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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT: CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES

Report of the Secretary-General

Annex, page 3

The Foreword should be replaced by the attached text.

Foreword by the Secretary-General

1. The attached study was prepared by a group of governmental experts who were appointed by the Secretary-General to assist him in carrying out a comprehensive study on confidence-building measures, as requested in paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 34/87 B of 11 December 1979.
2. Confidence-building measures aim at strengthening international peace and security and at fostering a climate of trust and international co-operation among States in order to facilitate progress in the disarmament field. The important role of confidence-building measures was recognized in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament. Paragraph 93 of the Final Document stresses the necessity to take measures and to pursue policies to strengthen international peace and security and to build confidence among States in order to facilitate the process of disarmament.
3. As the experts point out, the present study represents a first attempt to clarify and develop the concept of confidence-building measures in the global context. The experts have expressed the hope that the report may be of use to Governments wishing to introduce and implement confidence-building measures in their respective regions. The report may also help to promote public awareness of the fundamental importance of the process of confidence-building for the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.
4. The Secretary-General wishes to thank the experts for their unanimously adopted study, which he hereby submits to the General Assembly for consideration. It should be noted that the observations, conclusions and recommendations contained therein are those of the experts. In this connexion, the Secretary-General would like to point out that, in the highly complex field of disarmament or disarmament-related matters, in many instances he is not in a position to pass judgement on all aspects of the work accomplished by experts.

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