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

United Nations disarmament studies

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly the report of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies in response to General Assembly resolution 40/152 K of 16 December 1985.

* A/42/50.

ANNEX

Report of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. By its resolution 40/152 K of 16 December 1985, the General Assembly, inter alia, reaffirmed "the value of United Nations studies, prepared with appropriate assistance from governmental or consultant experts, as a useful means by which important issues in the field of arms limitation and disarmament can be addressed in a comprehensive and detailed manner". In addition to inviting Member states to communicate their views and proposals on how the work of the United Nations in the field of disarmament studies could be further improved, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to invite the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies to prepare a comprehensive report on those matters for submission to the Assembly at its forty-second session. The present report has been prepared in response to that request.

2. The views and suggestions of Member States received by the Secretary-General in response to General Assembly resolution 40/152 K have been reported separately (see A/41/421 and Add. 1 and 2). Views and suggestions received pursuant to Assembly resolution 41/86 C of 4 December 1986 will be reported at a later date.

3. The General Assembly further reaffirmed the value of United Nations disarmament studies in its resolution 41/86 C. At the same time, the Assembly reaffirmed the need for a thorough appraisal of the subject. As studies have evolved, the exercise's have changed somewhat in nature and various suggestions have been made with a view to introducing certain improvements. Moreover, the establishment of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) makes available new machinery that, in appropriate circumstances, provides opportunities for other ways of carrying out disarmament studies and research. As the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies also acts as the Board of Trustees of UNIDIR, the present report also addresses the co-ordinating role that the Board might play to facilitate study and research activities.

II. UNITED NATIONS DISARMAMENT STUDIES

4. Section II I, "Programme of Action", of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly (resolution S-10/2 of 30 June 1978) contains several paragraphs relating to United Nations studies in the field of disarmament. Two paragraphs of the Final Document are particularly relevant:

"76. Taking further steps in the field of disarmament, and other measures aimed at promoting international peace and security would be facilitated by carrying out studies by the Secretary-General in this field with appropriate assistance from governmental or consultant experts.

"...

"124. The Secretary-General is requested to act up an advisory board of eminent persons, selected on the basis of their personal expertise and taking into account the principle of equitable geographical representation, to advise

/...

him on various aspects of studies to be made under the auspices of the United Nations in the field of disarmament and arms limitation, including a programme of such studies."

5. Once established in 1978, the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies identified three purposes for disarmament studies mandated by the General Assembly:

(a) To assist in ongoing negotiations;

(b) To identify possible new areas of negotiation;

(c) To promote public awareness of the problems involved in the arms race and disarmament.

6. Since 1979, a total of 23 disarmament studies have been made by the Secretary-General pursuant to mandates from the General Assembly; two more are at present being conducted. With the exception of the studies on nuclear-weapon-free zones (see A/40/379) and on military use of research and development (see A/40/533), all studies have ended with the adoption of an agreed final report. (For a list of studies, see appendix I.) In many cases the Assembly has invited views or comments from Member States on individual studies and those comments received have been issued as documents of the Assembly.

7. The studies have covered a wide variety of topics. Experts from a total of 58 countries have participated in the studies, which has permitted the reflection of a broad range of factual information and political views. In some cases, studies have endeavoured to identify the facts and perceptions that pertain to various aspects of the subjects under study and, by so doing, have helped to identify possible ways of moving towards the limitation or resolution of the problems. While studies are not necessarily expected to resolve issues that have sharply divided States, they have often been able to serve as low-key, pre-negotiating exercises by establishing areas of potential agreement or clarifying aspects of disagreement. The study reports, together with the summaries issued as "Fact sheets", have also been of value as sources of information for the world public and for the World Disarmament Campaign. The efforts have been truly multilateral and have confirmed that the United Nations as a global organization is the most appropriate body to carry out such tasks.

