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MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE DISARMAMENT DECADE

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 9 December 1974, the General Assembly, recalling its resolution 2602 E (XXIV), by which it declared the decade of the 1970s as a Disarmament Decade, adopted resolution 3261 A (XXIX), the operative part of which reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"1. Reaffirms the purposes and objectives of the Disarmament Decade;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General and Governments to report to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session on the action and steps which they have taken so far to publicize the Disarmament Decade in order to acquaint the general public with its purposes and objectives;

"3. Invites Member States to report to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session, through the Secretary-General, on the measures and policies they have adopted to achieve the purposes and objectives of the Disarmament Decade;

"4. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirtieth session an item entitled 'Mid-term review of the Disarmament Decade'."

2. By a note verbale dated 11 February 1975, the Secretary-General invited Member States to communicate to him by 30 June 1975 any comments they might wish to make pursuant to paragraph 3 of the resolution and, as they might deem appropriate, with regard to paragraph 2.

3. The replies received from Member States are reproduced in section II of the present report. In addition, pursuant to paragraph 2 of the resolution, the Secretary-General submits, in section III below, information on the action and steps he has taken thus far to publicize the Disarmament Decade in order to acquaint the general public with its purposes and objectives.

II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

4. The replies received from Governments to the note verbale of 11 February 1975 concerning the Disarmament Decade are reproduced below.

AUSTRALIA

/Original: English/

/1 July 1975/

The Australian Government has given special prominence in its foreign policy to the achievement of arms limitation and control in all its aspects. This prominence was reflected, for example, in the address made at the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly by the Australian Prime Minister.

Within this strong emphasis on the need for disarmament, the Australian Government has given a special place to its efforts to strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation régime, including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the system of international safeguards, the further reduction in all forms of nuclear testing and the control of peaceful nuclear explosions.

Australia ratified the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in January 1973 and, since then, has sought to encourage other States to do likewise. In his address at the twenty-ninth session mentioned above, the Australian Prime Minister drew attention to the danger of a "nightmare world in which as many as 15 or 20 nations may possess nuclear weapons by the early 1980s". 1/ He also reaffirmed the Australian Government's pledge neither to develop nor acquire nuclear weapons, and outlined a programme of action to meet the dangers of nuclear proliferation. He emphasized the need to strengthen the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and work for its universal acceptance, urged the adoption of a comprehensive treaty to ban nuclear-weapon testing and emphasized the need for effective international arrangements to control nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes.

For its part, Australia is working to achieve these aims and stands ready to act in association with other concerned States.

The Australian Government has also been active in efforts to reach international agreement on limiting the use of inhumane conventional weapons and in calling for reductions in expenditure on armaments. We have sought membership of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament and are participating in the current study of nuclear-weapon-free zones under the Committee's auspices.

1/ A/PV.2249, p. 7.

Australia has called upon the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for these two great Powers to exercise mutual restraint in the growth of their naval forces and competition in the Indian Ocean.

Australia's concern for disarmament matters in other fields was given concrete expression by our support for disarmament resolutions at the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly. During that session, Australia co-sponsored resolutions dealing with the cessation of nuclear testing in all environments and a call for a comprehensive test ban treaty, with the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and the control of peaceful nuclear explosions and with the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace.

It is Australia's sincere and earnest wish that the 1970s will prove to be a decade of disarmament.

BULGARIA

/Original: English/
/12 August 1975/

Now that the process of the consolidation and further promotion of détente is increasingly being established as a dominant tendency in international affairs, there exist tangible possibilities for adopting effective measures to reduce the dangers of a nuclear war, to limit the arms race, to curtail armed forces and armaments. Peace, being equally necessary to all nations, could be guaranteed through the restriction of the material preparation for war, by achieving general and complete disarmament under strict international control. Considerable steps have been taken in this respect within the past few years. A number of treaties in the field of disarmament came into force, such as the Treaty Banning Nuclear-Weapon Tests, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof, the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction. The General Assembly has adopted a number of decisions aimed at thwarting the danger of a world war and at reducing armaments and military budgets. The results of negotiations and the agreements concluded in the field of disarmament between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America have a very positive effect on world peace. They mark a turning point in the relations between the two most powerful nations of our times, on which war and peace depend to a considerable extent.

Unfortunately, however, the practical steps made within the United Nations on the road to general and complete disarmament have not yet halted the arms race. Warmongers and military circles throughout the world, backed by opponents of détente, build up the military budgets of their countries. It is the prime task of

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all nations in the world to put an end to these policies, to supplement political détente with a détente in the military sphere.

In co-operation with all peace-loving countries, the People's Republic of Bulgaria is conducting a consistent policy aimed at reaching general and complete disarmament. "The idea of general and complete disarmament", said the President of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, Todor Zhivkov, "arises from the very nature of the socialist system - the most progressive and highly humane social system, which abolished the exploitation of man by man and renounces the enslavement of nations; it is a system where there are neither groups of people nor individuals who are interested in amassing profits out of war industry and military supplies". The People's Republic of Bulgaria most actively supports the Peace Programme of the Twenty-fourth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union "which is our Programme, too", as the President of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria phrased it. It supports the initiatives of the USSR, often acting as co-sponsor, which have been adopted in execution of this Programme and are directed towards minimizing the dangers of a nuclear war, towards curbing the armaments race and achieving further progress in disarmament.

The People's Republic of Bulgaria was one of the first countries to sign and ratify the agreements in the field of disarmament under the auspices of the United Nations. It takes an active part in the work of every forum within the United Nations and outside it which treats of various problems in the sphere of disarmament. Bulgaria considers that the efforts of States Members of the United Nations should be focused on priority tasks, such as the prompt convening of a world disarmament conference, with the participation of all countries; the reduction of military budgets; and the drawing up of international treaties on the total prohibition and annihilation of chemical weapons, on the prohibition of action to influence the environment and climate for military and other purposes incompatible with the maintenance of international security, human well-being and health, on the total ban of all nuclear tests. The proposal of the USSR for an agreement among nations, particularly among the big Powers, on the prohibition of the production of new types of weapons for mass destruction, deserves general support.

Along with efforts on the international scale, the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria has also been undertaking measures of domestic importance which are directly relevant to the strengthening of peace. It is known that Bulgaria has twice considerably reduced its armed forces. The law on the protection of peace, passed by the National Assembly of the People's Republic of Bulgaria in December 1950, has been in existence for almost 25 years now. This law prohibits all manifestations and attempts to incite and advocate war and classifies them as "the heaviest crimes against peace and all nations". The law stipulates severe punishment for the perpetrators, instigators and accessories to these crimes.

The mass media of the People's Republic of Bulgaria - the press, radio and television - provide wide coverage to all initiatives in the field of disarmament submitted in the United Nations and in every other forum. They help the creation of a spirit of friendship and co-operation among nations. The Bulgarian people

annually commemorate Disarmament Day. In 1974, a Disarmament Week was organized, with mass meetings at factories, offices, universities etc. The working people of the country once again expressed their hatred for war and their resolve to fight for peace and disarmament. A number of new books, studies, articles, comments and interviews on the problems of disarmament have been published in the past few years.

The People's Republic of Bulgaria is determined to continue this policy. It is ready to make its contribution to the achievement of effective measures leading to general and complete disarmament under strict international control.

BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

/Original: Russian/

/3 July 1975/

The Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic has always taken and still takes a position of principle on the question of disarmament and supports constructive measures designed to limit the arms race and bring about disarmament. This position stems from the general fundamental policy in favour of disarmament which is an integral part of Soviet peace-loving foreign policy. A series of disarmament measures was given an important place in the Peace Programme put forward by the Twenty-fourth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, which has become a banner for all peace-loving forces. This Programme is at present being actively implemented.

The Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic notes with satisfaction that, since the beginning of the 1970s, definite progress has been achieved in the field of the limitation of armaments and disarmament, both on the multilateral and the bilateral levels.

In 1975 such an important instrument as the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction - the first international agreement providing for the destruction of a whole category of weapons of mass destruction - entered into force. The Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic ratified that Convention on 13 February 1975.

The agreements concluded between the Soviet Union and the United States of America on the limitation of anti-ballistic missile systems (A/C.1/1026) and the limitation of strategic offensive arms (A/9293, annex II) are of great significance. Among the Soviet-American agreements, the Agreement between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America on the Prevention of Nuclear War (A/9293, annex I) is of particular importance. Agreement has also been reached between the two Powers on the need to limit underground nuclear weapon tests (A/9698, annex I), the implementation of which would be an important step towards the cessation of all nuclear tests.

