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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Study on all the aspects of regional disarmament

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

BULGARIA

[Original: Russian]

[16 September 1981]

1. The Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria consistently supports all efforts aimed at the adoption of concrete measures to strengthen peace and international security, to reduce the threat of nuclear war, to curb the continuing arms race, especially the nuclear arms race, and to move on to genuine disarmament. Measures taken on a global scale, and those limited to one or more regions, could both be very important in bringing about a change in this direction. In the present international situation, which is aggravated by the activities of certain imperialist groups, efforts to maintain a constructive dialogue in any search for ways of averting war, maintaining peace and preserving and strengthening détente, co-operation and disarmament are of particular importance.
2. In its attitude to the various approaches proposed in the field of disarmament, Bulgaria is guided by the belief that all forms and methods of concluding agreements which are acceptable to contracting parties may be appropriate if they can ensure the achievements of progress on the way to the adoption of effective disarmament measures on the basis of the principles of equality, equal security and non-impairment of the security of any of the parties. In this connexion, in addition to efforts on a global scale, the application of a regional approach to the problem of disarmament can be of definite value where it is appropriate and where conditions are ripe for it, as they are, for example, in Europe.
3. The initiative displayed by the countries of the region concerned in this regard is an essential and necessary factor in starting such a process.
4. The problems of détente in the European region, and the development of the process of military détente and disarmament in Europe, are at the centre of attention in Bulgaria's foreign policy activities. Together with the other States parties to the Warsaw Pact, the Bulgarian Government has in recent years made a number of specific proposals for strengthening of security and building confidence among European States and for taking disarmament measures. All these proposals and initiatives are set forth in documents of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Pact countries, in programme documents and declarations of the Bulgarian Communist Party and the Government of Bulgaria, and in the decisions of the Twelfth Congress of the Bulgarian Communist Party, in which it fully supported the Peace Programme put forward at the Twenty-fourth, Twenty-fifth and Twenty-sixth Congresses of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. They continue to be valid and relevant, and constitute a basis for negotiations on all aspects of disarmament in the conditions existing on the continent of Europe.

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5. In this connexion, the earliest possible resumption of negotiations on the limitation of nuclear weapons in Europe, on the basis of the principles of equality and equal security for the parties, would be especially important. A favourable atmosphere for those negotiations would be created by implementing the proposal of the Soviet Union to the effect that, during the negotiations, there should be no quantitative increase or qualitative improvements in the medium-range nuclear missiles deployed in the European area and belonging to the Soviet Union and the NATO countries, including United States forward-based nuclear weapons in this region.
6. Progress at the Vienna talks on the reduction of armed forces and armaments in Central Europe, where the level of forces and armaments is extremely high, would contribute to a reduction of military confrontation on the European continent. The series of proposals by the socialist countries constitutes a solid basis for reaching agreement at the Vienna talks. As is known, these countries have on several occasions displayed a constructive spirit in the interests of bringing the positions of the parties closer together. Bulgaria considers that there is no justification for further delay in the development of these talks. For its part, it will continue to endeavour to find solutions which will reduce military confrontation in Central Europe without affecting the security of any of the parties.
7. Bulgaria is actively contributing to the further development of the process of détente and co-operation within the framework of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, and to the reinforcement of the process with practical measures in the field of military détente. It attaches primary importance to the achievement of agreement, at the Madrid meeting of the States participating in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, on the convening of a conference on military détente and disarmament in Europe.
8. Bulgaria actively supports the idea of establishing nuclear-free zones in individual regions of the world. It does so out of the conviction that this would help to reduce the danger of nuclear war and strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation régime. On 7 August 1981, at a meeting of senior party and State leaders of the People's Republic of Bulgaria and the USSR held in the Crimea, both countries reaffirmed their position in favour of the establishment of nuclear-free zones in certain regions of Europe, including the Balkan peninsula. Implementation of the Finnish initiative for the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in northern Europe would constitute a substantial contribution in this respect.
9. Bulgaria supports the idea of transforming the Mediterranean into a zone of stable peace and co-operation on a basis of equality. It considers that the measures proposed by the Soviet Union for limiting military tension in the Mediterranean region constitute a sound basis for achieving this objective. It also welcomes the proposal of the Soviet Union for concrete negotiations with all interested countries on confidence-building measure in the Far East; and it hopes that the countries of the region will treat this important initiative with all due seriousness.