8. For the most part, it has been the intention of those involved in the study to achieve consensus on their report. Although that approach has not always been successful, nor received unanimous support, it has had the prime virtue of requiring the experts to endeavour to find common ground rather than allowing them to accentuate their differences. As compromise and negotiated agreements are the essence of progress in disarmament, it would seem that the principle of consensus should be encouraged, although it is recognized that there will be subjects under study from time to time of which the most productive treatment will be the shedding of light on strongly held, divergent views, as in the case of the study on deterrence (A/41/432 and Corr.1, annex) completed in 1986,

9. Notwithstanding the diversity of subjects under study, the results of the discussions of topics in depth and from differing political viewpoints have often

emerged as stepping-stones towards the promotion of international peace and security. Reports have often complemented or corroborated one another in describing aspects of the arms race and the problems that have to be resolved. The study reports, mostly reproduced as United Nations sales publications in the Disarmament Study series, have therefore come to represent a loosely linked series of commentary and analysis broadly reflecting the views and perceptions held by many of the States Members of the United Nations.

10. As the study reports have been completed, a certain pattern of experience has emerged. For the most part, United Nations disarmament studies have been practical and political, rather than purely academic exercises. For this reason, the course of discussion within each group of experts has often been affected as much by political as by technical considerations. There may have been a trend in the mandates from the General Assembly towards the appointment of "governmental" rather than "consultant" participating experts. Consequently, even though all experts - since they "assist" the Secretary-General - are appointed by him in their personal capacities, experts have tended to take fully into account government policies in the course of their work in study groups. This tendency has been of value in that the studies have thus often reflected authoritative views and, when a consensus has been reached on substance, the studies may have indicated an opening towards genuine negotiations.

11. From experience to date, a number of points have emerged that have facilitated the establishment of certain practical guidelines, although not all points may be applicable to all cases. (For a description of various points drawn from that experience, see appendix II.) However, in the view of the Board, experience has provided valuable lessons that have served, and should continue to serve, as a basis for worthwhile improvements in the methodology to be applied to studies.

III. THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR DISARMAMENT RESEARCH

12. By its resolution 39/148 H of 17 December 1984, the General Assembly approved the statute of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, the text of which was annexed to the resolution. Under the provisions of the statute, UNIDIR is an autonomous institution within the framework of the United Nations, established by the General Assembly for the purpose of undertaking independent research on disarmament and related problems, particularly international security issues, and working in close relationship with the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat.

13. The work of the Institute, which is based on the provisions of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, aims at:

(a) Providing the international community with more diversified and complete data on problems relating to international security, the arms race and disarmament in all fields, particularly in the nuclear field, so as to facilitate progress, through negotiations, towards greater security for all States and towards the economic and social development of all peoples;

(b) Promoting informed participation by all States in disarmament efforts;

(c) Assisting ongoing negotiations on disarmament and continuing efforts to ensure greater international security at a progressively lower level of armaments, particularly nuclear armaments, by means of objective and factual studies and analyses ;

(d) Carrying out more in-depth, forward-looking and long-term research on disarmament, so as to provide a general insight into the problem5 involved, and stimulating new initiative5 for new negotiations.

14. In accordance with its statute, voluntary contributions from States and public and private organizations form the principal source of financing of the Institute.

15. Since its establishment, UNIDIR has carried out a broad range of research, discussion and publication activities in the field of disarmament. Research papers, analyses, monograph5 on national security issues and other papers have been published (see appendix III). Regional conferences, colloquia and seminars with wide multilateral representation have been held and have attracted significant participation and the presentation of a number of valuable paper5 by individual experts. In the course of its activities UNIDIR, like the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat, has established, and continue5 to expand, relations with regional organizations and many research institutes concerned with disarmament.

