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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION

United Nations programme of fellowships on disarmament

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its thirty-fifth session, the General Assembly, after considering the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the United Nations programme of fellowships on disarmament for 1980 (A/35/521), adopted resolution 35/152 A of 12 December 1980, in which it recalled its decision, taken at the tenth special session, to establish a programme of fellowships on disarmament and expressed its satisfaction that Governments, particularly those of developing countries, had continued to manifest serious interest in the programme. The Assembly decided to continue the programme, expressed its appreciation to those Member States that had invited the Fellows to their capitals to study selected activities in the field of disarmament, requested the Secretary-General to make adequate arrangements relating to the programme for 1981 in accordance with the guidelines approved by the General Assembly at its thirty-third session, and also requested him to submit to the Assembly at its thirty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the programme.

2. The present report is submitted by the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 3 of resolution 35/152 A.

3. In accordance with the guidelines approved by the General Assembly, the programme is organized and administered by the Centre for Disarmament of the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs. In organizing the 1981 programme, the Centre for Disarmament drew, as in previous years, on expertise from the United Nations system, from Member States and from relevant research institutes.

4. The programme started at Geneva on 29 June 1981 and will end in New York on 30 November 1981.

II. FELLOWSHIPS

5. In accordance with the guidelines established for the programme, disarmament fellowships are awarded to candidates nominated by their Governments. Candidates are expected to be individuals involved in, or earmarked for, work on disarmament and related matters.

6. Thirty-eight nominations were received from Member States. A selection panel, composed of senior officials of the Centre for Disarmament and UNITAR, reviewed the applications and decided to award fellowships to 20 candidates. In selecting the candidates, the panel paid great attention to the candidates' academic qualifications, their work experience and the practical use they expected to make of the knowledge gained as participants in the fellowships programme. An effort was made to ensure the broadest possible geographical distribution of the 20 fellowships available and to ensure that an ever-expanding number of States would have the opportunity to avail themselves of the advantages of the programme.

7. The names and nationalities of the Fellows who are participating in the programme are as follows:

1. Mr. Jorge Alejandro Mastropietro (Argentina)
2. Mr. Ahmed Akhtaruzzaman (Bangladesh)
3. Mr. Hu Xiao-di (China)
4. Ms. Ana Catalina del Llano Restrepo (Colombia)
5. Mr. Alphonse Nkouka (Congo)
6. Ms. Susana Guerra (Ecuador)
7. Mr. Mesfin Mekonnen (Ethiopia)
8. Mr. Andreas Brie (German Democratic Republic)
9. Mr. Henry Hanson-Hall (Ghana)
10. Mr. Athanassios Dendoulis (Greece)
11. Mr. Jagdish Chandra Sharma (India)
12. Mr. Awang Bahrin (Indonesia)
13. Ms. Esther Efrat-Smilg (Israel)
14. Mr. Francois A. R. McGilchrist (Jamaica)
15. Mr. John M. Kiboi (Kenya)
16. Mr. Gebran Soufan (Lebanon)
17. Mr. Gibreel Souleiman Mansoury (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)
18. Mr. Tache Panait (Romania)
19. Colonel Mohi Eldin Ibrahim AbdelRahman (Sudan)
20. Mr. Mohammad Said Bounni (Syrian Arab Republic)

8. Most of the recipients of fellowship awards in 1981 are foreign service officials, who are either working with their Governments at their Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York or Geneva, or at the Foreign Ministries in their home countries, while some serve with other government agencies interested in questions of disarmament.

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III. PROGRAMME FOR 1981

A. General

9. The programme for 1981 includes a series of lectures and seminars on disarmament issues that are the subject of current deliberations and negotiations. It also includes assignments such as research, writing of papers and reports. Fellows are given the opportunity to observe meetings of several bodies dealing with disarmament. At the time of the writing of this report, the programme is still under way.

10. The first part of the programme was held at the Palais des Nations from 29 June to 24 August 1981. This was followed by a one-week course at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) at Vienna, from 25 to 28 August. At the invitation of three Member States, the Federal Republic of Germany, Hungary and Sweden, the Fellows visited the three countries and had the opportunity to acquaint themselves with some aspects of disarmament-related activities in those countries (see paras. 17 and 18). Thereafter, the Fellows continued their training at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 16 September and will conclude the programme on 30 November.

11. Lectures were given by ambassadors and other senior members of the diplomatic corps, staff members from the Centre for Disarmament, lecturers from UNITAR, IAEA, UNESCO, as well as lecturers from universities, international research institutes, in particular the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), and non-governmental organizations. The lecturers were drawn from as wide a group of countries as possible - both developed and developing - so as to expose the Fellows to various shades of opinion on issues of disarmament.

