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

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

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INTRODUCTION

1. By resolution 3484 B (XXX) of 12 December 1975, the General Assembly decided
to establish an Ad Hoc Committee on the Review of the Role of the United Nations in
the Field of Disarmament, which would be a 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 that field.

2. The General Assembly also decided that the review 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 agreements in their duty to ensure the
effective functioning of such agreements, including appropriate periodic reviews.

3. The General Assembly invited all States to communicate to the Secretary-
General, not later than 1 May 1976, their views and suggestions on the strengthening
of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament.
4. The General Assembly requested the Ad Hoc Committee to meet for a short organizational session of not longer than one week in January 1976 and for substantive sessions of two weeks in June/July 1976 and of one week in September 1976 and to submit its report, including findings and proposals, to the General Assembly at its thirty-first session.

WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

5. Pursuant to paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 3484 B (XXX), the Committee met at United Nations Headquarters in an organizational session from 26 to 29 January, and in substantive sessions from 14 to 24 June and from 7 to 10 September 1976. During these three sessions it held 19 meetings (A/AC.181/BR.1-19). The first meeting of the Committee was opened by the Secretary-General who made a statement.

6. The Committee elected the following officers:

Chairman: Mme Inga Thorsson (Sweden)
Vice-Chairmen: M. Mohamed Bachrouch (Tunisia)
              M. Darioush Bayandor (Iran)
              Sra. Emilia Castro de Barish (Costa Rica)
              H.E. Dr. Simón Alberto Consalvi (Venezuela)
              H.E. Mr. Imre Hollai (Hungary)
              H.E. M. Edouard Longerstaeay (Belgium)
              H.E. Mr. Jaksa Petrić (Yugoslavia)
              H.E. Mr. Alejandro D. Yango (Philippines)
Rapporteur: Mr. Saad Ahmed Alfarargi (Egypt)

7. At its 6th meeting on 29 January 1976, the Committee adopted the following decision-making procedure contained in a statement by the Chairman:

"In view of the importance of the matters that have been entrusted to this Committee, it is most desirable that we achieve the widest measure of agreement on the issues before us. At the same time, it is also important that all points of view and recommendations presented in the Committee are adequately reflected in the report so that Members of the General Assembly can give them due consideration. It is my understanding that delegations accordingly wish to make every effort to achieve the broadest agreement on as many of the issues before them as possible, with the provision that delegations may have their own comments and proposals recorded in the report in addition to those findings and proposals that are adopted without objection by the Committee."

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the provisional agenda for the second session and invited the Secretary-General to:

/...
(a) Present in a systematized manner the communications of Governments submitted to him in accordance with paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 3484 B (XXX);

(b) Give his views as he deemed appropriate on the subject-matter dealt with in General Assembly resolution 3484 B (XXX) on the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament.

9. At its second session, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Strengthening of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament: report of the Secretary-General (A/AC.181/1 and Add.1-6);

(b) Strengthening of the role of the United Nations: report of the Secretary-General (A/AC.181/2 and Add.1);

(c) Strengthening of the role of the United Nations: report of the Secretary-General (A/AC.181/3).

10. At its 9th meeting on 15 June 1976, the Committee agreed to accept the working paper submitted at the 7th meeting, on 14 June 1976, by the representative of Sweden (A/AC.181/L.5) as the basis for the Committee's discussions. At the 14th meeting on 23 June 1976, the representative of Sweden submitted a revised version of the working paper (A/AC.181/L.5/Rev.1 and Add.1).

11. Also at the 9th meeting, the Committee agreed that at future meetings, when the speakers' list was exhausted, the Committee should constitute itself into a working group of the whole to study carefully the questions before it.

12. The Working Group of the Whole held 11 meetings between 16 and 24 June 1976, during which the working paper submitted by the representative of Sweden (see para. 10 above) was discussed. The Working Group was also seized with informal working papers by several members of the Working Group, covering a variety of topics. Subsequently, the representative of Mexico submitted a working paper (A/AC.181/L.7).

13. At its 15th meeting on 24 June 1976, the Committee decided:

(a) To invite the Secretary-General to submit, at his earliest convenience, information on the administrative and financial implications of the working paper submitted by Sweden and of the other proposals which had been made at the second session;

(b) To request the Rapporteur to formulate the draft final report of the Committee for consideration by the Committee at its third session; and

(c) That the summary records of the second session should serve as a preliminary report until the final one was prepared.
14. It was understood that as soon as the information on financial implications of proposals was available, delegations would have to take a final position on the various proposals.

15. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the provisional agenda for the third session (A/AC.181/L.9).

16. At its third session the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) A note by the Secretary-General containing the administrative and financial implications of document A/AC.181/L.5/Rev.1 and Add.1 and of all other working papers submitted at the second session of the Ad Hoc Committee (A/AC.181/4);

(b) Document A/AC.181/L.5/Rev.1 and Add.1, mentioned above, which was later revised by the delegation of Sweden (A/AC.181/L.5/Rev.2).