IV. RESPECTIVE FUNCTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR DISARMAMENT RESEARCH

16. The advent of UNIDIR offer5 new opportunities that could be used to mutual advantage. Research work carried out by UNIDIR can be less costly, in that only a small number of academic or other experts in the field are involved. If few expert5 are involved or if all work is in one language, interpretation costs may be reduced or avoided altogether. Similarly, travel and per diem expenses are lower if the number of participant5 is kept low. However, should UNIDIR adopt conference practices similar to those used in United Nations disarmament studies, costs would probably be similar .

17. At the same time, UNIDIR offers an opportunity for greater independence of comment than the more constrained arrangement of a group of governmental experts assisting the Secretary-General, and likewise permits more independence in the conduct of research and less need for individual Governments to identify themselves with the results unless they so wish.

18. Advantages would seem to be gained from allocating work either to the United Nations for study or to UNIDIR for research, according to the nature and subject matter of the topic or the time-frame within which a response may be needed. Various factors may determine the choice, but among the considerations are the following :

(a) Studies on subjects that are under negotiation or that are particularly sensitive or on which Governments specifically wish to ensure that they (or other States of a given geographic area or political grouping whose views they share) are officially represented should be mandated by the General Assembly and carried out by United Nations groups of governmental experts;

(b) Work that demands specialized or highly expert research, that may be required comparatively quickly, or that would benefit from more technical or scientific treatment in depth than a United Nations group of governmental experts is expected to provide might be carried out by UNIDIR.

19. It might often be appropriate for the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat and UNIDIR to work in close co-operation on a project, as in the case of the updating of the reports on the nuclear capabilities of South Africa (A/39/470, annex) and Israel (A/40/520, annex) prepared for the General Assembly. In cases of limited scope, for example, the updating of an existing study, a small group of governmental experts making extensive use of UNIDIR in a consultant capacity could carry out the work. In tasks consisting in large part of, for instance, the collection of available material involving a certain amount of analytical work and not expected to require extensive deliberation between experts holding different views, small groups of governmental experts might define the terms of reference for the study and entrust the research and the drafting to UNIDIR, in co-operation with the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat as appropriate, and/or other research institutes or individual consultants. The group would subsequently consider the results and if necessary return them for future work. By reducing the involvement of expert groups in this way important savings might be made both in substantive and conference-servicing costs, without sacrificing the multilateral nature of the exercise.

20. In such ways UNIDIR and the Department for Disarmament Affairs could work - and be seen to work - in complement with each other.

V. CONSIDERATION BY THE ADVISORY BOARD ON DISARMAMENT STUDIES AND THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR DISARMAMENT RESEARCH

21. In paragraph 124 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General was requested to set up an advisory board to advise him on various aspects of studies to be made under the auspices of the United Nations in the field of disarmament and arms limitation, including a programme of such studies. According to section III of Assembly resolution 37/99 K of 13 December 1982 (see also A/37/550), one of the functions of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies is to advise the Secretary-General on various aspects of studies and research in the area of arms limitation and disarmament carried out under the auspices of the United Nations or institutions within the United Nations system, in particular of: the integration of a programme of such studies with a comprehensive programme of disarmament, once this has been established.

22. Pursuant to the same resolution and the subsequent statute of UNIDIR (General

Assembly resolution 39/148 H, annex), the Advisory Board also serves as the Board of Trustees of UNIDIR.

23. The Board is therefore in a prime position to advise on the whole study activity. Arising from its consideration, the Board could offer recommendations to the General Assembly on many aspects of disarmament studies, as well as discharging its present responsibility of governing the activities of UNIDIR.

24. A major difficulty with existing arrangements is that, as described in paragraph 3 of appendix II below, the Board has usually not been involved in the sequence of actions leading to consideration and approval by the General Assembly of a study proposal. In successive annual reports (see A/39/549, A/40/744 and A/41/666), the Board has expressed the view that, while it could not presume to censor proposals by delegations of sovereign States, the Board should be in a position to examine proposals for study before submission to the Assembly and to advise on possible directions or scope, priorities, approaches etc., at least if the initiators of proposals so requested.

