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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS
ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION

New philosophy on disarmament

Report of the Secretary-General

1. At its thirty-third session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 33/71 N of 14 December 1978, entitled "New philosophy on disarmament". In paragraph 1 of that resolution, the Assembly considered it necessary that all the new ideas, new proposals, new thinking and new strategies set forth in the broad range of general debates preceding and following the adoption of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly (resolution S-10/2) be formulated into a single comprehensive and co-ordinated system, into a new philosophy on disarmament, in a message that could effectively reach the minds of men in a mobilization of world public opinion in support of the United Nations goal for the halting of the present arms race and eventually for complete and general disarmament centred on a new order of national and international security. In paragraph 2 of the resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, with the assistance of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies, to study ways and means whereby the objectives in paragraph 1 of the resolution could be accomplished and to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session.

2. At its second session in 1979, the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies ^{1/} discussed ways and means whereby the objectives of resolution 33/71 N could be accomplished. The Board paid tribute to this initiative and expressed sympathy with the motives behind it. At the same time, the Board considered that with so many contradictory approaches and perceptions existing in a divided world, it would be very difficult to draw up a generally acceptable philosophy. It was felt that, to find a common ground for strengthening confidence among people and for

^{1/} For the composition of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies, see A/34/588, annex.

mobilizing public opinion towards genuine disarmament, a practical approach was required in which account was taken of complex realities. The Board agreed that the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly contained the essence of a new philosophy and strategy on disarmament and provided an integrated framework for action, representing the common denominator of existing conceptions on disarmament. Further attempts to formulate a new approach might be explored, although it might be desirable to await the results of the second special session devoted to disarmament. It was suggested that the widest possible publicity should be given to the Final Document, as contemplated in paragraph 101 thereof.
