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
CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION ..................................................... 1 - 3
THE FRAMEWORK FOR THE REVIEW ................................. 4 - 14

ANNEX A
Role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament: 1945-1975 1 - 191

I. The United Nations system for disarmament ................ 3 - 113

1. The General Assembly ........................................ 3 - 47
   (a) Plenary .................................................... 4 - 5
   (b) First Committee ......................................... 6 - 8
   (c) Other main committees ................................... 9
   (d) The Disarmament Commission ............................. 10 - 19
   (e) Conference of the Committee on Disarmament .......... 20 - 32
   (f) Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean ................ 33 - 36
   (g) Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference .. 37 - 42
   (h) Ad Hoc Committee on the Review of the Role of the United Nations in Disarmament ............................... 43 - 44
   (i) Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation . 45 - 47

2. The Security Council and the Military Staff Committee .... 48 - 59
   (a) Security Council ......................................... 48 - 57
   (b) The Military Staff Committee ............................ 58 - 59

3. The Economic and Social Council ............................. 60 - 63

4. The Secretary-General and the Secretariat .................. 64 - 100
   (a) Annual Report on the Work of the Organization ........ 65 - 66
   (b) Initiatives and statements by the Secretary-General ... 67 - 72
   (c) Servicing United Nations disarmament organs .......... 73 - 76
   (d) Implementation of General Assembly resolutions ....... 77
   (e) Collection of information and preparation of reports and studies ........................................ 78 - 84

/...
CONTENTS (continued)

(f) Representation at international disarmament conferences 85
(g) Functions with regard to disarmament agreements .... 86 - 88
(h) Public information on disarmament ................. 89 - 91
(i) Relations with non-governmental organizations ....... 92 - 94
(j) The Secretariat .................................. 95 - 100

5. The International Atomic Energy Agency and other organizations of the United Nations system ............. 101 - 104

6. The United Nations role in the review of the operation of disarmament agreements .................... 105 - 113
   (a) Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons .......... 105 - 109
   (b) Review Conference of the Parties to the Sea-Bed Treaty 110 - 112
   (c) Review Conference of the Parties to the Biological Convention ................................. 113

II. United Nations action relating to other disarmament efforts .. 114 - 138
   1. Conference of non-aligned countries ............... 114 - 116
   2. Agency for the Prohibition of nuclear weapons in Latin America (OPANAL) .......................... 117 - 122
   3. Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) ............ 123 - 132
   4. Diplomatic Conference on International Humanitarian Law .. 133 - 135
   5. ICRC Conference of Government Experts ............. 136 - 138

III. The role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament as reflected in past disarmament efforts ............ 139 - 188
   1. The Atomic Energy Commission ..................... 139 - 146
   3. The Committee of Twelve ............................ 158 - 160

/...
CONTENTS (continued)

4. Conference of experts to study the possibility of detecting violations of a possible agreement on the suspension of nuclear tests ........................................ 161 - 164


6. Conference of experts for the study of possible measures which might be helpful in preventing surprise attack ........................................ 171 - 173

7. Ten-Nation Committee on Disarmament ........................................ 174 - 176

8. Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States ........................................ 177 - 183

9. Special Committee on the World Disarmament Conference ........................................ 184 - 186

10. Special Committee on the Distribution of Funds Released as a Result of the Reduction of Military Budgets ........................................ 187 - 188

ANNEX B

Information on disarmament issues ........................................ 1 - 6
INTRODUCTION

1. By resolution 34/4 B (XXX) of 12 December 1975, the General Assembly, recalling that disarmament is one of the fundamental objectives of the United Nations, decided to conduct a basic review of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament. It further decided that the review would be carried out by an ad hoc committee, open to the participation of all Member States, and that the committee should, inter alia, focus on the following objectives:

   (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;

   (b) ways and means of improving existing United Nations facilities for the 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 Secretariat to assist, on request, States parties to multilateral disarmament agreement in their duty to ensure the effective functioning of such agreements, including appropriate periodic reviews.

2. At its sixth meeting on 29 January 1976, the Ad Hoc Committee on the Review of the Role of the United Nations in the Field of Disarmament invited the Secretary-General "to give his views as he deems appropriate on the subject-matter dealt with in General Assembly resolution 34/4 B (XXX) on the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament".

3. In response to this invitation of the Ad Hoc Committee, the Secretary-General submits the following report on the strengthening of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament.
THE FRAMEWORK FOR THE REVIEW

4. A review of the role of the United Nations in the disarmament field must take into account the basic provisions of the Charter.

5. Article 1, defining the principles and purposes of the United Nations, proclaims the maintenance of international peace and security as the first purpose of the Organization.

6. In Articles 11, 26 and 47, the Charter confers specific responsibilities on the General Assembly and the Security Council in the field of disarmament, as follows:

   Article 11: "The General Assembly may consider the general principles of co-operation in the maintenance of international peace and security, including the principles governing disarmament and the regulation of armaments, and may make recommendations with regard to such principles to the Members or to the Security Council or to both ...".

   Article 26: "In order to promote the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources, the Security Council shall be responsible for formulating, with the assistance of the Military Staff Committee referred to in Article 47, plans to be submitted to the Members of the United Nations for the establishment of a system for the regulation of armaments."

   Article 47: "There shall be established a Military Staff Committee to advise and assist the Security Council on all questions relating to the Security Council's military requirements for the maintenance of international peace and security, the employment and command of forces placed at its disposal, the regulation of armaments, and possible disarmament ...".

7. It should be recalled that the very first resolution of the General Assembly dealt with the question of disarmament and, in particular, with the urgent task of eliminating atomic weapons and all other major weapons of mass destruction from national armaments. At the same first session, in resolution 41 (I), the General Assembly recognized the central role of disarmament in relation to peace and security. Since that time, the General Assembly has repeatedly reaffirmed the primary responsibility of the United Nations in the field of disarmament as evidenced, for instance, by the following General Assembly resolutions: 41 (I), 502 (VI), 715 (VIII), 808 (IX), 914 (X), 1252 A and D (XIII), 1378 (XIV), 1653 (XVI), 1722 (XVI), 1908 (XVIII), 2028 (XX), 2030 (XX), 2454 B (XXIII), 2833 (XXVI), 2930 (XXVII), 3183 (XXVIII), 3184 C (XXVIII), 3102 (XXVIII), 3260 (XXIX), 3261 E (XXIX), 3462 (XXX), 3470 (XXX) and, most recently, resolution 3484 B (XXX). It was in resolution 1378 (XIV) that the General Assembly declared the question of general and complete disarmament to be "the most important one facing the world today" and called upon Governments to make every effort to achieve a constructive solution of this problem.

8. In response to the provisions of the Charter, and the relevant resolutions
of the General Assembly, the Members of the United Nations have in the past 30 years, pursued the goal of disarmament, and in doing so, they have employed a variety of instruments and techniques corresponding to the varying needs of the prevailing international situation. These have ranged from direct exchanges through diplomatic channels, to the annual review by the General Assembly of discussions and negotiations taking place in smaller bodies specifically established to consider the many political and technical problems that make up the question of disarmament.

9. As a result of the United Nations efforts, a number of important agreements have been reached for the limitation and control of armaments. They include the Antarctic Treaty; the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water; the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, Including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies; the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America; the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof; and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction.

10. Despite these encouraging developments, the Secretary-General, in the Introduction to his Annual Report on the Work of the Organization for 1974/1975, considered it necessary to state the following:

"... It has not proved possible to halt or limit the arms race in either nuclear or conventional weapons. The danger of nuclear proliferation not only remains, but has increased; nuclear testing continues; weapons are increasingly sophisticated and deadly, and the technological arms race continually promises new and more terrible developments.

"In a world increasingly preoccupied with the problems of social justice, hunger, poverty, development and an equitable sharing of resources, global expenditures on armaments are approaching $300,000 million a year. Never before in peace time has the world witnessed such a flow of weapons of war. Some $20,000 million worth of arms are now sold annually in the international arms trade.

"To the perils inherent in the massive nuclear and conventional armouries of the greatest Powers are now added growing and competitive military establishments in some of the most sensitive areas of the world, constituting a series of potential detonators for a new and major military confrontation to which the possibility of the proliferation of nuclear weapons adds a new and chilling dimension." (A/10001/Add.1)

11. Accordingly, the Secretary-General concluded that the role which the United Nations was playing in disarmament was far from adequate, and proposed that the General Assembly itself consider a basic review of that role. In consequence, the Secretary-General raised the question of what could be done, in practical and
realistic terms, to strengthen the role of the United Nations in such a way that the necessary progress could be achieved. The Secretary-General stated that, in his own view, the following should, inter alia, be considered in order to strengthen the role of the United Nations:

- United Nations action should be based on accurate and adequate information which must be made available in suitable form to Member States and to the public;

- the discussion on disarmament should be comprehensive;

- the structure and procedures of the United Nations negotiating machinery should be reviewed;

- the relation and distribution of functions among different central and regional bodies in the disarmament field need to be studied and more clearly defined;

- a continuous follow-up of existing agreements is necessary. The necessary machinery, including verification, control and co-ordination, is essential to ensure that efforts in the disarmament field really respond to the changing realities which scientific and technological progress have created.

12. The Secretary-General believes that these considerations remain valid. Their importance has been further underlined by the action taken by the General Assembly, which by resolution 3484 B (XXX) decided to establish an Ad Hoc Committee to carry out a basic review of the role of the United Nations in the field of Disarmament. The General Assembly also invited all States to communicate their views and suggestions on the strengthening of the role of the United Nations in this field. In response to the invitation by the General Assembly, States have presented a wealth of ideas, suggestions and proposals which have been put before the Committee in document A/AC.181/1. In addition, the Secretary-General has provided the Committee with a systematized presentation of these views in document A/AC.181/2.

13. In order to further assist the Ad Hoc Committee in its review of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament, two background papers have been prepared by the Secretariat. They are annexed to this Report. The first annex "Role of the United Nations in the Field of Disarmament" contains a brief history* intended to cover the main aspects of the United Nations role. It deals essentially with the composition and mandate of the relevant machinery, and does not include a description of the substantive disarmament questions that are discussed and negotiated. The second annex "Information on Disarmament Issues" discusses the possibility of initiating two regular disarmament publications, a Disarmament Bulletin of the United Nations and a United Nations Disarmament

* For a more complete history, reference is made to the publication, The United Nations and Disarmament.

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Yearbook, should the Ad Hoc Committee wish to expand the Secretariat's information activities. The purpose of the paper is to provide specific proposals for consideration by the Ad Hoc Committee.