25. The Board is of the opinion that the question of a careful selection of subjects for study and the matter of costs are of special importance, although it should be understood that expert groups should reflect political and geographical balance. With these factors in mind, and with the introduction of appropriate procedures, the Board could give timely consideration to study proposals and make recommendations on the best means of carrying them out.

26. The Board therefore believes that it would be highly desirable for Member States to present proposals for disarmament studies or research to the Secretary-General by 1 September (rather than directly to the First Committee of the General Assembly in September or October). Consideration by the Board at its September session could then lead to a recommendation on whether the work should be done as a United Nations study or by UNIDIR, and if the latter whether as part of the ongoing programme of work of UNIDIR or as an additional task for which the Assembly should allocate funds. Such a procedure would offer many advantages over present arrangements and would not result in any delay in the implementation of an initiative by a Member State as approved by the Assembly. It is, of course, understood that the final decision on United Nations disarmament studies rests with the Assembly.

VI. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

27. In the light of the survey presented above, the Board is of the view that the 23 disarmament studies have successfully served one or more of the three purposes identified in 1978, namely:

- (a) To assist in ongoing negotiations;
- (b) To identify possible new areas of negotiation;
- (c) To promote public awareness of the problems involved in the arms race and disarmament.

28. The published study reports have made important contributions to a broader understanding of the complexities and differing points of view on a series of highly important issues. Wide political and geographical participation has been achieved and the results have been a series of reports that have come to represent a loosely linked series of commentary and analysis broadly reflecting the views and perceptions held by many of the States Members of the United Nations. At the same time, it should be recognized that the importance of disarmament studies should not be over-valued and that in no way can studies be substitutes for formal negotiations.

29. In the conduct of the studies, valuable experience has been gained and a number of useful principles established, as described in appendix II below, which should be drawn to the attention of groups of experts carrying out studies in the future.

30. In the composition of study groups, the Board believes that financial constraints should be recognized by keeping the number of experts to a minimum consistent with the requirements of political balance, broad geographical representation and efficiency .

31. The principle of consensus should continue to be the normal practice in study groups, while the expression of differing opinions where views cannot be reconciled should be permitted. The absence of a fully agreed text should not prevent the presentation of a report by the study group: acceptance of this principle should act as an incentive to finding ways of expressing differing views. However , it should also be recognized that from time to time some subjects under study will allow only the presentation of divergent views with no likelihood of consensus.

32. The Board is of the opinion that the question of careful selection of subjects for study and the matter of costs are of special importance.

33. The Board believes that the advent of UNIDIR offers new opportunities that could be used to mutual advantage, primarily in the area of independent comment and at lower cost to the regular budget of the United Nations. As described in paragraph 18 above, work could be allocated either to the United Nations for study or to UNIDIR for research, according to the nature and subject matter of the topic or the time-frame within which a response may be needed.

34. The Board considers that, in its twin roles as the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies and as the Board of Trustees of UNIDIR, it is in a prime position to advise on the whole study activity and, through the Secretary-General, to assist the General Assembly as appropriate without trespassing on the rights of sovereign States.

35. The Board therefore recommends that, without prejudice to the rights of Member States, procedures should be instituted that would allow the Board to give timely consideration to study proposals and to the means by which they might best be carried out. To this end, the Board considers that it: would be highly desirable for Member States to present proposals for disarmament studies or research to the Secretary-General by 1 September annually. At its September session, the Board

would consider the proposals. It would then recommend that the work be done either as a United Nations study or by UNIDIR, and if the latter whether as part of the Ongoing programme Of work of UNIDIR, or as an additional task for which the General Assembly should allocate funds. In this connection, the Board is very conscious of the Critical financial situation currently facing UNIDIR. The Institute needs to be properly funded to carry out its normal programme of work. For any additional work assigned to it by the Assembly, UNIDIR will need to be given extra funds.

