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

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament
in Africa, United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and
Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific and United Nations
Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development
in Latin America and the Caribbean

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/46/150.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 4 December 1990, the General Assembly adopted resolution 45/59 E without a vote. The operative part of the resolution reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"1. Encourages the regional centres to continue their efforts in promoting regional cooperation among the States in their respective regions with a view to contributing to the implementation and coordination of regional activities under the World Disarmament Campaign and to facilitate the development of effective measures of confidence-building, arms limitation and disarmament;

"2. Commends the Secretary-General for all the efforts he has made in favour of the centres, and requests him to continue to provide all the necessary support to their activities and, in particular, to pursue the full implementation of the provisions of resolution 44/117 F;

"3. Appeals once again to Member States, as well as to international organizations and non-governmental organizations, to make voluntary contributions in order to strengthen the effective operational activities of the centres;

"4. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution."

2. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 4 of that resolution.

II. FUNCTIONING OF THE REGIONAL CENTRES

A. Regional Centre in Africa

3. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa continues to carry out its mandate as contained in General Assembly resolution 40/151 G of 16 December 1985. According to that resolution, "the Centre shall provide, upon request, substantive support for initiatives and other efforts of Member States of the African region towards the realization of measures of peace, arms limitation and disarmament in the region, in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity, as well as coordinate the implementation of regional activities in Africa under the World Disarmament Campaign". The present report covers the period from August 1990 to August 1991.

1. Activities of the Centre

4. The activities of the Centre were focused on the dissemination of information relating to disarmament, as well as peace and security within the African context. Seminars, conferences and studies have been undertaken during the period of the present report.

5. The activities carried out during the 1990 Disarmament Week were highlighted by two main events, namely: (a) a conference on new approaches to disarmament and peace-keeping, held on 30 October 1990, with Lt. General (rtd.) Emmanuel Eskiné, former Commander of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) as its main speaker; and (b) a simulation exercise on a General Assembly special session on regional disarmament conducted on the same day. The objective of that exercise was to familiarize third- and fourth-year students of law and international relations of the University of Benin, Togo, with United Nations practices and techniques, and to help them in the choice of their dissertation topics. The theme of the exercise provided an opportunity to sensitize participants on problems of peace, security, disarmament and development. A cross-section of members of the diplomatic corps, as well as representatives of international organizations based in Lomé, were also present at both events.

6. During the Disarmament Week, 1,288 booklets on disarmament and other related issues were distributed. The local media (television, radio and press) covered the activities.

7. Since 15 February 1991, in accordance with the aim of the World Disarmament Campaign to inform, educate and generate public understanding and support for arms limitation and disarmament, the Centre held informal meetings and brain-storming sessions in its premises, once every two Fridays, with persons interested in disarmament, peace and security, and development related issues in Africa, in particular.

8. Starting from February this year, the Centre has also organized a public debate once every three months on disarmament related issues. A prominent scholar or official is invited to give a lecture, followed by a debate.

9. The Centre launched, on 15 March 1991, a research project on "The role of border problems in African peace and security". Under this project, research will be conducted on existing African border problems in five subregions: West, Southern, Central, North, and the Horn and East Africa. The results of this research would be reviewed and studied, with the aim of identifying concrete and specific issues for further examination in this field. Based on the outcome of this project, seminars and training programmes on ways and means of avoiding or resolving border disputes may be planned at a later stage by the Centre.

10. The Centre also has, under its research activities, a research programme on the subjects which had been recommended by a group of high-level experts who had participated in the Centre's 1988-1989 project entitled "Defining an agenda for peace and progress in Africa" (see the previous report of the

Secretary-General (A/45/573, paras. 4 and 5 for details of the project). In addition to the boundary and border studies, the following are among the priority areas identified for further research by the experts: (a) causes and consequences of military expenditures in Africa; (b) conflict resolution and maintenance of peace in Africa; (c) confidence-building measures; and (d) impact of external military policies.

11. The Director of the Centre visited Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from 20 to 22 May 1991, to discuss with relevant officials at the Ministries of Education and Information on the promotion of teaching on disarmament and disarmament-related issues and the dissemination of such information. The Director also gave a lecture at the University of Ouagadougou on "The concept, interpretation and application of disarmament in Africa". Courtesy calls were also made by the Director on the President and the Minister of External Relations of Burkina Faso during the visit.

