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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Objective information on military matters

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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FINLAND

[Original: English]

[12 August 1986]

1. As a general goal, Finland welcomes efforts aimed at greater openness in military matters in general and at improving the flow of objective information on military matters in particular.
2. Finland participates, with military experts attached to its delegation, in the Conference on Disarmament in Europe, which deals in part with the question of greater openness of military information. Together with other neutral and non-aligned countries, Finland has supported the notion that the availability of relevant information on military matters will enhance security in Europe.
3. Finland has also fully supported and is participating, under the auspices of the United Nations, in an international system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures with annual reports on its military budgets. In order to account for the structural differences between the military budgets of different countries so as to produce higher quality comparative data, it might be useful to try to improve the currently used standardized reporting instrument by an agreement between the participating States on detailed content included in the main items (1 to 4) of the currently used form. At the same time, it might be expedient to decrease the number of sum-items and regroup them into larger entities.
4. In Finland, military expenditures are published, in detailed items, as part of state budgets, which are public documents. The defence forces also produce a public and widely distributed annual report of their activities. These documents fully satisfy the requirements for greater openness and better flow of objective information on military matters.