36. Finally, the Board considers that there is a need for subsequent review and follow-up of disarmament studies, particularly in respect of study recommendations. The Board intends to give this matter further attention in its future consideration of various subjects for study and research in the area of arms limitation and disarmament.

37. In summation, the Board strongly reaffirms the significance of studies and research in the field of disarmament and the value of establishing a co-ordinated approach to make the most effective use of the facilities and resources available to the Department for Disarmament Affairs and to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research,

APPENDIX I

Studies on disarmament under the auspices of the United Nations since 1978

Studies in hand in 1987

**Economic and social consequences of the arms race and of military expenditures
Study of the climatic and potential physical effects of nuclear war, including
nuclear winter**

Study completed in 1986

**Study on Deterrence: its implications for disarmament and the arms race,
negotiated arms reductions and international security and other related matters
(A/41/432, annex; United Nations publication, Sales No.E.87.1X.2)**

Studies completed in 1985

**The Naval Arms Race (A/40/535, annex; United Nations publication, Sales
No. E.86. IX. 3)**

**Concepts of Security (A/40/553, annex; United Nations publication, Sales
No. E.86. IX.1)**

Study on nuclear-weapon-free zones (ended without an agreed text) (see A/40/379)

**Reduction of Military Budgets: Construction of military price indexes and
purchasing-power parities for comparison of military expenditures (A/40/421, annex;
United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86. IX. 2)**

**Study on military use of research and development (ended without an agreed text.)
(see A/40/333)**

Studies completed in 1984

**Unilateral Nuclear Disarmament Measures (A/39/516, annex; United Nations
publication, Sales No. E.85. IX. 2)**

**Study on all aspects of the conventional arms race and on disarmament relating to
conventional weapons and armed forces (A/39/348, annex; subsequently issued with
the title Study on Conventional Disarmament (United Nations publication, Sales
No. E.85. IX.1))**

Studies completed in 1982

Economic and Social Consequences of the Arms Race and of Military Expenditures
(United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.IX.2)

Reduction of military budgets (A/S-12/7, annex; subsequently issued with the title
Reduction of Military Budgets - Refinement of international reporting and
comparison of military expenditures (United Nations publication, Sales
No. E.83.IX.4))

Investigation into reports concerning the alleged use of chemical weapons
(A/37/259, annex)

Studies completed in 1981

Comprehensive Study on Confidence-building Measures (United Nations publication,
Sales No. E.82. IX. 3)

The Relationship between Disarmament and Development (United Nations publication,
Sales No. E.82.IX.1)

Relationship between Disarmament and International Security (United Nations
publication, Sales No. E.82.IX.4)

The Implications of Establishing an International Satellite Monitoring Agency
(United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.IX.3)

Study on Israeli Nuclear Armament (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.IX.2)

Institutional arrangements relating to the process of disarmament (A/36/392, annex)

World Disarmament Campaign (A/36/458, annex)

Studies completed in 1980

Comprehensive nuclear-test ban (A/35/257)

Comprehensive Study on Nuclear Weapons (United Nations publication, Sales
No. E.81.I.11)

Reduction of Military Budgets - International reporting of military budgets (United
Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.I.9)

Study on All the Aspects of Regional Disarmament (United Nations publication,
Sales No. E.81.IX.2)

**South Africa's Plan and Capability in the Nuclear Field (United Nations
publication, Sales No. E.81.I.10)**

**Note: At the request of the General Assembly two studies were updated by
UNIDIR in co-operation with the Department for Disarmament Affairs and published in
1984 (South Africa's nuclear capability (A/39/470, annex)) and in 1985 (Israeli
nuclear armament (A/40/520, annex)) .**

APPENDIX II

Experience gained and some thoughts for the future

1. The list of points given below is not exhaustive and, furthermore, different studies have not all led to the same experience.

The development of a study

2. In the first instance it is useful to describe briefly a typical sequence of events from first proposal to publication of the completed report. It should be borne in mind, however, that no two studies are the same: there are many variations and there can be no fixed pattern applicable to all studies except in the most general terms.

