NOTE VERBALE DATED 11 SEPTEMBER 1987 FROM THE DELEGATION OF CHINA ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE

The delegation of the People's Republic of China to the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development ... has the honour to transmit the position of the Chinese delegation with respect to the Final Document adopted by the Conference in New York on 11 September 1987.

The Final Document, overall, gives expression to the aspirations of people of all countries for realizing disarmament and promoting development and contributes to raising the awareness of the international community on the relationship between disarmament and development. The Chinese delegation supports the main thrust of the document.

In the view of the Chinese delegation, however, the document is not as good as one would have desired. For one thing, certain reasonable suggestions from delegations have not been reflected in it. For another, the Action Programme is lacking in concrete follow-up actions.

In this regard, the Chinese delegation would particularly like to register the following two points:

First, although the document refers to the arms race quite a few times, it fails to identify which countries should bear the primary responsibility for this arms race. This is a major flaw in the document. The present arms race that threatens international peace and security is going on mainly between the two countries possessing the largest nuclear and conventional arsenals. It is only obvious that not all countries are participating in this arms race. Therefore, the two super-Powers, the Soviet Union and the United States, have the primary responsibility for halting the arms race, achieving disarmament and assisting development.

Secondly, as regards the interrelationship between disarmament, development and security, the Chinese delegation holds that, while it is necessary to lay emphasis on the importance of security in relation to both disarmament and
development, no country should possess military forces exceeding the need for self-defence. Nor should it use security as an excuse to shirk its responsibility for disarmament, let alone to threaten or jeopardize the security of other countries.

The delegation of the People's Republic of China requests that this note be circulated as a document of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development.