B. Lectures, seminars and other activities

1. Lectures

12. The programme includes lectures on the following subjects: role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament; review of developments in the plenary meetings of the General Assembly and in the First Committee; disarmament negotiations in the framework of the United Nations (1945-1979); disarmament machinery; approaches to disarmament: general and complete disarmament, nuclear disarmament, SALT, nuclear-weapon-free zones, conventional weapons, a comprehensive programme of disarmament; question of a nuclear test ban; question of a ban on chemical weapons; prohibition of new weapons of mass destruction; prohibition of excessively injurious conventional weapons; question of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons; Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT); first and second NPT review conferences; security guarantees to non-nuclear-weapon States; arms race; economic and social consequences of the arms race; reduction of military budgets; disarmament and development; concepts of regional security; the Vienna talks; arms limitation in outer space; issues of verification; contribution of the non-governmental organizations to disarmament; peaceful uses of nuclear energy (a series of lectures was given by senior officials of IAEA on such topics as NPT and IAEA, legal basis for international safeguards, safeguarding nuclear energy, implementation of IAEA safeguards).

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2. Seminars

13. Before the end of the course, the Fellows will participate in a series of Seminars on selected disarmament issues.

14. Subjects covered under the Seminar series are:

(a) Disarmament issues before the First Committee of the General Assembly;

(b) Selected disarmament studies, e.g., work of the Advisory Board on disarmament studies, a study on a comprehensive test-ban treaty, study on regional disarmament, study on a world disarmament campaign, study on institutional arrangements for disarmament and study on disarmament and development;

(c) The first and second special sessions of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

3. Observation of proceedings of disarmament bodies

15. Fellows were given the widest opportunity to follow the proceedings of disarmament bodies and to visit disarmament-related organizations. In particular, the Fellows engaged in the observation of deliberations in the plenary meetings of the General Assembly and in the First Committee as well as of negotiations in the Committee on Disarmament at Geneva.

4. Research work and papers

16. The Fellows did research work and submitted written papers and reports on various aspects of disarmament during the training period.

C. Study visits

17. The Centre for Disarmament received letters from three Member States, the Federal Republic of Germany, Hungary and Sweden, inviting participants in the 1981 programme to visit their countries to study their policies and activities in the field of arms limitation and disarmament. The offered opportunities were deemed to contribute to the fulfilment of the over-all objectives of the fellowship programme and were accepted on that basis. The questions covered during the study visits are the subject of current deliberations and negotiations in the United Nations and the Committee on Disarmament.

18. These visits, organized in a generous and efficient manner by the inviting Governments, provided the Fellows with additional sources of information and practical knowledge. In the Federal Republic of Germany, particular mention could be made of the informative lectures on selected aspects of disarmament issues given at the Foreign Office, and the visit to Bayer AG Chemical Plants in Dormagen. In Hungary, particular mention could be made of the informative lectures on disarmament issues given at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and the fruitful meetings with representatives of the Hungarian United Nations Association and the Hungarian State Committee on Youth. As to Sweden, particular mention could be made

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of the informative briefings on disarmament issues given at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and at the National Defense Research Institute, the lectures given at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, and the visit to the Unit for Analysis of Airborne Radioactivity (ELBA).

19. Before the end of the course, visits will be made to Harvard University (Center for Science and International Affairs), the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Center for International Studies) and the Quaker Center for World Peace (in Washington, D.C.). During these visits selected arms limitation issues will be discussed.

D. Award of certificates

20. At the end of the course, the Fellows will be awarded certificates of attendance.

IV. BUDGETARY ALLOCATIONS FOR THE PROGRAMME

21. For 1981, an amount of \$250,000 was appropriated for the fellowship programme, including all travel connected with the fellowships and the stipends to be paid to the Fellows during the tenure of their awards. These two items represent about 80 per cent of the total appropriation for the programme. The stipends were intended to cover only normal living expenses, in accordance with policies and procedures governing the administration of United Nations fellowships. While the programme for this year is still continuing, it is already evident that the expenditures can be kept within the 1981 appropriation limits.

V. CONCLUDING REMARKS

22. The experiences of the programme's third year reaffirm the conclusions drawn at the end of the second year (see A/35/521). Governments, particularly those of developing countries, continued to manifest serious interest in the programme, which was reflected also in the increased number of candidates. All the Fellows were found to be highly qualified for advanced training in disarmament, demonstrated a good knowledge of the subjects discussed and made valuable contributions. In organizing the programme in 1982, advantage will continue to be taken of the accumulated experience.
