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LETTER DATED 11 SEPTEMBER 1987 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF SWEDEN
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a statement made by the delegation of Sweden at the plenary meeting on 11 September 1987 of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development.

I should be grateful if this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development.

(Signed) Maj Britt THEORIN
Ambassador, M.P.

Annex

STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF SWEDEN AT THE 14TH MEETING OF
THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, ON 11 SEPTEMBER 1987

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At this Conference, we did not come so far as to know that cannons were being melted down into plowshares. But we came far, very far. Yes, longer than many thought or could hope for.

Our results are rather impressive. The Final Document just adopted not only analyses the problems, it shows a direction. We have all, by consensus, committed our States not only to pursue disarmament and development, but to let development reap the fruits of disarmament.

The relationship between disarmament and development is now firmly put on the international agenda. It is there to stay. It will remain a priority item for the United Nations and a main issue in all disarmament contexts.

True, the debate is not new. It is rooted in the Charter of the United Nations. And much work has been done: our compilation of agreed formulations makes reference to two special sessions, over 30 consensus resolutions by the General Assembly and six expert studies reported by the Secretary-General. But all this notwithstanding, this has been the first International Conference ever entirely devoted to how disarmament and development are linked and how the international community can benefit from that link.

Much has here been said about security. Some have felt that undue emphasis has been put on that concept, that it might obscure the central relationship between disarmament and development.

Though recognizing and respecting such concerns, Sweden would look at the problem also from a different angle.

Why is disarmament a must? Because in a world of multiple independently targeted re-entry vehicles (MIRVs), mutual assured destruction (MAD) and megatons, there is no security.

Why is development a must? Because in a world of hunger and poverty, there is no security.

Our Final Document interprets security in the broadest possible political, economic and human sense.

Our Final Document takes exception to the view that security can be realized in a narrow national or regional perspective. Its security concept is not one of security in isolation, but of security by co-operation; to use a well-known term: common security. It is in this spirit that the Document explicitly states that "the

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pursuit of national security regardless of its impact on the security of others can create overall international insecurity, thereby undermining the very security it aims at promoting. This is even more so in the context of the catastrophic consequences of a nuclear war".

The Final Document furthermore underscores that our world is facing a choice: pursue the arms race or development. It cannot do both.

In this very Document the choice is made. In 10 pages, all participating States make a compelling case for a new direction, for a different policy than that which has brought the world to the brink of catastrophe.

We all know that words and deeds are not always the same. Determination, fantasy, courage but also thorough analysis and planning are needed to turn vision into reality.

This is one of the reasons why preparation for conversion can be a litmus test. It will test the determination of States to go for disarmament in favour of development.

The Document points to the benefits of conversion. From now on, all States will consider to review conversion, to study and plan for conversion, to make known to their own peoples and to other countries the benefits of conversion and experiences in finding solutions to problems connected with it.

Clearly no consensus document is likely to be perfect in the view of any one Delegation. In the course of the preparatory work, in the working groups and in the consultations at the Conference Sweden has suggested a number of drafting proposals. Many, I am confident to say, would almost certainly have met no objections. Many would possibly have been recognized by all as ideas to make the Document more readable.

A full evaluation of this International Conference will obviously have to wait. I have in my first plenary remarks only wanted to highlight some main points, concerns and achievements as seen from the perspective of Sweden.

Allow me to express my delegation's sincere thanks and gratitude to all who have helped to make the Conference a success. Our success is an answer to those who chose not to join us. It is an answer to those who say that the United Nations no longer matters, that it is biased and doomed to fail. Most important, it is answer to our peoples' demands for disarmament and for development.

Our solemn commitments must be realized and our visions come true: the cannons must be melted down to plowshares.
