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

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum
UNITED REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

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Compared to the large and medium-sized Powers and even compared to certain countries of the third world, Cameroon may be regarded as a country which is not concerned with disarmament problems. It is concerned, however, and its concern stems from the risks to which States are exposed by virtue of the existence of heavily armed States.

It is incumbent on Cameroon, as a Member of the United Nations, to put forward some suggestions on this subject, but, before doing so, it has the following observation to make. Despite assertions to the contrary, the United Nations is dominated (by virtue of the right of veto, among other factors) by the heavily armed nations, which are daily developing their arsenals. Disarmament must begin with these nations before it can spread to others, which would be induced to move in the right direction under pressure from their arms suppliers or their powerful allies. It would be wrong to shirk a task simply because it seems to be of gigantic proportions.

How can the United Nations strengthen its role in the field of disarmament?

(1) The United Nations should endeavour in the first instance to freeze at current levels the armaments of medium-sized and small nations by requesting the allies of such nations to stop supplying them with weapons. Most States are certainly sufficiently well-armed at the present time to be able to deal with internal problems.

(2) At the same time, after making an inventory of all armaments plants, the United Nations should request the States to which the plants belong to halt production (a utopian idea) with a view to establishing quotas for the subsequent production of weapons and ammunition, such production to be planned at the global level by the United Nations.

In addition, the super-Powers should limit their armaments to a level to be determined.

One cannot speak about arms control without making some mention of nuclear weapons.

The United Nations should invite the nuclear nations to freeze their stocks of nuclear weapons at current levels, and in the medium term to destroy all such stocks under United Nations supervision and to halt any research aimed at achieving a break-through in nuclear weapon technology.

Nuclear energy should be used solely for peaceful purposes. To that end, a control commission should have permanent units stationed in all countries and should be permitted to conduct inspections everywhere, without any restrictions.
Lastly, there is one problem which some States deliberately ignore, namely, the problem of arms dealers who are prepared to sell weapons to anyone who wants them, apparently without the prior consent of their Governments. This practice should be banned, and, in order to ensure that it ceases, customs inspections should be carried out by State agencies, assisted by members of the United Nations control commission who should not be nationals of the countries in which they are discharging their duties.