3. Proposals for studies have emerged in a variety of ways, sometimes well in advance of a General Assembly session but sometimes with almost no notice before presentation of a draft resolution. Rarely have Member States sought the advice of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies. Some Member States have sought Secretariat advice on the formulation of their proposals, and some have not.

4. Between the initial proposal of the study and consideration by the First Committee of the relevant draft resolution, the Secretariat has to prepare a statement of the Secretary-General on the administrative and budgetary implications of the specific study. This has to be based on an assessment by the Secretariat of how the study will be carried out and involves assessing such factors as the size of the expert group, the nature of its composition, the number of sessions required and their approximate timing, the probable amount of documentation, the extent to which consultancy services might be required etc.

5. From the start of the work of a group of experts to the presentation of its final report to the Secretary-General, the duration of a study has usually been some 16 or 17 months for a "two-year" study and some 7 months for a "one-year" study.

Size of the group

6. The larger the group, the more likely it is that certain problems may be encountered. Above a certain number, study groups tend to assume a degree of rigidity and formality that may hamper the easy exchange of views and the achievement of agreement. Achievement of an agreement by consensus on the final text may then be much more difficult. However, the greater the number of States associated with the study through their experts, the more representative the results of the study will be of the views of the international community, and the more likely the study is to be widely endorsed in the General Assembly. Practice has shown that with 8 to 12 experts it is possible, as a rule, to make up a group that is both widely representative of the pertinent political approaches and small enough to allow for a productive working procedure.

Political and geographic balance

7. A general policy has developed of endeavouring to reflect political and geographic balance in groups of experts as far as possible. In this way, the three main political groupings (neutral and non-aligned, socialist and Western) and the five regional groupings have been accommodated; in this context, too, a good working size has been found to be 8 to 12 members. At the same time, significant efforts have been made over the span of several studies to involve wide geographic involvement: to date, nationals from 58 countries have taken part in the studies listed in annex I. The Board considers that these practices should continue, as far as is practicable and compatible with the subject under study.

Costs

8. The additional costs - that is, those requiring financial allocations in addition to the regular biennial budget of the United Nations - arise from the practice of paying the travel and per diem expenses of members of the group, the fees of any consultancy expertise required and the conference services involved. Only the first two are responsibilities of the Department for Disarmament Affairs, whereas the last is the responsibility of the Department of Conference Services. The actual financial assessments are made by the competent budgetary authorities of the Secretariat on the basis of estimates provided by those two departments for their respective areas' and are considered by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee. By far the largest proportion of the assessed costs may appear to arise from conference services (interpretation, translation, printing etc.), which, at the time of the preparation of the programme budget statement, are calculated on a full-cost basis. The Board is assured that the actual additional costs incurred over and above the normal costs are only some 14 per cent of the full-cost estimates of conference services. This aspect of the costs is therefore far lower in additional financial allocations than it appears.

Expansion of the group

9. Adoption of the resolution by the General Assembly also authorizes the funds for the study. Subsequent expansion of the group beyond the size forecast in the Secretary-General's statement on administrative and financial implications does not bring extra funds: additional travel and per diem expenses have to be met from the existing funds of the Department for Disarmament Affairs. With the tightening financial constraints of recent years, any expansion of the group can create considerable difficulties, and it has therefore become necessary not to increase the approved number of members except in rare circumstances. Experience has shown that once expansion is permitted by even one expert it is often difficult to contain, for instance, because such an addition may upset the geographic/political balance of a group and may thus have to be compensated for by the addition of several other participants.