In accordance with the Peace Programme, the Soviet Union has made a number of specific proposals in the field of disarmament in recent years.

On the initiative of the Soviet Union, with the active support of the States of the socialist community and other peace-loving countries, the General Assembly of the United Nations has adopted such important resolutions as those on the "non-use of force in international relations and permanent prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons" (resolution 2936 (XXVII)), on the "reduction of the military budgets of States permanent members of the Security Council by 10 per cent and utilization of part of the funds thus saved to provide assistance to developing countries" (resolution 3254 (XXIX)) and on the "prohibition of action to influence the environment and climate for military and other purposes incompatible with the maintenance of international security, human well-being and health"

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(resolution 3264 (XXIX)) which was directed towards the adoption of measures to prevent the extension of the arms race to a new environment. The Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic was a sponsor of those important resolutions and supports their full implementation.

In an attempt to inject greater dynamism and purposefulness into the disarmament talks and to involve all States, on an equal footing, in the solution of that important problem, the Soviet Union, as is well known, introduced in the United Nations in 1971 a proposal for the convening of a world disarmament conference (A/8491). Despite the clearly expressed view of the General Assembly in favour of the convening of a world disarmament conference - a view expressed on several occasions - this important proposal has not yet been implemented.

In its reply to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in connexion with with General Assembly resolution 3260 (XXIX) on the World Disarmament Conference, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic reaffirmed its positive position on the question and expressed itself in favour of the adoption by the General Assembly of urgent measures to enable a start to be made immediately on preparations for the World Disarmament Conference.

The Soviet Union and the other socialist countries, including the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, are not slackening their efforts in the cause of disarmament and the strengthening of peace and international security.

The Appeal of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and the Government of the Soviet Union "To Peoples, Parliaments and Governments" on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the victory over Hitlerite Germany states that "the Soviet people and Government, which bore the main burden of the struggle against fascism, once again declare their firm intention to do everything in their power, together with other peoples and Governments, to eliminate war from the life of mankind" and state that they will strive to bring about "the limitation and cessation of the arms race in all types of weapons and steadfastly to promote general and complete disarmament".

The Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic considers that there should be no respite in the struggle for the limitation of the arms race and for disarmament. The struggle must be pursued with increasing force. This is essential because of the need to strengthen and safeguard the irreversible character of the process of international détente and to supplement it by military détente.

To this end it is essential not only to disseminate information widely about the aims and goals of disarmament, but to unite and mobilize all peace-loving forces in order to overcome the resistance of the opponents of disarmament, to remove all obstacles on this important path and to set about the task of implementing constructive and effective measures in the field of disarmament. The United Nations is called upon to play an important role in this endeavour.

The efforts of the United Nations in the maintenance of peace and international security, the limitation of the arms race and the promotion of disarmament are widely recognized among the Byelorussian public. The activities of the United Nations are constantly and widely reported in the Byelorussian press and on radio and television and information about its most important and constructive decisions is regularly published.

The Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic expresses the hope that, at its thirtieth session, the General Assembly will adopt new and important decisions which will promote further effective progress towards disarmament and the strengthening of peace and international security, and for its part it will give full support to such decisions.

CANADA

[Original: English]
[7 July 1975]

Believing that, in present circumstances, the eventual goal of general and complete disarmament can best be served by the conclusion of arms control measures that promote political and military stability and strengthen security of nations, it has been the view of the Canadian authorities that Canada can contribute most effectively to the purposes and objectives of the Disarmament Decade, which it fully supports, by continuing its policy of full and active participation in arms control negotiations and disarmament fora open to it. Canada has continued to play an active role in the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, particularly in its efforts to achieve comprehensive prohibitions of nuclear testing and of chemical and bacteriological weapons. Canada has also participated fully in the disarmament debates of the United Nations General Assembly. In addition, Canada is a full participant in the mutual and balanced force reductions negotiations in Vienna. As a firm supporter of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Canada has played an active role in the conference held to review that treaty, held in May of this year. Canada has also participated actively in the consideration being given to certain conventional weapons under auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross. During the decade, Canada, which had already ratified all arms control arrangements open to it and concerning its national interest, also ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction.

Views of the Canadian authorities on questions of arms control and disarmament have been publicized through release of various documents and statements made by the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for External Affairs and officials of the Canadian Government. There is a highly developed awareness in Canada of disarmament and arms control measures and objectives.

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CUBA

[Original: Spanish]
[16 July 1975]

The position of the Revolutionary Government of the Republic of Cuba on general and complete disarmament remains unchanged: the Republic of Cuba supports general and complete disarmament, under strict international supervision, since it coincides with the interests of the Cuban people and of the Revolutionary Government.

In order to achieve general and complete disarmament, the Republic of Cuba advocates the convening of the World Disarmament Conference at the earliest possible date, with representation of all States, whether or not they are Members of the United Nations, whether they are large or small, and whether or not they possess nuclear weapons, on equal terms and with the same rights.

The Republic of Cuba welcomes the positive steps which have been taken both multilaterally and bilaterally in the course of the Disarmament Decade with the primary objective of achieving a lasting and stable peace throughout the world.

The Revolutionary Government of the Republic of Cuba endorses the paragraphs of the Final Declaration of the meeting of the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Countries, held in Havana from 17 to 19 March of this year, which stated:

"The Bureau has reviewed the present situation of the problems of disarmament. It reiterated the objective of achieving general and complete disarmament, in particular nuclear disarmament, and also supported the holding of a World Conference on Disarmament in the shortest possible time. Within the context of the economic crisis, efforts to reduce the enormous armaments expenditures and use the resources thus saved mainly to aid the developing countries have acquired renewed importance.

"The Co-ordinating Bureau calls for the continuity of negotiations, mainly within the United Nations, in order to adopt measures towards putting an end to the arms race, prohibiting chemical weapons and nuclear tests with military purposes, and particularly a more ample use of nuclear energy for the development of developing countries".

DENMARK

/Original: English/
/10 July 1975/

In 1961, the Danish Government set up a Special Disarmament Committee in promotion of the cause of disarmament. The tasks of the Committee are to analyse and consider disarmament questions of immediate concern and to examine in any given situation the possibilities of furthering progress in international disarmament negotiations. In an annual report, the Committee presents a comprehensive review of international developments in disarmament during the past year. The aim of the report, which is circulated to institutions, libraries, the press, and others, is to inform the public of all essential aspects of the cause of disarmament. The report has also been used as a means of publicizing the Disarmament Decade. Since the adoption of the resolution on the Disarmament Decade, the Danish Government has continued its efforts for progress in disarmament, which, in the Danish view, is of paramount importance in the present situation where the existence and threat of weapons of mass destruction have made disarmament and arms control more urgent than ever and where armaments and the arms race are absorbing immense resources.

It therefore remains an objective of Denmark's foreign policy to make a positive contribution to all serious efforts to bring about practicable and durable solutions to the problems of disarmament.

In pursuit of this objective, Denmark is consistently endorsing all initiatives and proposals for disarmament measures provided that they are of a realistic nature and are aimed in the largest possible measure at securing, in each individual case, the positive and active support of the permanent members of the Security Council of the United Nations.

EGYPT

/Original: English/
/6 August 1975/

Egypt is committed to following constructive policies towards achieving the aims and purposes of the Disarmament Decade. In so doing, her position is fully consistent with that of the other non-aligned countries and the member States of OAU. It may be recalled that Egypt was among the first countries that have participated, since 1962, in the disarmament negotiations at Geneva, and she has always played an active role by exerting great efforts to bring about agreement on a number of disarmament issues, particularly the partial test-ban treaty, and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. In her endeavours to achieve the goals of disarmament, Egypt sponsored, together with Iran, a draft resolution adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session on the establishment of a nuclear weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East (resolution 3263 (XXIX)). In addition, the Government of Egypt attaches great importance to

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her membership and participation in the work of the Committee of Experts that has been recently constituted to undertake a comprehensive study of all aspects relating to the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones.

In connexion with steps taken to publicize the Disarmament Decade, the news media in Egypt, particularly the specialized newspapers and periodicals, have focused on the role of Egypt in the field of disarmament and emphasized the importance of the realization of its objectives for the maintenance of international peace and security. In the academic field, numerous works on disarmament have been published, among which may be mentioned a book entitled United Nations Efforts towards Disarmament, published in 1973. The author of this book, Professor Abdel Fatah Ismail of Cairo University, specifically stated in its preamble, that "Disarmament has become, nowadays, the primary gateway to world peace, after having been considered, in the past, an ultimate prerequisite to peace".