14. The Secretary-General hopes that the material presented in this report will be of use to the Ad Hoc Committee.
ANNEX A

Role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament: 1945-1975

(Background paper prepared by the Secretariat)

1. This background paper is intended to present in factual terms, the main aspects of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament. It deals essentially with the machinery for debate and negotiation, as well as its functions, without entering into the substantive disarmament issues involved.*

2. The paper intends to cover primarily the present aspects of the United Nations system for disarmament, even though sometimes reference has been made to the past, with a view to clarifying present trends. Only part III deals entirely with the past aspects of the question.

I. The United Nations system for disarmament

1. The General Assembly

3. Article 11 of the Charter defines the powers of the General Assembly with regard to disarmament matters (see p. 2).

(a) Plenary

4. The General Assembly regularly devotes attention to disarmament questions in its general debate and in connexion with the adoption of draft resolutions recommended to it by the First Committee and, occasionally, by other Main Committees.

5. Disarmament items have, in several instances, been discussed in plenary, without reference to the First Committee. This was, for example, the practice followed for the items "World Disarmament Conference" (twenty-sixth session), "Non-use of force in international relations and permanent prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons" (twenty-seventh session), and "Reduction of the military budgets of States permanent members of the Security Council by 10 per cent and utilization of part of the funds thus saved to provide assistance to developing countries" (twenty-eighth session).

(b) First Committee

6. Disarmament items on the agenda of the General Assembly are usually allocated to the First Committee. The number of disarmament items on the agenda of the

* For a more comprehensive presentation, reference should be made to the publication "The United Nations and Disarmament 1945-1970" and the supplement for 1971-1975 which will appear shortly.

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First Committee has increased over the years and this is also true of the number of committee meetings devoted to disarmament. As an illustration, the figures of the last five years follow:

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7. The number of resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the First Committee has also increased through the years. At the thirtieth session, the General Assembly adopted a record number of 25 disarmament resolutions.

8. The practice followed by the First Committee in recent years was to hold a combined general debate on all the disarmament items before it and subsequently to examine the draft resolutions one by one before bringing them to a vote.

(c) Other main committees

9. Disarmament related issues are occasionally discussed by other Main Committees of the General Assembly in addition to the First Committee. For instance, the Special Political Committee examines reports submitted to it by the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, established by General Assembly resolution 913 (X). The Second Committee has considered at several sessions the question of the economic and social consequences of disarmament and the link between disarmament and development. The Third Committee has repeatedly dealt with questions of human rights in armed conflicts. The Sixth Committee is currently considering some aspects of that same question.

(d) The Disarmament Commission

10. On 11 January 1952, the General Assembly adopted resolution 502 (VI) by which it created the Disarmament Commission and laid down its tasks for negotiations, as follows:

"The General Assembly, ...

"1. Establishes under the Security Council a Disarmament Commission. This Commission shall have the same membership as the Atomic Energy Commission and the Commission for Conventional Armaments,* and shall function under the rules of procedure of the Atomic Energy Commission with such modifications as the Commission shall deem necessary;

* The 11 members of the Security Council and Canada, when that State was not a member of the Security Council.
"2. Dissolves the Atomic Energy Commission and recommends to the Security Council that it dissolve the Commission for Conventional Armaments;

"3. Directs the Disarmament Commission to prepare proposals to be embodied in a draft treaty (or treaties) for the regulation, limitation and balanced reduction of all armed forces and all armaments, for the elimination of all major weapons adaptable to mass destruction, and for effective international control of atomic energy to ensure the prohibition of atomic weapons and the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes only;

..."

"8. Declares that a conference of all States should be convened to consider the proposals for a draft treaty (or treaties) prepared by the Commission as soon as the work of the Commission shall have progressed to a point where in the judgement of the Commission any part of its programme is ready for submission to governments;

"9. Requests the Secretary-General to convene such a conference when so advised by the Commission;

"10. Requests the Secretary-General to furnish such experts, staff and facilities as the Commission may consider necessary for the effective accomplishment of the purposes of the present resolution."

11. On 19 April 1954, the Disarmament Commission created a sub-committee consisting of Canada, France, the USSR, the United Kingdom and the United States,* with the task of searching for an agreement on a comprehensive and co-ordinated plan of disarmament. The Sub-Committee convened in London in May 1954 and held 157 meetings up to September 1957.

12. At its twelfth session, in 1957, the General Assembly, by resolution 1148 (XII), requested the Disarmament Commission to reconvene its Sub-Committee as soon as feasible and also requested the Commission to invite its Sub-Committee to establish as one of its first tasks, a group or groups of technical experts to study inspection systems for disarmament measures. It also recommended that any such technical group or groups be composed of one expert from each of the States Members of the Sub-Committee and one from each of three other States Members of the United Nations which should be designated by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee was, however, never reconvened.

13. At the same session of the General Assembly, India submitted an item entitled "Expansion of the Membership of the Disarmament Commission and of its Sub-Committee". The Soviet Union, stressing the necessity of inviting a larger

* A USSR proposal to add the People's Republic of China, Czechoslovakia and India was rejected.
number of States to participate in disarmament talks, proposed the establishment of a permanent disarmament commission consisting of all Members of the United Nations. The Soviet draft resolution was not adopted.

14. On the other hand, by resolution 1150 (XII), the General Assembly increased the membership of the Disarmament Commission by adding the following 14 States: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Burma, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, India, Italy, Mexico, Norway, Poland, Tunisia and Yugoslavia. The Soviet Union, however, declared that its objections had not been removed and that it would therefore no longer participate in the work of the enlarged commission or its sub-committee. Efforts in 1958 to reconvene the new Disarmament Commission were unsuccessful.

15. In view of this interruption of disarmament negotiations, the Secretary-General proposed the inclusion of the item "Question of disarmament" in the agenda of the thirteenth session of the General Assembly, so as to maintain continuity of consideration of that question by the General Assembly. At that session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 1252 D (XIII) which reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Having regard to the universal desire for the establishment of genuinely peaceful conditions in the world and therefore for taking steps to avoid the destruction that would result from a major armed conflict,

Reaffirming the responsibility of the United Nations for seeking a solution of the disarmament problem,

Expressing its determination that all Members of the United Nations should be in a position to contribute to a solution of this problem on a continuing basis,

1. Decides that the Disarmament Commission shall, for 1959 and on an ad hoc basis, be composed of all the Members of the United Nations;

2. Transmits to the Disarmament Commission all the documents, proposals and records of discussions relating to disarmament at the thirteenth session of the General Assembly;

3. Requests the Disarmament Commission to convene as appropriate and to submit to the Security Council and to the General Assembly, at a special session if necessary, constructive proposals and recommendations in the field of disarmament;

4. Decides that the first meeting of the Disarmament Commission shall be convened by the Secretary-General after consultation with the Member States and that the Commission, having begun its activities under rule 162 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and taking that rule into account, shall adopt its own rules of procedure."
16. In 1959, the Disarmament Commission held only one meeting, to consider the communiqué of the Foreign Ministers of France, the USSR, the United Kingdom and the United States which announced the creation of a new Ten-Nation Disarmament Committee with equal representation of NATO and Warsaw Treaty member States.

17. At its fourteenth session in 1959, the General Assembly decided in resolution 1403 (XIV) that the Disarmament Commission should continue to be composed of all members of the United Nations. Following the breakdown of the Ten-Nation Committee talks,* the Commission convened at the request of the United States to review the situation. It adopted unanimously, on 18 August 1960, a resolution calling for the earliest possible resumption of negotiations.

18. The Disarmament Commission met again from 21 April to 16 June 1965, at the request of the USSR. It undertook a review of the negotiations in the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee and adopted one resolution on a world disarmament conference, and one on cessation of nuclear-weapon tests.

19. Since then, the Disarmament Commission has not been convened.

(e) Conference of the Committee on Disarmament

20. At the end of the 1950s and early in the 1960s, there were new initiatives with a view to establishing a generally acceptable framework for disarmament negotiations.

21. By resolution 1378 (XIV), the General Assembly declared general and complete disarmament to be the most important question facing the world and called upon Governments to make every effort to achieve a constructive solution of this problem. Following the failure of the Ten-Nation Committee to make any progress towards the goal of general and complete disarmament, the USSR and the United States, in the course of 1961, exchanged views on the resumption of disarmament negotiations. On 20 September 1961, the two Powers issued a Joint Statement of Agreed Principles for Disarmament Negotiations, for circulation to all members of the United Nations (A/4879).

22. The General Assembly, by resolution 1660 (XVI) of 28 November 1961, urged the Soviet Union and the United States to reach agreement on the composition of a negotiating body which both they and the rest of the world could regard as satisfactory; expressed the hope that their negotiations would lead to an agreed recommendation to the Assembly; and requested the two Governments to report to the Assembly on the results of such negotiations before the end of the sixteenth session.

23. In response to this request, the Soviet Union and the United States jointly submitted on 13 December 1961 a draft resolution in the First Committee, which was unanimously approved by the Assembly on 20 December as resolution 1722 (XVI). It read, in part, as follows:

* See part III below, the "Ten-Nation Committee on Disarmament".
"The General Assembly, ...

1. **Endorses** the agreement that has been reached on the composition of a Disarmament Committee, whose membership will be: Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, France, India, Italy, Mexico, Nigeria, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America;

2. **Recommends** that the Committee, as a matter of the utmost urgency, should undertake negotiations with a view to reaching, on the basis of the joint statement of agreed principles and taking into account, *inter alia*, paragraph 8 of those principles, agreement on general and complete disarmament under effective international control;

3. **Requests** that the Committee submit to the General Assembly a report on such agreement as soon as it has been reached, and in any case submit to the Disarmament Commission, not later than 1 June 1962, a report on the progress achieved ..."

24. The Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament (ENDC) opened in Geneva on 15 March 1962 at the Foreign Ministers' level in the presence of a Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. One member of the Committee (France) decided not to participate, explaining that it hoped it might be possible later for the disarmament problem to be discussed among the Powers that could contribute effectively to its solution. At the outset, the Foreign Ministers decided to organize the Conference so as to permit simultaneous work on general and complete disarmament, confidence-building (collateral) measures, and the discontinuance of nuclear weapon tests.

