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REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF
THE TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:
REGIONAL DISARMAMENT

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 15 December 1989 the General Assembly adopted resolution 44/117 B on regional disarmament, paragraphs 5 to 9 of which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"5. Encourages all States to consider and develop, as far as possible, regional solutions in the matter of arms reduction and disarmament;

"6. Invites all States and regional institutions associated with regional disarmament efforts to report thereon to the Secretary-General;

"7. Requests the United Nations to lend its assistance to States and regional institutions that may request it, with the view to the institution of measures within the framework of an effort for regional disarmament;

"8. Requests the Secretary-General to keep the General Assembly regularly informed of the implementation of resolutions on regional disarmament and of the activities which the Secretariat, in particular the Department for Disarmament Affairs, and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research are conducting in the field of regional disarmament;

"9. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session the item entitled "Regional disarmament: report of the Secretary-General".

2. In pursuance of paragraph 8 of the resolution, the activities of the Department for Disarmament Affairs and of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) are described in sections II and III of the present report. With respect to paragraph 7 of the resolution, the Secretary-General has not so far received any requests from States or regional institutions for assistance concerning efforts for regional disarmament. In connection with paragraph 6 of the resolution, the Secretary-General has, to date, received replies from Belgium, Bulgaria, China, Czechoslovakia, Finland, New Zealand, Peru and Thailand. These replies are reproduced in section IV of the present report. With reference to regional institutions associated with regional disarmament efforts, those institutions were informed by the Secretariat of the General Assembly's invitation, as reflected in paragraph 6 of the resolution. The Secretary-General has not received a reply from any of those institutions to date.

II. ACTIVITIES OF THE SECRETARIAT

3. During the period covered by this report, the Secretariat has undertaken the following activities relating to General Assembly resolution 44/117 B on regional disarmament:

(a) Within the framework of the Training Programme of its Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, the Department for Disarmament Affairs organized a workshop for senior African military and civilian officials on conflict resolution, crisis prevention and management and confidence-building among African States. The workshop, which was convened in cooperation with the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and its Centre for Foreign Relations, was held at Arusha (United Republic of Tanzania), from 5 to 16 March 1990. The workshop was attended by senior military and civilian officials of 29 African States, drawn largely from areas of conflict or tension in the region. Senior officials from the host Government, the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, as well as the experts from within and outside the region, addressed the conference, whose primary objective was to promote the peaceful settlement of disputes and the non-use of force in inter-State relations in Africa.

(b) The Department for Disarmament Affairs also organized a workshop on conflict resolution, crisis prevention and management and confidence-building for senior military and civilian officials from the Member States of the 10-nation Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). The workshop was held at Yaoundé, from 17 to 21 June 1991 and was addressed by senior officials from the host Government, the United Nations, the Economic Community of Central African States as well as other experts from within and outside the region. Participants adopted a final document in which they, inter alia, recommended the conclusion of a non-aggression pact and the establishment, under United Nations auspices, of a permanent consultative committee to promote security in the Central African subregion (see A/46/307).

(c) The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, located at Lima, continued to operate, within available funds, a programme of activities that included publication of a book on common security, the publication of a quarterly Bulletin, dissemination of information, and participation in conferences and seminars on issues relating to peace, security, disarmament and development.

(d) A Symposium on Regional Security in Latin America was held on 6 June 1990 under the auspices of the Regional Centre for military attachés of the region accredited in Lima, Peruvian military officers and Peruvian Foreign Ministry officials. The Symposium was chaired by General Francisco Morales Bermúdez, former President of Peru. From 25 to 26 July 1990, the Centre, in cooperation with the Argentine Council for Foreign Relations and the United Nations Information Centre in Buenos Aires, organized a seminar on disarmament and arms limitation issues, which was attended by government officials, diplomats and representatives from educational institutions, non-governmental organizations, the armed forces and university students.

(e) From 29 to 31 January 1990, the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific organized its first Regional Meeting on Confidence-Building Measures in the Asia-Pacific Region in Kathmandu. The meeting focused attention on two subregions, namely, South Asia and North-East Asia. A second Regional Meeting on the same subject, which was held in Kathmandu from 24 to 26 January 1991, focused attention on the South-East and North-East Asian subregions. Both regional meetings were attended by representatives from Governments, research institutes and non-governmental organizations. Both meetings were opened by the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs. Through in-depth and candid discussions both in plenary meetings and in working groups, participants examined the role of confidence-building measures and their feasibility in Asia and the Pacific, particularly the subregions under consideration, and many positive views were offered.