12. Within the framework of its training programmes, the Centre organized, in cooperation with the Government of Cameroon, a workshop on "Conflict resolution, crisis prevention and management and confidence-building among African States" for member States of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). The workshop was held from 17 to 21 June 1991 at Yaoundé, Cameroon. It assembled high-ranking military officers and senior government officials from ECCAS member States who are directly involved in the issues and policies of peace and security in their respective countries.

13. The Minister of External Relations, His Excellency Dr. Jacques-Roger Booh Booh, the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, the Minister of Defence of Equatorial Guinea, His Excellency Col. Melanio Ebendeng Nssomo, representing the Head of State of Equatorial Guinea who is the current Chairman of ECCAS, and the Secretary-General of ECCAS, Mr. Kasasa Cinyanta Mutati, made statements and participated in the opening session of the workshop.

14. At the conclusion of the workshop, the participants adopted a resolution which will be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session. They expressed the hope that the international community would continue to give its support to the huge undertakings by the Central African States, which should result in: (a) the conclusion of a non-aggression pact and the adoption of legal instruments providing for a system of mutual assistance and collective defence at the subregional and regional levels; (b) the creation of a strategic studies-centre within the framework of existing university or military training facilities in the Central African subregion and the establishment of subregional cooperation in military training; (c) the organization of joint military exercises and mixed patrols; (d) the creation, under United Nations auspices, of a standing advisory committee responsible for security questions; (e) an expansion of each State's actual diplomatic presence in all the other countries; (f) a plan for reducing the military and security budgets and allocating the funds thus released to social and economic development and especially to regional and national development projects; (g) the establishment of hotlines between Central African heads of States; and

(h) the strengthening of economic cooperation, as envisaged in the Treaty establishing ECCAS. The Final Document adopted by the participants of the workshop of 21 June 1991 is contained in the annex to document A/46/307-S/22805.

15. The Yaoundé workshop is the third of its kind that has been organized by the Centre. The first was held at Lomé, Togo, in 1986 and the second at Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, in 1990.

16. The Centre has initiated preparations for the convening of a conference on "Communication and crises: the role of the media in the peaceful resolution of conflicts in Africa", tentatively planned to take place during the spring of next year.

17. In August 1991, the Centre started a quarterly publication of a newsletter entitled "African Peace Bulletin", which will focus on relevant developments in the field of disarmament and related issues for wide distribution.

18. In response to invitations extended to the Centre, the Director of the Centre participated in the following: (a) a workshop on a research proposal entitled "African security strategies: Liberia and Chad as peace-keeping models", organized by the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs on 4 April 1991; (b) delivered a lecture on "Disarmament and the Army as an institution", at a national training seminar on the "law of armed conflicts" organized, from 27 to 31 May 1991, by the International Committee of the Red Cross for young Togolese army officers; and (c) made a presentation of the Centre's activities at an international seminar on "Militarism and militarization in Africa", organized by the Council for the Development of Economic and Social Research in Africa, at Dakar, from 24 to 26 June 1991.

2. Staffing and finance

19. It may be recalled that, under the terms of the General Assembly resolutions establishing the three regional centres, the basis for their financing has been existing resources and voluntary contributions from Member States and interested organizations. Pursuant to paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 44/117 F of 15 December 1989, the post of Director of the Centre was established in January 1990 under the regular budget. Since the appointment of the Director in July last year, the staffing situation at the Centre remains unchanged.

20. The Secretary-General wishes to reiterate that, to ensure the Centre's viability and effective functioning, it is necessary to establish a stable base for its financing. Consequently, voluntary contributions from Member States and interested organizations and individuals will continue to be needed, especially if the Centre's programme of work is to be maintained and increased, and in view of the continuing financial crises facing the United Nations. The Secretary-General therefore strongly supports the appeals that

have been made by the General Assembly to Member States and others to make voluntary contributions to the Centre.

21. Since the submission of the previous report of the Secretary-General (A/45/573), voluntary contributions in the amount of \$19,653 have been pledged to the Centre, and a total of \$328,865 has been received as at 1 August 1991. The Secretary-General wishes to express his gratitude to the Governments of France and Norway, as well as to the Ford Foundation, for their generous contributions.

B. Regional Centre in Latin America and the Caribbean

22. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean was established under the auspices of the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat, which acts as a focal point for coordinating inputs to the activities of the Centre by pertinent organs, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system.

1. Objectives and activities of the Centre

23. The General Assembly, by its resolution 41/60 J of 3 December 1986, decided that the Centre should provide, upon request, substantive support for the initiatives and other activities of the Member States of the Latin American region for the implementation of measures for peace and disarmament, and for the promotion of economic and social development through appropriate reutilization of available resources, and should coordinate the implementation of the regional activities in Latin America under the World Disarmament Campaign.

