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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Study on the relationship between disarmament  
and international security

Report of the Secretary-General

1. By resolution 32/87 C of 12 December 1977, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to initiate a study on the interrelationship between disarmament and international security and to submit a progress report thereon to the General Assembly at its special session devoted to disarmament. The progress report (A/S-10/7 and Corr.1) was submitted by the Secretary-General on 23 May 1978.
2. At its tenth special session, the General Assembly, in paragraph 97 of the Final Document of the session (resolution S-10/2 of 30 June 1978), requested the Secretary-General, with the assistance of the consultant experts appointed by him, to continue the study of the interrelationship between disarmament and international security.
3. Subsequently, at its thirty-third session, the General Assembly, by resolution 33/91 I of 16 December 1978, requested the Secretary-General to expedite action for the continuation of the study of the relationship between disarmament and international security, with a view to submitting a progress report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session and the final report to the Assembly at its thirty-fifth session.
4. Pursuant to resolution 33/91 I, the Secretary-General appointed a Group of Experts on the Relationship between Disarmament and International Security. By a letter dated 11 June 1979 addressed to the Secretary-General, the Chairman of the Group of Experts submitted a progress report which was transmitted to the General Assembly on 21 September 1979 (A/34/465).
5. By a letter dated 3 September 1980, which is annexed to the present document, the Chairman of the Group of Experts informed the Secretary-General of the latest status of the Group's work. In taking note of this report, the Secretary-General

invites the attention of the General Assembly to the fact that the Group of Experts was not in a position to finalize the report in time for its submission to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session and that the Group would like to request more time to work and submit its report before the Assembly's thirty-sixth session.

ANNEX

Letter dated 3 September 1980 from the Chairman of the Group of  
Experts on the Relationship between Disarmament and International  
Security to the Secretary-General

Further to my progress report of 11 June 1979 (A/34/465), I have the honour to inform you that the Group of Experts on the Relationship between Disarmament and International Security, appointed by you pursuant to General Assembly resolutions S-10/2 of 30 June 1978 and 33/91 of 16 December 1978, held two substantive sessions at United Nations Headquarters from 3 to 14 December 1979 and from 28 April to 9 May 1980, with all members present.

At the first substantive session, the Group had before it drafts of the report submitted by individual experts, on which it held an extensive exchange of views and tentatively agreed on a detailed structure for the study. Subsequently, the Secretariat, at the request of the Group, has prepared a consolidated draft study along the detailed structure tentatively agreed upon, based on the contributions submitted by the individual experts and on the various views and suggestions made orally during the session.

At the second substantive session, the Group had before it the consolidated draft study prepared by the Secretariat, consisting of some 500 paragraphs, which the Group accepted as the basis for its work.

Notwithstanding the intense efforts and full utilization of the time available to it, including informal contacts and exchange of correspondence among experts following the last sessions, the Group reluctantly came to the conclusion that it would not be possible to finalize the report in time for its submission to the thirty-fifth session as requested by the General Assembly. This is due in the main to the vast area to be covered by the report, the complexity and sensitivity of the issues involved and substantial conceptual differences among the experts on the fundamental problems being dealt with.

In view of the importance attached to this study and the real possibility to come out with a unanimous report, the Group of Experts would like to request more time to work and submit their report before the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly. It is my earnest hope that you and the General Assembly could concur with the request of the Group on behalf of whom I am submitting this report.

(Signed) Carlos P. ROMULO  
Chairman of the Group of Experts on the  
Relationship between Disarmament  
and International Security

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