LETTER DATED 11 SEPTEMBER 1987 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NETHERLANDS TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement I made in today's session of the plenary of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, and to request you to have it circulated as a document of this Conference.

(Signed) A. P. R. JACOBOVITS DE SZEGED
Permanent Representative
Annex

STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NETHERLANDS TO
THE UNITED NATIONS AT THE 14TH MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE, ON 11 SEPTEMBER 1987

In view of the importance of the two issues addressed by this Conference it is
gratifying that we have been able to adopt a final document with consensus.
Ambassador Bierring, speaking on behalf of the States members of the European
Communities, has already expressed our views. I have to add a few remarks, however.

The document before us does not meet with our full approval. We cannot
subscribe to the suggestion in the document that there is a direct operational link
between disarmament and development. Disarmament and development are distinct
processes which should be promoted independently and on their own merits. To the
extent that they are interrelated, they are interrelated via the concept of
security in its broadest sense. It is this concept that should guide us in our
further deliberations. Ignoring this triangular relationship will only lead to
false expectations. The Netherlands cannot agree with the incorrect use of United
Nations Charter language in some parts of the document.

The economic analysis contained in the document tends to be rather general and
furthermore to point to the military expenditures of the industrialized countries
as the main cause of problems in world economy. This is not a view which my
country shares.

Finally, we find it difficult to accept the binding nature of some of the
commitments in the action programme, as we doubt their feasibility. This is
particularly so for the obligation to inform the United Nations about a regular
analysis of the economic and social consequences of military spending. In the
Netherlands the distribution of public resources to social security, military
security and other needs is a matter of public debate, about which the Netherlands
public is fully informed. We doubt, however, that this complicated decision-making
process can be reported to the United Nations in a practical manner.

The Netherlands acknowledges that in a process of give and take compromises
have to be found. It is in that spirit that my country has joined the consensus on
this important issue.

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