(f) A Regional Disarmament Workshop for Asia and the Pacific took place from 28 January to 1 February 1991 in Bandung.

It was organized by the Department for Disarmament Affairs in cooperation with the Government of Indonesia and was addressed, at its opening, by Mr. Ali Alatas, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, Mr. Yasushi Akashi, Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations, and Lieutenant-General (Army) Yogie S. Memet, Governor of West Java Province, Republic of Indonesia. The workshop considered the concepts of peace and security in the Asia-Pacific context; assessed the global efforts to achieve a comprehensive ban on chemical weapons and to strengthen the non-proliferation regimes of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction; reviewed regional disarmament efforts in general and examined, more specifically, such efforts and proposals from the South-Asian, South-East Asian and the Pacific perspectives; and discussed, through various case studies, conflict resolution in the Asia-Pacific region. Participants from 21 countries from Asia and the Pacific took part in the workshop.

(g) A Seminar on Confidence- and Security-Building measures was held from 25 to 27 February 1991 in Vienna.

It was organized by the Department for Disarmament Affairs in cooperation with the Government of Austria.

The seminar reviewed the development of confidence- and security-building measures in Europe, assessed their future role in the post-cold-war era and examined the possible application of the European experience to other regions of the world. About 60 high-level experts from all regions of the world attended the three-day seminar and participated in in-depth discussions of more specific aspects of confidence- and security-building measures through three working groups. These included measures to increase transparency in military affairs, measures to confirm the implementation of agreed obligations and measures of cooperation. Three other working groups discussed confidence- and security-building measures with respect to three regions: Africa; Asia and the Pacific; and Latin America and the Caribbean.

(h) A meeting of experts on the denuclearization of Africa took place from 6 to 10 May 1991, at Addis Ababa.

The meeting was held, pursuant to paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 45/56 of 4 December 1990 on the implementation of the Declaration on the denuclearization of Africa, in order to study the modalities and possible elements for preparing and implementing a convention or treaty on the denuclearization of Africa. The meeting was opened by Mr. Yilma Tadesse, the then Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs of the Organization of African Unity.

Nine experts, jointly appointed by the Secretariats of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, took part in the meeting. Observers from 11 African countries also attended the meeting. The experts examined, among other things, the origin of the proposal to create a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Africa, explored the means for the preparation and implementation of a treaty on the denuclearization of Africa, reviewed the possible elements of such a treaty, studied a nuclear-weapon-free zone for Africa and assessed the extent to which the provisions of the Treaties of Tlatelolco and Rarotonga might serve as models for a treaty on a nuclear-weapon-free zone for Africa.

(i) A Regional Disarmament Workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean, was convened by the Department for Disarmament Affairs from 1 to 5 July 1991, in Mexico City.

The workshop, the third in a series of regional disarmament workshops, was organized with financial support from the Government of Norway. At its opening, the workshop heard a welcome address by Mr. Sergio González Gálvez, Acting Foreign Minister of Mexico and an opening statement of the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs (read out by the Chief of the Monitoring, Analysis and Studies Branch of the Department for Disarmament Affairs). The workshop was attended by some 20 diplomats from Latin America and the Caribbean dealing with security and disarmament matters in their respective countries. Through a series of briefings, lectures, discussions and case studies, the workshop assessed the global efforts to achieve a comprehensive ban on chemical weapons; discussed the current status of negotiations on the chemical-weapons convention; reviewed regional disarmament efforts in general and prospects for conventional arms limitation in Latin America in particular; and considered regional efforts to strengthen the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

(j) More detailed accounts of the activities of the regional centres are contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/46/365).

III. ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE
FOR DISARMAMENT RESEARCH

4. During the period covered by the present report (1990-1991), the activities of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) relevant to paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 44/117 B on regional disarmament included the following.

A. Research projects and publications on regional disarmament issues

1. Security of third world countries

5. In 1987, the UNIDIR Board of Trustees expressed a wide measure of support for a research project on the security of third world countries. UNIDIR accordingly developed a project proposal that envisages a comprehensive analysis of security of third world countries.

6. A group of scholars, adequately representative of the political and geographical diversity in the third world, were invited to approach the subject both from a regional perspective and in its totality, examining specific threats to the security of third world countries and identifying the elements of third world perceptions of security.

7. The final meeting of the group was held at New Delhi from 24 to 26 April 1990, with the cooperation of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses of India. The research report resulting from the project is being finalized for publication.

