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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Conventional disarmament

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic 2

UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

[Original: Russian]

[16 October 1986]

1. The Ukrainian SSR agrees with the goals of the study, which is to "single out areas in which negotiations likely to lead to genuine results may be held, inasmuch as the way to achieve the limitation and reduction of armed forces and conventional weapons is through negotiations and the reaching of agreements" (A/39/348, para. 11).
2. The study rightly points out that the existing arsenals of nuclear weapons constitute a threat to the very survival of mankind. Consequently, the international negotiations should attach paramount importance to measures aimed at preventing nuclear war and eliminating nuclear weapons. At the same time, there can be no doubt that progress in limiting conventional weapons and reducing armed forces would facilitate progress towards limiting nuclear weapons and subsequently eliminating them.
3. Like the other countries in the socialist community, the Ukrainian SSR is in favour of a comprehensive approach to the issue of disarmament so that the elimination of weapons of mass destruction is bolstered by a significant reduction in armed forces and conventional weapons. This position was reflected in the programme for comprehensive security through disarmament proposed by the USSR on 15 January 1986 and in the appeal by the States members of the Warsaw Treaty to the States members of NATO and to all European countries for a programme for the reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe adopted at Budapest on 11 June 1986.
4. The Ukrainian SSR considers that the problems of reducing armed forces and conventional weapons has become particularly acute and pressing in Europe. At present the two largest groupings of armed forces equipped with the most advanced weapons are facing each other on the European continent.
5. The results of the Stockholm Conference on Confidence- and Security-building Measures and Disarmament in Europe are important in this regard. A major step has been made towards alleviating tension and improving the international political climate, which is so essential if the critical problems of the nuclear and space age are to be solved.
6. The understandings reached at Stockholm improve the prospects for establishing a stable situation in Europe and promote the growth of an atmosphere of confidence at the international level also. This fully corresponds with the conclusion contained in paragraph 192 of the study, which points out that a successful outcome at the Stockholm Conference would "represent a significant contribution to European security as well as to international peace and security in general".

7. In the opinion of the Ukrainian SSR, the implementation of the above-mentioned programme for reducing armed forces and conventional weapons put forward by the socialist countries would contribute to a substantial further lessening of the threat of war in Europe and throughout the world.

8. Of primary importance is the proposal for a substantial reduction in the land and tactical air forces of European States, and in the corresponding forces of the United States of America and Canada, stationed in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals. Simultaneously with conventional armaments, tactical nuclear weapons with a range of up to 1,000 kilometres should also be reduced.

9. It is suggested that funds becoming available as a result of appropriate reductions should be used not for the creation of new types of weapons but for the needs of economic and social development. Such an approach is reflected in paragraphs 90 to 95 of the study, in particular.

10. The proposal of the socialist States attaches great significance to questions related to reliable and effective verification using both national technical means and international procedures including on-site inspection.

11. One of the components of the initiative of the States members of the Warsaw Treaty is their undertaking never, under any circumstances, to initiate military actions against any State, whether in Europe or in another region of the world, if they themselves are not victims of aggression.

12. The appeal by the Warsaw Treaty States to the States members of NATO and to all European countries is wide in scale and multifaceted in nature. It contains specific proposals concerning the order and main stages of force reductions, the exchange of the appropriate information, possible organizational arrangements for future negotiations and confidence-building measures.

13. In the opinion of the Ukrainian SSR, the present initiative of the socialist countries provides a good basis for substantive discussion of the issues which have been raised with regard to the conventional arms race.

14. Such negotiations would be the start of an important process in a region having a high concentration of armed forces and conventional weapons and would promote progress towards disarmament in both the nuclear and the conventional fields as well as efforts aimed at establishing a comprehensive system of international peace and security, which is the strategic orientation of the socialist countries' foreign policy.
