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MEASURES TO MOBILIZE WORLD PUBLIC OPINION IN FAVOUR OF DISARMAMENT

Outline of a programme for the World Disarmament Campaign

Report of the Secretary-General

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PREFACE

1. With reference to agenda item 13 of the twelfth special session, the second special session devoted to disarmament, and in pursuance of paragraph 53 of the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Second Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament, 1/ which was endorsed by the Assembly at the 1st meeting of the special session, on 7 June 1982, the Secretary-General hereby submits to the General Assembly a detailed outline of a programme for the World Disarmament Campaign.

2. The Secretary-General understands that the General Assembly at its special session will give appropriate consideration to the subject. In the light of these deliberations, a final programme for the World Disarmament Campaign will have to be elaborated, taking into account pledges by Member States and other financial contributions to the Campaign.

1/ Official Record of the General Assembly, Twelfth Special Session, Supplement No. 1 (A/S-12/1).

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The proposal for a World Disarmament Campaign under the auspices of the United Nations seeks to contribute to implementing the mandate given to the United Nations at the tenth special session of the General Assembly, in 1978, to increase understanding of the growing threat of the arms race to international peace and security.
2. The Group of Experts on the Organization and Financing of a World Disarmament Campaign under the auspices of the United Nations, appointed by the Secretary-General in 1981, outlined in its report (A/36/458) of the modalities for a World Disarmament Campaign under the auspices of the United Nations. The findings of the Group, particularly its conclusions concerning objectives, operational guidelines, constituencies and activities, are the basis for the following outline of a programme for the World Disarmament Campaign which is submitted to the General Assembly at its special session on its request.
3. In addition, it should be noted that in their replies to the Secretary-General's note verbale regarding measures to mobilize world public opinion in favour of disarmament, as well as in other official United Nations documents relating to the special session (A/S-12/14 and Add.1, A/S-12/15 and A/AC.206/19 and Add.1-4) a number of Member States referred to various activities that might be carried out in the context of the World Disarmament Campaign, both at national and at international levels.

II. CONCEPT

4. The study of the Group of Experts identified three primary objectives for the Campaign: to inform, to educate and to generate public understanding and support for the goals of the United Nations in the field of disarmament, on the basis of General Assembly decisions.
5. The Campaign will have to be carried out in all regions of the world in a balanced, factual and objective manner. It is of importance that United Nations information and education activities must be global in scope and content, and use those means of communication which are most appropriate in reaching the largest number of people. Although the means of informing and educating may vary from region to region, the basic thrust of the activities for the Campaign should be equally effective in all regions of the world.

III. PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

6. The programme outlined on the following pages concentrates on:
 - (a) Extending United Nations means of communication with the world public, media and non-governmental organizations;
 - (b) Systematic co-operation with national and international non-governmental organizations that can stimulate public understanding;

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- (c) Special events (Disarmament Week);
- (d) Publicity programme for the Campaign itself.

The programme of activities will follow as a guideline the recommendations set out in the report of the Group of Experts. In particular, paragraphs 19 and 20 of the report should be recalled as key elements for the programme orientation:

"The Campaign should eventually be directed to all segments of the world's population. In the interest of effectiveness, certain groups and professions, because of their special influence and multiplier effects in society, should receive particular attention. Furthermore, it is recognized that groups with such influence may vary from country to country and, therefore, the activities envisaged within the Campaign to reach such groups should take into account these differences.

"The Campaign should facilitate, complement and, where feasible, co-ordinate existing programmes of information, research and education in the area of disarmament. Where none exists, the Campaign should encourage the establishment of such programmes, and the United Nations and its agencies could be instrumental in this process."

It will be recalled that the Group of Experts identified five major constituencies: elected representatives, media, non-governmental organizations, educational communities and peace research institutes. The constituency "non-governmental organizations" was further specified to include women's, youth and religious groups, trade unionists and other professional organizations. If multiplied by the number of regions, a great number of activities could be envisaged as constituent parts of a regionally balanced programme for World Disarmament Campaign.

7. A selection will obviously have to be made in the initial phases of the Campaign as to which constituencies in which regions are likely to have the greatest multiplier effect in the process of world-wide information, education and mobilization for disarmament. On the following pages, some such selective activities shall be identified, taking into account additional variables, such as the cost involved, the infrastructure available to carry out a certain programme, and the questions of logistics.