2. Regional approaches to disarmament, security and stability

8. In the wake of the rapprochement between the United States and the Soviet Union and the lessening of international tension, attention has been focused on achieving regional disarmament and security. The research project, which commenced in 1991, is designed to help clarify the relationship between regional and universal approaches; examine initiatives of direct concern to all States in particular regions; place the discussion in its historical and geopolitical contexts and define a regional concept of disarmament and arms control that will achieve the security and stability of all States on an equitable basis, bearing in mind the specific characteristics of each region. This project will complement the Institute's work on the security of third world countries and the national security concept series.

3. European disarmament and security

(a) European security in the 1990s: problems of South-East Europe

9. Changes in East-West relations and political developments in Eastern Europe have fundamentally altered the parameters of European security discussions. Beyond the pan-European approach to security, subregional approaches are also relevant. The examination of specific issues in South-East Europe in the present context of European security is desirable. The research project will be conducted in 1991, in the region with academic specialists and policy makers from the South-East European countries as well as a selected number of representatives from outside that area. The outcome of the project is to be published in early 1992.

(b) Publications

10. Problems and Perspectives of Conventional Disarmament in Europe. Proceedings of the Geneva Conference 23-25 January 1989, published for UNIDIR by Taylor and Francis (New York, London), 1989, 140 p. Existe aussi en français: Désarmement classique en Europe. Problèmes et perspectives, publié pour l'UNIDIR et l'IFRI par Masson (Paris), 1990, 226 p. Esquisse pour un nouveau paysage européen, par Eric Remacle, Octobre 1990, 178 p., publication des Nations Unies, numero de vente GV.F.91.0.2. UNIDIR Travaux de Recherche No. 8.

4. Other related projects

(a) Symposium on defensive strategies, defence postures and disarmament

11. The concepts of non-provocative defence, defensive strategies and defence postures have increasingly become the subject of research activity and widespread political recognition.

12. UNIDIR, in association with the United Nations Association of the United States of America and the Max-Planck Society of the Federal Republic of Germany, held a symposium in New York on the subject from 6 to 8 September 1989. Approximately 30 participants, including academic specialists, diplomats, military experts and others representing a diversity of countries, were invited to participate. The concepts were examined from different perspectives, with a view to investigating their feasibility as disarmament measures achieving security at lower levels of armaments, their applicability in regions outside Europe and their impact on strategic concepts and approaches.

13. The papers presented at the symposium and a summary of the discussion have been published as a research report (Non-offensive Defense: A Global Perspective, published for UNIDIR by Taylor and Francis (New York, London), 1990, 194 p.).

(b) The United Nations in disarmament and security

14. A conference, entitled "The United Nations in disarmament and security: evolution and prospects", was organized by UNIDIR in December 1990. The conference examined the role of multilateral diplomacy within the United Nations framework in strengthening stability and security at the global and regional levels, reducing tensions, solving conflicts and contributing to disarmament and arms limitations in the context of the new approaches in international relations, and evolving strategic doctrines. The conference participants included senior policy makers, diplomats and scholars.

15. The proceedings will be published in the second half of 1991, as a research report.

(c) Verification in disarmament

16. This programme involves two activities of interest in regional disarmament:

- (i) A research project on the technical, legal and strategic aspects of verification in the field of limitation and reduction of conventional armaments, in particular in the light of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE). The research project will be carried out with the assistance of qualified experts. The project is to be completed in 1992.
- (ii) A research project to examine a great variety of existing and proposed international disarmament verification organizations, whether of a bilateral, regional, global, a uni-functional, multi-functional or omni-functional nature. The report will also examine proposals as presented in the academic literature on the subject. The project is to be completed in 1992.

(d) National security concepts of States

17. For several years, UNIDIR has been conducting a project in the framework of which reports on national security concepts are elaborated. Their objective is to present the concepts that guide the foreign and security policies or initiatives of States, including their approaches to disarmament. Conducted in a systematic way, such a series may greatly facilitate the understanding of national policies and may permit the placement of each particular behaviour in a more general context including its regional one. It could also help to explain some of the difficulties that current disarmament negotiations encounter.

18. Research reports on a number of countries are being prepared with the cooperation of qualified authors who participated in a workshop organized by UNIDIR in 1989 to discuss research methodology and the different approaches to their tasks.

B. Regional conferences of research institutes

1. Conference of African research institutes

19. UNIDIR, with the cooperation of the Algerian National Institute for Global Strategic Studies (INESG), organized a conference of African research institutes working on disarmament and international security issues, held on 24 and 25 March 1990 at Algiers. The Algiers conference was the first in a planned series of regional conferences of research institutes under the aegis of UNIDIR for the purpose of bringing together the research community in the region and fostering inter-institute cooperation.