17. At the 16th meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee, the Director of the Disarmament Affairs Division of the United Nations Secretariat introduced document A/AC.181/4.

18. At its 18th meeting the Ad Hoc Committee, having completed its review of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament, decided to submit to the General Assembly the following proposals for its consideration:

AGREED PROPOSALS

I. 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

A. Improved methods of work of the First Committee of the General Assembly in disarmament matters

1. The Ad Hoc Committee underlines that delegations are free to address themselves in the First Committee of the General Assembly to any disarmament issue on its agenda and to submit, when they deem it necessary, draft resolutions on each agenda item. At the same time, the Ad Hoc Committee makes the following suggestions in order to make the work of the First Committee more constructive and efficient:

(a) At the beginning of the First Committee's consideration of disarmament items, the Chairman should consider the carrying out of consultations with the members of the Committee in order to examine the advisability of submitting for consideration by the First Committee a schedule setting out a specific duration for the general debate and the debate on the draft resolutions presented under each agenda item, together with tentative dates for the voting on those draft resolutions. To the extent possible, this schedule should provide for the grouping together of matters that are closely related, provided that the State or States which brought the items in question to the attention of the General Assembly do not oppose such grouping;
(b) It would be useful for the work of the First Committee if delegations made all efforts to arrange for informal circulation of draft resolutions by the time the Committee starts its work during each session of the General Assembly. This could also help to promote the amalgamation, whenever possible, of draft resolutions with similar aims and content;

(c) The members of the First Committee could hold informal consultations to determine whether any delegation intended to request the adoption of any measure with regard to a given item. If those consultations showed clearly that no delegation would request any action by the General Assembly, the Committee could decide to include the item concerned in the provisional agenda for a subsequent session of the General Assembly;

(d) The First Committee should keep in mind the possibility of taking decisions instead of adopting formal resolutions on procedural questions with a view to reducing the number of draft resolutions presented to the General Assembly;

(e) The Chairman of the First Committee should consult with the members of the Committee at the beginning of each session of the General Assembly on further measures that would make the Committee's deliberations more efficient and simplified;

(f) The Chairman of the First Committee should consult with members of the Committee in order to explore the possibility of amalgamating draft resolutions on the same item, with the consent of their respective sponsors, whether they had been circulated informally or submitted formally to the Committee.

B. The relationship between the General Assembly and other United Nations bodies in the field of disarmament

2. The Ad Hoc Committee recommends that:

Before the annual report of the IAEA is dealt with by the General Assembly in Plenary, it should be made available to the First Committee. Sections of the report concerning the activities of the Agency that are of particular relevance to the prevention of proliferation of nuclear weapons and related matters should, in the course of the First Committee's disarmament debate, be drawn to the attention of the Committee in connexion with the relevant items on its agenda.

C. Role of the United Nations Disarmament Commission

3. The Ad Hoc Committee recommends that:

The General Assembly should at an appropriate time consider the future role of the United Nations Disarmament Commission.
D. **Role of the United Nations in providing assistance on request in multilateral and regional disarmament negotiations**

4. The **Ad Hoc Committee recommends** that:

States participating in multilateral and regional disarmament negotiations give serious consideration to the possibility of requesting conference servicing and other technical assistance from the United Nations.

E. **The relationship between the General Assembly and the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (CCD)**

5. The **Ad Hoc Committee recommends** that:

(a) The CCD report, being an indispensable document of the General Assembly, should as a rule be available to delegations in New York not later than 15 September each year. The report should reproduce any decisions and conclusions reached and present in summary form the main substance of the discussions in the CCD, with a view to increasing its usefulness to delegations;

(b) All official CCD documents should be made available to all Members of the United Nations through their delegations in New York on a regular and continuing basis;

(c) The General Assembly, in entrusting tasks to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, should take into account the existing workload of the Committee as well as the progress achieved on the issues before it.

F. **Studies**

6. The **Ad Hoc Committee recommends** that:

(a) The General Assembly consider making increased use of in-depth studies of the arms race, disarmament and related matters on an ad hoc basis conducted by the Secretary-General with the assistance of qualified experts nominated by Governments and with the assistance, whenever appropriate, from other sources;

(b) The capacity of the United Nations Secretariat should be such as to ensure that it can effectively carry out the responsibilities given to it in connexion with such studies.
II. Ways and means of improving existing United Nations facilities for collection, compilation and dissemination of information on disarmament issues, in order to keep all Governments, as well as world public opinion, properly informed on progress achieved in the field of disarmament.