EL SALVADOR

/Original: Spanish/
/8 July 1975/

With regard to paragraph 2 of resolution 3261 (XXIX), the Government of El Salvador, at the appropriate time, gave the requisite publicity to the Disarmament Decade in order to acquaint the Salvadorian people with its purposes and objectives. With regard to paragraph 3 of resolution 3261 A (XXIX), I am pleased to inform you that the Government of El Salvador has always supported and adopted all measures and policies designed to ensure the attainment of the objectives of the Disarmament Decade. Accordingly, in pursuance of this policy, El Salvador signed the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America on 14 February 1967 and ratified that Treaty on 1 January 1968. Furthermore, on 1 July 1968 El Salvador signed the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which it ratified on 8 March 1972. I would also mention that, on the basis of article 13 of the first-mentioned Treaty, the Government of El Salvador has undertaken to negotiate agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency, and on 22 April of this year an Agreement for the Application of Safeguards was signed in Mexico City. This agreement is awaiting ratification.

FINLAND

/Original: English/
/5 September 1975/

The Government of Finland welcomes the initiative of Nigeria to undertake a mid-term review of the progress made so far in achieving the purposes and objectives of the Disarmament Decade. Finland, for its part, considers disarmament negotiations to be an integral part of détente. Consequently, Finland has endeavoured to give its own contribution to international disarmament efforts.

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For more than 10 years now, Finland has sent special observers to follow the work of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, which is the principal multilateral forum for disarmament negotiations. To assist the Committee in a particularly complex area of its work, the Finnish Government announced, in 1972, a project on the creation on a national basis of a chemical-weapons-control capacity for possible future international use. The development of the project has so far been described in three working papers submitted to the Committee.

As another measure in keeping with the purposes and objectives of the Disarmament Decade, Finland proposed, at the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly, a comprehensive study of the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all its aspects. The Finnish proposal was unanimously adopted by the General Assembly as resolution 3261 F (XXIX) on 9 December 1974. In accordance with this resolution, the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament has set up a 21-nation Ad Hoc Group of Qualified Governmental Experts for the Study of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones. The resolution also requested the Committee to transmit the expert study in a special report to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session.

To publicize the Disarmament Decade, the Finnish Government has so far assisted, financially or otherwise, in the following action:

(a) The publication in Finnish by the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the economic and social consequences of the armaments race and of military expenditures; 2/

(b) The publication in Finnish by the Committee of One Hundred (Sadankomitea) of Napalm and Incendiary Weapons: Legal and Humanitarian Aspects. SIPRI Interim Report (October 1972);

(c) The publication in Finnish by the Committee of One Hundred (Sadankomitea) of the report of the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs on Conventional Weapons: Their Operative Use and Effects from the Humanitarian Point of View. Recommendations for the Modernization of International Law (1973);

(d) The publication in a booklet form of the papers presented in a Seminar on Chemical and Biological Weapons of the Finnish UNESCO Commission, Helsinki, 29-30 September 1972;

(e) The publication of a special issue on disarmament in UN News (No. 2, 1974), an information bulletin published by the Finnish United Nations Association;

(f) The publication of a special issue on the question relating to nuclear-weapon-free zones in Ulkopolitiikka (Foreign Policy) No. 1, 1975, a periodical published by The Institute of International Affairs.

2/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.72.IX.16.

In defining its views and policies with regard to disarmament, the Finnish Government draws on the expertise and recommendations of the Disarmament Commission, an advisory body attached to the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The members of the Commission come from many walks of public life, government, universities as well as political parties, thus representing the whole spectrum of informed Finnish opinion of disarmament issues.

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

/Original: English/
/8 August 1975/

It is an important concern of the foreign policy of the German Democratic Republic to bring about effective measures for disarmament and arms limitation. The German Democratic Republic has, therefore, supported all proposals and initiatives serving this aim. It has acceded to all important multilateral agreements on disarmament and arms limitation and emphatically advocates that these agreements should achieve universal validity and be strictly adhered to.

The German Democratic Republic attaches great importance to the negotiations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America on strategic arms limitation. The agreements achieved so far as a result of these negotiations, such as the agreements on the prevention of a nuclear war, on strategic arms limitation and on the restriction of underground nuclear-weapon tests, contribute towards limiting the nuclear arms race. These and all other successes are a good basis for further progress in the field of disarmament and arms limitation. In view of the intensification of the arms race by reactionary forces opposed to détente, further great efforts are necessary to complement political détente by military détente.

For the first time in the history of mankind there exist today the pre-conditions to achieve lasting peace. Thanks to the efforts of the USSR and the other States of the socialist community, a profound transformation of international relations has taken place. Détente has become the determining trend in Europe and in other parts of the world. Now it is especially urgent to restrict the arms race and finally to end it and thus to make détente irreversible.

The proposals of the USSR and the other States of the socialist community to end the nuclear arms race, to prohibit for ever the use of force in international relations and the use of nuclear weapons, to terminate nuclear-weapon tests by all States in all media, to liquidate chemical weapons from the arms arsenals of all States, to reduce arms expenditure and to convene a world disarmament conference, as well as to conclude a convention on the prohibition of action to influence the environment and climate for military purposes, serve that aim.

The realization of these proposals, which are supported by the majority of States Members of the United Nations, would be an important step on the road to general and complete disarmament.

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GUATEMALA

/Original: Spanish/
/19 September 1975/

Guatemala has the following observations to make:

1. The nuclear-weapon-free zones should be urged to organize themselves and to conclude nuclear non-proliferation treaties, and consequently to invite and exhort the nuclear-weapon countries, in the interests of world peace, to submit to control and inspection either by teams of inspectors from such zones or by the International Atomic Energy Agency or the International Red Cross. A step in this direction has already been taken by OPANAL (Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America), which has already clearly demarcated one nuclear-weapon-free zone.
2. An "International Year of World Peace" should also be proclaimed, and possibly repeated every four years, during which countries which are signatories to agreements could submit to the aforementioned inspection for the control of nuclear weapons by the international agency mentioned above.
3. During the "Year", a publicity campaign could be used to appeal to belligerent nations and make them aware that such a year provides an ideal opportunity for taking steps towards the establishment of world peace. All international documents should include a mention of the term, "International Year of Peace", and other slogans of a similar nature which can influence the troubled mind of man today.
4. The need for coercive measures against violators should not be overlooked. Such measures would obviously include diplomatic and economic sanctions and, if possible, a system of incentives for nations which comply with the provisions of the agreement.
5. Similarly, nuclear-weapon States now have at their disposal systems for detecting the presence of nuclear weapons, which could be used for mutual surveillance and the detection of violators.
6. Military attachés can also play an important role as "Authorized Inspectors" for the Government of the State in question, by bringing violations to the attention of the organizations of nuclear-weapon-free zones and the International Atomic Energy Agency. Close consideration should also be given to the "Open Skies Plan" suggested by former President of the United States of America General Eisenhower.

HUNGARY

/Original: English/

/1 August 1975/

For the Hungarian people, the first half of 1975 was a period of drawing up a balance-sheet. In a short time there were several occasions which made it not only possible but necessary to review the distance covered in the last, shorter span of time to evaluate the achievements, to come to conclusions concerning the present situation and to define the direction and the major tasks for the next years and decades.

When they celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of Hungary's liberation and when - a short while later - they commemorated the thirtieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War, the victory over fascism, the people of the country looked back upon events of historic significance, upon developments of such pace and profundity that have no parallel in their past.

Developments mostly of the last four to five years, placed in a similar historical framework, were reviewed and appraised in March at the eleventh Congress of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party. After a detailed analysis of the changes which occurred in the international situation and an evaluation of the steps and measures which were taken, the Congress stated in its resolution that "in our age, the avoidance of world wars and the peaceful solution of controversial international issues have become an actual possibility". The Congress took a stand in favour of extending the trend of political détente into the military field, making the results so far achieved, including disarmament measures, universally binding and creating favourable conditions necessary to take further steps. Having stated that "our Party and Government are deeply concerned for the elaboration of the measures on disarmament and the limitation of the arms race". The resolution took a firm position with regard also to future tasks: "We support every effort aimed at the limitation and subsequently the cessation - even if gradually - of the armaments race".