24. During the period covered by the present report, from July 1990 to July 1991, the Centre widened and strengthened its contacts and cooperation with governmental and non-governmental organizations, academic and other institutions, as well as other United Nations bodies, so as to further the above objectives of the Centre.

25. The Centre continued to serve as a resource centre for students and researchers on issues of peace, security, disarmament and development in the region. Its reference library continued to grow through donations and exchange of publications with specialized institutions. United Nations publications were distributed throughout the region, and videos and films on disarmament were made available to universities, schools and institutions within the framework of the World Disarmament Campaign.

26. Four issues of the Centre's newsletter, Boletín, were published: two issues in the second semester of 1990 and two in the first semester of 1991. The bulletins contained news on United Nations disarmament activities and actions undertaken in this area by Governments and non-governmental organizations, as well as information on events and recent publications

relating to peace and security, with special reference to Latin America and the Caribbean. Each issue carries a feature article by a leading expert on disarmament.

27. A major task accomplished by the Centre during this period was the compilation, editing and publication of the proceedings of the Seminar on alternatives for common security in South America, organized by the Centre in Lima in November 1989. The book was presented by the former Peruvian President, General Francisco Morales Bermudez and the Argentine Ambassador in Lima, on 18 June 1991, at a ceremony attended by the heads of diplomatic missions in Lima, government officials, academics and journalists. The book is being distributed by the Centre to interested organizations, researchers and individuals in Latin America and the Caribbean.

28. The Centre is currently in the process of preparing its second book, which will focus on security and disarmament in Latin America in the 1990s.

29. A poster of the Centre was designed and printed in Lima in June this year, with the assistance of members of the Peruvian Philatelic Association. The poster depicts a dove nesting upon a collage of peace stamps of the United Nations and Latin American and Caribbean countries, over a map of the region.

30. The International Day of Peace was celebrated by the Centre in Lima on 18 September 1990, with a ceremony held jointly with the Peruvian Permanent Peace Centre under the presidency of Mrs. Isabel de la Peña de Calderon. The Director of the Centre delivered a commemorative address.

31. On 22 October 1990, a Conference on global peace and security in the 1990s was organized by the Centre, in cooperation with the House Committee on Defence and Internal Order and the Association of Congressional Journalists, at the Peruvian Senate Auditorium, in observance of Disarmament Week. The aim of the Conference, which featured Professor Beatriz Ramacciotti and Navy Commander Luis Javier Artieda as speakers, was to give Peruvian congressmen a broad view of world events and their impact on regional and national peace and security, and to enhance their awareness of the need to control arms expenditures and to concentrate on development.

32. In collaboration with the Bolivian Armed Forces, the Centre organized a series of seminars on Latin American regional security, in the cities of Cochabamba and La Paz, Bolivia, from 29 to 31 October 1990, for high-ranking army, air force and navy officers and military students. The Centre had the cooperation of prominent regional experts at these seminars, including Professor Juan Rial of the research centre, PEITHO in Uruguay; General Francisco Morales Bermudez, former President of Peru; General Edgardo Mercado Jarrin, former Peruvian Minister for Foreign Affairs and current President of the Peruvian Institute of Geopolitical and Strategic Studies; Juan Velit, Professor at the Peruvian Centre for High Military Studies (CAEM); and Admiral Javier Artieda of the Peruvian Institute of Polemology. The seminars were given wide coverage by the media.

33. In November 1990, at the invitation of the University of Brasilia's Department of Political Science and International Relations, the Director gave a lecture on United Nations activities in the field of disarmament to students of the graduate-level Sixth Specialization Course on Latin America. The event was sponsored by the Organization of American States. While in Brasilia, the Director also met with representatives of Brazilian non-governmental organizations and members of the Brazilian Secretariat for Strategic Studies, in order to plan future joint activities.

34. In view of a growing interest in the threat posed to regional security by the deepening environmental crisis, the Centre and the Peruvian Foundation for the Conservation of Nature co-hosted a seminar on "Environment, Development and Peace" in Lima from 24 to 26 April 1991, with the sponsorship of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation. The seminar aimed at developing a multi-disciplinary approach to the problems of environmental destruction and their incidence on poverty and violence, and consequently, on peace and security, and designing a national and regional environmental strategy towards the United Nations World Conference on Environment and Development to be held in Brazil in 1992. Plans are underway for the proceedings of the seminar to be issued as a publication of the Centre.