25. At the first meeting of the ENDC on 14 March 1962, procedural arrangements for the conduct of business were adopted, including the following. All meetings would be private except when otherwise agreed by the participating States. Publicity by or on behalf of the Committee would be limited to the agreed communiqué following its meeting. The draft communiqué would be prepared by the Chairman of the meeting and approved by the participating States; normally, it would refer to the chairmanship of the meeting, the title of any new documents tabled, agreements reached, the time of the next meeting and, when required, the release of the Committee's verbatim records and documents. The Chair would be rotated daily in English alphabetical order among all members of the Committee. The permanent Co-Chairmen of the Committee would be the representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America. The Co-Chairmen would consult with each other and with other delegations, as desirable, with the aim of facilitating both the formal and informal work of the Conference.

26. By 1964, it became evident that the Committee was unable to reach agreement on general and complete disarmament. As a result, the Committee increasingly devoted its attention to collateral measures of disarmament.

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27. On 15 August 1968, the Committee adopted a provisional agenda for its future work, reading as follows:

"Further effective measures relating to the cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament.

Under this heading members may wish to discuss measures dealing with the cessation of testing, the non-use of nuclear weapons, the cessation of production of fissionable materials for weapons use, the cessation of manufacture of weapons, and reduction and subsequent elimination of nuclear stockpiles, nuclear-free zones, etc.

Non-nuclear measures.

Under this heading, members may wish to discuss chemical and bacteriological warfare, regional arms limitations, etc.

Other collateral measures.

Under this heading, members may wish to discuss prevention of an arms race on the sea-ted, etc.

General and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control."

28. In its report to the General Assembly for 1968, the Committee noted that the agenda had been recommended and adopted "in recognition of the views expressed by the members of the Committee and in response to recommendations of the General Assembly, taking into account the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and also the agreement announced on 1 July 1968 for bilateral discussions between the United States and the Soviet Union on the limitations of strategic nuclear arms". The Committee also noted the recognized right of any delegation to raise and discuss any disarmament subject at any time.

29. At the 1969 session of the ENDC, the two Co-Chairmen, the Soviet Union and the United States, consulted with other members of the Committee regarding the possibility of a limited enlargement of the Committee's membership in view of the desire expressed by many countries to participate in the Committee's work. In carrying out the expansion, the declared objective of the Co-Chairmen was to ensure that geographic and political balance were maintained and, at the same time, to preserve the Committee as an effective negotiating body. As a result of the consultations, Japan and Mongolia joined the Committee on 3 July 1969, and they were followed on 7 August by Argentina, Hungary, Morocco, Netherlands, Pakistan and Yugoslavia. The membership was thus increased from 18 to 26. After the enlargement of the Committee, it was decided to change its name to "Conference of the Committee on Disarmament" (CCD).
30. On 16 December 1969, the General Assembly adopted resolution 2602 B (XXIV) endorsing the agreement which had been reached on the title and composition of the Conference, but expressing the Assembly's conviction that in effecting future changes in the composition of the Committee, the procedure followed at the sixteenth session of the General Assembly should be observed.

31. In 1974, the CCD agreed to invite the Federal Republic of Germany, the German Democratic Republic, Iran, Peru and Zaire to become members beginning 1 January 1975. Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 2602 B (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, the Committee reported this agreement to the Assembly for its endorsement. The General Assembly adopted resolution 3161 B (XXIX) by which it endorsed the agreement that had been reached to the effect that the composition of the CCD would be increased as from 1 January 1975. It also expressed the conviction that, to effect any future change in the composition of the CCD, the procedure followed on that occasion should be observed.

32. The question of the review of the organization and procedures of the CCD has been raised on several occasions and, more extensively, at the CCD sessions in 1972 and 1975. While in 1972 no decision was reached, in 1975 the CCD agreed that, unless decided otherwise, it should convene each year on the third Tuesday in February; that it should discuss the organization of its work at the beginning of the first session and thereafter, as the need arose; and that its report to the United Nations General Assembly should be transmitted on the last Thursday in August, unless decided otherwise (A/10027).

(f) **Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean**

33. The General Assembly, by resolution 2632 (XXVI) of 16 December 1971, solemnly declared that the Indian Ocean, within limits to be determined, together with the airspace above and the ocean floor subjacent thereto, was designated for all time as a zone of peace. By the same resolution the Assembly called upon the great Powers to enter into immediate consultations with the littoral States of the Indian Ocean with a view to implementing the Declaration and further called upon the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, the permanent members of the Security Council and other major maritime users of the Indian Ocean to pursue the objective of establishing in the Indian Ocean area a system of collective security without military alliances and strengthening international security through regional and other co-operation.

34. At the following session of the General Assembly, in resolution 2992 (XXVII), the Assembly decided to establish an *ad hoc* committee of not more than 15 members to study the implications of the Indian Ocean Peace Zone proposal, with special reference to the practical measures that might be taken in furtherance of the objectives of the 1971 Declaration, having due regard for the security interests of the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean and the interests of any other State consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter. The Assembly also decided that the Ad Hoc Committee be composed of the following countries: Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen and Zambia.
35. The Committee has held meetings every year since its creation and has reported annually to the General Assembly. In 1974, by resolution 3259 A (XXIX), the General Assembly, inter alia, requested the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean to enter as soon as possible into consultations with a view to convening a conference on the Indian Ocean and invited all States, and in particular the great Powers, to co-operate in a practical manner with the Ad Hoc Committee in the discharge of its functions. In the same year, in pursuance of resolution 3259 B (XXIX), the Committee was enlarged by the addition of Bangladesh, Kenya and Somalia.

36. During 1975, the Ad Hoc Committee considered the general approach to the question of the convening of a conference on the Indian Ocean.

(g) Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference*

37. The proposal to convene a world disarmament conference has been advanced by the non-aligned countries in the 1960s, notably in the Declaration of the Heads of State and Government issued at the 1961 Belgrade Summit and in the Programme for Peace and International Co-operation issued at the 1964 Cairo Summit. The proposal was supported by the General Assembly in 1965, by the adoption of resolution 2030 (XX), but it failed to materialize. The proposal was revived by the USSR at the twenty-sixth session of the General Assembly, in 1971, and since then it has been given active consideration by the Assembly.

38. At its twenty-eighth session, the General Assembly adopted unanimously resolution 3182 (XXVIII) which reads, inter alia, as follows:

"The General Assembly,

...

"1. Decides to establish an Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference to examine all the views and suggestions expressed by Governments on the convening of a world disarmament conference and related problems, including conditions for the realization of such a conference, and to submit, on the basis of consensus, a report to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session;

"2. Decides further that the Ad Hoc Committee shall consist of the following forty non-nuclear-weapon Member States appointed by the President of the General Assembly after consultation with all regional groups: Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Japan,

* See also part III below, "Special Committee on a World Disarmament Conference".

/...
Lebanon, Liberia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire and Zambia.

"3. Invites the States possessing nuclear weapons to co-operate or maintain contact with the Ad Hoc Committee, it being understood that they will enjoy the same rights as the appointed members of the Committee;"

39. Since its establishment, the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference has met regularly. The Committee has also set up a working group to assist in the preparation of draft reports of the Ad Hoc Committee to the General Assembly. In addition to States appointed to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee as members, France, the United Kingdom and the USSR have participated in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee by virtue of paragraph 3 of resolution 3183 (XXVIII). Under the same paragraph, China and the United States have maintained contact with the Ad Hoc Committee through its Chairman.

40. The Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference has been mainly concerned with the examination of all views and suggestions expressed by Governments on the convening of a world disarmament conference and related problems, including conditions for the realization of such a conference.

41. In 1974, the Committee provided a comprehensive presentation (A/9628) of those views and suggestions, covering the following aspects:

(a) General views and suggestions on the convening of a world disarmament conference and related problems; conditions for the realization of the conference;

(b) Main objectives of the conference;

(c) Adequate preparations of the conference, including such questions as agenda structure and organization of the conference.

The Committee has also analysed those views and suggestions expressed by Governments and in its report to the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly it provided a general description of the approaches discernible, as well as a summary of those views and suggestions.

42. At its twenty-ninth session, the General Assembly requested all States to communicate their comments on the main objectives of a world disarmament conference and requested the Ad Hoc Committee to prepare an analytical report of the views thus received. The Committee's report (A/10028) included extensive comments received from States and the analysis requested by the General Assembly. The report included also sections containing conclusions and one recommendation in accordance with the said resolution.
(h) **Ad Hoc Committee on the Review of the Role of the United Nations in Disarmament**

43. In the Introduction to his Annual Report on the Work of the Organization for 1974-1975, the Secretary-General proposed that the General Assembly consider a basic review of the role of the United Nations in disarmament.

44. By resolution 3448 B (XXX), the General Assembly, noting the Secretary-General's proposal, decided to establish "an Ad Hoc Committee of the General Assembly open to the participation of all Member States to carry out a basic review of the role of the United Nations in the disarmament field".

(i) **Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation**

45. At the tenth session of the General Assembly, India proposed the consideration of the question of "dissemination of information on the effects of atomic radiation and on the effects of experimental explosions of thermonuclear bombs", a question closely related to the cessation of nuclear-weapon tests. The General Assembly adopted resolution 913 (X) by which a scientific committee on the effects of atomic radiation was established with the task of assembling, studying and disseminating information on observed levels of ionizing radiation and radioactivity in environment, and on the effects of such radiation upon man and his environment. The resolution reads, in part, as follows:

"The General Assembly,

...

*Believing* that the widest distribution should be given to all available scientific data on the short-term and long-term effects upon man and his environment of ionizing radiation, including radiation levels and radio-active 'fall-out',

*Noting* that studies of this problem are being conducted in various countries,

*Believing* that the peoples of the world should be more fully informed on this subject,

1. **Establishes** a scientific Committee consisting of Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, France, India, Japan, Mexico, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and requests the Governments of these countries each to designate one scientist, with alternates and consultants as appropriate, to be its representative on this Committee;
2. **Requests** the Committee:

(a) To receive and assemble in an appropriate and useful form the following radiological information furnished by States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies:

(i) Reports on observed levels of ionizing radiation and radio-activity in the environment;

(ii) Reports on scientific observations and experiments relevant to the effects of ionizing radiation upon man and his environment already under way or later undertaken by national scientific bodies or by authorities of national Governments;

(b) To recommend uniform standards with respect to procedures for sample collection and instrumentation, and radiation counting procedures to be used in analyses of samples;

(c) To compile and assemble in an integrated manner the various reports, referred to in subparagraph (a) (i) above, on observed radiological levels;

(d) To review and collate national reports, referred to in subparagraph (a) (ii) above, evaluating each report to determine its usefulness for the purposes of the Committee;

(e) To make yearly progress reports and to develop by 1 July 1958, or earlier if the assembled facts warrant, a summary of the reports received on radiation levels and radiation effects on man and his environment together with the evaluations provided for in subparagraph (d) above and indications of research projects which might require further study;

(f) To transmit from time to time, as it deems appropriate, the documents and evaluations referred to above to the Secretary-General for publication and dissemination to States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies;

3. **Requests** the Secretary-General to provide the Committee with appropriate assistance in organizing and carrying on its work, and to provide a secretary of the Committee;

4. **Calls upon** all concerned to co-operate in making available reports and studies relating to the short-term and long-term effects of ionizing radiation upon man and his environment and radiological data collected by them;

5. **Requests** the specialized agencies to concert with the Committee concerning any work they may be doing or contemplating within the sphere of the Committee's terms of reference to assure proper co-ordination;
"6. Requests the Secretary-General to invite the Government of Japan to nominate a scientist, with alternates and consultants as appropriate, to be its representative on the Committee; ..."

