LETTER DATED 11 SEPTEMBER 1987 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF DENMARK TO THE UNITED NATIONS (ON BEHALF OF THE TWELVE STATES
MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY) ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
OF THE CONFERENCE

On behalf of the twelve States members of the European Community, I have the
honour to transmit the attached document containing their statement at the
14th plenary meeting of the International Conference on the Relationship Between
Disarmament and Development.

I should be grateful if the attached document could be circulated in the
official languages of the Conference.

(Signed) Ole BIERRING
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Denmark
to the United Nations
Annex

STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF DENMARK TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON BEHALF OF THE TWELVE STATES MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AT THE 14TH MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, ON 11 SEPTEMBER 1987

Speaking on behalf of the twelve member States of the European Community, I would like to express our satisfaction with the fact that, having now adopted a Final Document by consensus, the International Conference on the Relationship Between Disarmament and Development has completed its task and has come to a successful end.

... We are aware that elaborating a text acceptable to all was extremely difficult ...

The Twelve welcome the consensus, which has been achieved after laborious and demanding negotiations. At the outset of the Conference, the Twelve stated that what we needed was a political document which took stock of the situation. The aim, in our view, was to test how far the common ground extended and to see the outcome of our efforts confirmed at a political level. In order to achieve maximum impact and appeal the final declaration should be short, concise and catching to the eye and ear.

Many delegations on all sides of this room will no doubt have difficulties with paragraphs in the text. The search for compromise, however, is a give and take process and, owing to the good atmosphere and positive spirit that have guided our work, this process has become both possible and meaningful. The outcome is not a victory for any individual delegation. It is, however, a victory for multilateral co-operation. It is the confirmation by the international community of the value of multilateralism. This is a result the Twelve welcome, and to which we attach great importance.

As this is a compromise text, it is clear that many formulations might have been drafted in another way and we would have preferred it if greater account had been taken of our proposals. This observation applies, for example, to the various direct and indirect references to the Charter of the United Nations.

The Twelve, in their opening plenary statement, advocated the creation of conditions enabling the present situation of arms buildup and unmet development needs to be turned into a constructive interaction between security, disarmament and development. One of the achievements of this Conference is the reaffirmation of the crucial importance of the question of security in any detailed analysis of the relationship between disarmament and development: security understood as a broader concept encompassing social, humanitarian, environmental, developmental as well as military aspects.

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From the start the Twelve have approached this Conference in a positive and constructive spirit, and have dedicated themselves to the achievement of a result to which we can all subscribe.

The essence of our common efforts so far, and by the same token a guiding light for our continued endeavours, is stated in short and succinct phrases in one of the preambular paragraphs of the Final Document:

"Disarmament and development are two of the most urgent challenges facing the world today. They constitute priority concerns of the international community in which all nations - developed and developing, big and small, nuclear and non-nuclear - have a common and equal stake. Disarmament and development are two pillars on which enduring international peace and security can be built."