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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 studies on disarmament

Report of the Secretary-General

1. In paragraph 98 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly (see resolution S-10/2), the Assembly stated that "at its thirty-third and subsequent sessions the General Assembly should determine the specific guidelines for carrying out studies, taking into account the proposals already submitted including those made by individual countries at the special session, as well as other proposals which can be introduced later in this field. In doing so, the Assembly would take into consideration a report on these matters prepared by the Secretary-General."
2. In paragraph 124 of the Final Document, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to set 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.
3. In the view of the Secretary-General, it would have been desirable, in submitting this report, to take account of the recommendations of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies. That Board is still being constituted, however, and it has not been possible to schedule its first meeting until mid-November. The Secretary-General therefore considers it appropriate to submit a first report on the subject without delay. A further report to the Assembly will be submitted on the basis of the advice received from the Advisory Board, as soon as possible after the Board's first meeting.

4. For the information of the General Assembly, a list of reports on the studies on disarmament and arms limitation, which have so far been made under United Nations auspices, is annexed to the present report. Most of the studies in question have been carried out by the Secretary-General with the assistance of consultant experts or governmental experts appointed by him. Others were prepared by experts appointed by Governments: the 1972 report on Napalm and Other Incendiary Weapons and All Aspects of their Possible Use, the 1975 Comprehensive Study of the Question of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones in All Its Aspects and the 1978 report of the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to consider international co-operative measures to detect and to identify seismic events, the last two having been prepared under the auspices of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament. In all cases, with the exception of the 1977 paper on disarmament and development and the 1978 report of the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts, the studies were prepared following specific requests made by the General Assembly. Although it may be difficult to establish precise categories among them, it should be noted that they may serve a number of purposes:

(a) Studies which may originate from ongoing negotiations and are made to facilitate such negotiations (see for example, the 1978 report of the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Co-operative Measures to Detect and to Identify Seismic Events);

(b) Studies intended to assist in the identification of specific topics with a view to a negotiating process (see, for example, the 1969 Study on Chemical and Bacteriological (Biological) Weapons and the Effects of their Possible Use);

(c) Studies undertaken with a view to providing the general background to current discussions (see, for example, the 1975 Comprehensive Study of the Question of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones in All Its Aspects);

(d) Studies attempting to assess the impact of armaments in the international situation (see, for example, the various studies on the Economic and Social Consequences of the Arms Race).

5. On occasion, analyses having the characteristics of studies are made by the Secretariat, as part of its staff functions and on the basis of the expertise of the staff members concerned, with the assistance, when required, of consultants. Thus, for example, the 1977 Compilation of Material on Chemical Weapons from CCD Working Papers and Statements, 1972-1976, 1/ and background and working papers prepared for the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament. 2/

1/ Distributed to the members of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament as an informal document.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly: Tenth Special Session, Supplement No. 1 (A/S-10/1), vol. II: A/AC.187/29 and Corr.1 and Add.1; vol. III: A/AC.187/30 and Corr.1, and A/AC.187/31; vol. IV: A/AC.187/67-72; vol. V: A/AC.187/73, A/AC.187/74 and Corr.1 and A/AC.187/75 and Corr.1 and 2; and vol. VI: A/AC.187/109.

6. A number of specialized agencies and other institutions and programmes within the United Nations system conduct studies on subjects in the field of disarmament and arms limitation (see, for example, the 1969 report on Health Aspects of Chemical and Biological Weapons, prepared by a group of consultants under the auspices of the World Health Organization). ^{3/} That report is an expanded and revised version of an interim report that the World Health Organization provided to assist in the preparation of the 1969 United Nations Report on Chemical and Bacteriological (Biological) Weapons and the Effects of their Possible Use. Some of the information contained in the interim report was included in the United Nations study. The United Nations report presents a comprehensive discussion of the problem, while the World Health Organization report deals specifically with the public health implications of the possible use of such weapons and is addressed mainly to medical authorities. These reports are, therefore, complementary.

7. There are also various non-governmental organizations and research institutions, both of an international and a national nature and including a number in the academic field, which make studies that are of direct relevance to the work of the United Nations in this regard, and compile data that may be of use in the United Nations studies. Some of those organizations and institutions are also equipped to carry out elements of such studies.

8. To the extent appropriate, results of the activities of those bodies referred to in paragraphs 6 and 7 may be used in the preparation of documentation for studies on disarmament and arms limitation carried out under United Nations auspices. The Advisory Board may need comprehensive knowledge of the results of those activities, in order to be able to discharge its functions properly. The Secretariat will therefore take steps to provide the Advisory Board with information in that respect.