20. The conference was attended by more than 20 African experts and scholars as well as by a limited number of experts from other regions of the world. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) were represented at the conference.

21. Four sessions were held, during which the following subjects were discussed:

(a) Concepts of security in Africa, with reports by Affolabi Moussa Okanla (Benin) and M'Hamed Taibi (Algeria);

(b) African positions on disarmament: global issues, with reports by Ali Hillal Dessouki (Egypt) and Col. Gustave Zoula (OAU);

(c) African positions on disarmament: regional and subregional issues, with reports by Habib Fedhila (Tunisia) and Gabriel Olusanya (Nigeria);

(d) A round-table discussion on cooperation among research institutes in Africa was held, with papers prepared by UNIDIR.

22. Press conferences were held at the opening and closure of the conference. The papers presented at the conference were published by UNIDIR.

23. Africa, Disarmament and Security/Afrique, Désarmement et Sécurité, Proceedings of the Conference of African Research Institutes, 24-25 March 1990/Actes de la Conférence des Instituts de recherche africains, 24-25 mars 1990, Geneva, UNIDIR, United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.E/F.91.0.1.

2. Conference of Latin American and Caribbean institutes

24. In furtherance of its objective of fostering cooperation among research institutes, UNIDIR envisages organizing a conference of disarmament research institutes in Latin America and the Caribbean on the subject of "Concepts of security and disarmament in Latin America and the Caribbean and the status of research", to take place at the end of 1991.

25. Researchers, experts and academics from different countries in the region, and from the United Nations Regional Centre of Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as a limited number of specialists from outside the region will participate. The proceedings of the conference will be published.

3. Conference of Asian and Pacific research institutes

26. A conference similar to the above is expected to be organized in 1992 for research institutes in Asia and the Pacific.

C. UNIDIR Newsletter

27. The quarterly "UNIDIR Newsletter" aims at promoting and strengthening international cooperation in disarmament and related international security research. It focuses, inter alia, on research being carried out on issues of disarmament and international security in one particular region.

28. For the period under review four regional issues have been published: research in Eastern Europe (December 1989); research in North America (June 1990); and research in Northern and Western Europe (December 1990 and March 1991).

29. As of March 1991, regional issues of UNIDIR Newsletter have been suspended. Publication of the Repertory of Disarmament Research has obviated the need for publishing regional and newsletter issues.

30. The UNIDIR Research Institute Database, upon which the publication of the Repertory is based, also permits regional searches of research institutes and publications.

31. UNIDIR Repertory of Disarmament Research: 1990, by Chantal de Jonge Oudrant and Pericles Gasparini Alves (eds.) 1990, 402 p. United Nations publication, Sales No. 8V.E.90.0.10, to be updated in 1992.

IV. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

BELGIUM

[Original: French]

[11 March 1991]

1. Belgium adopted the 1990 Vienna document concerning Negotiations on Confidence- and Security-building Measures, which incorporates a series of new measures that complement those adopted in the Document of the Stockholm Conference.

The participating States recognized that the negotiations would continue in accordance with the mandates of the Madrid and Vienna follow-up meetings of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), so as to develop and broaden the results already achieved.

2. Belgium also contributed to the elaboration of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE-1) signed in Paris on 19 November 1990.

The achievement of a more stable and secure balance of conventional forces at lower levels in the Atlantic-to-Urals zone will strengthen stability and security on the European continent by eliminating the capability for launching surprise attack and for initiating large-scale offensive action.

3. Belgium intends to participate actively in the following negotiations:

3.1 CFE-1-A, concerning issues (personnel, limitations, aerial inspection) which were not covered by CFE-1;

3.2 Confidence- and security-building measures (CSBM): continuation of Negotiations on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures, some of which were approved in Paris;

3.3 "Open Skies": continuation of negotiations in Vienna, along with the CFE-1-A negotiations, on aerial observation (to supplement the aerial inspections provided for in CFE-1-A).

4. Belgium participates in the following permanent CFE or CSCE bodies:

4.1 The Joint Consultative Group under the CFE agreement, responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Treaty, determining the necessary arrangements and suggesting possible amendments;

4.2 The Conflict Prevention Centre established at the Paris Summit and inaugurated on 3 December 1990;

4.3 Other activities in the field of military security, including the second seminar on military doctrines to be held in the framework of CSCE.

5. Belgium intends to participate in the CSCE follow-up Conference, scheduled to begin in March 1992 in Helsinki.

6. With respect to security and stability in the Near and Middle East, Belgium favours the convening of one or more CSCE type conferences for the Middle East and the Mediterranean.