46. The Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation has continued to meet regularly after 1955 and has submitted periodic reports to the General Assembly. Technical reports reviewing, in detail, levels and effects of ionizing radiation were submitted to the General Assembly at its thirteenth, seventeenth, nineteenth, twenty-first, twenty-fourth and twenty-seventh sessions and progress reports at the intervening sessions.

47. At its twenty-eighth session, the General Assembly decided to increase the membership of the Scientific Committee with up to five additional members (resolution 3154 C (XXVIII)). The President of the General Assembly appointed the following additional members: Germany (Federal Republic of), Indonesia, Peru, Poland and Sudan. As a result, the Committee is now composed of 20 Member States.

2. The Security Council and the Military Staff Committee

(a) Security Council

48. Article 26 of the Charter entrusted the Security Council with specific responsibilities in the field of disarmament. In its first decision on the question, on 9 January 1947, the Council formally accepted General Assembly resolution 41 (I) on the principles governing the general regulation and reduction of armaments, which contained, inter alia, the following recommendation concerning the implementation of Article 26: "The plans formulated by the Security Council shall be submitted by the Secretary-General to the Members of the United Nations for consideration at a special session of the General Assembly. The treaties or conventions approved by the General Assembly shall be submitted to the signatory States for ratification in accordance with Article 26 of the Charter."

49. On 13 February 1947, the Council adopted a resolution (S/268/Rev.1) by which it recognized that the implementation of General Assembly resolution 41 (I) was "one of the most urgent and important tasks before the Security Council" and resolved to take appropriate measures in that connexion. In particular, the Council resolved to work out practical measures for giving effect to General Assembly resolutions 41 (I) and 42 (I) of 14 December 1946 concerning, on the one hand, the general regulation and reduction of armaments and armed forces and the establishment of international control to bring about the reduction of armaments and armed forces and, on the other hand, information on armed forces to be supplied by Members of the United Nations; to set up the Commission for Conventional Armaments* and to request the Military Staff Committee to submit to it recommendations with regard to the basic principles which should govern the organization of the United Nations armed forces.

* See part III below, the "Commission for Conventional Armaments".
50. Because of the close relationship between the security of States and disarmament, as well as the functions of the Security Council with regard to the maintenance of international peace and security, several disarmament agreements concluded in recent years envisage a role for the Security Council. Some examples are mentioned in the following.

51. During more than four years of negotiations in the ENDC on the Non-Proliferation Treaty, many non-nuclear-weapon States expressed a desire to receive certain additional assurances with regard to their security against nuclear attack, assurances which were not provided by the Treaty itself. The Governments of the USSR, the United Kingdom and the United States took note of this desire of the non-nuclear-weapon countries and came to the conclusion that, in addition to the security benefits provided by the Treaty itself, further assurances of security could most appropriately be granted in the context of the United Nations Charter, under which every Member of the Organization had assumed a solemn obligation to co-operate in the maintenance of peace. Therefore, they agreed to sponsor a resolution on security assurances in the Security Council, which bears the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

52. The resolution adopted by the Security Council on 19 June 1968, proceeded from the generally recognized fact that "any aggression accompanied by the use of nuclear weapons would endanger the peace and security of all States". In this connexion, the resolution provided, inter alia, that "aggression with nuclear weapons or the threat of such aggression against a non-nuclear-weapon State would create a situation in which the Security Council, and above all its nuclear-weapon States permanent members, would have to act immediately in accordance with their obligations under the United Nations Charter".

53. Mention should also be made of the fact that Article X of the Non-Proliferation Treaty provides that whenever a Party exercises its right of withdrawal from the Treaty, notice of such withdrawal should be given to the Security Council, in addition to all the Parties to the Treaty three months in advance.

54. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-bed and Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof, which entered into force on 18 May 1972, stipulates in Article III (4) that, in case doubts concerning the fulfilment of the obligations assumed under the Treaty are not removed, a State Party may, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, refer the matter to the Security Council which may take action in accordance with the Charter. Article VIII provides that a State Party withdrawing from the Treaty should give notice of such withdrawal to all other States Parties to the Treaty and to the Security Council three months in advance.

55. The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and of their Destruction which entered into force on 26 March 1975 provides in Article VI:
"(1) Any State Party to this Convention which finds that any other State Party is acting in breach of obligations deriving from the provisions of the Convention may lodge a complaint with the Security Council of the United Nations. Such a complaint should include all possible evidence confirming its validity, as well as a request for its consideration by the Security Council.

"(2) Each State Party to this Convention undertakes to co-operate in carrying out any investigation which the Security Council may initiate, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, on the basis of the complaint received by the Council. The Security Council shall inform the States Parties to the Convention of the results of the investigation."

56. The withdrawal clause contained in this Convention is identical to the ones referred to above.

57. The Security Council has not been seized, so far, with any case related to the above-mentioned treaties.

(b) The Military Staff Committee

58. It was contemplated in Article 26 of the Charter that the Council would be assisted by the Military Staff Committee in formulating its plans for the establishment of a system for the regulation of armaments, but no assistance from the latter has been called for or rendered.

59. In its resolution of 13 February 1947 (S/268/Rev.1), creating the Commission for Conventional Armaments, the Security Council instructed the Commission to "make such proposals as it may deem advisable concerning the studies which the Military Staff Committee ... might be asked to undertake". No proposals, however, were made.

3. The Economic and Social Council

60. Some economic and social questions related to disarmament have been considered by the Economic and Social Council.

61. On 15 December 1960, by resolution 1516 (XV), the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to examine, with the assistance of consultants appointed by him, the economic and social consequences of disarmament in countries with different economic systems and at different stages of economic development. The report of the Secretary-General was submitted to the Economic and Social Council on 28 February 1962.

62. Having considered the report, the Economic and Social Council, on 26 July 1962 adopted resolution 891 (XXXIV) which, inter alia, requested the
Secretary-General to make the report available to the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee and also to give the report wide publicity and dissemination. The General Assembly, by resolution 1837 (XVII) entitled "Declaration on the Conversion to Peaceful Needs of the Resources Released by Disarmament" endorsed the conclusion of the report.

63. These questions have continued to hold the attention of the Economic and Social Council periodically.
4. The Secretary-General and the Secretariat

64. The activities carried out by the Secretary-General and his staff with respect to disarmament matters are derived from the general functions of the Secretary-General as defined in the Charter and developed over the years.

(a) Annual Report on the Work of the Organization

65. Article 98 of the Charter provides, inter alia, that "the Secretary-General shall make an annual report to the General Assembly on the work of the Organization". The Secretary-General accordingly submits to the General Assembly, at each regular session, such a report. Each of these annual reports contains, under the general heading "Political and security questions", a section on "Disarmament and related matters".

66. The Report of the Secretary-General on the Work of the Organization is included in the provisional agenda of the General Assembly at each regular session, together with the Reports of the Security Council and of the Economic and Social Council. The Introduction to the Report has often been used by the Secretary-General as a means for submitting suggestions on matters relating to disarmament for consideration by the General Assembly.

(b) Initiatives and statements by the Secretary-General

67. In 1958, in view of the interruption of the disarmament negotiations, the Secretary-General (see sect. I. 1 (d), above) proposed the inclusion of the item "Question of disarmament" in the agenda of the thirteenth session of the General Assembly so as to maintain continuity of consideration of the question by the General Assembly (in conformity with rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly).

68. In 1966, the Secretary-General stated his belief that the time had come for an appropriate body of the United Nations to explore and weigh the impact and implications of all aspects of nuclear weapons, including problems of a military, political, economic and social nature relating to the manufacture, acquisition, deployment and development of these weapons and their possible use. Acting on the suggestion, the Assembly unanimously adopted resolution 2162 A (XXI) requesting the Secretary-General to prepare such a report.

69. In 1969, the Secretary-General proposed that the Members of the United Nations decide to dedicate the decade of the 1970s as a disarmament decade, and expressed the hope that the members of the General Assembly could establish a specific programme and time-table for dealing with all aspects of the problem of arms control and disarmament. By resolution 2602 E (XXIV), the General Assembly declared the decade of the 1970s as a Disarmament Decade.

70. In 1970, the Secretary-General proposed that a study be undertaken of the economic and social consequences of the arms race, so that the problems of the continuing arms race and of massive military expenditures would be better understood and more fully publicized. The General Assembly adopted resolution 2667 (XXV) calling for such a study.
71. In 1975, the Secretary-General expressed his belief that it was necessary that, in the thirtieth anniversary year, the General Assembly should consider a basic review of the role of the United Nations in disarmament. This suggestion was noted by the General Assembly when it adopted resolution 3484 B (XXX) dealing with this question.

72. The Secretary-General has regularly addressed or sent messages to disarmament conferences, including the Ten-Nation Conference on Disarmament, the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States, the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament and to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament.

(c) **Servicing United Nations disarmament organs**

73. Article 97 of the Charter states that the Secretary-General "shall be the chief administrative officer of the Organization" and Article 98 states that "the Secretary-General shall act in that capacity in all meetings of the General Assembly, of the Security Council ... and shall perform such other functions as are entrusted to him by these organs".

74. The functions of the Secretariat are defined by the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and the Councils in some detail. Rule 47 of the General Assembly's rules of procedure, in addition to describing the basic functions of the Secretariat, provides that the Secretariat shall perform all other work which the Assembly may require.

75. Secretariat services in the field of disarmament are currently provided for the First Committee of the General Assembly, the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference, the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean, the Ad Hoc Committee on the Review of the Role of the United Nations in the Field of Disarmament, an Expert Group on the Reduction of Military Budgets, and an Expert Group on the Economic and Social Consequences of the Arms Race.