Last May, the socialist countries commemorated the twentieth anniversary of the conclusion of the Warsaw Treaty, which, although primarily a regional political and defence alliance, in its effects has gone far beyond the boundaries of Europe and has become a firm pillar of international security. Within the frame of that Treaty, the Hungarian People's Republic has done and continues to do everything to achieve relationships and obligations that would effectively defend peace and security not only in Europe, but the whole world over, at a solemn meeting held in Warsaw on the occasion of the anniversary. The representatives of parliaments of States members of the Treaty made an appeal to the European parliaments. In that document, they took a stand in favour of "the withdrawal of foreign troops from the territory of European States, the elimination of foreign military bases, the creation of a nuclear-free zone and other measures intended to reduce arms and armed forces in Europe". The authors of the appeal speak of Europe, but they are aware of the fact that today this continent has a real opportunity "to become a zone of lasting and fruitful international co-operation and an important factor for the security of the whole world".

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In international politics, the Government of the Hungarian People's Republic, in accordance with the country's size and weight, is playing a modest role, but one which is based on firm principles. However, the worth of its efforts and the effectiveness of its actions are multiplied, because in international fora it acts not alone but as a member of the community of the socialist countries, together with other progressive, anti-imperialist and peace-loving forces.

The Hungarian Government has always endorsed any initiative which serves to reduce international tensions, to avert the danger of war and to promote general and complete disarmament. It was among the first to sign and ratify the partial test-ban treaty, the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water, 3/ and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Since 1969, when, upon the invitation of the co-chairman, Hungary joined the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament at Geneva, it has been active in the elaboration of another two international disarmament measures, the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction. The Hungarian People's Republic was among the first to become a party to these Treaties. Together with other socialist countries, Hungary is a co-sponsor of the draft treaty concerning the total prohibition and destruction of chemical weapons, which has been before the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament since March 1972. Representatives of the Hungarian Government have been making efforts to promote the earliest possible convening of a world disarmament conference and the realization of initiatives and proposals aimed at the limitation and cessation of the arms race and other effective disarmament measures.

For the Hungarian People's Republic, disarmament is not an occasional task or a periodical activity but a permanent, steadfast aspiration at the very centre of the Government's foreign policy, by which it serves the interest of the whole society and with which all the Hungarian people are, consequently, fully in agreement. That was reflected very well in the appeal made in connexion with the recent parliamentary elections by the National Council of the Patriotic People's Front, which embraces and mobilizes the whole Hungarian society:

"It is our aim to have the era of suspicion, unrest and warlike tensions replaced irreversibly with a new and historic epoch of peace, security and co-operation on our continent. We come out for the principle and follow the practice of peaceful co-existence among States with different social systems. We support the peace policy which serves the interest of all the mankind."

In view of the foregoing, the Hungarian Government appreciates the achievements already made for the limitation of the armaments race and for disarmament; but, at the same time, it is clear and must be emphasized that, in order to reach the goals set out above in detail, further, even greater and better co-ordinated efforts are needed.

3/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 480, No. 6964, p. 43.

INDIA

/Original: English/

/24 June 1975/

In keeping with its traditions of peace, India has always taken a deep interest in arms limitation and disarmament and has actively participated in international deliberations on these matters in various fora with a view to making a constructive contribution.

The Government of India has been consistently of the view that in this nuclear age lasting world peace can be based on general and complete disarmament under effective international control, and that the highest priority in the field of disarmament should be accorded to the elimination of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. Important first steps which should be taken in this direction are (i) a cessation of the production of fissile material for weapon purposes combined with prohibition of the manufacture of nuclear weapons, and (ii) a comprehensive ban on all testing of nuclear weapons.

On the occasion of the mid-term review of the Disarmament Decade, the Government of India records with satisfaction that, in pursuance of its general approach towards disarmament, India signed the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction on 15 January 1973 and ratified it on 15 July 1974. India also became a party to the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof on 20 July 1973.

IRAN

/Original: English/

/18 June 1975/

The Government of Iran is firmly committed to all measures that promote peace and security of States and which provide a framework for the realization of arms control and disarmament. Cognizant of the fact that the ultimate goal of all disarmament efforts is the achievement of general and complete disarmament under effective international control, Iran has been in favour of any step which might lead to general and controlled disarmament. It has consequently supported the aims and purposes of the Disarmament Decade.

With such orientation, the Iranian Government has become a party to every single international accord in the field of arms control and disarmament.

With respect to paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 3261 A (XXIX), the Government of Iran wishes to submit the following:

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(a) In 1974, Iran took the initiative in proposing the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East. The General Assembly subsequently adopted with near unanimity resolution 3263 (XXIX), jointly sponsored by Iran and Egypt on this subject. Iran is determined to pursue the aims enunciated in that resolution, and has outlined its views on the implementation of the resolution in a letter submitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on 27 May 1975 (A/10221, sect. II), in accordance with the terms of resolution 3263 (XXIX);

(b) Iran has taken a strong interest in the idea of a World Disarmament Conference and played a role in negotiations leading to the establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference. Since its inception, moreover, Iran has been entrusted with the chairmanship of the Ad Hoc Committee, and shall continue to work towards harmonizing the views of the Member States for realization of this objective;

(c) In order to enhance its ability to contribute more effectively to progress in the negotiations in the field of arms control and disarmament, Iran has become a Member of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, and is determined to play an active role in the work of this Conference.

But whatever efforts are expended by various States in their endeavour to promote the cause of disarmament, the overwhelming fact remains that the major responsibility in this field lies with the nuclear Powers.

The attainment of the goal of general and complete disarmament must be predicated on the implementation, first and foremost, of significant nuclear disarmament measures. Therefore, unless we fully grasp the logic of the priorities involved in our quest for disarmament, the prospect of a safer and more secure world must continue to elude us.

It is the considered opinion of the Iranian Government that, until such time as a state of trust and confidence among States comes into being and until adequate machinery to guarantee peace and international security is evolved, nations have no alternative but to look after their own security needs.

ITALY

/Original: English/

/1 September 1975/

Italy attaches the greatest importance to disarmament and arms control and on this occasion wishes to reaffirm her full support of the purposes and objectives of the Disarmament Decade proclaimed by the General Assembly in resolution 2602 E (XXIV), which Italy co-sponsored in 1969.

Italy has always played an active role in all initiatives favouring détente and general and complete disarmament under effective international control, as is manifested in her statements and positions taken in the major international fora, in particular in the General Assembly of the United Nations and in the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament.

Italy's position has been translated into concrete actions, such as her ratification in recent years of the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof (3 September 1974), the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (2 May 1975) and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (30 May 1975).

KUWAIT

/Original: English/

/20 May 1975/

The objectives of the Disarmament Decade can only be achieved if the big Powers agree to practical steps to realize general and complete disarmament in stages. In addition to horizontal non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, the big Powers should agree to vertical non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

The arms race among the big Powers should stop; it is not sufficient to conclude disarmament agreements which change the nuclear arms race from a race of quantity to a race of quality.

The big Powers should respect the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of all States and should uphold the provisions of the United Nations Charter. It is unforgivable for big Powers, especially for permanent members of the Security Council, to condone the acquisition of territory by force.

All States, big or small, should solemnly demand the prohibition of the production, stockpiling and use of napalm and other incendiary weapons and the destruction of existing stockpiles.

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Kuwait believes that the proposal to reduce the military budgets of States members of the Security Council will promote the cause of general and complete disarmament. A large part of the funds saved should be used to provide additional assistance to the developing countries.

Disarmament measures cannot apply to countries whose territories are wholly or partially under foreign occupation or which are still a prey to colonialism and apartheid. Disarmament measures, if applied to such countries and peoples, will deprive them of their fundamental rights to sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

The Conference of the Committee on Disarmament has been handicapped in its work by the pattern of disarmament negotiations which have been mainly in the form of a dialogue between the two super-Powers. Kuwait attaches great importance to the preparatory work for holding a World Disarmament Conference, because all nations, big or small, have an equal stake in disarmament. The Conference should deal with a wide variety of topics which have not been successfully broached or dealt with by the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament. The World Disarmament Conference will be a useful form for examining the conduct of the big Powers and applying complete and general disarmament measures to them.