10. As a member of the United Nations Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean, Bulgaria consistently advocates and works for the convening, as soon as possible, of a conference on the Indian Ocean concerning the establishment of a zone of peace in this region. It also attaches great importance to the proposal made by the Soviet Union on 10 December 1980 for ensuring peace and security in the Persian Gulf region.

11. The elaboration and application of confidence-building measures could contribute to the strengthening of the foundations of peace and the achievement of progress in disarmament in various regions of the world. Bulgaria welcomes the proposal of the Soviet Union to hold concrete negotiations on confidence-building measures in the Far East with all interested countries.

12. The practical implementation of the proposal by the Mongolian People's Republic for the elaboration and signature of a convention on mutual non-aggression and the non-use of force in relations between States would be of great importance for strengthening peace and the security of the countries of Asia and the Pacific. Bulgaria considers that the idea of convening for this purpose a conference of the States of the region, to which all States that are permanent members of the Security Council would be invited is an extremely useful one.

13. Disarmament measures, which interested parties agree to adopt, could make a significant contribution to strengthening the security of States in the region concerned, with a lower level of armaments and armed forces, and also to the success of efforts to bring about disarmament on a global scale. The major prerequisite for reaching agreements and giving practical effect to them is the existence of political will on the part of all the parties concerned. This would make a concrete contribution towards general and complete disarmament, and towards ensuring lasting peace throughout the world and strengthening international security.

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

[Original: English]

[15 September 1981]

1. To lessen the danger of war and to curb the arms race is the most urgent task of our time. Together with the other socialist States, the German Democratic Republic is working for agreements on concrete measures which will halt the arms race and bring about disarmament, the prevention of nuclear war and nuclear disarmament being priority objectives.

2. The German Democratic Republic holds that bilateral and multilateral, regional and global negotiations should be conducted on a basis of equality and with due regard to the security interests of all the parties in order to stop war preparations and to achieve disarmament.

3. The spread of the arms race to more and more regions of the world is arousing increasing alarm. The cause of that trend lies in the arms programmes of the countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which are designed to gain military superiority. A real arms hysteria has been instigated. Non-ratification of the balanced SALT 2 Agreement has to be seen against this background. NATO's long-term arms programme of 1978 provides for a continuous growth of armaments over more than 15 years. Military spending by the United States of America, amounting to \$178 billion in the current fiscal year, is to reach \$222 billion next year. Other NATO countries have planned considerable increases. The United States is currently pursuing some 450 arms programmes, including the MX land-based missile programme and the development and deployment of new types of strategic bombers and submarines, new types of chemical weapons, and means of space warfare. Another boost to the nuclear arms race is the decision of the United States to manufacture the neutron weapon.
4. Parallel to the development and production of these new weapons, arrangements are being made for their deployment in various parts of the world. Medium-range missiles of a new quality and cruise missiles are to be stationed in Western Europe, while NATO exercises in Europe serve to test the strategy of a limited nuclear war. Obvious are the attempts to stretch NATO's area of operation in different directions, to enlarge existing military pacts and to set up new ones. Military collaboration with aggressors such as Israel and South Africa is expanding, adding fuel to the conflicts in the regions concerned.
5. A constantly expanding system of military bases of the United States and other NATO countries is spanning the globe. Rapid mobile forces are poised for deployment thousands of miles away from their countries, and entire regions have been declared "spheres of vital interest" and military staging areas, with no regard for the countries concerned.
6. Military bases are strung out across the Indian Ocean, with Diego Garcia forming the centre. The permanent presence of United States naval combat units in that area has been increased in terms of quantity as well as quality.
7. The German Democratic Republic believes that competitive armaments must be limited globally and regionally. Measures in both directions would be interpenetrating and mutually complementary. This country supports the activities for the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, the non-deployment of nuclear weapons in the territory of States where there are none at present, the non-establishment of new military groupings and the non-expansion of existing ones, and for restricting the arms trade. The German Democratic Republic also supports efforts directed towards the lowering of military confrontation, the reduction of armed forces and armaments, military détente, the establishment of regional security systems, agreement on disarmament and confidence-building measures for certain regions.
8. The German Democratic Republic, situated in the centre of Europe, attaches particular importance to progress of military détente and disarmament on this continent. The headway made in Europe towards détente is now being threatened by

attempts to upset the approximate military balance. NATO's plan to deploy 572 medium-range nuclear missiles in Western Europe undermines the basis of the politics of peaceful coexistence and of the détente process in the region and has a world-wide negative impact on international peace and security. "If the longest period of peace Europe has known in this century is to continue success must be achieved in bringing about a shift towards disarmament in the eighties", the General Secretary of the SED Central Committee and Chairman of the Council of State of the German Democratic Republic, Erich Honecker, declared at the 10th SED Congress. The Warsaw Treaty States adopted a far-reaching joint peace programme at the sessions of their Political Consultative Committee in Moscow and Warsaw. They have declared their readiness to take effective steps for reducing the danger of war and for disarmament in Europe on the basis of equal and undiminished security, and have underscored this declaration of intent by a number of concrete proposals. They are now expecting a favourable response from the other side.

