problems, the practical results have been discouraging, and in spite of the provisions of this impressive number of resolutions, the arms race continues. The United Nations is tarnishing its image by adopting a mass of resolutions devoid of any practical effect.

Venezuela shares the view that efforts must be made to reduce the number of resolutions on disarmament. This can be done to the extent that an attempt is made to consider a limited number of items each year in place of the customary practice of considering all the items together. The advantages of this procedure would be obvious, for each topic would be given more exhaustive consideration. Experience has shown that lack of time makes it impossible to examine in proper depth the items of an agenda that has become too diverse and complex. A partial approach that produces more tangible results is preferable to a general approach with less satisfactory results.

The point has also been rightly made that no purpose is served by adopting resolutions on matters where there has been no progress or no new significant development.

A reduction in the number of items to be taken up by the Committee at each session would also mean that, with somewhat more time at its disposal, there would be an opportunity for more regular and more extensive informal consultations.

The usefulness of informal consultations is generally recognized; they provide a more relaxed atmosphere that enables matters to be discussed with greater flexibility, and they are conducive to the efforts to obtain a consensus on the decisions which must be taken. Venezuela believes that informal consultations must be encouraged, but this in turn requires a lighter agenda so that all delegations, especially the smaller ones, will be able to take part in these consultations.

Some thought might also be given to reducing the number of meetings which the First Committee devotes to the general debate on disarmament questions so that more time might be available for the substantive discussion of specific questions and for the holding of informal consultations.

In order, however, for these new procedures to be put into effect, it is essential that the reports of the various bodies concerned with disarmament matters be made available to the Committee sufficiently far in advance - if possible, before it begins its work upon conclusion of the general debate in the General Assembly plenary. Delegations would then have more time to familiarize themselves with the relevant reports and to prepare their statements in advance.

Conference of the Committee on Disarmament

While Venezuela considers that some procedural reforms are called for in this
important body, it also feels that the Conference itself should decide on what steps it thinks necessary for improving its functioning.

It agrees, however, with other delegations that the form and content of the Conference's report to the General Assembly ought to be appropriately modified. The report should be drafted so as to be more precise and easier to understand; it should reflect the proceedings of the Conference more faithfully: and, as has been suggested, it should state the pertinent recommendations and conclusions.

Ways and means of improving existing United Nations facilities for the collection, compilation and dissemination of information

This is clearly one area in which reforms and new developments are needed to improve the dissemination of information on the arms race, with special attention being given to the proliferation and continuous development of nuclear weapons. If there is any matter that deserves priority attention in the news media of the world in which we live, it is precisely the one which imperils the very existence of mankind. The United Nations thus bears a prime responsibility in the fulfilment of this task.

A well-informed public is in a position to bring an active and persuasive influence to bear on the course of events which affect various aspects of society. In the case of the arms race, there is an even more heart-felt and imperative need for international public opinion to be kept properly informed so that it can, in its turn, exert influence or pressure on the respective Governments. The information must be couched in simple language so as to be accessible not only to particular sectors such as intellectuals, professional people and the like, who are more or less familiar with the problem, but also to the general public which, in the majority of cases, has no clear idea of the destructive potential of nuclear weapons.

In this entire process, the non-governmental organizations dealing exclusively or in a general way with disarmament questions have much of value to offer and should accordingly be brought into a closer and more systematic kind of co-operation with the United Nations. For example, the United Nations Secretariat could supply material on disarmament on a regular basis to the non-governmental organizations concerned so as to enable them to circulate it in their own media. Serious consideration must also be given to the possibility of increasing the participation and activity of the non-governmental organizations in the deliberations of United Nations forums dealing with disarmament.

As previously noted, the information concerning disarmament must be given the widest possible dissemination in all regions of the world, although it ought, perhaps, to be channelled especially to the industrialized countries which are the principal manufacturers of all kinds of weapons and where there are certain private sectors that stimulate the sale of weapons for business reasons. To put it bluntly: no one can buy goods that are not offered on the market; once they are manufactured and offered, it is inevitable that there will be buyers. In most of these countries, moreover, there is a well-organized network of non-governmental organizations and a fairly influential body of public opinion.

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The United Nations Office of Public Information should give priority attention to the dissemination of information on disarmament questions and should draw upon the efficient services of the Information Centres for this purpose. Media resources such as publications, bulletins, audio-visual material and the like must be used to publicize the magnitude and complexity of these problems and the efforts being made by the United Nations to resolve them. In the case of decisions on disarmament, it is imperative, as the Secretary-General has pointed out, not merely to disseminate the resolutions but also to explain, in readily understandable terms, what they mean and what implications they have.

It is fully realized, of course, that the work of the Office of Public Information has intensified enormously in recent years and that a growing demand for information on a wide variety of subjects has to be met. Nevertheless, the proliferation of nuclear weapons is the most serious problem confronting mankind, and the volume of information supplied concerning it must be commensurate with its importance. Effective action by the Office of Public Information is, of course, dependent upon an increase in its financial and staff resources.

Venezuela endorses the suggestions which have been made that the United Nations should foster the preparation of studies providing an analysis of the various problems posed by the arms race. It would, of course, be very helpful in this regard to be able to rely on the co-operation of such organizations as the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute as well as that of other non-governmental organizations and also of the individual States Members of the United Nations.

Another worthwhile suggestion is that the United Nations should issue, at least on an annual basis, a publication giving as complete an account as possible of the present state of the arms race in the world and the progress of the negotiations being conducted in the forums of the United Nations concerned with disarmament. In so far as publications of this kind are concerned, there would not appear to be any major drawbacks to taking specific action on a short-term basis. Various United Nations bodies regularly issue studies or reviews which report on the progress of the matters with which they are concerned. The Outer Space Affairs Division, for example, issues a monthly publication that reports on current happenings relating to the peaceful exploration of outer space. Examples such as this, in an appropriately adapted form, should be imitated in the field of disarmament.

Any action intended to improve the effectiveness of United Nations facilities related to disarmament must inevitably involve, as was pointed out in the case of the Office of Public Information, an increase in the financial and staff resources of the Secretariat. The Disarmament Affairs Division must therefore be considerably strengthened, and in the recruitment of staff, the principle of equitable geographical distribution must be taken into account so as to increase the number of qualified persons from the developing countries forming part of that Division's staff.

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Ways and means to enable the Secretariat to assist, on request, States parties to multilateral disarmament agreements in their duty to ensure the effective functioning of such agreements, including appropriate periodical reviews.

Venezuela agrees to the United Nations, subject always to a request by the parties concerned, fulfilling the important role of ensuring the functioning of multilateral disarmament agreements. The Organization might also be able, on request, to act in an advisory capacity or provide some other kind of assistance in the preparation of these agreements.

The specific ways in which this kind of assistance can be provided by the United Nations will be discussed in further detail by Venezuela when the matter is taken up in the Ad Hoc Committee.