The competent authorities in Kuwait have been using the information media to explain to the people the purposes and objectives of the Disarmament Decade. Programmes give the gist of disarmament agreements concluded so far and explaining the limitations of such agreements and the work of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament. The whole subject is treated from the point of view of a small country which finds the present trend of disarmament inadequate to safeguard its security and that of other small countries. The Disarmament Decade is also the subject of lively debate in seminars conducted at Kuwait University and in senior high school classes.

MEXICO

[Original: Spanish]

[29 April 1975]

1. At its 1836th plenary meeting, held on 16 December 1969, the General Assembly adopted resolution 2602 E (XXIV), in which it declared the decade of the 1970s as a Disarmament Decade and called upon Governments to intensify without delay their concerted and concentrated efforts for effective measures relating to the cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and the elimination of other weapons of mass destruction, and for a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

2. At its 2309th plenary meeting, held on 9 December 1974, the General Assembly adopted resolution 3261 A (XXIX), in which it reaffirmed the purposes

and objectives of the Disarmament Decade and, inter alia, invited Member States to report to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session, through the Secretary-General, on the measures and policies they adopted to achieve the purposes and objectives of the Disarmament Decade.

3. The present memorandum, which is intended to comply with the invitation of the General Assembly, contains the comments which the Government of Mexico has to make concerning this subject.

4. In the statement he delivered to the General Assembly on 5 October 1971, President Luis Echeverría emphasized that disarmament is one of the fundamental aims of Mexico's foreign policy:

"Disarmament", he said, "the absolute need to disarm -- beginning with nuclear weapons -- springs from peace as paramount among the values of human coexistence. Mexico has decisively contributed to work to promote disarmament in all the forums in which it has participated, and most particularly in the General Assembly and the Committee that specializes in this subject." 4/

5. These ideas are reflected in the "Draft comprehensive programme of disarmament", which Mexico, jointly with Sweden and Yugoslavia, drew up and submitted to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament in August 1970. 5/ This comprehensive programme of disarmament was subsequently submitted to the General Assembly by Mexico and five other countries (A/8191 and Corr.1). In its resolution 2661 C (XXV), the General Assembly recommended to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament that it take this comprehensive programme of disarmament into account in its further work and its negotiations.

6. As defined in section I of the programme, the basic objective of the comprehensive programme of disarmament is "to achieve tangible progress in order that the goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control may become a reality in a world in which international peace and security prevail, and economic and social progress are attained".

7. The comprehensive programme of disarmament contains four other sections specifying its principles, elements and phases, and discussing its relationship with peace-keeping and security, and also the procedure to be followed. Not only are the 12 principles enunciated in the comprehensive programme of disarmament still valid, but they have, if anything become even more pertinent in the past five years. It would therefore seem appropriate to reproduce the exact wording used in enunciating these principles in the programme, which is as follows:

4/ A/PV.1952.

5/ Official Records of the Disarmament Commission, Supplement for 1970,
document CCO/313.

"1. The measures in the comprehensive programme should be carried out in accordance with the Joint Statement of Agreed Principles for Disarmament Negotiations of September 1961; taking into account the obligations undertaken in various treaties on disarmament and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and all new elements and possibilities in this area.

"2. The highest priority should be given to disarmament measures dealing with nuclear and chemical and biological weapons.

"3. The problem of general and complete disarmament should be given intensive treatment, parallel to the negotiations of partial disarmament measures, including measures to prevent and limit armaments and measures to reduce armaments, in order to facilitate further clarification of positions and possibilities, including the revision and updating of the existing draft treaties submitted by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America respectively, or the submission of new proposals.

"4. The principle of balanced disarmament should be kept in mind. It concerns both a numerical decrease of men in arms and types of arms to prefixed levels, and packages of disarmament measures by which an over-all balance is achieved that is judged by all parties to be satisfactory in the light of their own security. Particular efforts will have to be undertaken by militarily important Powers in order to reduce the gap that exists between them and other countries. It is understood that the final solution of the limitation and reduction of conventional armaments can only be obtained within the framework of general and complete disarmament.

"5. Verification methods form an indispensable part of disarmament measures. When elaborating such methods it must be recognized that a 100 per cent certainty can never be obtained by any such system. A single method of control is rarely sufficient. As a rule, a combination of several methods should be employed, mutually reinforcing one another in order to achieve the necessary assurances that a certain disarmament measure is being observed by all parties.

"6. The comprehensive programme is correlated with other United Nations programmes for peace-keeping and international security. Progress in the former should not, however, be made dependent on progress in the latter and vice versa.

"7. The necessity should be kept in mind of avoiding, when concluding th disarmament agreements, any adverse effects on the scientific, technological or economic future of nations.

"8. A substantial portion of the savings derived from measures in the field of disarmament should be devoted to promoting economic and social development, particularly in the developing countries.

"9. In disarmament agreements every effort should be made not to prejudge or prejudice juridical or other unresolved issues in any outside field.

"10. Concerted efforts should be made to associate militarily significant States, in particular all nuclear-weapon Powers, with the negotiations for disarmament.

"11. The United Nations, which has specific responsibility for disarmament under the Charter, should be kept informed of all efforts thereon, whether unilateral, bilateral or multilateral.

"12. Public opinion should be given adequate information about armament and disarmament, so that it might bring its influence to bear on the strengthening of disarmament efforts."

NETHERLANDS

/Original: English/

/15 July 1975/

The Netherlands Government attaches the greatest importance to the question of disarmament and arms control. During various negotiations such as the MBFR and CCD talks, the Netherlands strives to establish effective measures to diminish the risks inherent to the present level of armament both in the conventional and nuclear fields. On 19 June 1975, the Netherlands Government presented to the States General a paper on the disarmament question in which it explains its thinking on the issue. With the presentation of this paper, the Government intends to bring about an extensive exchange of opinion on the matter with Parliament.

The Government during the past years has taken many initiatives in the Netherlands aimed at stimulating and enlarging its people's interest in and awareness of disarmament problems. In 1964, an advisory committee was set up to deal with matters of disarmament, international peace and security. The purpose of this committee is to advise on the above matters either on the Government's request or whenever the Committee itself deems necessary. The committee is independent from the Government and its members represent different levels of opinion in Dutch society. Furthermore, since 1970 the Netherlands Institute for Peace Affairs has been set up. This Institute conducts among other things studies on matters of disarmament and arms control on an independent basis or commissions them to be undertaken. The Institute also has the task of giving information on these problems and to stimulate and to support educational activities in those fields.

Lastly, the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs publishes every two or three years a survey on the most important developments in this field, entitled Disarmament, Security and Peace.

NORWAY

/Original: English/

/25 June 1975/

The Norwegian Government regards the promotion of and participation in effective arms control and disarmament measures as a necessary contribution to further détente and enhanced security. In line with this policy, Norway has adhered to the various multilateral arms control agreements concluded during the recent years.

In order to increase the awareness of disarmament and arms control problems among the public and in the media and to assist the Government in an advisory capacity, a Council for Disarmament and Arms Control was established in 1961. The Council, whose members represent the political, academic and professional areas of

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interest, seeks to promote research and public debate on disarmament issues. One of its principal tasks is to spread information about disarmament and arms control through radio, television and press, schools and universities and to the general public. Furthermore, the Council gives financial support to research institutions and grants scholarships each year for studies in the field of disarmament and arms control. The proclamation of the Disarmament Decade was presented in the Council's Yearbook of 1969/1970, which is given a wide distribution.

In view of the importance the Government attaches to disarmament and arms control, it intends to enlarge and widen the scope and activities of the Council's activities and thus contribute to the further promotion of the vital issues involved.

OMAN

/Original: English/
/12 May 1975/

The Government of Oman wishes it to be known that Oman is not engaged in the arms race nor does it possess any heavy weapons, the use of which is contrary to international law. Oman regrets that it has no proper steps to follow in the realization of disarmament, but it fully supports disarmament as that will be a means to promote world peace while, at the same time, to use the money saved for development programmes, which would raise the living standards of those in the developing countries.

QATAR

/Original: English/
/9 May 1975/

With reference to your letter dated 11 February 1975 concerning the action and steps being taken by our Government to publicize the Disarmament Decade in conformity with the General Assembly resolution 3261 A (XXIX), our Government wishes to report that it is using all the media available to publicize the Disarmament Decade and acquaint the public with its purposes and objectives.