9. It is essential gradually to lower the high concentration of armed forces in Europe without prejudice to the present military balance.

10. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics has on several occasions declared its readiness to limit and reduce the number of medium-range nuclear missiles. The German Democratic Republic considers that implementation of the Soviet Union's proposal of a moratorium on the deployment of new medium-range nuclear missiles by the USSR and the NATO countries, inclusive of the United States forward-based systems in this area, would be conducive to successful negotiations. During the moratorium there would neither occur a further quantitative increase nor a qualitative improvement of the nuclear weapons systems already deployed in Europe. Highly important is the Soviet Union's declared readiness to make a substantial reduction in the number of medium-range missiles if the NATO countries abdicate the deployment of those new nuclear missiles.

11. At the Vienna talks on the mutual reduction of armed forces and armaments, the participating socialist countries, including the German Democratic Republic, submitted significant proposals for the equivalent reduction of the existing military potentials. Their initiatives of July and November 1980, which largely took Western positions into account, were to produce a policy decision for an initial reduction agreement while setting aside controversial issues. The unilateral withdrawal of 20,000 Soviet troops and 1,000 Soviet tanks from territory of the German Democratic Republic was indicative of a definite willingness to lower the high level of military concentration at the dividing line between the world's most powerful military coalitions. A positive reaction of the Western parties has not yet come forth.

17. The confidence-building measures, agreed in the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe and successfully applied since then, are seen as a first step towards lowering military confrontation and consolidating the détente process.

13. The Warsaw Treaty States are prepared to agree on further steps. They have proposed:

(a) That major military manoeuvres held in the area as defined by the Final Act be notified not as from the 25,000 troops but the 20,000 troops level, and not 21 days but one month in advance;

(b) That movements of land forces in the same area be notified as from the level of 20,000 troops;

(c) That notification be given of major manoeuvres of naval forces near the territorial waters of other participating States;

(d) That notification be given of major air force manoeuvres in the area, and that the scale of military manoeuvres be limited to 40,000 to 50,000 troops.

14. The readiness of the Soviet Union to extend the area of application of confidence-building measures to the whole European part of its territory, if also the Western side makes a corresponding extension, is another indication of the constructive, concrete approach. The German Democratic Republic is aware that a stable rapport of confidence is best created by effective steps of disarmament.

15. The German Democratic Republic feels the time has come for a conference on military détente and disarmament in Europe. It welcomes the fact that a majority of the States participating in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe approve of convening such a conference, and it objects to any attempt to delay it. The conference could provide an opportunity to examine all aspects of military détente and disarmament in Europe in an all-inclusive and purposive manner, and to agree on both confidence-building measures and direct steps of disarmament. Positive practical experience would be stimulating to regional disarmament measures in other parts of the world and to disarmament itself.

16. The German Democratic Republic favours measures and agreements reinforcing the political and legal foundations of observance of the non-use and non-threat of force principle in Europe. It believes that an undertaking of the participating States not to be the first to use either nuclear or conventional weapons against one another, would go a long way towards lessening the danger of war and strengthening security and confidence. The same goes for a non-enlargement of the military blocs existing in Europe.

17. The German Democratic Republic has always advocated the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in Africa and the Middle East. But these are opposed by aggressive régimes which are striving to possess nuclear weapons. The German Democratic Republic urges that all nuclear co-operation with those States should be ended.

18. Endeavours to establish such zones in other areas, for instance in Northern Europe, in the Balkans and in the Mediterranean, have gained momentum lately, which can only enhance regional stability and international peace and security.

19. The establishment of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean region would be of great importance. Because of the increasing militarization of the area by the United States and its allies, it appears urgent to convene the conference on the Indian Ocean which the socialist and the non-aligned countries have been calling for. The sort of reasons given by some States for delaying the conference do not hold water.

20. It is necessary to strengthen security in the Persian Gulf area. The Soviet Union has expressed its readiness to enter into arrangements on this question as a separate matter. The proposals it has made are concrete, constructive and designed to stabilize the situation.