9. The General Assembly decided, at its tenth special session, that the Secretary-General should, with the assistance of a group of qualified experts appointed by him, initiate an expert study on the relationship between disarmament and development, submit an interim report on the subject to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session and submit the final result to the Assembly at its thirty-sixth session for subsequent action (see resolution S-10/2, para. 94). The Group of Governmental Experts on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development held its first meeting in Geneva from 4 to 13 September 1978. The Group decided that it might be of interest for the thirty-third session of the General Assembly to have an organizational report on its work, which is being submitted separately.

10. Also at its tenth special session, the General Assembly had before it a report of the Secretary-General on the interrelationship between disarmament and international security. ^{4/} By paragraph 97 of the Final Document, the Assembly

^{3/} Health Aspects of Chemical and Biological Weapons, World Health Organization, Geneva, 1970.

^{4/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Tenth Special Session, document A/S-10/7 and Corr.1.

called upon the Secretary-General to continue, with the assistance of consultant experts appointed by him, the study on the interrelationship between disarmament and international security requested in Assembly resolution 32/87 C of 12 December 1977 and submit it to the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly. The Secretary-General accordingly intends to convene a study group of governmental experts during 1979.

11. During the tenth special session of the General Assembly, a number of Member States made proposals and suggestions for various studies to be undertaken under the auspices of the United Nations. Some of its proposals and suggestions are listed or referred to in paragraph 125 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session. The Secretary-General intends to submit to the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies, at its first meeting, a compilation of all proposals and suggestions for studies in the area of disarmament and arms limitation, made during the tenth special session. Reference is also made to various provisions of the Final Document which, if the Assembly so decides, would lead to studies being undertaken, such as paragraphs 92 and 93 (c). The Secretary-General expects that this material will assist the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies to carry out its mandate. In that connexion, in his report on the work of the Organization, 5/ the Secretary-General stated that, if a comprehensive approach to disarmament were to be successful, it should encompass not only the deliberative and negotiating levels, but also supporting activities, such as research, study and information. He also pointed out that the Advisory Board should develop a programme of studies responsive to the requirements imposed by the programme of action on disarmament.

5/ Ibid., Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 1 (A/33/1), pp. 13 and 14.

ANNEX

Studies in the area of disarmament and arms limitation
undertaken under the auspices of the United Nations

The following studies in the area of disarmament and arms limitation have been undertaken in the past under the auspices of the United Nations:

- 1962 Economic and Social Consequences of Disarmament, E/3593/Rev.1 (United Nations publication, Sales No. 62.IX.1);
- 1967 Effects of the Possible Use of Nuclear Weapons and the Security and Economic Implications for States of the Acquisition and Further Development of these Weapons, A/6858 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.68.IX.1);
- 1969 Chemical and Bacteriological (Biological) Weapons and the Effects of their Possible Use, A/7575/Rev.1-S/9292/Rev.1 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.69.I.29);
- 1971 Economic and Social Consequences of the Arms Race and of Military Expenditures, A/8469/Rev.1 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.72.IX.16);
- 1972 Napalm and Other Incendiary Weapons and All Aspects of Their Possible Use, A/8803/Rev.1 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.73.I.3);
- 1972 Disarmament and Development; Report of the Group of Experts on the Economic and Social Consequences of Disarmament, ST/ECA/174 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.73.IX.1);
- 1974 Factual statement prepared by the Secretary-General with the assistance of qualified consultant experts, of the Great Power's military presence in the Indian Ocean (A/AC.159/1/Rev.1);
- 1974 Reduction of the military budgets of States permanent members of the Security Council by 10 per cent and utilization of part of the funds thus saved to provide assistance to developing countries, A/9770/Rev.1 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.I.10);
- 1975 Comprehensive Study of the Question of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones in All Its Aspects: report of the Ad Hoc Group of Qualified Governmental Experts under the auspices of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, A/10027/Add.1 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.I.7);
- 1976 Reduction of Military Budgets. Measurement and International Reporting of Military Expenditures, A/31/222/Rev.1 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.77.I.6);

- 1977 Disarmament and development: an analytical survey and pointers for action. Paper prepared by consultants Barry M. Blechman and Edmond R. Fried (United Nations document E/AC.54/L.90);
- 1977 Reduction of military budgets: report of the Secretary-General with the assistance of an intergovernmental group of budgetary experts (A/32/194 and Add.1);
- 1977 Economic and Social Consequences of the Arms Race and of Military Expenditures, A/32/88/Rev.1 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.IX.1);
- 1978 Report to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament of the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to consider international co-operative measures to detect and to identify seismic events (Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/33/27)).

Analytical summaries of a number of these studies prepared by the Secretariat in response to a request of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament, are included in volume IV of the report of the Preparatory Committee. a/

a/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Tenth Special Session, Supplement No. 1 (A/S-10/1), vol. IV, document A/AC.187/72.