76. Secretariat services may also be provided for bodies whose activities are related to disarmament efforts of the United Nations. For example, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 3184 B (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973, the Secretary-General and his staff rendered the necessary assistance and provided such services as were required by the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its Preparatory Committee.
(d) Implementation of General Assembly resolutions

77. The Secretary-General is frequently requested to perform functions relating to the implementation of disarmament resolutions. Such functions have included ascertaining the views of Governments, circulating replies received from Governments, presenting them in a systematized manner, communicating decisions of United Nations bodies to Governments or other parties concerned, convening meetings, reporting on disarmament related conferences outside the United Nations, etc. Some examples are given below:

- Pursuant to resolution 1664 (XVI) of 2 January 1962, the Secretary-General requested Member Governments to state their views with regard to the conditions under which countries not possessing nuclear weapons might be willing to enter into specific undertakings to refrain from manufacturing or otherwise acquiring such weapons, and to refuse to receive, in the future, nuclear weapons in their territories on behalf of any country. The Secretary-General's report to the Disarmament Commission containing the texts of the replies to his inquiry, was circulated to the members of the General Assembly for their information;

- On 3 May 1974, the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference requested the Secretariat to prepare a summary of views and suggestions expressed by Governments on the convening of a world disarmament conference and related problems, including conditions for the realization of such a conference. The summary, quoting under headings proposed by the Committee, views and suggestions expressed by Governments, was prepared by the Secretariat and submitted to the Ad Hoc Committee;

- Pursuant to paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 3254 (XXIX), the Secretary-General prepared and submitted to the General Assembly a report containing (a) a compilation of the views and suggestions received from States on the report entitled "Reduction of the military budgets of States permanent members of the Security Council by 10 per cent and utilization of part of the funds thus saved to provide assistance to developing countries", and (b) a tabulation of the same according to the matters covered therein;

- Every year, at the request of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General transmits to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, the texts of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly which entrust specific responsibilities to that Committee;

- In accordance with General Assembly resolution 1252 D (XIII), the Secretary-General, after consultations with Member States, convened the first meeting of the Disarmament Commission;

- In the spirit of General Assembly resolution 1722 (XVI), requesting the
Secretary-General to render the necessary assistance and provide services to the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee, the Representative of the Secretary-General opened the first meeting of that Committee;

- Pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 3076 (XXVIII) and 3255 (XXIX), the Secretary-General who had been invited to attend the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts, reported to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth and thirtieth sessions respectively, on aspects of the work of that Conference relevant to this resolution (napalm and other incendiary weapons and all aspects of their possible use).

(e) **Collection of information and preparation of reports and studies**

78. One aspect of the functions of the Secretary-General is the collection of information and the preparation, usually at the request of the General Assembly, of reports and studies with regard to disarmament questions dealt with by United Nations organs.

79. The reports have covered a variety of subjects, for example, the implementation of the results of the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States, the creation of a world-wide exchange of seismological data in order to facilitate the achievement of a nuclear-weapon test ban, and the question of a world disarmament conference.

80. Similarly, the studies have dealt with different aspects of the arms race and disarmament (see below) and they have done this in an analytical manner leading to conclusions and recommendations.

81. In entrusting the Secretary-General with the task of preparing studies dealing with highly complex disarmament questions, the General Assembly has often provided for the appointment of experts by the Secretary-General to assist him in this task. In the past, usually the experts have been appointed to act in their personal capacity, but there have been instances when, at the request of the General Assembly, reports have been prepared by governmental experts.

82. The following list of studies prepared with the assistance of experts appointed by the Secretary-General provides an indication of the nature and scope of the studies, as well as their frequency:

"The Economic and Social Consequences of Disarmament", 1962 (resolution 1516 (XV));

"Effects of the Possible Use of Nuclear Weapons and the Security and Economic Implications for States of the Acquisition and Further Development of the Weapons", 1967 (2162 A (XXI));

"Chemical and Bacteriological (Biological) Weapons and the Effects of Their Possible Use", 1969 (2454 A (XXIII));

/...
"Economic and Social Consequences of the Arms Race and of Military Expenditures", 1971 (2667 (XXV));

"Disarmament and Development", 1972 (2685 (XXV));

"Factual statement on the great Powers' military presence in the Indian Ocean", 1974 (3080 (XXVIII));

"Reduction of the military budgets of States permanent members of the Security Council by 10 per cent and utilization of part of the funds thus saved to provide assistance to developing countries", 1974 (3093 B (XXVIII)).

The following two reports were prepared with the assistance of governmental experts:

"Napalm and other incendiary weapons and all aspects of their possible use", 1972 (2852 (XXVI));

"Comprehensive study of the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all its aspects", 1975 (3261 F (XXIX)). (Prepared under the auspices of the CCD.)

83. The General Assembly, by resolution 2825 C (XXVI), expressed its support for the practice of requesting the Secretary-General to prepare, with the assistance of consultant experts, authoritative reports on concrete questions relating to the arms race and disarmament.

84. Mention can also be made here of the publication entitled "The United Nations and Disarmament", prepared by the Secretariat and providing a comprehensive account of the deliberations and negotiations in the field of disarmament within the United Nations system. A first volume, covering the period 1945-1965, was issued in 1967, at the initiative of the Secretary-General. Before the end of 1970, a new volume entitled The United Nations and Disarmament, 1945-1970 was prepared by the Secretariat, at the request of the General Assembly. A supplement covering the period 1970-1975 has also been prepared at the request of the Assembly and will be issued shortly.

(f) Representation at international disarmament conferences

85. The Secretary-General has represented the Organization at various international conferences related to disarmament. He was also present at ceremonies for the signing of international agreements in the disarmament field. He has been represented by a personal or special representative at international conferences. A special representative of the Secretary-General is present at the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament. United Nations delegations have attended such international conferences as the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts.
(g) Functions with regard to disarmament agreements

86. The Secretariat performs functions regarding disarmament treaties in conformity with Article 102 of the Charter. Disarmament agreements concluded during the last 30 years have been registered with, and published by, the United Nations.

87. The rules of procedure of the NPT Review Conference provided that "the Secretariat of the Conference shall in accordance with these rules ... arrange for the custody of the documents of the Conference in the archives of the United Nations ...". These documents are presently in the archives of the United Nations.

88. The Secretary-General has been entrusted with depositary functions under many multilateral conventions. None of them, however, is in the field of disarmament.

(h) Public information on disarmament

89. In the context of the general functions regarding public information and in pursuance of specific requests by the General Assembly and other organs, the Secretary-General and the Secretariat have carried out activities regarding public information on disarmament.

90. For instance, a specific request along these lines was made by the General Assembly in resolution 2602 E (XXIV) proclaiming the Disarmament Decade; the Secretary-General and Governments were called upon to publicize the Decade in order to acquaint the world public with its purposes and objectives. A presentation of the activities carried out by the Secretary-General is contained in the report (A/10294) he has submitted to the General Assembly in pursuance of resolution 3261 A (XXIX) dealing with the Mid-term Review of the Disarmament Decade.

91. Public information activities relating to disarmament are carried out in a regular basis by the Disarmament Affairs Division of the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs, the Office of Public Information, the Centre for Economic and Social Information and, occasionally, by other branches of the Secretariat.

(i) Relations with non-governmental organizations

92. There are a number of non-governmental organizations active in the field of disarmament. A group of non-governmental organizations at the Geneva Office of the United Nations have established a Special Non-Governmental Organization Committee on Disarmament. Similarly, in New York, a group of non-governmental organizations has established a Non-Governmental Organization Committee on Disarmament.

93. The non-governmental organizations have transmitted to the Secretary-General documents containing their viewpoint on various disarmament issues, declarations and appeals for disarmament, as well as technical studies on disarmament questions.
These organizations have invited representatives of the United Nations to attend and address gatherings organized or sponsored by them. The Secretariat has, within the limits of its ability and resources, tried to respond to such requests.

94. The Secretary-General has noticed on several occasions that the United Nations has received much support and encouragement from non-governmental organizations and has expressed the hope that full and active support would be further extended to strengthen the efforts aimed at curbing the world's arms race.

(j) The Secretariat

95. Disarmament questions are dealt with by the Disarmament Affairs Division within the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs. Its functions are briefly described below.

The Disarmament Affairs Division

96. The Disarmament Affairs Division is headed by a Director and has three sections.

Committee and Conference Services Section

97. This section provides secretariat services for the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission, the Special Committee on the World Disarmament Conference, the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean and other bodies concerned with disarmament negotiations, including the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament. It follows, analyses and assesses the various aspects of disarmament, including the questions of general and complete disarmament, nuclear disarmament, elimination of biological weapons, as well as conventional disarmament and collateral measures.

Section for Specific Problems

98. Follows the implementation of resolutions of the General Assembly and of other conferences and committees; follows, analyses and assesses the implementation of the agreements concerning disarmament that have been concluded; maintains liaison with other units of the Secretariat, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and non-governmental organizations; follows, analyses and assesses questions of international and regional security relating to disarmament.

Information and Research Section

99. Collects relevant information concerning disarmament, including information from news media and the literature; prepares analytical notes and memoranda to advise the Secretary-General on current developments concerning disarmament and related subjects; prepares and supervises United Nations publications on disarmament and related subjects and the surveys and digests issued by the Division; prepares the analyses and assessments concerning military technology and weapon effects, military strategy and tactics, national military developments and military alliances and the characteristics and consequences of the arms race.

100. In the past, the Secretariat units dealing with disarmament which eventually resulted in the Disarmament Affairs Division were the following:

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(projected)
5. The International Atomic Energy Agency and other organizations of the United Nations system

101. Article III of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons provides that "Each non-nuclear-weapon State Party to the Treaty undertakes to accept safeguards, as set forth in an agreement to be negotiated and concluded with the International Atomic Energy Agency in accordance with the Statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Agency's safeguards system, for the exclusive purpose of verification of the fulfilment of its obligations assumed under this Treaty with a view to preventing diversion of nuclear energy from peaceful uses to nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices ...".

102. Under the agreement governing the relationship between the United Nations and the IAEA, the Agency shall keep the United Nations informed of its activities. The Agency shall also consider any resolutions referred to the Agency by the General Assembly or by a Council of the United Nations.

103. The IAEA submits annual reports to the General Assembly of the United Nations. The General Assembly, for its part, has adopted every year a resolution under the IAEA item. Moreover, in several disarmament resolutions, the General Assembly has addressed itself to the IAEA in connexion with such questions as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the question of peaceful nuclear explosions, the implementation of the results of the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States, new techniques for uranium enrichment, etc.