21. The German Democratic Republic considers that it would be very important to rid the Mediterranean region of military-political confrontation and to make it a zone of lasting peace and co-operation. The proposal submitted by the Soviet Union serves this aim. Specifically it is proposed to conclude agreements on:

(a) The extension of proven confidence-building measures in the military field to that region;

(b) The reduction of armed forces in that region;

(c) The withdrawal of nuclear armed vessels from the Mediterranean;

(d) The non-stationing of nuclear weapons in the territory of Mediterranean non-nuclear-weapon States;

(e) An obligation of the nuclear-weapon States not to use nuclear weapons against any Mediterranean country which does not permit the deployment of such weapons within its territory.

The proposal is directed towards eliminating tension in that region and strengthening international security.

22. The Soviet Union has expressed its readiness to conduct concrete negotiations on confidence-building measures in the Far East with all interested countries. The German Democratic Republic regards that proposal as timely. Its implementation would counteract tensions and improve the chances of progress in coming to terms on arms limitation and disarmament steps.

23. The German Democratic Republic is convinced that an intensification of efforts towards the implementation of arms limitation and disarmament measures at the regional level will be very instrumental in bringing about a shift towards disarmament and averting the threat of war from humanity. That presupposes negotiations which reflect the willingness of all those participating to agree on effective measures without any further delay.



PHILIPPINES

[Original: English]  
[21 July 1981]

1. Concerning the regional approach to disarmament, the Philippines concurs in the observations that security perceptions and military preparedness are based on the conditions prevailing within the region, and that regional and global security are inherently interlinked. In this regard, the perceived benefits and advantages relating to the objectives of regional disarmament, e.g., the promotion of relaxation of interregional tensions and greater global security and disarmament, should be evident.
2. As conceptualized in the study, the Philippines considers regional disarmament as a necessary complement to global disarmament, and with the consideration that the former must ensure the undiminished security for interregional States together with a balancing concern for the interests of extra-regional States.
3. The Philippines, likewise, takes note that the study's suggestion that regional disarmament measures can contribute to those negotiations relating to specific weapons, on the basis of the peculiarity of the politico-military situation of the region. And the Philippine Government believes that this be given further explication and exploration by States concerned.
4. On the matter of regional arrangements or agencies as forums for the pacific settlement of disputes, in relation to regional disarmament, the Philippines wishes to commend the relevant provisions and principles embodied in the draft "Manilla Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes" (A/AC.182/WG/48/Rev.2), in particular, paragraphs 2 and 6 of part I and paragraph 2 of part III. In fact, the Philippines would welcome the establishment of such regional mechanisms for dispute settlement and disarmament or the conclusions of a general treaty on the peaceful settlement of disputes.
5. Concerning the definition of a region as a disarmament concept, the Philippines expresses its optimism that the South-East Asian region can be a potential disarmament region within which interblock tensions and the deep-seated involvement of extra-regional powers can be alleviated and minimized.
6. The existing tensions in the area should therefore encourage the regional States to give profound consideration for disarmament proposals concerning the South-East Asian region such as zone of peace, freedom and neutrality or as a nuclear-weapons-free zone. For that matter, appropriate disarmament modalities should be considered and initiated by the States in the region as soon as practicable.
7. On the matter of disarmament measures, the Philippines in general finds no difficulty in supporting the various initiatives and measures concerning regional and global disarmament among which are the following:

- (a) The cessation of the qualitative improvement of nuclear-weapons systems or of the production of all types of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery;
- (b) The cessation of production and development of fissionable materials for weapons purposes and of halting of nuclear and non-nuclear weapons testing;
- (c) The non-stationing of nuclear weapons where there are no such weapons at present;
- (d) The establishment of nuclear-weapons-free zones or the denuclearization of the South-East Asian region;
- (e) The reduction of nuclear arms stockpiles in the region;
- (f) The establishment of a South-East Asian zone of peace, freedom and neutrality.

8. Finally, as a manifestation of Philippine support to the international efforts at general and complete disarmament under effective international control, the Philippines has implemented the following measures:

(a) The Philippines has consistently disallowed the introduction and storage of nuclear weapons in the Philippines military bases made available for use of the United States forces;

(b) The Philippines is a signatory to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, 1/

(c) The Philippines has signed the 1980 Convention on the Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects and its annexed protocols.

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1/ United Nations Treaty Series, vol. 729, p. 161.