ROMANIA

/Original: French/
/5 September 1975/

Mindful of the economic and social consequences of the arms race and its profoundly harmful effects on world peace and security, Romania continues to attach

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great importance to this international problem and remains steadfast in advocating the achievement of general and complete disarmament, beginning with nuclear disarmament. A unified conception and a broad view of the objective pursued constitute an indispensable condition for any rational action. The application of the concept of programming and planning has become imperative in every area of human activity.

Disarmament must also be integrated in a global strategy for peace which, designed to attack the most acute problems that are of universal interest, will govern the vigorous action to be taken now and in the future by the international community. This need to draw up a coherent programme of work which would give perspective to the general efforts that are being made to promote peace and the many-faceted development of all nations, led the Romanian delegation at the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament at Geneva to put forward for the first time on 3 April 1969 the idea of a "Disarmament Decade". At that time it stated: "In the opinion of the Romanian delegation, the efforts of States aimed at achieving effective progress towards disarmament should be directed in a new manner so as to give the negotiations perspective, continuity, consistency and effectiveness. We believe that it would be advisable to have recourse to a functional approach consisting of a series of measures, all integrated within the fundamental objective pursued, namely, general disarmament and, first and foremost, nuclear disarmament. It is in this light that one could view the proclamation of a United Nations Disarmament Decade, 1970-1980, which would be harmonized with the second Development Decade, thus making it possible to combine the efforts taken by the international community in these fields of vital significance, for promoting progress throughout the world and promoting general peace." (A/7741-DC/232, para. 57) 6/

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2602 E (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament was requested to work out a comprehensive programme dealing with all aspects of the problem of the cessation of the arms race and general and complete disarmament under effective international control.

The preparation of a comprehensive programme, based on such essential considerations, would make it possible to establish a proper order of priorities and a precise schedule for the implementation of various measures at the appropriate time.

In this connexion, and with similar objectives in view, the Romanian delegation proposed on 5 March 1970 in the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament at Geneva certain measures aimed at providing guidance for disarmament negotiations:

- (a) Freezing and reduction of the military budgets of all States;

6/ For the printed text, see Official Records of the Disarmament Commission, Supplement for 1969, document DC/232, para. 57).

(b) Undertaking, by means of a binding and universal international agreement, certain firm commitments not to resort to the threat or use of force or interfere, in any way or under any circumstances, in the internal affairs of other States;

(c) Refraining from staging military manoeuvres in the territory of other States; prohibition of the establishment of new military bases and the emplacement of any new nuclear weapons in foreign territory; taking measures for the elimination of foreign military bases;

(d) Establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones in various parts of the world, including the Balkan region;

(e) Preparation of a programme of actions and specific measures to be taken during the Disarmament Decade;

(f) Undertaking in the plenary Committee intensive negotiations with a view to the formulation of a draft treaty on general disarmament;

(g) Providing an appropriate framework for participation in the work of the Committee by all States wishing to state their positions on the problems of disarmament;

(h) Accelerating the pace of negotiations and improving the activity, structure, forms and methods of work of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament.

In view of the importance of the framework of negotiations in promoting efforts for the adoption of genuine measures of disarmament, Romania has worked to democratize and improve the existing structures and, to that end, submitted on 16 March 1972 proposals and suggestions relating to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament. These proposals (see CCD/450 of 25 March) were adopted by consensus by the members of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament.

In accordance with the principle that the achievement of general disarmament, beginning with nuclear disarmament, is of equal importance to all States, Romania has also promoted in its bilateral contacts specific ideas and measures aimed at achieving these objectives. The solemn joint declarations issued by Romania with States of Europe, Africa, Asia and Latin America, which have also been circulated as official documents of the General Assembly, are proof of these efforts.

The mid-term review of progress made during the Disarmament Decade will reveal that at present the arms race and the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and bacteriological weapons and other weapons of mass destruction pose serious dangers to world peace and the very existence of mankind on this planet. Enormous amounts of human energy and material resources are being used for purposes of armament.

These are the reasons why the objectives of the Disarmament Decade - halting the arms race and the adoption of genuine measures of disarmament, beginning with nuclear, chemical and bacteriological disarmament - are more urgent than ever.

Mindful of the interests of the Romanian people and of peace and progress throughout the world, the eleventh Congress of the Romanian Communist Party took the view that it was Romania's duty to work harder than ever for the achievement of genuine measures of disarmament. Every effort must be made to ensure that within the next 25 years the arms race is halted, military budgets are reduced and the funds released are allocated to the economic and social development of the world's peoples and the elimination of under-development.

The production of nuclear weapons must be halted and existing stockpiles must be destroyed. Every State possessing nuclear weapons must solemnly undertake to halt the production of new weapons and begin to destroy existing weapons, under appropriate agreements. Only in this way can the proliferation of atomic weapons be prevented and the danger of a devastating thermonuclear war truly eliminated.

Strong measures are also necessary for the reduction of armed forces, the elimination of foreign military bases and military blocs, and the undertaking of solemn commitments to end all aggression against other States or interference in their affairs.

Our country's general position with regard to steps which need to be taken within a disarmament programme is contained in an official document of the General Assembly relating to item 41 of the agenda entitled "General and complete disarmament" (A/10123).

This programme contains the following provisions:

(1) Freezing and gradual reduction of military budgets and prohibition of the use of nuclear and thermonuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction;

(2) The solemn obligation of every State possessing nuclear weapons to halt the production of new weapons and begin to destroy existing weapons under appropriate agreements, since this is the only way of preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons and definitively eliminating the danger of a devastating thermonuclear war.

(3) The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, the dismantling of foreign military bases, the gradual reduction of the size of national armed forces, and the withdrawal of troops stationed in the territory of other States.

(4) The reduction of troops, armaments and military expenditure must not be purely symbolic. At first they should be reduced by at least 10-15 per cent and in the heavily armed countries by a higher percentage.

(5) The strengthening of confidence and the development of co-operation among States in order to create the conditions necessary for the elimination of antagonistic military blocs and the prohibition of all war propaganda.

(6) The broad democratization of the forums for negotiations in the field of disarmament, ensuring the participation of all States on an equal basis and improving the work of the Committee on Disarmament in Geneva.

(7) The systematic dissemination for the benefit of world public opinion, by means of reports issued at least twice a year, of information on activities related to disarmament.

In the opinion of the Romanian Government, the paramount role in pursuing the objectives of the Disarmament Decade belongs to the United Nations and its bodies authorized by the Charter to work in this field. The United Nations must exert every effort to make world public opinion aware of the build-up of arms and weapons in the world and thus help to enlist it in the struggle to achieve disarmament.

We are firmly convinced that the mobilization of all the resources and the experience of the United Nations will be a determining factor in halting the arms race. Another factor would be the convening of a special session of the General Assembly at which Member States could discuss and adopt specific measures, within the framework of an over-all programme, aimed at achieving the objectives of the Disarmament Decade.

The achievement of general disarmament, beginning with nuclear disarmament, the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction - fundamental objectives of the Disarmament Decade - are vital obligations of all peoples, for the fulfilment of which Romania will continue to work in the future.

SWEDEN

/Original: English/

/11 June 1975/

The Swedish Government is deeply aware of the importance of disseminating information on current efforts in the field of disarmament to the general public and to makers of public opinion. Current accounting of the policies of the Swedish Government in this field is provided by press releases, annual publications by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the work of the General Assembly and other bodies, as well as by other articles and publications of large circulation.

Special efforts are being made to stimulate the interest of non-governmental organizations for disarmament. In this context, it may be mentioned that the Swedish Government offers financial support for a number of non-governmental organizations, resulting in, among other things, dissemination of additional information in the field of disarmament. As a further expression of the same endeavour, it may be mentioned that the Swedish Government is planning to include in its delegation to the thirtieth session of the General Assembly a representative of such non-governmental organizations, who will give special attention to the issues of disarmament.

It should also be mentioned in this connexion that the Swedish Government and Parliament have contributed financially since 1966 to the research activities carried out by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. For the financial year 1975/1976, this contribution amounts to \$1 million. I wish to underline that the international staff of the Institute performs its work under the direct guidance of an international governing board and is wholly independent of any governmental or private interest. The Institute has, since its start, issued a great number of publications which have become very useful and appreciated sources of information both to decision-makers in all countries and to those who influence opinions in the general field of disarmament.

THAILAND

/Original: English/

/22 July 1975/

The Government of Thailand continues to adhere to the same policy, namely, to support all measures under United Nations auspices to achieve general and complete disarmament, in all its aspects, under strict and effective international control and verification, in accordance with the purposes and objectives of the Disarmament Decade.

UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

/Original: Russian/
/7 July 1975/

In connexion with General Assembly resolution 3261 A (XXIX) on the question of the Disarmament Decade, the Permanent Mission of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic to the United Nations has the honour to state the following.

The Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic consistently supports the cessation of the arms race and the adoption of effective measures in the field of general and complete disarmament. This position of principle is well known, having been set forth in statements by representatives of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic at sessions of the General Assembly and in replies to questionnaires from the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic notes with satisfaction the definite progress achieved in the limitation of the arms race under the influence of the process of international détente and the realization of the historic programme of peace elaborated at the twenty-fourth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

The important international multilateral and bilateral agreements concluded in recent years which limit or eliminate certain kinds of armaments and reduce the danger of a nuclear war provide a sound basis for further measures in the field of disarmament.

In 1975, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic ratified the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, and notes with satisfaction the entry into force of this Convention, which eliminates from the arsenals of States one of the types of weapons of mass destruction.

Supplementing such important agreements as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof, and other agreements, this Convention constitutes a new step towards the limitation of the arms race and real disarmament.

Of great importance in this respect are the Soviet-American agreements concluded in 1972-1974 on the limitation of strategic arms, the limitation of underground nuclear weapon tests and the prevention of nuclear war, and the understanding reached on further steps in these fields and in the field of the limitation of chemical means of warfare and the prohibition of action to influence the environment for military purposes. These agreements make a significant contribution to the development of international co-operation in improving the international situation, strengthening détente, curbing the arms race and solving the problems of disarmament.

In the opinion of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, concerted efforts

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on the part of all States are now essential in order to strengthen and consolidate the results achieved, and to provide new impetus to disarmament negotiations. That is why the task of consolidating and broadening the process of détente, making it irreversible and supplementing it with military détente, is such an urgent one.

This is because, despite the favourable changes that have occurred in the world, the arms race has not been halted. Continuing to divert vast material and human resources from constructive activities has a negative influence not only on the maintenance of international security, but also on the fulfilment of the very important tasks of achieving social and economic progress and an increase in the well-being of peoples. The resistance shown by the opponents of détente and disarmament has still not been completely overcome. Hence every specific step towards curbing the arms race and every practical measure agreed upon in the field of disarmament constitutes a tangible contribution to the development of détente, the building of a peace free from wars and weapons, the maintenance of security and the progress of all States, both large and small, developed and developing.

The objective of mobilizing and combining the efforts of all States in this field would be served by the speediest convening of the World Disarmament Conference. Noting with satisfaction that the overwhelming majority of the States of the world express their support for the holding of this Conference, the Ukrainian SSR considers it necessary to mobilize efforts for the convening of the Conference at the earliest possible date. All ways and means must be found for strengthening and further developing the favourable trend observed in the solution of disarmament problems. In the view of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the speediest practical implementation of the series of important resolutions on disarmament questions adopted by the General Assembly at recent sessions would also contribute to this process.

The implementation of General Assembly resolution 2936 (XXVII), on the non-use of force in international relations and permanent prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons, would be of considerable importance in connexion with the outlawing of nuclear weapons and the liquidation of the enormous stockpiles of such weapons. The adoption by the Security Council of appropriate measures in pursuance of that resolution would erect a barrier to any aggression and the use of any weapons - whether nuclear or conventional - and would make a substantial contribution to the cause of progress towards disarmament.

One of the important tasks, in the view of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, is also action to strengthen further the multilateral agreements already concluded, to make them universal and to ensure strict observance of their provisions.

The Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic is ready to continue its active co-operation in the United Nations with all States in the solution of the urgent problems of disarmament and in the preparation and adoption of effective solutions designed to ensure the complete elimination of the danger of war from the life of mankind.

UNION OF SOVIET AND SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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/30 July 1975/

The United States has long been committed to the search for effective measures in the field of arms control and disarmament. This commitment has been reflected during the first half of the Disarmament Decade in a broad pattern of active United States participation in negotiations and discussions in bilateral, regional, and multilateral fora. Many of these negotiations have resulted in important agreements, which individually and collectively have made a positive contribution to the goals of the Disarmament Decade and laid a solid foundation for further progress in the rest of the Decade and beyond.

A critical area of arms control negotiations during the 1970s has been the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) between the United States and the Soviet Union. Charged with the task of placing limits and restraints on some of the most important armaments possessed by the two countries, the ongoing SALT negotiations have registered several accomplishments. The first series of talks, concluded in May 1972, culminated in the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems, which foreclosed an emerging competition in strategic defensive systems, and the Interim Agreement on Certain Measures with respect to the Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (A/C.1/1026). The Interim Agreement, together with its Protocol (A/9698, annex III), represented the first steps to restrict competition in the most powerful land- and submarine-based offensive nuclear weapons. Further SALT negotiations led to the July 1974 Protocol to the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems, which limited each side to a single ABM development area. At the November 1974 summit meeting in Vladivostok, President Ford and General Secretary Brezhnev reached an accord on principles forming a basis for negotiations to work out a new agreement limiting strategic offensive arms through 1985 and laying a foundation for future agreements on the reduction of strategic arms.

Besides the agreements achieved in the SALT context, United States-Soviet discussions have resulted in other important steps, such as the Agreement on Measures to Reduce the Risk of Outbreak of Nuclear War between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, signed at Washington, D.C. on 30 September 1971, and undertakings at the July 1974 summit meeting to explore possible arms control measures in the fields of chemical weapons and the military use of environmental modification techniques. Talks are continuing on means of implementing the Treaty on the Limitation of Underground Nuclear Weapon Tests (A/9698, annex I) and the Protocol to the Treaty, signed at Moscow on 3 July 1974. The United States considers this Treaty, scheduled to enter into force on 31 March 1976, a constructive step towards the goal of an adequately verified comprehensive test ban, to which it remains committed.

Prominent among the regional negotiations in which the United States has participated are those concerning mutual and balanced force reductions in Central Europe and (while not precisely in an arms control context) the Conference on

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Security and Co-operation in Europe. Elsewhere in the world, the United States has supported the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Latin America by adhering in 1971 to Additional Protocol II of the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

On the multilateral front, the United States has participated actively in the annual disarmament debate of the United Nations General Assembly and in the work of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament at Geneva. During the early 1970s, the United States played a prominent role in Committee negotiation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof, and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, both of which it has now ratified. Even before the entry into force of the Convention on biological weapons, the United States had unilaterally renounced all forms of biological warfare, including the use of toxins, and had destroyed its stockpiles of such weapons. In becoming a party to the Convention on biological weapons, the United States reaffirmed its commitment to seek effective restraints on chemical weapons. In addition, in 1975, the United States ratified the Geneva Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare. 7/

The United States also took an active part in the Review Conference of Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held in May 1975. The United States attaches the highest importance to the objective of preventing the further spread of nuclear-weapons capabilities and strongly supports the non-proliferation Treaty as an indispensable element in pursuing that objective. In the view of the United States, the Final Declaration adopted at the Review Conference contains many important recommendations that will further strengthen the Treaty and promote still wider adherence to it.

In addition, the United States this year has taken two initiatives at the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament: first, a call on the Committee to give its serious consideration to possible approaches to restraining the acquisition and transfer of conventional weapons; and, second, a proposal for a study of how to define and measure military expenditures. Such a study, in the view of the United States, would constitute a necessary preliminary step towards any eventual international agreement on reducing military budgets. Both initiatives are evidence of the determination on the part of the United States during the second half of the Disarmament Decade to proceed on a broad front in all areas offering hope of agreement on additional arms control measures.

7/ League of Nations Treaty Series, Vol. XCIV, No. 2138.

III. INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

5. The Secretary-General has always felt that every effort should be made to give meaning and significance to the Disarmament Decade proclaimed by the General Assembly in resolution 2602 E (XXIV). In his statements, he repeatedly called for concrete action to promote progress in the field of disarmament during the Decade.

6. In addition, in fulfilment of the request contained in paragraph 7 of the above-mentioned resolution, calling on the Secretary-General to publicize the Disarmament Decade by all appropriate means at his disposal, he directed the Secretariat to take appropriate action in response to the resolution. The action taken is described below.