104. Other international organizations of the United Nations family have been occasionally involved in disarmament questions. The World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization provided assistance in the preparation of the 1969 report of the Secretary-General on chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons and the effects of their possible use. The World Meteorological Organization has occasionally dealt with disarmament related issues. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in its publications, has given coverage to disarmament problems.

6. The United Nations role in the review of the operation of disarmament agreements

(a) Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

105. In accordance with article VIII of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, calling for a review conference of the Treaty five years after its entry into force, the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty met in Geneva from 5 to 30 May 1975 and was attended by 58 States parties to the Treaty, in addition to seven signatory States participating in the Conference without taking part in its decisions, and seven observer States.

106. The Secretary-General, who had been asked by the General Assembly in resolution 3184 B (XXVIII) "to render the necessary assistance ... as may be
required for the Review Conference and its preparation", submitted at the
invitation of the Preparatory Committee working papers summarizing basic facts
which had taken place within the framework of the United Nations in connexion
with the realization of the purposes of the Preamble and of the provisions of the
Non-Proliferation Treaty.

107. The Preparatory Committee also invited the Secretary-General of the United
Nations to nominate, in consultation with the members of the Preparatory Committee,
an official to act on behalf of the Committee as provisional Secretary-General of
the Review Conference, the nominee to be confirmed by the Review Conference
itself.

108. United Nations Secretariat staff was seconded to serve the Review Conference
and the Preparatory Committee.

109. The documents of the Conference are in the custody of the archives of the
United Nations.

(b) Review Conference of the Parties to the Sea-bed Treaty

110. The Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and
Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and in the
Subsoil Thereof, was opened for signature on 11 February 1971 and entered into
force on 18 May 1972.

111. Pursuant to article VII of the Treaty, a Review Conference of States parties
to the Treaty will be held in Geneva five years after entry into force of the
Treaty, i.e. in 1977.

112. At its thirtieth session, in 1975, the General Assembly adopted resolution
3443 E (XXX) by which the General Assembly, inter alia, noted that after
appropriate consultation a preparatory committee of the parties to the Treaty
was to be arranged and requested the Secretary-General to render the necessary
assistance and services to the Preparatory Committee and the Review Conference.

(c) Review Conference of the parties to the Biological Convention

113. The Convention on the prohibition of the development, production and
stockpiling of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons and on their
destruction provides in article XII: "Five years after entry into force of this
Convention, or earlier if it is requested by a majority of Parties to the
Convention by submitting a proposal to this effect to the Depositary Governments,
a conference of States parties to the Convention shall be held at Geneva,
Switzerland, to review the operation of the Convention, with a view to assuring
that the purposes of the preamble and the provisions of the Convention, including
the provisions concerning negotiations on chemical weapons, are being realized.
Such review shall take into account any new scientific and technological
developments relevant to the Convention."
II. United Nations action relating to other disarmament efforts

1. Conference of non-aligned countries

114. At every summit conference of non-aligned countries, disarmament questions were discussed and reference to them was made in conference resolutions and declarations.

115. In some instances, the non-aligned countries submitted to the General Assembly disarmament proposals that had been adopted at summit conferences. The Assembly then adopted resolutions on them. For example, at the Second Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Countries, which met in Cairo in October 1964, a world disarmament conference with the participation of all States, was proposed. That Conference also endorsed the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa issued by African Heads of State and Governments held in July 1964. At the initiative of the Non-Aligned Countries, the General Assembly adopted resolutions 2030 (XX) and 2033 (XX) dealing with the world disarmament conference and the denuclearization of Africa respectively.

116. The Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Lima, Peru, in August 1975, considered that if it became evident that it would not be possible to hold a world disarmament conference, a special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations devoted to disarmament issues should be convened, as proposed in the Declaration of the First Summit Conference of Non-Aligned Countries held in Belgrade in 1961.

2. Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (OPANAL)

117. In accordance with article 28 (3) of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Treaty of Tlatelolco), the parties undertook, in June 1969, to establish an international organization known as the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (OPANAL), in order to ensure compliance with the Treaty's obligations.

118. Article 16, paragraph 8, of the Treaty of Tlatelolco provides that "The General Conference, convened in special session under this article, may make recommendations to the Contracting Parties and submit reports to the Secretary-General of the United Nations to be transmitted to the Security Council and the General Assembly."

119. Article 20, paragraph 2, of the Treaty provides that the General Conference of OPANAL shall report violations of the Treaty which might endanger peace and security to the Security Council and the General Assembly through the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

120. Article 30, paragraph 2, provides that notification of denunciation of the Treaty will be communicated by the General Secretary of the Agency, among others, to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the information of the Security Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations.
121. Article 31 provides that "This Treaty, of which the Spanish, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese and Russian texts are equally authentic, shall be registered by the Depositary Government in accordance with Article 102 of the United Nations Charter. The Depositary Government shall notify the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the signatures, ratifications and amendments relating to this Treaty and shall communicate them to the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States for his information."

122. The General Assembly, which in resolution 2286 (XXII), of 5 December 1967, had welcomed with special satisfaction the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America as an event of historic significance in the efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, has adopted since then a number of resolutions on the question of the signature and ratification of Additional Protocols I and II of the Treaty which were opened for signature on 14 February 1967.

3. Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT)

123. In 1968, the USSR and the United States declared their intention to start bilateral discussions on the "limitation and reduction of both offensive and defensive strategic nuclear-weapon delivery systems and systems of defense against ballistic missiles".

124. The General Assembly has taken an active interest in the strategic arms limitation talks, and has adopted a number of resolutions on the subject.

125. By resolution 2455 D (XXIII), the General Assembly urged the two countries to enter at an early date into bilateral discussions on the limitation of offensive strategic nuclear-weapon delivery systems and systems of defense against ballistic missiles.

126. In 1969, the General Assembly adopted resolution 2602 (XXIV). After noting with satisfaction that, on 17 November 1969, the Governments of the USSR and the United States had initiated bilateral negotiations on the limitation of offensive and defensive strategic nuclear-weapon systems, the General Assembly appealed to the two Governments to agree, as an urgent preliminary measure, on a moratorium on further testing and deployment of new offensive and defensive strategic nuclear-weapon systems.

127. In 1970, the General Assembly adopted resolution 2661 A (XXV) by which, after noting with satisfaction the continuation of the SALT negotiations and expressing the belief that the chances for rapid success in these bilateral talks would increase if the nuclear-weapon Powers halted the development of new weapons, the Assembly urged the nuclear Powers to end the nuclear arms race and to cease all testing and development of nuclear weapon systems.

128. In 1972, the General Assembly adopted resolution 2932 B (XXVII) which, noting with satisfaction the results of SALT I, inter alia, (a) appealed to the USSR and the United States to expedite further agreements including important qualitative limitations and substantial reductions of strategic weapon systems, and (b) invited
the two Governments to keep the General Assembly informed on the progress of their negotiations.

129. In 1973, the General Assembly adopted resolution 3184 A (XXVIII) by which, inter alia, it appealed to the USSR and the United States to bear in mind the necessity and urgency of reaching agreement on important qualitative limitations and substantial reductions of strategic nuclear weapon systems and invited the two Governments to keep the General Assembly informed in good time of the results of their bilateral talks.

130. In 1974, the General Assembly adopted resolution 3261 C (XXIX) by which the General Assembly, inter alia, shared the concern raised by the USSR and the United States over the gravity of the situation created by existing nuclear arsenals and the continued nuclear arms race; urged these two Powers to broaden the scope and accelerate the pace of their SALT negotiations; stressed once again the necessity and urgency of reaching agreement on important qualitative limitations and substantial reductions of their nuclear-weapon systems, and invited the two Governments to keep the General Assembly informed in good time of the results of their bilateral talks.

131. At its thirtieth session, in 1975, the General Assembly adopted resolution 3484 C (XXX) by which, inter alia, it regretted the lack of positive results at the SALT negotiations during the last two years, expressed its concern over the high numerical ceilings and the absence of qualitative limitations in the Vladivostok Agreement, urged the two Powers concerned to accelerate the talks and reach agreement on important qualitative limitations and substantial reductions in their nuclear arms and again invited them to keep the General Assembly informed.

132. Agreements concluded within SALT have been circulated as documents of the United Nations.

4. Diplomatic Conference on International Humanitarian Law

133. Pursuant to paragraph 2 of Assembly resolution 3076 (XXVIII), which recommended that the Diplomatic Conference discuss the question of prohibiting or restricting the use of napalm and other incendiary weapons, as well as other inhumane or indiscriminate conventional weapons, the Secretary-General reported to the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly on the deliberations of the 1974 Diplomatic Conference. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 3255 A (XXIX), the Secretary-General reported on the work of the Diplomatic Conference to the General Assembly in 1975.

134. At its thirtieth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 3464 (XXX) by which, inter alia, it invited the Diplomatic Conference to continue its consideration of the question of the use of specific conventional weapons and its search for agreement, for humanitarian reasons, on possible rules prohibiting or restricting the use of such weapons.
135. The Conference is attended by a delegation of the United Nations representing the Secretary-General.

5. **ICRC Conference of Government Experts**

136. The first session of the ICRC Conference of Government Experts on Weapons That May Cause Unnecessary Suffering or Have Indiscriminate Effects, was convened at Lucerne from 24 September to 18 October 1974.

137. The Government experts reviewed, from the military, medical and legal points of view, incendiary weapons; small-calibre, high-velocity projectiles; blast and fragmentation weapons; time-delay weapons; treacherous weapons; and other currently used and new conventional weapons that might cause unnecessary suffering or have indiscriminate effects. In November 1974, copies of the experts' report were submitted by the International Committee of the Red Cross to the Governments which had participated in the Diplomatic Conference and to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. By resolutions 3255 A and B (XXIX), the General Assembly took note of the report of the Conference of Government Experts.

138. In its resolution 3464 (XXX), adopted at the thirtieth session, the General Assembly noted "with satisfaction" that the problem would again be discussed at the 1976 ICRC Conference of Government Experts, "with a view to focusing on such weapons as have been or might become the subject of proposed bans or restrictions and to studying the possibility, contents and form of such proposed bans or restrictions".

/...
III. The role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament as reflected in past disarmament efforts

1. The Atomic Energy Commission

139. The first session of the General Assembly was seized with a request from the five permanent members of the Security Council and Canada to deal with the problems raised by the discovery of atomic energy and the use of atomic weapons. A draft resolution, which was the outcome of the meeting of heads of Government of Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States in Washington in November 1945, and of the Conference of Foreign Ministers of the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union and the United States in Moscow in December 1945, proposed the establishment of a Commission under the United Nations to inquire into and make recommendations about all phases of the problem.