7. The Ad Hoc Committee recommends that:

(a) The United Nations publish annually before the regular session of the General Assembly in all the working languages of the General Assembly a United Nations Disarmament Yearbook. This publication should contain a descriptive review of the main developments and ongoing negotiations in the field of disarmament, including a summary of the General Assembly resolutions adopted and of the proposals made in this connexion. It should further contain inter alia:

(i) texts of new treaties and agreements in the field of disarmament as well as drafts of such texts submitted to the United Nations or the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (CCD);

(ii) a report on the status of the existing disarmament agreements;

(iii) decisions and conclusions on these matters reached by, inter alia, the CCD, the IAEA and possible Review Conferences;

(iv) factual information, as communicated by Governments or appearing in their official publications, on such topics as military expenditures, armed forces and armaments, military production, arms trade and foreign aid in the military field, with full citation of the sources. Such information should be contained in the Yearbook in a useful and standardized format once appropriate and generally applicable criteria for the measurement, reporting, and evaluation of relevant internationally comparable data are developed and agreed upon by the United Nations;

(b) The Secretary-General should report to the General Assembly on the publication of the Yearbook and, on the basis of that report, the United Nations should consider publishing a disarmament periodical in all the working languages of the General Assembly. The publication would present in highly readable form current facts and developments in the field of disarmament, such as summaries of new proposals and of important relevant statements and communiques. It would also contain, inter alia, summaries of in-depth studies undertaken by the United Nations or the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament. It should further provide annotated bibliographies and brief summaries of important books and articles on disarmament questions and related matters;

(c) To the extent that these tasks are entrusted to the United Nations with regard to the compilation and dissemination of information on disarmament for the benefit of Member States and public opinion, appropriate steps should be taken to ensure that the United Nations Disarmament Affairs Division can effectively carry out these responsibilities;
(d) The United Nations Secretariat, through the appropriate channels, continue to disseminate to the general public information on disarmament questions and related matters including information contained in the periodical and the Yearbook.

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

8. The Ad Hoc Committee recommends that:

(a) States participating in multilateral disarmament negotiations consider the possibilities of entrusting appropriate functions to the United Nations, its specialized agencies or the IAEA with respect to the implementation of multilateral disarmament agreements. The capacity of these organizations to assist States, on request, to meet their obligations arising out of agreements concluded in such negotiations should be commensurate with the tasks which might be entrusted to them;

(b) As a general rule such States may request the Secretary-General to assume the depositary role for multilateral disarmament conventions and treaties;

(c) States participating in multilateral and regional negotiations of disarmament agreements should give serious consideration to the inclusion of a Review Conference provision. In making the necessary preparations for Review Conferences the States parties should consider requesting the United Nations to provide facilities, conference services and other assistance in connexion with such conferences. The United Nations should have the capacity necessary to meet such requests.

IV. Strengthening of the resources of the United Nations Secretariat

9. In view of these important new tasks to be entrusted to the United Nations in the field of disarmament comprising functions of committee and conference services, studies on disarmament matters, compilation and dissemination of information, and the follow-up of disarmament resolutions and agreements, the Ad Hoc Committee recommends that:

(a) The Disarmament Affairs Division be transformed into a United Nations Centre for Disarmament (UNCD) within the framework of the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs;

(b) The Centre be headed by an official with the rank of Assistant Secretary-General;

(c) The Centre to be staffed accordingly.
19. The delegation of France stated:

(a) In paragraph 3, the French delegation would have liked it to be stated that the United Nations Disarmament Commission, if called upon, was given the task of studying the very structures and procedures of the disarmament bodies;

(b) It goes without saying that, although the French delegation does not oppose the adoption of paragraph 5, that does not imply any change in France's attitude with regard to CCD;

(c) With regard to paragraph 6, the French delegation stresses the particular difficulties which might beset the studies conducted by the Secretariat with the assistance of qualified experts nominated by Governments when those studies deal with controversial areas, that is to say, in those very cases where the studies might be of genuine interest;

(d) As to paragraph 8, the French delegation believes that it is primarily for States parties to a treaty to decide on the means of implementing it, of supervising the application of its provisions and of choosing its depositary;

(e) As regards paragraph 9, the French delegation stresses the need to avoid increasing the financial burdens of the United Nations, particularly through the establishment of new posts, so long as no real progress has been made in the disarmament effort.

20. The delegation of Iran stated that, with reference to the factual information to be included in the Yearbook as stipulated under paragraph 7 (a), section (iv), it was its understanding that that section of the paragraph should be viewed as an integrated whole and should be read and interpreted accordingly. Hence, there was an obvious linkage between the contents of the first and second sentences of the said section of paragraph 7 (a). The necessary conclusion, therefore, emerged that the publication of the stipulated information could be undertaken only when the requirements referred to in the second sentence were fully and adequately satisfied.

21. A number of delegations expressed the view that the United Nations Centre for Disarmament should be headed by a national of a third world country.

22. The delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics confirmed its position with regard to the provision on criteria in paragraph 7 (a) (iv) that concentration on technical questions of minor importance, including the development of the above-mentioned criteria, diverted attention from the urgent need to take effective practical measures aimed at ending the arms race and bringing about disarmament.