35. At the invitation of the Department of Political Science of the University of San Andres in La Paz, the Director visited Bolivia on 28 May 1991 to give a lecture to the students on the consequences of the Gulf War.

36. On 11 June 1991, at the invitation of the Garcilaso de la Vega University in Lima, the Information Assistant explained to the students of Communications Science the role of the United Nations in preserving world peace and the status of multilateral disarmament agreements. The importance of the media in molding public opinion and promoting the objective of disarmament and world peace was highlighted.

37. The Centre also participated in the Regional Disarmament Workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean with Special Emphasis on Chemical Weapons organized by the Department for Disarmament Affairs in Mexico City from 1 to 5 July this year. The Director addressed the workshop on the subject of regional approaches to enhance security and the prospects for conventional arms limitation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

38. The Centre, together with CAEM, is currently planning a joint international seminar for military and civilian students, to be held in September 1991 at CAEM's premises, on various topics dealing with the new international situation, regional security and the new role of the military.

39. During the reporting period, a number of invitations to moderate or attend various meetings were extended to the Centre. On 25 October 1990, the Director participated as moderator at the special session on "The Dividends of Peace: Latin America and the New Détente", held in Santiago, Chile, within the framework of the XII Annual Meeting of RIAL (Joint Studies Programme on Latin America International Relations), under the auspices of the Chilean

Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From 13 to 16 March 1991, the Director served as panel moderator for the topic "The Military, the Media, and Public Opinion", at a Conference on "The Armed Forces in Times of Uncertainty: Fiscal Adjustments, Processes of Economic Integration and the Need for Modernization of the Armed Forces in South America", co-sponsored by the American University at Washington and the Uruguayan research centre PEITHO and held at Montevideo.

40. The Centre was represented by the Director at the following meetings: (a) a panel discussion on the changes in the international system and their impact on Latin America, organized by the Peruvian Centre for International Studies (CEPEI) on 12 December 1990; (b) an international symposium held at La Paz, Bolivia, on the socio-economic impact of drug capitals on Latin America and the Caribbean development, organized by the Bolivian Centre for the Study of International Relations and Development, under the direction of Fernando Salazar Paredes, on 20 March 1991; (c) a symposium organized by CEPEI in May 1991 to examine bilateral anti-drug agreements, anti-drug legislation and problems related to drug trafficking and abuse, which constitute a threat to regional security, and to propose remedies to the present situation. The Centre was represented by its Information Assistant at an international seminar on confidence-building measures, organized by CEPEI on 21 to 22 March 1991 in Lima, to examine the theory of confidence-building measures, experiences in this area, and prospects for implementation of these measures in Latin America.

41. As in the past, the Centre made its premises available to some non-governmental organizations which have been active in the area of peace and disarmament. Thus, the Centre made its premises available on 13 September 1990 to the Association for Continental Peace (ASOPAZCO) for the installation of its Peruvian Committee. On the morning of 12 December 1990, the Centre hosted the presentation of the journal of the Peruvian Institute of Polemology, under the presidency of Dr. Ernesto Velit, which was attended by a large audience of Peruvian dignitaries.

2. Staffing and finance

42. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 41/60 J, the Centre was established on the basis of existing resources and of voluntary contributions that Member States and interested organizations might make to that end. By paragraph 3 of its resolution 44/117 F, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to establish, as soon as practicable, the post of Director at each of the regional centres so as to ensure the effective functioning of the centres. The post of Director at the senior officer level was established this year under the regular budget. A new Director was appointed and assumed duty on 31 July 1991. Prior to the establishment of this post, the Centre functioned with the assistance of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, with the Director of the United Nations Information Centre in Lima entrusted, on an interim basis, with the additional functions of Director of the Regional Centre.

43. The Centre continues to share the premises of the United Nations Information Centre.

44. The Secretary-General wishes to emphasize that, in accordance with the terms on which the Centre was established and in view of the financial crisis facing the United Nations, no resources from the regular budget of the Organization can be made available for the Centre's various work programmes and voluntary contributions are thus needed to ensure the continued viability and effective functioning of the Centre.

45. Since the submission of the previous report of the Secretary-General (A/45/573), voluntary contributions in the amount of \$19,053 have been pledged to the Centre, and a total of \$13,000 have been received. The Secretary-General wishes to express his gratitude to the Governments of Colombia, Norway, Panama and Spain for their generous contributions to the Centre.