8. Following the logical structure of the report elaborated by the Group of Experts, the programme of activities for the World Disarmament Campaign could be grouped in the following manner:

Time-frame1. United Nations information materials

These materials will be produced in an attractive and readable format, and in sufficient quantities and languages to meet campaign needs:

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| 1983 | 1.1 | The <u>Yearbooks</u> , the studies, the periodicals, the fact sheets, booklets and leaflets and other basic documents have to be available in greater quantities in the official languages of the General Assembly. |
| 1983 | 1.2 | For other languages, greater efforts must be made actively to seek governmental and/or non-governmental sponsors on a case-by-case basis. |
| 1983 | 1.3 | The periodical "Disarmament" could become more effective in reaching opinion leaders in all regions. As part of its development, its contents and style have to be revised and it has to be issued more frequently. |
| 1984 | 1.4 | The issuance of a newsletter on campaign activities could be considered in order to establish the role of the United Nations as a clearing-house for information. |
| 1983 | 1.5 | Educational materials geared to high school teachers, teachers' training colleges, university professors, etc., are of primary importance in reaching students of various ages. More United Nations written and graphic materials are urgently needed and the existing materials will be disseminated in greater quantities. As a high priority activity, the production of materials for all school levels should be planned jointly with international organizations of the teaching profession as well as governmental and intergovernmental educational institutions. |
| 1982 | 1.6 | Six special radio programmes for seven regional series will be produced in all official languages on various topics of disarmament. |
| 1983 | 1.7 | A greater effort will be made to promote films, television and radio programmes produced by the United Nations and to make them systematically available to media in all countries. |
| 1983 | 1.8 | Further use should be made of available professional expertise in the production of films for television and radio programmes. |
| 1983 | 1.9 | A film could be produced on the future of humanity after a nuclear war. |

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Time-frame

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| 1982 | 1.10 | A travelling photo exhibit should be put together that can, in co-operation with United Nations Associations and other non-governmental organizations, as appropriate, be shown in all regions. |
| 1982 | 1.11 | A letter will be sent to all national panels which selected the posters for the international poster competition held in 1981, encouraging them to print or otherwise publicize the posters after the closing of the exhibit at United Nations Headquarters. |
| 1983 | 1.12 | Audio-visual libraries of films, television programmes and slides will be maintained at United Nations Headquarters and materials will be available for distribution. |
| 1983 | 1.13 | The existing photographic library on disarmament should be brought up to date and expanded, and its availability to non-governmental organizations should be made known. |

2. Interpersonal communication

This is the area where greatest horizontal expansion of contact between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations is necessary. The aim is to establish a network of organizations, institutions and media working towards the achievement of peace and disarmament. Four areas of expanded interpersonal communication can be identified:

- (a) correspondence,
- (b) consultations with non-governmental organizations working in the field,
- (c) seminars,
- (d) training of specific constituencies.

While (a) implies world-wide correspondence with anyone having contact with and desiring information from the United Nations, (b) establishes a regular system of consultations with the non-governmental organizations and other constituencies interested in the Campaign, taking into account the existing mechanisms of consultations, (c) seminars would be designed to seek new contacts with specific, key constituencies with multiplier effect, and (d) refers to training of identifiable constituencies such as educators, journalists and other professional groups which require special information and skills. Following this approach, programme of activities could be:

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| 1982 | 2.1 | Regular correspondence with the non-governmental organizations working in the field of disarmament and which are kept informed through periodic mailings and the fulfilment of specific information requests. |
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Time-frame