140. On 24 January 1946, the General Assembly unanimously adopted the draft as resolution 1 (I), by which it established the Atomic Energy Commission. The Commission was composed of all the members of the Security Council and Canada, when that State was not represented in the Council.

141. The task of the Commission was to make specific proposals: (a) for extending between all nations the exchange of basic scientific information for peaceful ends; (b) for control of atomic energy to the extent necessary to ensure its use only for peaceful purposes; (c) for the elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons and of all other major weapons adaptable to mass destruction; and (d) for effective safeguards by way of inspection and other means to protect complying States against the hazards of violations and evasions.

142. The Commission was to report and make recommendations to the Security Council which would, when appropriate, transmit the reports to the General Assembly and Member States as well as to the Economic and Social Council and other organs within the United Nations. The Commission could also make recommendations to any other organ of the United Nations in accordance with the terms of the Charter of the United Nations.

143. The Commission worked in committees and sub-committees, of which the most important were: Committee 1, which studied all proposals and prepared a plan of work for the Commission; Committee 2, which dealt with specific questions of control of atomic energy; a Legal Advisory Committee; and a Scientific and Technical Committee.

144. The Commission's first report to the Security Council, submitted on 31 December 1946, stated in its general findings that scientifically, technologically and practically it was feasible: (a) to extend among all nations the exchange of basic scientific information on atomic energy for peaceful ends; (b) to control atomic energy to the extent necessary to ensure its use only for peaceful purposes; (c) to accomplish the elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons; and (d) to provide effective safeguards by way of inspection and other means to protect complying States against the hazards of violations and evasion. It added that in order to accomplish those purposes "an effective system for the control of atomic energy must be international, and must be established by
an enforceable multilateral treaty or convention which in turn must be administered and operated by an international organ or agency within the United Nations". Accordingly, the Commission recommended the creation of a strong and comprehensive international system of control and inspection by a treaty or convention in which all Members of the United Nations would participate on fair and equitable terms. Such a treaty or convention should include provisions establishing, in the United Nations, an international agency possessing the power and responsibility necessary and appropriate for the prompt and effective discharge of the duties imposed upon it by the terms of the treaty or convention. The control agency's relations to other organs of the United Nations should also be clearly established and defined by the treaty or convention, and the rule of unanimity of the permanent members, which governed all substantive decisions of the Security Council, should not apply to the work of the control agency.

145. On 10 March 1947, the Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution which urged the Commission to continue its inquiry into all phases of the problem of the international control of atomic energy.

146. After two further reports submitted in 1947 and 1948, and another round of talks in 1949, the Commission reported to the Security Council that it was at an impasse and that the differences among the Members were irreconcilable. On 16 September 1949, the Council adopted a resolution which directed the Secretary-General to transmit the Commission's conclusions to the General Assembly. The Assembly, by resolution 299 (IV) adopted on 23 November 1949, requested the six permanent members of the Atomic Energy Commission to continue consultations. The consultations were resumed in December 1949 and again in January 1950. On the latter date, the USSR challenged the validity of the credentials of the representative of China and asked that he be excluded from the consultations. The proposal was rejected and the Soviet representative withdrew from the consultations. The Atomic Energy Commission did not meet again after July 1949, nor did the six Powers meet after the Soviet Union's withdrawal. The Commission was dissolved on 11 January 1962 by General Assembly resolution 502 (VI) which created the Disarmament Commission (see sect. I, 1 (d) above).

2. The Commission for Conventional Armaments

147. When the first session of the General Assembly reconvened in New York in the latter part of 1946, it took up, on the initiative of the Soviet Union, the question of the general regulation and reduction of armaments and armed forces.

148. The General Assembly, on 14 December 1946, adopted unanimously resolution 41 (I) by which it recommended that the Security Council give prompt consideration to formulating the practical measures which were essential to provide for the general regulation and reduction of armaments and armed forces and to assure that such regulation and reduction of armaments and armed forces would be generally observed by all participants. The plans formulated by the Security Council would be submitted by the Secretary-General to the Members of the United Nations for consideration at a special session of the General Assembly. The treaties or conventions approved by the General Assembly would be submitted to the signatory
States for ratification in accordance with Article 26 of the Charter. The General Assembly further recognized that essential to the general regulation and reduction of armaments and armed forces was the provision of practical and effective safeguards by way of inspection and other means to protect complying States against the hazards of violations and evasions. Accordingly, it recommended to the Security Council that it give prompt consideration to the working out of proposals to provide such practical and effective safeguards in connexion with the control of atomic energy and the general regulation and reduction of armaments.

149. On 13 February 1947, the Security Council adopted a resolution by which it recognized that the implementation of the above-mentioned General Assembly resolution was "one of the most urgent and important tasks of the Security Council" and established a Commission for Conventional Armaments, with the same composition as the Security Council.

150. The task of the Commission was to submit to the Council, within three months, proposals: (a) for the general regulation and reduction of armaments and armed forces; and (b) for practical and effective safeguards in connexion with the general regulation and reduction of armaments. Matters which fell within the competence of the Atomic Energy Commission were excluded from the terms of reference of the new Commission.

151. A working committee of the whole was established by the Commission to carry on the day-to-day detailed discussions on the basis of working papers from its members.

152. In July 1947, the Commission submitted to the Security Council a report to which was attached a plan of work which the Council approved. In August 1948, the Security Council received a second report and two resolutions related to the Commission's work up to that date. By the first resolution, the Commission defined its jurisdiction to cover all armaments and armed forces except atomic weapons and weapons of mass destruction. The second resolution embodied a list of general principles to cover the regulation and reduction of armaments and armed forces. The Security Council failed to take action with respect to the Commission's report and resolutions and decided instead to transmit them to the General Assembly.

153. On 19 November 1948, the General Assembly adopted resolution 192 (III) which, inter alia, expressed the hope that the Commission for Conventional Armaments would devote its main attention to formulating proposals for the receipt, checking and publication, by an international control organ within the framework of the Security Council, of full information to be supplied by Member States with regard to the level of their armed forces and conventional armaments.

154. In 1949, the Security Council considered proposals formulated by the Commission for the submission of information on conventional armaments and armed forces and its verification, including the establishment under the Security Council of a central control authority for such purposes. The Security Council, having failed to adopt the proposals, referred them to the General Assembly. By resolution 300 (IV) of 5 December 1949, the General Assembly approved the proposals as "necessary basis" for carrying out the work of the Commission.

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155. When the Commission reconvened in April 1950, the representative of the USSR challenged the validity of the credentials of the Chinese delegate, and withdrew from the Commission in protest over the continued representation on the Commission of that delegation.

156. The Commission then decided to transmit to its Working Committee, Assembly resolution 300 (IV), with instructions to resume work on the basis of that resolution. The report of the Working Committee which was forwarded by the Commission to the Security Council in 1950 was never placed on the agenda of the Council.

157. The Commission did not meet again. It was dissolved by the Security Council in February 1952 in accordance with the recommendation of the General Assembly in resolution 502 (IV) of 11 January that year.

3. The Committee of 12

158. By 1950, the impasse in the Atomic Energy Commission and in the Commission on Conventional Armaments brought about the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 496 (V) of 13 December 1950, by which a Committee of 12 was established with the same composition as the Security Council, plus Canada. The task of the Committee was to determine how the work of the Atomic Energy Commission and the Commission for Conventional Armaments could be co-ordinated, and also to examine the possibility of combining them into one body, and to report to the next session of the General Assembly.

159. In its report to the General Assembly, dated 23 October 1951, the Committee of 12 recommended the establishment of a new commission under the Security Council to carry on the tasks assigned to the Atomic Energy Commission and the Commission for Conventional Armaments both of which the Committee proposed should be dissolved.

160. Subsequently, the General Assembly established a Disarmament Commission under the Security Council, with a membership identical to that of the Security Council, plus Canada.

4. Conference of experts to study the possibility of detecting violations of a possible agreement on the suspension of nuclear tests

161. After discussions on cessation of nuclear tests and other subjects in the Disarmament Commission and its sub-committee came to an end in 1958, an agreement was reached, following an exchange of letters between the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of the USSR, to convene a conference of experts to study the possibility of detecting violations. The two sides agreed to keep the United Nations informed of the results of their deliberations through the Secretary-General and accepted his offer of the facilities and staff services in Geneva.

162. Experts from Canada, France, the United Kingdom and the United States conferred with delegations of experts from the USSR, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Romania at
Geneva from 1 July to 21 August 1958. The Secretary-General was represented by a personal representative. The experts agreed on a report which they submitted to their Governments and to the United Nations.

163. The Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States subsequently agreed to begin negotiations in Geneva on 31 October 1958 in an effort to reach agreement on a treaty for the discontinuance of nuclear weapon tests on the basis of the experts' report.

164. In a memorandum of 30 September 1958, explaining his reasons for placing the question of disarmament on the provisional agenda of the thirteenth session of the General Assembly the Secretary-General commented on the relationship of the United Nations to the initiatives that had been taken outside the Organization. He noted that, while the experts meeting at Geneva had worked out the technical components of a control system for the discontinuance of nuclear weapon tests, organizational and administrative requirements which would involve other Member States and require their co-operation, still remained to be considered and would function better when integrated with the United Nations.

5. Conference on the Discontinuance of Nuclear Weapon Tests

165. The Conference on the Discontinuance of Nuclear Weapon Tests, with the participation of the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States, was convened on 31 October 1958 in Geneva. A personal representative of the Secretary-General attended the Conference.

166. On 4 November 1958, the General Assembly adopted resolutions 1252 A and B (XIII) in which the Assembly reaffirmed the continuing interest and responsibility of the United Nations in the field of disarmament, noted that the Conference on the Discontinuance of Nuclear Weapon Tests had begun and that a conference of experts to study measures against the possibility of surprise attack was expected to meet soon, invited those conferences to avail themselves of the assistance and services of the Secretary-General and requested them to keep the United Nations informed. The resolution also invited the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Governments concerned, to render whatever advice and assistance might seem appropriate to facilitate current development or any further initiatives related to the problems of disarmament.

167. During the course of its work, the Tripartite Conference set up expert groups to deal with detection of tests at high altitude or in outer space; criteria for on-site inspection; and plans for an underground test research programme. The report of these technical groups were submitted and discussed by the Conference.