Governmental experts

10. Although in earlier studies different types of experts - e.g., "qualified experts", "consultant experts" - conducted the requested studies, in recent years

the General Assembly has increasingly tended to specify "governmental experts" in its resolutions. In practice, and arising from the premise that United Nations disarmament studies are indeed political exercises, it can be said that governmental experts are present to reflect their respective Governments' policies, but not specifically to act on behalf of their Governments. In this manner, governmental experts have some flexibility in their task of assisting the Secretary-General to make an objective report) the result can be authoritative, but without necessarily committing respective Governments to the report's conclusions. This is an important argument in support of multilateral studies made under the aegis of the United Nations.

Presence of negative views

11. To date, it has not been the policy to exclude from the group individuals from Member States that voted against the resolution by which the General Assembly mandated the study in the first place or that might be expected to take a negative stance with respect to the subject matter. The view has been that each case should be considered on its merits, but that a negative vote does not mean that that State has no interest in the subject under study; on the contrary, the interest may be strong, albeit negative. The difficulty experienced has arisen from the fact that the groups have usually sought to reach consensus. It has therefore proved possible for one or two members to have considerable effect on the study report in such circumstances.

Conduct of the work - consensus

12. In general the most desirable outcome is a report reflecting consensus on its entire substance, but in practice there can be variations on this theme. Experience, however, has indicated that it is necessary to clarify at an early stage the basic rules by which the study will be carried out. For instance, will it be practicable to produce a text that commands consensus throughout, or should differing views be expressed on contentious issues within the overall framework of a consensus report? Even where different views are set forth, balance and moderation are necessary so that the language may be appropriate for the Secretary-General to present to the General Assembly. If different views are presented, should this method be adopted throughout the exercise, or used only towards the end of the exercise if it becomes clear that complete agreement on the substance is not possible? Should agreement be by consensus in all cases or by consensus as far as possible, but allowing for the possibility of the expression of reservations if necessary? The positions that the group chooses to adopt on such aspects in the early stages of a study become of increasing significance towards the final stages.

Consultants

13. The number of studies requested by the General Assembly varies from year to year and it would be neither appropriate nor possible to have on hand a permanent staff equipped with the expertise required to deal with all eventualities. It is therefore the standard practice in the Secretariat to keep the permanent staff dealing with studies to a minimum and to supplement them as necessary with the

services of outside consultants to provide substantive knowledge to the extent that it is not available from the Secretariat. This practice both serves the interest of economy and ensures the availability of the specific expertise required in respect of the study in question. In assessing the extent of consultancy servicing that may be required, an estimate is made of the total number of work-months that may be needed; to permit flexibility the practice is to request a specific number of months, thereby allowing the Secretariat to engage one or more consultants up to a maximum of the total number of months of service approved by the General Assembly. As a means of obtaining access to a wider range of expertise, an alternative method that has worked well has been to make use of papers specially commissioned from qualified individuals or recognized research institutes.

APPENDIX I II

Publications of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

Establishment of an Automated Data Base on Disarmament; Preliminary Study, by (Jean-François Guilhaudie, A. Claude, J. Fontanel and F. Renzetti (United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.E.82.0.3)

Repertory of Disarmament Research, by Jean-Pierre Cot, Jean-François Guilhaudie and Chantal de Jonge Oudraat (United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.E.82.0.2)

Risks of Unintentional Nuclear War, by Daniel Frei, with the collaboration of Christian Catrina (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.0.1)

Der Ungewollte Atomkrieg - Eine Risiko-Analyse, German translation of the above published by C. H. Beck

"Disarmament and security: Yugoslavia", by Vojin Dimitrijevic

"National mechanisms and institutions for disarmament", by Volker Rittberger

"Negotiating disarmament", by Urs Luterbacher and Dee Ann Caflisch

"Sécurité et désarmement, le cas de la Belgique", by René Schalbroeck

"Sources of information on disarmament and related issues: a short guide" (UNIDIR)

"Conceptual issues related to European security, arms control and confidence-building measures", by Marek Thee

"Austria's security policy (Security of States at lower levels of armaments)", by Hanspeter Neuhold and Heinz Vetschera

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