- 1982-1983 2.2 Consultations and workshops on the development and implementation of the Campaign programme will be held with the non-governmental organizations Committees on Disarmament and other national and international organizations at regular intervals in all regions.
- 1983-1984 2.3 The regional seminar begun in 1981 as part of the information programme for the Second Disarmament Decade should be pursued in a more refined and constituency-oriented manner. The aim would be to make contacts where none existed, to stimulate constituencies to begin their own information and education programmes for disarmament, and to facilitate the exchange of information between them. The medium-range goal would be to create a regional network of non-governmental organizations working for peace and development issues. To this end, the fullest use will be made of United Nations information centres and other United Nations field offices.
- 1983 2.3.1 To further the regional information activities, regional advisers for disarmament could be recruited on a consultancy basis.
- 1983-1984 2.3.2 Seminars could be organized, at the rate of five a year, for constituencies identified as those with the greatest multiplier effect, and expressing active interest in each region. In 1983-1984, the following could be held:
- 2.3.2.1 Regional seminar for parliamentarians, organized jointly with associations of parliamentarians.
- 2.3.2.2 Regional seminar for journalists, organized in co-operation with relevant professional organizations.
- 2.3.2.3 Regional seminar for representatives of youth organizations, jointly with national and international religious associations.
- 2.3.2.4 Regional seminar for women, organized jointly with organizations of women.
- 2.3.2.5 Regional seminar for educators, organized jointly with appropriate professional associations.

Time-frame

This series would be continued in different regions and with different constituencies each year. Follow-up activities to maintain contact with seminar participants would be organized at regular intervals.

1983-1984

2.4 Special training programmes should be established for specific non-governmental constituencies from all regions. In addition to the United Nations fellowship programme for young administrators and governmental officials, the following three constituencies can be readily identified:

2.4.1 Twenty young journalists from all regions will be invited for a period of one month each year for a training programme on disarmament by the United Nations.

2.4.2 A training programme for 20 young educators from all regions will be held for a one-month period annually.

2.4.3 The annual four-week graduate intern programme at United Nations Headquarters in New York will continue to emphasize disarmament issues.

2.4.4 All United Nations interns interested in disarmament will be offered a two-week on-the-job training period in the Centre for Disarmament.

3. Special events

The suggestion of the Group of Experts that Disarmament Week should be used as the most appropriate time of the year for special events designed to increase public awareness of the dangers of the arms race and create an atmosphere conducive to progress in disarmament will be implemented. To this end, special events will be organized, at United Nations Headquarters, United Nations information centres, and other field offices in co-operation with particular Member States and non-governmental organizations.

1984

3.1 Awards to outstanding individuals and non-governmental organizations for contributions promoting the objectives of the World Disarmament Campaign, including Disarmament Week programmes, should be considered.

1984

3.2 The possibility of holding a competition of film-makers and establishing a film peace prize to be awarded during Disarmament Week will be explored.

Time-frame

1984 3.3 An international song-writing contest will be held.

1982 3.4 A concert with outstanding artists could be organized in support of Disarmament Week.

4. Publicity programme

A publicity programme for the Campaign itself will have to be launched to make its aims and activities known world wide. The following activities could be envisaged:

1982 4.1 The support of well-known personalities in the arts, sciences, sports and public affairs should be sought and their active participation enlisted for the success of the Campaign.

1982 4.2 Letters will be sent to all non-governmental organizations concerned with disarmament and peace encouraging their participation in the Campaign.

1982 4.3 A booklet outlining the aims and activities of the Campaign should be published by the United Nations.

1983 4.4 The United Nations information centres and other field offices should be made aware of the goals of the Campaign and should be encouraged to stimulate local activities in its support.

1983 4.5 Press contacts should be initiated informing journalists of the progress of the Campaign.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

9. A World Disarmament Campaign under the auspices of the United Nations will be carried out in a balanced, factual and objective manner in all regions of the world, in co-operation with Governments and non-governmental organizations.

10. Information materials of the United Nations, produced for the World Disarmament Campaign, should be distributed on the widest scale and their availability brought to the attention of the greatest possible readership.

11. United Nations information centres and other field offices will play an important role in the dissemination of information to known constituencies and those not previously aware of United Nations efforts for the promotion of peace.

12. Projects will be undertaken in co-operation with interested national and international non-governmental organizations. Full account shall be taken of existing resources and skills in the Secretariat.

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13. It should be pointed out that only some of the projected activities can be realized from funds available in the regular budget of the United Nations. The extent to which the entire Programme can be carried out will depend on the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

14. It is obvious that the World Disarmament Campaign can succeed only if it activates a concerted effort by the United Nations, its system of agencies and programmes, Member States and the concerned public.
