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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Note by the Secretary-General

1. At its twenty-ninth session, the General Assembly adopted, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", resolution 3261 D (XXIX) concerning various aspects of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes, including their arms control implications, the operative part of which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

...

"1. Appeals to all States, in particular nuclear-weapon States, to exert concerted efforts in all the appropriate international forums with a view to working out promptly effective measures for the cessation of the nuclear arms race and for the prevention of the further proliferation of nuclear weapons;

"2. Requests the International Atomic Energy Agency to continue its studies on the peaceful applications of nuclear explosions, their utility and feasibility, including legal, health and safety aspects, and to report on these questions to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session;

"3. Calls upon the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, in submitting its report to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session on the elaboration of a treaty designed to achieve a comprehensive test ban, to include a section on its consideration of the arms control implications of peaceful nuclear explosions and, in so doing, to take account of the views of the International Atomic Energy Agency as requested in paragraph 2 above;

"4. Expresses the hope that the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to be held at Geneva in May 1975, will also give consideration to the role of peaceful nuclear explosions as provided for in that Treaty and will inform the General Assembly at its thirtieth session of the results of its deliberations;

"5. Invites, in this connexion, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America to provide the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons with information concerning such steps as they have taken since the entry into force of the Treaty, or intend to take, for the conclusion of the special basic international agreement on nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes which is envisaged in article V of the Treaty;

"6. Invites the Secretary-General, should he deem it appropriate, to submit further comments on this matter, taking into account the reports referred to in paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 above."

2. Attention is drawn to the annual report of the International Atomic Energy Agency for the period 1 July 1974-30 June 1975, 1/ in which the Agency provides an account of its activities relating to the question of peaceful nuclear explosions and, furthermore, to the addendum to its report (A/10168/Add.1), reproducing the resolution of the Board of Governors of IAEA establishing an Advisory Group on Nuclear Explosions for Peaceful Purposes and setting forth its terms of reference.

3. In pursuance of paragraph 3 of resolution 3261 D (XXIX), the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament included a section in its report on its consideration of the arms control implications of peaceful nuclear explosions (A/10027-DC/238, paras. 61-78).

4. In a letter dated 18 August 1975, Mr. Ilkka Pastinen, Secretary-General of the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, transmitted relevant information concerning the consideration of the subject by the Conference (A/10215, annex).

5. In light of the above-mentioned reports and information now at the disposal of the General Assembly, it is evident that widespread and serious consideration is being given by different institutions and bodies to the question of peaceful nuclear explosions. It is hoped that continuous attention and effort will be devoted by all concerned to the solution of the complex problems involved, thus contributing to the promotion of nuclear disarmament and the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

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1/ Circulated under a note by the Secretary-General (A/10168 and Corr.1).