At the eightieth ministerial meeting on European political cooperation, held in Luxembourg on 19 February 1991, the Community and its member States, including Belgium, pledged to contribute actively, once the rule of international law was restored in Kuwait, to security and development for all the countries of the region in an appropriate framework which also took into account the need for a global, flexible and gradual approach to the various problems of the region, particularly the Palestinian problem.

BULGARIA

[Original: English]

[19 June 1991]

1. The Republic of Bulgaria considers that, at the present stage of development of international relations, arms control and disarmament issues are undergoing significant evolution. The risk of a coalitionist war in Europe has diminished considerably and rivalry and confrontation are giving way to dialogue and cooperation, to mutual understanding and reasonable compromise. Nevertheless, the activities of States to advance disarmament and increase security on a global and regional scale retain their importance in international affairs.
2. The present state of the international situation predetermines the importance attached to the regional approach to disarmament. More and more countries regard regional disarmament efforts as an essential contribution to the general process of arms control and disarmament. Regional disarmament measures can significantly contribute to the promotion of military openness, predictability and confidence. Concurrently with the elimination of certain types of armaments on a global scale, the arms control efforts of States in different regions are acquiring greater importance. The very fact that the specific characteristics of the respective regions are taken into account is a guarantee for the legitimate security interests of the States taking part in the disarmament process.
3. Bulgaria believes that regional disarmament efforts should be carried out in compliance with the goals and principles of the United Nations Charter, strictly abiding by the generally acknowledged norms of international law.
4. Bulgaria has adopted a number of unilateral disarmament measures and has cut its military budget in the course of restructuring its armed forces on the principle of non-offensive defence. It considers that activities of this kind would enhance security in the Balkans. The principle of sufficiency, which presupposes balancing military potentials at the lowest level possible, underlies the defence policy of the Republic of Bulgaria.
5. Guided by the goals of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, Bulgaria supports, as a matter of priority, the establishment of a stable balance of conventional forces at lower levels and liquidation of the means for surprise attacks and large-scale offensive operations. Bulgaria considers that the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe, signed in Paris on 19 November 1990, sets a positive example for disarmament within a single continent. Interested countries in other regions of the world may consider the possibility of applying a similar approach to limit armaments and armed forces in other regions throughout the world.
6. The following further subregional steps of military disengagement in the Balkans to secure stability are urgently needed:

- a balance of forces and armaments that excludes the possibility of undertaking large-scale offensive operations of one country against another;
- eliminating military postures which may have been needed in the times of "cold war" but are no longer considered a stable basis of good-neighbourly relations;
- efforts on the part of all Balkan countries to reach an agreement on a regional balance of forces that would not allow any regional State to fear a threat from its neighbours.

7. Bulgaria favours continuation of the discussions on the role of nuclear weapons in the various subregions of Europe, and is ready to take part in further talks on modalities for freeing the Balkans from nuclear and chemical weapons. Bulgaria expresses the view that the promotion of cooperation and mutual trust in the Balkans and in Europe as a whole would contribute to efficient measures of regional arms control and disarmament.

8. Bulgaria's view is that the Balkan States should voluntarily and seriously commit themselves to building a pan-European security system. Concrete agreements reached with neighbouring States should optimize the existing favourable factors - good-neighbourly traditions, geographic proximity, and a common interest in maintaining stability and in joining the developed countries.

CHINA

[Original: Chinese]

[23 May 1991]

1. China always pursues an independent foreign policy of peace, and stands for the establishment of a new order of international relations on the basis of the Charter of the United Nations and the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. In order to maintain world peace and security, enhance tranquillity and stability in the Asian-Pacific region and promote the process of disarmament, China has taken a number of practical measures, including its negotiations with the Soviet Union on disarmament along the Sino-Soviet border and confidence-building in the military field.

2. Based on the agreement reached at the summit between China and the Soviet Union in May 1989, the Chinese and Soviet sides held two rounds of negotiations respectively in November 1989 in Beijing and in February 1990 in Moscow on the mutual reduction of military forces along the Sino-Soviet border and of confidence-building in the military field. During Chinese Premier Li Peng's visit to the Soviet Union in April 1990, the foreign ministers of the two countries signed in Moscow the Agreement between the Governments of the People's Republic of China and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on

the Guiding Principles for Mutual Reduction of Military Forces along the Sino-Soviet Border and Confidence-building in the Military Field, and the two sides agreed that, on the basis of the principle of equal security, the military forces of the two countries along the border should be reduced to the lowest level commensurate with the normal and good-neighbourly relations between the two countries, so that the troop structure of the two sides along the border shall have only defensive and not offensive capabilities, and that a number of confidence-building measures should be formulated to increase mutual trust in the military field and maintain tranquillity and stability along the Sino-Soviet border.