168. At the same time, the Conference considered draft articles for a treaty on the discontinuance of nuclear weapon tests, and made progress on a broad outline for a control organization which was to consist of a commission, a system of detection and identification, a chief executive officer, and a conference of parties to the treaty.
169. The control organization's relationship with the United Nations was defined in an agreed draft article under which the proposed commission, with the approval of the Conference, would be authorized to enter into an agreement or agreements establishing an appropriate relationship between the control organization and the United Nations. Other references to the United Nations in agreed draft articles dealt with: registration of the Treaty; a preambular statement about the objectives of the United Nations in the field of disarmament; reports to the United Nations that might be forwarded by the Conference of the Control Organization; and authority for the Preparatory Commission to accept a loan from the United Nations to meet the expenses of establishing the control organization.

170. Because of the conflicting views of the participants on other issues related to the control system, the Conference reached an impasse on 29 January 1962 and adjourned sine die.

6. Conference of experts for the study of possible measures which might be helpful in preventing surprise attack

171. In the spring of 1958, the Security Council considered a request of the Soviet Union for "urgent measures to put an end to flights by United States military aircrafts, armed with atomic and hydrogen bombs, in the direction of the frontiers of the Soviet Union". Subsequently, and as a result of an exchange of letters between the heads of the Government of the Soviet Union and the United States, agreement was reached between the two Powers to convene a conference of experts for the study of possible measures which might be helpful in preventing surprise attack.

172. The Conference opened at the United Nations Office in Geneva on 10 November 1958. It included experts from Canada, France, Italy, the United Kingdom, and the United States on the one hand, and on the other, Albania, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Romania and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. A personal representative of the Secretary-General also attended.

173. The group of experts from the five Western countries viewed their task to be that of preparing a technical, military analysis of the problem and of evaluating the effect of various systems of inspection and observations. They considered that disarmament measures were outside their terms of reference. The five Eastern delegations, on the other hand, submitted detailed proposals for a system of inspection and disarmament in Europe as one means of preventing surprise attack. The Conference recessed in December 1958, without reaching agreement, and was not reconvened.

7. Ten-Nation Committee on Disarmament.

174. In 1959, on the eve of the General Assembly session, the Foreign Ministers of France, the USSR, the United Kingdom and the United States decided to create a new Ten-Nation Disarmament Committee outside of, but linked to, the United Nations. The 10 participating countries were: Canada, France, Italy, United Kingdom, United States, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Romania and the USSR. The Ten-Nation Committee met in Geneva in March 1960.
175. During its deliberations the question of the role of the United Nations in disarmament was discussed. It was pointed out that the Foreign Ministers, in setting up the new committee, had explicitly recognized that it would not diminish or encroach on the ultimate responsibility of the United Nations for disarmament. Indeed, they had expressed the hope that the results achieved would provide a useful basis for considering disarmament in the United Nations. Moreover, the Disarmament Commission had welcomed this development and had requested the Secretary-General to provide appropriate facilities for the new committee. The General Assembly, in turn, had transmitted to the 10-nation group the disarmament programmes proposed by the Soviet Union and the United States.

176. The meeting of the Ten-Nation Committee on Disarmament ended on 27 June 1960 with the withdrawal of the five Eastern European delegations.

8. Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States

177. As the concept of an agreement on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons began to take concrete shape during 1965-1966 in the form of various treaty drafts, the non-nuclear weapon countries felt that it would be useful to exchange and co-ordinate their views on the subject. On 17 November 1966 the General Assembly adopted resolution 2153 B (XXI) by which it decided to convene a conference of non-nuclear-weapon States to meet not later than July 1968 to consider the following and other related issues: (a) how could the security of non-nuclear States best be assured; (b) how non-nuclear Powers might co-operate among themselves in preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons; and (c) how could nuclear devices be used for exclusively peaceful purposes. The resolution also requested the President of the General Assembly to set up a Preparatory Committee for the Conference. Later, the Assembly decided to convene the Conference at Geneva from 29 August to 28 September 1968, and to invite to the Conference Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies and of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

178. The Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States opened in Geneva on 29 August with the participation of 96 countries, including four nuclear Powers (France, the USSR, the United Kingdom and the United States). It considered, among other things, measures to assure the security of non-nuclear-weapon States; establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones; measures for the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons, the cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament; and programmes for co-operation in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

179. The Conference adopted 14 resolutions and a Declaration, which were incorporated in the Final Document of the Conference. By decision of the Conference that document was transmitted to the Secretary-General.

180. Several of the resolutions adopted contained specific requests for action by the General Assembly or by other organs of the United Nations family, especially the International Atomic Energy Agency.

181. The question of the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States was considered at the twenty-third session of the General Assembly. One of the main subjects of
discussion was the establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee of the General Assembly with the task of overseeing the implementation of the resolutions of the Conference. The creation of such a committee was urged by several Members, including Brazil, Italy and Pakistan, but was not supported by a number of countries, including the USSR and the United States, which held that there was no need to set up a special body for that purpose. As an alternative to this idea, an effort was made to have the General Assembly request the convening of the Disarmament Commission in 1969 to consider the resolutions and the Declaration of the Conference.

182. Ultimately, the General Assembly adopted resolution 2456 A (XXIII) which, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to transmit the resolutions and Declaration of the Conference to the Governments of States Members of the United Nations, members of the specialized agencies and of the IAEA, and to the international bodies concerned, for careful consideration; invited the specialized agencies, the IAEA and other international bodies concerned to report to the Secretary-General on action taken by them concerning the recommendations contained in the respective resolutions and, in particular, would invite the IBRD, the UNDP and the IAEA to continue the study of the recommendations contained in the pertinent resolutions of the Conference; requested the Secretary-General to submit a progress report, on the basis of the information supplied, to the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly; requested the Secretary-General to place on the provisional agenda of the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly the question of the implementation of the results of the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States, including the question of convening early in 1970 a meeting of the Disarmament Commission to consider disarmament and the related question of the security of nations.

183. The General Assembly also adopted resolution 2456 C (XXIII) requesting the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the establishment, within the framework of the IAEA, of an international service for nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes, under appropriate international control.

9. Special Committee on the World Disarmament Conference

184. At its twenty-seventh session the General Assembly, at the initiative of the USSR, considered the item "World Disarmament Conference". The Assembly adopted resolution 2930 (XXVII) by which it decided to establish a special committee on the world disarmament conference consisting of 35 Member States to be appointed by the President of the General Assembly, after consultations with all the regional groups. The Committee's task was to examine all the views and suggestions expressed by Governments on the convening of a world disarmament conference and related problems, and to submit, on the basis of a consensus, a report to the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session.

185. Pursuant to that resolution, the President of the General Assembly, on 20 December 1972, informed the Secretary-General that, after consultations with all the regional groups, he had appointed the following 31 Member States to serve on the Special Committee: Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Japan, Liberia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, the USSR, Yugoslavia and Zambia. He added that,
in accordance with the broadly expressed wish, the remaining four seats would be reserved for the nuclear-weapon States, which might wish to become members of the special committee in the future.

186. An informal exchange of views among the designated members was held between April and September 1973, due to the fact that there was disagreement about the actual composition of the Committee.

10. Special Committee on the Distribution of Funds Released as a Result of the Reduction of Military Budgets

187. In 1973, at the request of the USSR, the General Assembly considered the question of the "Reduction of the Military Budgets of States Permanent Members of the United Nations Security Council by 10 per cent and the Use of a Part of the Funds Thus Saved for Providing Assistance to Developing Countries". The General Assembly adopted resolution 3093 A (XXVIII), by which it recommended that all States permanent members of the Security Council should reduce their military budgets by 10 per cent from the 1973 level during the next financial year; appealed to the aforementioned States to allot 10 per cent of the funds thus saved to provide assistance to developing countries for urgent economic and social projects; and established a special committee for the distribution of the funds released consisting of China, France, the USSR, the United Kingdom and the United States and also three countries from each of the regional groups of Africa, Asia and Latin America, and two countries from each of the regional groups of Eastern and Western Europe and other States, which would be appointed by the President of the General Assembly after consultations with those regional groups.

188. In a note submitted to the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General informed the Assembly that, pursuant to resolution 3093 A (XXVIII), the President of the General Assembly, following consultations with the regional groups, had appointed the following countries proposed by four of the five regional groups as members of the Special Committee: Ethiopia, Mali and Nigeria for Africa; India, Laos and Syrian Arab Republic for Asia; Barbados, Brazil and Chile for Latin America; and the German Democratic Republic and Poland for Eastern Europe. The Western European and other States group, on the other hand, had not designated any candidates. The Secretary-General also reported that China, France, the United Kingdom and the United States had declined to serve in the Special Committee. Under these circumstances, the Special Committee had not met.
ANNEX B

Information on disarmament issues
(Background paper prepared by the Secretariat)

1. A description of present disarmament information activities of the Secretariat, including those of the Office of Public Information, was given in the report of the Secretary-General on the Mid-Term Review of the Disarmament Decade to the thirtieth session of the General Assembly in 1975 (A/10294).

2. Repeated attention has been given to the possibility of expanding, within practical limits, the present information activities of the Secretariat relating to disarmament. Among the various possible alternatives, the following two might be considered: the publication of a Disarmament Bulletin of the United Nations, and a United Nations Disarmament Yearbook. Both publications would aim mainly to supply detailed information to those who deal professionally with disarmament issues, i.e., members of delegations and permanent missions, disarmament experts in the diplomatic and other governmental services, scholars, teachers and journalists specializing in the disarmament field and representatives of interested non-governmental organizations. Both could also serve as sources of information for the general public.

3. The Disarmament Bulletin could be issued two or three times a year and be printed in languages to be decided at a later stage. Its purpose would be to provide information concerning current facts and developments of importance to disarmament, inside and outside the United Nations, as well as digests of ideas and proposals, and assessments of situations and trends as they appear in official statements and in the disarmament literature. It could serve as a forum for Government representatives and acknowledged experts in the field of disarmament. It could also contain a digest of disarmament literature, a disarmament bibliography, and a calendar of disarmament meetings.

4. The purpose of a United Nations Disarmament Yearbook could be to provide information concerning military expenditures, armed forces and armaments, as communicated by Governments or appearing in official publications of various countries. It might provide texts of disarmament treaties, as well as situation reports on disarmament negotiations and factual presentations of other United Nations related disarmament developments. It would be issued at the end of June every year and cover events of the previous year. It might be published in only one language, namely English.

5. Drafting of these publications would be carried out by the Disarmament Affairs Division. The Office of Public Information could assure technical assistance in the publication and circulation of the Bulletin.

6. Should it be decided to publish the Disarmament Bulletin and the Disarmament Yearbook, this would necessitate a strengthening of the resources of the Disarmament Affairs Division and, in particular, its Information and Research Section. Estimates of the financial implications involved would need to be worked out, based on actual recommendations.