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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE
STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Strengthening of security and co-operation in the
region of the Mediterranean

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

CONTENTS

Page

REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

Bulgaria 2

BULGARIA

[Original: English]

[10 December 1982]

1. The People's Republic of Bulgaria was among the overwhelming majority of Member States which at the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly voted in favour of resolution 36/102 that gives particular attention to the need of further efforts for the strengthening of security and co-operation in the region of the Mediterranean and for its transformation into a zone of peace and co-operation.
2. The attention given by the Member States to the problems of the strengthening of international security in the region of the Mediterranean was a timely and most urgent measure. The deterioration of the international situation brought about by the actions of the imperialist and reactionary forces has further complicated the problems of the region. The same forces which have obstructed the process of détente and have declared vast regions of the world as spheres of their "vital interests" are expanding their network of bases and facilities in the region of the Mediterranean and are pursuing a policy of "strategic co-operation" with the Israeli aggressor. Israel's invasion in Lebanon, obviously carried out in the framework of this strategic co-operation, has emphasized in particular the urgency of the over-all situation in the Middle East. Now there exists in the region an even more dangerous hotbed of tension. Israel has committed a criminal act of genocide against the Palestinians which also left thousands of Lebanese dead. The actions of Israel are a blatant violation of the United Nations Charter and other instruments of the United Nations and pose a threat to other Mediterranean countries.
3. As a country in close proximity to the Middle East region, the People's Republic of Bulgaria expresses its deep concern over the developments in the region and its outright condemnation of the aggressor and it calls for the immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanese territory in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the Security Council preserving the territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty of Lebanon.
4. As to the comprehensive settlement of the Middle East crisis, which would have an extremely beneficial impact on the situation in the region of the Mediterranean, it is the view of the People's Republic of Bulgaria that this could be achieved on the basis of the six principles enunciated by Leonid I. Brezhnev in his speech of 15 September last. A comprehensive, genuinely just and lasting settlement of the Middle East conflict can be elaborated and implemented only by collective efforts with the participation of all parties concerned, including, of course, the sole legitimate representative of the Arab people of Palestine - the Palestine Liberation Organization. It is precisely this type of solution which is envisioned in the well-known proposal of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for convening an international conference on the Middle East.
5. The fact that the Cyprus crisis has not been settled as yet also provokes anxiety. This unsettled state of affairs poses a threat to peace and security in the region. That is why the People's Republic of Bulgaria declares that ensuring

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respect for the independence, territorial integrity, sovereignty, unity and non-alignment of the Republic of Cyprus in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions together with the demilitarization of the island, would be a solid basis for achieving a just and durable settlement of the Cyprus problem.

6. The entry of States of the region into military-political blocs (such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization) is having a definite unpropitious impact on the cause of peace and security in Europe and in the region of the Mediterranean.

7. Loyal to its principles, the People's Republic of Bulgaria, together with the other countries of the socialist community, has pursued a policy in support of peace, détente and international co-operation in the region of the Mediterranean. The essence of this policy was expressed synthetically by Todor Zhivkov, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party and President of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, who during his visit to Malta said:

"The People's Republic of Bulgaria is a Black Sea country. It borders directly on three Mediterranean countries. In this context we are a Mediterranean State. The People's Republic of Bulgaria maintains traditionally good relations with the majority of Mediterranean countries.

"We are in favour of the Mediterranean being a sea of peace, good-neighbourliness and co-operation, free of foreign military bases. Such a development would be conducive to the strengthening of world peace and security."

8. This position of principle has guided the People's Republic of Bulgaria in its efforts aimed at adopting measures for solving the basic problems of the strengthening of security and co-operation in the region of the Mediterranean. The People's Republic of Bulgaria is confident that the Mediterranean can be transformed from a region of military-political confrontation into a zone of lasting peace and co-operation. This position was reflected once again in the communiqué of 3 December 1981 issued by the Committee of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States Members of the Warsaw Treaty.

9. The practical realization of the idea of establishing a zone of lasting peace and co-operation in the region, which has met with ever-growing support on the part of the peoples and a number of Governments and political parties in the region of the Mediterranean, would be facilitated by reaching agreements on the cardinal problems of military détente and of reducing the armed forces and armaments in the area.

10. In this connexion, the People's Republic of Bulgaria supports the Soviet proposal for concluding agreements on:

First, extending confidence-building measures in the military field, which have been proven in international practice, to include the region of the Mediterranean;

Secondly, co-ordinated reduction of armed forces in the region;

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Thirdly, withdrawal from the region of the Mediterranean of all ships carrying nuclear weapons;

Fourthly, non-deployment of nuclear weapons on the territory of the non-nuclear-weapon States of the Mediterranean;

And lastly, the assuming of an obligation by nuclear-weapon States not to use nuclear weapons against States which have renounced the stationing of nuclear weapons on their territories.

11. The implementation of the initiative of turning the Balkan peninsula into a nuclear-weapon-free zone would play a positive role in the strengthening of security and co-operation in the region of the Mediterranean. This would not only be in the interest of all Balkan peoples, but would contribute to improving the international climate and to the gradual turning of Europe into a continent free of nuclear weapons.
12. The continuation and consolidation of the process of détente in Europe on the basis of the principles laid down in the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe at Helsinki would undoubtedly have a positive influence on the strengthening of security and co-operation in the region of the Mediterranean. More concretely, the convening of a conference on confidence-building measures and disarmament in Europe would be very conducive in this respect.
13. The People's Republic of Bulgaria is ready to contribute further to the implementation of all these ideas and proposals and also to participate in the consideration of other initiatives aimed at attaining the above-mentioned objectives.