3. In order to implement this Agreement, the Chinese and Soviet diplomatic and military experts' delegations had three rounds of disarmament negotiations, respectively from September to October 1990 in the Soviet Union, from November to December of the same year in China, and in April 1991 in the Soviet Union. The third round is under way.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

[Original: English]

[7 May 1991]

1. The Czech and Slovak Federal Republic believes that regional disarmament measures can play an important positive role in strengthening peace, stability and security in various regions and be a necessary supplement to broader, possibly global, disarmament agreements. Examples of such regional measures, which are of a preventive nature, are the Tlatelolco treaty on a nuclear-weapon-free status for South America and the Rarotonga treaty on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the South Pacific.

2. In a certain sense, Czechoslovakia regards the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe as such a regional measure, even though this Treaty constitutes rather a continent-wide accord of global significance.

3. Czechoslovakia follows with special interest all proposals on disarmament measures in the individual parts of Europe. In principle, it supports the efforts to set up nuclear-weapon-free zones in various parts of Europe. At the same time, however, it proceeds from the fact that such proposals should not weaken the endeavours aimed at a pan-European solution of the problem of tactical nuclear weapons, or developing further the process of bilateral and multilateral negotiations on the crucial issues of nuclear disarmament.

4. Czechoslovakia takes the view that the developments in the Persian Gulf have confirmed that the proposals to create a zone free of nuclear and chemical weapons in the Middle East were substantiated, and that the establishment of such zones would be a contribution to a general lessening of military confrontation in that region, in particular in crisis situations. Therefore, it supports the opening of talks on setting up such zones in the Middle East.

5. Czechoslovakia assumes that initiatives to adopt regional disarmament measures should be taken by countries situated in the region concerned, discussed democratically by representatives of all States in question and put into practice and implemented only with the consent of such States. Wherever possible, the respective initiatives should not be of a closed, exclusive nature and should be open to other interested States for accession.

6. In considering the security situation in Europe, as well as the possibilities of development of the disarmament process on that continent, Czechoslovakia proceeds from the fact that, after the collapse of the totalitarian regimes in central and eastern Europe and after the elimination of the "Iron Curtain", new conditions and leeway have emerged for solving the problem of disarmament in the European region. The new situation is demonstrated also by such facts as the unification of Germany, the adoption of the Charter for New Europe which imbues the Helsinki process with new contents, the signature of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, the adoption of the Vienna document of 1990 on security and confidence-building measures in Europe, the abolition of all Warsaw Treaty military organs and structures, the steps taken by NATO to transform itself in the sense of the London declaration, the dynamic withdrawal of Soviet troops from Central Europe, the inclusion of central and eastern European countries in the Council of Europe.

7. Czechoslovakia is of the opinion, also in the process of disarmament, that the bloc-based approach which has constituted a major impediment to the solution of the issues of disarmament in Europe thus far is starting to wane. This fact found a clear expression at the Vienna negotiations on conventional armed forces in Europe and on the strengthening of confidence and security in Europe. The coordinating mechanism of the Warsaw Treaty at those negotiations broke down. The concept of a treaty on conventional armed forces in Europe based on the balance of forces of the two blocs has lost its merit.

8. Czechoslovakia is convinced that, apart from the positive aspects, the present situation has also some negative features. The changes in eastern and central Europe have generated an instability in the countries of the region which has political, economic, nationalistic and ethnic causes. The possibility of a recurrence of the "cold war" is not definitively excluded. Even though such a scenario is not inescapable, it is still a serious reason for concern as regards the future development of the countries members of the former Warsaw Treaty.

9. Therefore, Czechoslovakia is making efforts to ensure that political, military and economic stability is preserved in the European region which would make it possible:

- To ratify and implement the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces;
- To implement successfully the Vienna document on security and confidence-building measures in Europe;

- To proceed with the consideration of substantive questions at Vienna concerning both the negotiations on conventional armed forces and those on confidence and security building measures, and to render fully operational the Conflicts Prevention Centre;
- To elaborate and adopt at the Helsinki follow-up meeting a mandate for negotiations on disarmament and on confidence and security building measures in Europe on the basis of participation of all 34 CSCE States;
- To continue and bring to a conclusion the "Open Skies" negotiations, which would be an important step towards enhanced transparency and predictability of military activities;
- To reduce substantially, or possibly fully eliminate, the tactical nuclear potential in Europe, which makes it necessary to open speedily Soviet-US talks on this issue.