C. Regional Centre in Asia and the Pacific

46. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific functions under the auspices of the Department for Disarmament Affairs, which acts as the focal for coordinating inputs to the activities of the Centre by pertinent organs, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system. The Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is entrusted, on an interim basis, with the functions of the Director of the Centre. The Centre is temporarily housed in the UNDP building at Kathmandu, Nepal.

1. Objectives and activities of the Centre

47. By its resolution 42/39 D of 30 November 1987, the General Assembly decided that the Regional Centre should provide, on request, substantive support for the initiatives and other activities mutually agreed upon by the Member States of the Asian region for the implementation of measures for peace and disarmament, through appropriate utilization of available resources, and that it should also coordinate the implementation of regional activities in Asia under the World Disarmament Campaign.

48. The Centre, which was inaugurated on 30 January 1989, continues to carry out its activities in accordance with the above mandate. However, as both human and financial resources available to the Centre remain extremely limited, its activities involved mainly the dissemination of information on United Nations activities in the field of arms limitation and disarmament, answering inquiries from the general public, students and non-governmental organizations and organizing one major meeting at Kathmandu a year.

49. A regional meeting, the second in the series, entitled "Regional Meeting on Confidence-Building Measures in the Asia-Pacific Region", was held at

Kathmandu from 24 to 26 January 1991. The meeting was opened by the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs Mr. Yasushi Akashi, and a welcoming statement was made by the Home and Communications Minister of Nepal, Mr. Yog Prasad Upadhyay. Thirty-two participants from Governments and research institutes and several observers from non-governmental organizations attended the meeting. In order to permit in-depth consideration of the subject of the regional meeting, and bearing in mind the views expressed by representatives of the diplomatic community, research institutes, the media and non-governmental organizations who participated in the informal meeting on the future work and priorities of the Centre, held at Kathmandu, on 30 and 31 January 1989, the meeting focused its attention on two sub-regions, namely, that of South-East Asia and North-East Asia. Papers were prepared and presented by the following speakers at the regional meeting:

Dr. Muthiah Alagappa (Department of Political Science and East Asian Institut., Columbia University, United States of America, Ambassador Jonathan Dean (Union of Concerned Scientists, Washington, USA), Mr. Trevor Findlay (Peace Research Centre, Australian National University), Dr. Darryl Howlett and John Simpson (Mountbatten Centre for International Studies, University of Southampton, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Professor Kenichi Ito (The Japan Forum on International Relations, Inc., Japan), Mr. Qin Huasun (Department of International Organizations and Conferences, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, China), Dr. Kusuma Snitwongse, (Institute of Security and International Studies, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand), and Dr. Alexei V. Zagorsky (Centre for Japanese and Pacific Studies, Institute of World Economy and International Relations, USSR).

50. In all, the meeting held three plenary sessions, on the first day and the third. It met simultaneously as two working groups on the second day. Dr. James Cotton (North-East Asia Programme, Research School of Pacific Studies, Australian National University), served as the moderator of Working Group I, which focused its attention on confidence- and security-building in North-East Asia. Dr. Muthiah Alagappa, (Columbia University), served as moderator of Working Group II, which focused its attention on the South-East Asian subregion. The papers presented at the regional meeting and the summaries by the two moderators were subsequently published by the Department for Disarmament Affairs.

51. Preparations are underway to convene a further regional meeting at Kathmandu early next year.

2. Staffing and finance

52. In addition to the UNDP Resident Representative who serves as Director ad interim of the Centre, the United Nations Information Officer has also assisted the Centre in carrying out its mandate.

53. As the Secretary-General pointed out in his statement on the programme budget implications of General Assembly resolution 44/117 F (A/C.1/44/L.64/Rev.1), the implementation of operative paragraph 3 of that

resolution would entail the establishment under the regular budget of posts of Directors at the Senior Officer level at each of the three regional centres. The establishment of the posts would be phased sequentially and annually over the 1990-1992 period. The post of Director for the Regional Centre located at Kathmandu is to be established in 1992.

54. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 42/39 D, the Centre was established on the basis of existing resources and of voluntary contributions that Member States and interested organizations may make to that end. The Secretary-General wishes to emphasize the need for more voluntary contributions, if the Regional Centre to carry out the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly, and to ensure the viability and effective functioning of the Centre. The costs of the two regional meetings held at Kathmandu in the past two years were met largely from extrabudgetary contributions.

55. Since the submission of the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly in 1990 (A/45/573), voluntary contributions in the amount of \$36,676 have been pledged to the Centre, and a total of \$28,676 have been received. The Secretary-General wishes to express his gratitude to the Governments of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Nepal, New Zealand, Norway and the Republic of Korea for their generous contribution.