A. Office of Public Information

7. In response to General Assembly resolution 2602 E (XXIV), the Office of Public Information designated disarmament as one of its principal information themes and initiated sustained efforts to publicize the Decade by all appropriate means in order to acquaint public opinion with its purposes and objectives and with the negotiations and developments related thereto. In carrying out this task, the Office of Public Information, in accordance with its basic mandate, gave priority to assisting and relying upon the co-operation of the established governmental and non-governmental agencies of information to provide the public with information about this important subject-matter. In addition, the Office of Public Information engaged in positive informational activities of its own aimed at supplementing the services of existing agencies of information.

8. The information channels utilized by the Office of Public Information in its publicity efforts for the Decade and related developments, at Headquarters and to a lesser degree also at the over 50 United Nations Information Centres throughout the world, included press briefings and conferences, press releases and bulletins, publications, radio and television broadcasts and programmes, photographs, briefings of non-governmental organizations, interne programmes, guided tours, group briefings and speaking engagements by Secretariat officials. Particular attention was devoted to the integration of these various activities into a cohesive and balanced multi-media information programme. For this purpose, the Office of Public Information in 1972 established a thematic Task Force on Disarmament, which works in close consultation with the Disarmament Affairs Division of the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs.

9. The following paragraphs set forth in greater detail some of the highlights of the multi-media publicity programme of the Office of Public Information for the Disarmament Decade and related developments.

Press

10. The Office of Public Information provided full press release coverage to United Nations activities concerned with disarmament questions, including those of the General Assembly, the First Committee, the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference and the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean. In addition, press conferences were arranged from time to time dealing with specific disarmament subjects.

Publications

11. The principal publication of the Office of Public Information in the field of disarmament is Disarmament, Progress Towards Peace, 8/ a 47-page comprehensive review of the history of disarmament efforts through the United Nations. This publication was prepared, in 1974, in co-operation with the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs and has been issued in English, French, Russian and Spanish. It supersedes another publication entitled Disarmament: Imperative of Peace, Achievements of the United Nations, 9/ published in 1970.

12. The Office of Public Information has also published a Background Paper on the Disarmament Decade in several languages.

13. In addition, the Office of Public Information has produced and distributed a pamphlet distilling the contents of two United Nations expert studies on the Economic and Social Consequences of the Arms Race and of Military Expenditures 10/ and Disarmament and Development. 11/ The pamphlet was first issued in 1973 and has been distributed in Arabic, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, Hindi, Norwegian, Persian, Portuguese, Serbo-Croatian, Spanish, Swedish and Thai.

14. Other pamphlets include the following titles: Cost of the Arms Race; 12/ Sea-Bed: A Frontier of Disarmament; 13/ The Partial Test Ban Treaty, Ten Years Later; 14/ The Fires of War, Napalm and Other Incendiary Weapons; 15/ and The Geneva Protocol: 50th Anniversary. 16/

8/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.74.I.23.

9/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.70.I.27.

10/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.72.IX.16.

11/ United Nations publication, Sales No. 73.IX.1.

12/ Feature 2/71.

13/ United Nations publication, Sales No. 72.I.10.

14/ OPI/502.

15/ OPI/488.

16/ OPI/549.

15. The Disarmament Decade and related developments are also featured in such recurrent publications as the new edition of Basic Facts About the United Nations, Development Forum, Suggestions for Speakers, UN In Brief, Yearbook of the United Nations and UN Monthly Chronicle.

Films

16. The Office of Public Information has produced one half-hour film on disarmament entitled "Dialogue against death". A second film is being researched.

Radio

17. News developments on the question of disarmament, including special reports and meetings in New York and at Geneva were covered in newscasts of the Radio Service of the Office of Public Information, transmitted via short-wave from United Nations Headquarters in the following languages: Amharic, Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Greek, Hebrew, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Swahili, Tagalog, Thai and Turkish.

18. Disarmament news items were also covered in the Weekly News Summary, a 15-minute script distributed to broadcasting organizations in 95 countries and territories and made available at Headquarters to accredited radio correspondents.

19. In addition, publicity for the Disarmament Decade and related developments was contained in the following weekly 15-minute radio programmes of the Office of Public Information: the news magazine The Week at the UN (produced in English and used by over 1,000 broadcasting organizations and networks in the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia and Oceania), the analytical programme Perspective (produced in Amharic, Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Greek, Hebrew, Indonesian, Portuguese, Spanish, Tagalog, Turkish and Urdu, and used by broadcasting organizations in 120 countries and territories) and the feature magazine Scope (produced in English and distributed to radio stations and networks in 50 countries and territories).

Information centres

20. The United Nations Information Centres have used diverse means of communication to sensitize public opinion in support of the purposes and objectives of the Disarmament Decade, working with the local information media to encourage coverage of meetings and conferences dealing with disarmament. Press releases and background papers have been prepared and distributed by the information centres on a number of events related to disarmament.

21. In some cases, when staff resources permitted, documents and press releases received from Headquarters, were reproduced in local languages.

22. The Disarmament Decade and related developments were also publicized by the information centres by means of lectures, distribution of leaflets and through direct contacts with educational institutions, non-governmental organizations and the general public. Local television and radio stations were provided with relevant broadcast material.

23. The reference libraries of United Nations Information Centres have been widely used by scholars, students and the general public for research work in connexion with questions of disarmament.

Non-governmental organizations

24. Non-governmental organizations listed with the Office of Public Information have received all United Nations publications on the subject of disarmament. Each year, several weekly briefings are devoted to disarmament or related subjects, the written summaries of which are subsequently distributed to the non-governmental organizations as well as to the United Nations Information Centres.

25. Actions taken by non-governmental organizations in support of the Disarmament Decade include observance of an annual World Disarmament Week, as well as the holding of conferences and the adoption of statements and proclamations on the subject.

General public

26. Briefings given by United Nations guides to visitors at Headquarters and at the United Nations Office at Geneva regularly include references to the work of the United Nations in the field of disarmament. Similarly, information material on disarmament questions is provided in response to public inquiries.

B. Public information activities of the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs and other offices

27. Pursuant to a unanimous decision of the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session, the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs has prepared a publication, to be issued before the end of the current year, entitled The United Nations and Disarmament, 1970-1975. The volume provides a detailed account of how disarmament has been dealt with in the framework of the United Nations during that period and is a supplement to the United Nations and Disarmament, 1945-1970, 17/ which was issued in 1970.

28. In conformity with the relevant General Assembly resolutions, the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs published and disseminated the following reports, prepared with the assistance of experts: (a) The Economic and Social

17/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.70.IX.1 and corrigendum.

Consequences of the Arms Race and of Military Expenditures; 18/ (b) Napalm and Other Incendiary Weapons and All Aspects of Their Possible Use; 19/ (c) Reduction of the Military Budgets of States Permanent Members of the Security Council by 10 per cent and Utilization of Part of the Funds Thus Saved to Provide Assistance to Developing Countries. 20/

29. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs published and disseminated the report entitled Disarmament and Development, 21/ which was also prepared with the assistance of a group of experts.

30. In 1970, three reports of the Secretary-General, prepared in earlier years, with the assistance of consultant experts, were published in a single volume entitled Basic Problems of Disarmament, 22/ with explicit reference being made to the Disarmament Decade in the preface to the volume. The three reports included in the volume were: (a) Economic and Social Consequences of Disarmament; 23/ (b) Effects of the Possible Use of Nuclear Weapons and the Security and Economic Implications for States of the Acquisition and Further Development of These Weapons; 24/ (c) Chemical and Bacteriological (Biological) Weapons and the Effects of Their Possible Use. 25/

31. The Disarmament Affairs Division also provided staff for briefings and lectures in connexion with the activities of the Visitors Service of the United Nations and at the request of universities, non-governmental organizations and other bodies.

C. United Nations Postal Administration

32. Since the proclamation of the Disarmament Decade, the United Nations Postal Administration has issued the following stamps related to disarmament:

- 1972 "Non-proliferation of nuclear weapons", 8 cents, 0,40 Swiss francs;
- 1973 "Disarmament Decade", 8 cents, 15 cents, 0,60 and 1,10 Swiss francs.

33. On 5 May 1975, the following slogan cancellation was put into use in New York and at Geneva: "Non-proliferation of nuclear weapons". This cancellation will be in use until the end of 1975 and possibly sometime into 1976.

18/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.72.IX.16.

19/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.73.I.3.

20/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.I.10.

21/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.73.IX.I and corrigendum.

22/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.70.I.17.

23/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.62.IX.I.

24/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.68.IX.I.

25/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.69.I.24.