10. Czechoslovakia advocates that the bilateral and multilateral structures in the political, economic, humanitarian and environmental spheres be strengthened. The Czech and Slovak Federal Republic is negotiating treaties with the Federal Republic of Germany, the USSR, the Republic of Poland and the Republic of Hungary. It is upgrading contacts with NATO in order to make maximum use of the existing security mechanisms. We also wish the Western European Union and the European Communities to monitor risks resulting from the unpredictability of European development and from possible threats to Europe from outside.

11. Czechoslovakia is seeking pan-European security, i.e. security in the interest of all European countries. Consequently, it is taking steps towards further reinforcement of the political structures of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) mechanisms. In harmony with the aims and principles of the Charter and of CSCE it has proposed to set up a European security commission composed of the participating States of the Helsinki process as a permanent forum for considering questions relating to the security of the continent.

12. The Czech and Slovak Federal Republic is convinced that strengthening of stability, security and development of the disarmament process in Europe is in the interest of peace and security in the whole world.

FINLAND

[Original: English]

[25 April 1991]

[For the reply of Finland, see document A/46/333.]

NEW ZEALAND

[Original: English]

[12 July 1990]

1. The New Zealand Government hosted a Pacific Security Symposium at Wellington from 17 to 19 May 1990. The initial idea for the Symposium had been raised by members of the New Zealand peace movement, and was subsequently brought to fruition by the Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control, the Honourable Fran Wilde.
2. The Symposium was designed to provide a forum for discussion of Pacific security, including disarmament and security topics in the region, economic and environmental issues affecting the Pacific, and future options for these issues.
3. The Symposium was most successful in facilitating an informative exchange of views as a range of speakers from the wider Pacific region, including academics, activists and other expert commentators, participated.
4. New Zealand fully supports the work of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament at Kathmandu and earlier this year took part in the Centre's talks on confidence-building measures. New Zealand reiterated its continuing support of the use of confidence-building measures in areas of the world where military tensions are high, and contributed to discussions on potentially useful confidence-building measures for the Asia-Pacific region.
5. New Zealand believes that a beneficial focus for the Centre over the next year will be the development of a regional environment in which confidence-building measures could be usefully elaborated. The Centre provides perhaps the only suitable venue for discussion of these kinds of issues.

PERU

[Original: Spanish]

[1 July 1991]

1. The Peruvian Government's foreign policy in regard to disarmament and security attributes particular importance to the regional disarmament process, in the belief that this approach is central to the achievement of general and complete disarmament, in particular through the concrete possibilities that it offers for arriving at specific disarmament agreements permitting the implementation of overall security plans at the regional level, within the wider context of global disarmament objectives.

2. In accordance with the above, Peru from the outset wholeheartedly supported General Assembly resolution 44/117 B, on the grounds that it serves as a model for initiatives on behalf of regional disarmament, in Latin America in particular.

3. In accordance with its traditional position, therefore, the Government of Peru is in favour of discussing proposals in the various regional forums relating to such various aspects of the matter as the transfer of arms, conventional disarmament at the regional level, confidence- and security-building measures and measures for development, with a view to securing adequate political support for such measures, thus helping to bring about concrete bilateral and multilateral negotiations on regional disarmament.

4. In this context, a number of regional meetings, in which Peru has been an active participant and to which it has made substantive contributions, have borne witness to the political interest in disarmament matters and the spirit of General Assembly resolution 44/117 B. Some of the most important meetings and declarations are:

- ACAPULCO COMMITMENT TO PEACE DEVELOPMENT AND DEMOCRACY, of 29 November 1987, in which Peru, with the other member countries of the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Concerted Political Action (RIO GROUP), welcomed the bilateral advances made by the super-Powers towards bringing into effect the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Short-Range Missiles (INF) and the multilateral negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament, in the hope that they would be further reflected in a reduction in military spending and regional armaments. Peru also spoke on that occasion in favour of concerted and concrete action for regional security, peace, democracy and development.
- SECOND MEETING OF THE PERMANENT MECHANISM FOR CONSULTATION AND CONCERTED POLITICAL ACTION (URUGUAY DECLARATION), of 29 October 1988, a document in which the concepts of regional security are developed in their entirety (political, socio-economic, environmental and military elements).
- THIRD PRESIDENTIAL MEETING OF THE PERMANENT MECHANISM FOR CONSULTATION AND CONCERTED POLITICAL ACTION (ICA DECLARATION), of 12 October 1989, which appeals to all States to take steps to institute effective control measures in order to halt the growing clandestine arms traffic, and urges international and regional institutions to pay special attention to the problem.
- MEETING OF MINISTERS FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE PERMANENT MECHANISM FOR CONSULTATION AND CONCERTED POLITICAL ACTION, OF 28 January 1991, including reflections on the system of world security set out in the Charter of the United Nations and its relationship to security in Latin America - to which should be added social and economic problems.

- GALAPAGOS DECLARATION: ANDEAN COMMITMENT TO PEACE, SECURITY AND COOPERATION, of 18 December 1989, in which special emphasis is placed on the link between disarmament and development. The document also reconfirms political support for the commitments made under the Treaty of Tlatelolco and Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The Andean countries also committed themselves to regional and subregional initiatives for the adoption of confidence-building measures in the political, economic and military spheres, especially in border areas. This is particularly important for improving control over arms transfers.

- ROME DECLARATION ON RELATIONS BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND THE RIO GROUP of 20 December 1990, in which the member States of both groups agreed, inter alia, to strengthen their relations in order to bring about arms reduction and prevent the proliferation of means of mass destruction, and stressed the need for a global agreement to completely ban chemical weapons.

- ACT OF THE FIRST INSTITUTIONALIZED MINISTERIAL MEETING BETWEEN THE RIO GROUP AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, Luxembourg, 27 April 1991, in which political backing is given to arms reduction, and the non-proliferation of weapons and systems of mass destruction. Support was also expressed for the work of the Conference on Disarmament, particularly in regard to the complete banning of chemical weapons at the earliest possible moment, and an appeal was made to States to abstain from exporting weapons to areas where conflicts might be exacerbated by such exports. Lastly, this meeting of the two regions reaffirmed the determination of their Governments to reduce their military budgets as far as possible.

5. The actions described above, and the political support enjoyed in Latin America by the initiation of mechanisms aimed at ensuring regional peace and stability, have in several cases made possible the conclusion of specific agreements designed to ease existing tensions in the area.

6. Thus, for example, the Esquipulas agreements concerning the establishment of peace in Central America bear concrete witness to the determination of the Governments of the region to foster regional stability and security.

7. The Peruvian Government believes it is necessary in this context to emphasize that security in the Latin American region is closely tied to economic and social development. Hence the need to take into account the social, economic, humanitarian and environmental aspects which, together with military questions, constitute the appropriate framework for initiating concrete plans for overall regional security.

8. In view of all this, and given that, since the end of the Second World War, the vast majority of the world's armed conflicts have taken place in developing countries, the United Nations has a central role to play in a wide-ranging and general definition of security which departs altogether from

traditional patterns suited to the earlier stages of relationships between States and recognizes the profound link between disarmament and development.

9. The Peruvian Government also regards as fundamental the Organization's efforts to disseminate information on disarmament through the World Disarmament Campaign. It is imperative for all Member States to join in strengthening United Nations action in this field, by making adequate funds available, since it will help substantially in the timely identification of the specific characteristics and needs of each region in regard to disarmament. Doing so will help bring about the necessary complementarity between regional efforts and the Organization's global approach to general and complete disarmament.

10. The United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament in Africa and Asia, and the Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America, and the Caribbean are thus particularly important, both for the fulfilment of the World Disarmament Campaign's central objectives and for promoting regional meetings and seminars designed to encourage the dissemination of the goals of general and complete disarmament, and discussion of actions which the Governments of the States concerned could undertake to initiate specific activities aimed at arms reduction and disarmament in their respective regions.

THAILAND

[Original: English]

[13 August 1991]

1. The doctrine of the Royal Thai Government is defensive in nature. Accordingly, the budget allocated to the armed forces is only sufficient to ensure the necessary readiness and capability to protect Thailand's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence.
2. The Royal Thai Government has gradually reduced the percentage of the annual national budget assigned to the Ministry of Defence in recent years. In 1983, the Royal Thai Government appropriated 20.37 per cent of the annual budget for the Ministry of Defence. The budget to defence decreased in successive years: to 18.71 per cent in 1984, 18.46 per cent in 1985, 18.01 per cent in 1986, 17.21 per cent in 1987, 16.91 per cent in 1988 and 15.58 per cent in 1989.
3. Thailand is also of the view that effective regional disarmament can be brought about only by the reduction in the size of the armed forces and military budget of the countries in the region. Moreover, external Powers should cease to provide military assistance and arms to countries in the region.