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

Disarmament Week

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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* A/43/150.

BULGARIA

[Original: Russian]

[5 September 1988]

1. In response to the call of the tenth special session of the General Assembly, on disarmament, the week devoted to furthering the goals of disarmament was widely and solemnly observed in the People's Republic of Bulgaria in 1987. During the preparation and observance of Disarmament Week, account was taken of elements and aspects of the model programme for Disarmament Week, the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade and the resolution on the World Disarmament Campaign.
2. Public meetings and rallies to mark United Nations Day and Disarmament Week were held in Sofia, Plovdiv, Varna and other towns and villages in Bulgaria.
3. At the initiative of the Bulgarian Peace Committee, many meetings and gatherings were held throughout the country at which the Bulgarian public expressed its support for the goals and purposes of the world Organization and its readiness to help preserve and strengthen peace and prevent nuclear war. In these forums, general approval was given to the new peace initiatives of the USSR and other socialist countries designed to create a comprehensive system of international peace and security. Young people's and women's organizations and religious figures demonstrated great active involvement during these events.
4. The entry into force of the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles, and the Moscow accords, aimed at agreement in the foreseeable future on 50-per-cent ... cuts in strategic offensive weapons while abiding by the terms of the ABM Treaty as signed in 1972, and with an agreement not to depart from them for an agreed period, have been greeted with particular satisfaction by the Bulgarian public.
5. The Bulgarian mass media gave broad coverage to United Nations Day and Disarmament Week. In 1987, books, research works and articles on disarmament problems were published.
6. Bulgaria is firmly determined to continue the unswerving pursuit of its fundamental policy of peace and co-operation and to do everything in its power to ensure the widest dissemination and implementation of the idea of creating a nuclear-free, non-violent world. The role of the public in this area is growing. The influence and authority of the United Nations will grow as the World Disarmament Campaign and Disarmament Week proceed. Bulgaria is ready to intensify its co-operation with the World Organization in connection with these international undertakings.

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

[Original: English]

[19 April 1988]

1. The Week devoted to fostering the objectives of disarmament, held from 24 to 31 October 1987, mobilized millions of citizens of the German Democratic Republic who reaffirmed their firm commitment to the maintenance of international peace and security. In that context, the socialist States' disarmament programme, reaffirmed and further concretized at the Warsaw Treaty Members' Political Consultative Committee session in the capital of the German Democratic Republic in late May 1987, found particular appreciation. The efforts of the German Democratic Republic Government concerning the establishment of denuclearized and chemical-weapon-free zones in Europe were broadly supported, as was the United Nations quest for peace and disarmament and its search for solutions to international conflicts and global problems.

2. Since the first special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament, the observance of Disarmament Week in the German Democratic Republic has always been the highlighting of national activities on behalf of international peace and security. As in previous years, too, the main event of Disarmament Week in the German Democratic Republic was a festive session, on 26 October, sponsored by the Presidium of the German Democratic Republic International Friendship League. The event was attended by a number of public figures as well as by the chiefs of diplomatic missions accredited to the German Democratic Republic. In his address, the President of the German Democratic Republic International Friendship League, Professor Dr. Gerhard Hahn, emphasized that the successful conclusion of the agreement on the complete elimination of all Soviet and American land-based medium-range and shorter-range missiles - which then was already in the offing - would post a major landmark on the road to freeing the world from the nuclear threat and that the practical implementation of such an agreement would prove that genuine disarmament is really possible.

3. Already before Disarmament Week, a variety of events and functions were held in the German Democratic Republic to foster peace, arms limitation and disarmament. At impressive meetings to mark World Peace Day, the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Fascism and the traditional journalists' solidarity bazaar, hundreds of thousands of German Democratic Republic citizens expressed their firm determination - which they share with millions of peace-loving people in the world - to make peace safer and to help stave off the danger of nuclear war. Coinciding with Disarmament Week was a festive event in the "Palace of the Republic", dedicated to the 750th anniversary of the city of Berlin. The General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and Chairman of the German Democratic Republic Council of State, Erich Honecker, noted in his address that the festivities commemorating the anniversary not only bore out a deep commitment of the German Democratic Republic people to the cause of peace and international understanding but also proved that Berlin, the city of peace, is indeed cosmopolitan, a metropolis encouraging people-to-people encounters, dialogue and co-operation.

4. The INF agreement between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America was the focus of a host of rallies, meetings and other events during the Week devoted to fostering the objectives of disarmament. As everywhere in the world, the initiatives of General Secretary Gorbachev drew a lively response also in the German Democratic Republic.

5. Suffice it to adduce just a few examples illustrating the multifariousness of activities undertaken in the German Democratic Republic during the Disarmament Week last year:

(a) As a token of solidarity with the "Global Peace Wave", which was initiated in Japan, a similar campaign led across the entire nation;

(b) Children and youngsters from the metropolitan area met in the Pioneers' Palace on 24 October for a literature festival. Mindful of the purpose of the "Global Peace Wave", they reaffirmed their desire for complete nuclear disarmament. An exhibition provided information about the contribution of literature to the struggle for peace over the past 70 years;

(c) On 25 October, a one-week peace festival of young talents and artists was wound up in Dresden, with audiences, overall, of more than 100,000 young people from all parts of the country. In a declaration of will adopted at the festival, they painted the vision of a world free from war and want, a world of peace for all peoples and for all times to come;

(d) The "School of Peace", a secondary school in Reichenbach, a town in the South of the German Democratic Republic, held a peace meeting on the occasion of Disarmament Week;

(e) On 26 October 1987, a Scientific Council for Peace Research, chaired by Professor Dr. Max Schmidt, Director of the German Democratic Republic Institute for International Politics and Economics, was founded in Berlin.

6. The media of the German Democratic Republic consider it a pre-eminent task to support the world-wide struggle for arms limitation and disarmament, a fact that became evident also in the 1987 Week devoted to fostering the objectives of disarmament. The press, radio and television stressed that, in the face of important developments indicating a turn for the better in international relations, Disarmament Week was of particular relevance. In this connection, they extensively dealt with the Soviet-American talks held in Moscow and Washington, D.C. in the run-up to the summit between the Soviet Union and the United States, as well as with negotiations on the INF Treaty concerning the elimination of the medium-range and shorter-range missiles of both States. In commentaries, the media assessed the agreement then reached in principle between the Soviet Union and the United States actually to sign such a disarmament accord as a signal to the whole world that a process of nuclear-arms reduction could be initiated. They accorded equal importance to the announcement that a 50-per-cent reduction of strategic offensive weapons, as well as the observance of the ABM Treaty would take pride of place in the ongoing dialogue between the Soviet Union and the United States. In this context, they commended the role of the United Nations in coping with the main problems of the present and the future.

7. They stressed that one of the first decisions adopted at the forty-second session of the United Nations General Assembly included an appeal to the Soviet Union and the United States to do everything to conclude as early as possible an agreement on the elimination of their medium-range and shorter-range missiles. The German Democratic Republic media reported in detail on activities in all parts of the world on the occasion of Disarmament Week. They gave coverage to the special session of the United Nations General Assembly, held on the occasion of Disarmament Week, as well as to the messages of United Nations Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar and the President of the General Assembly, Peter Florin, on United Nations Day. They underlined the demand of both politicians for full use of the possibilities of the United Nations in promoting peace and co-operation. Great attention was paid by the media to the powerful manifestations for peace and disarmament held in Belgium, Spain, the Soviet Union, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, India, Italy, Norway and in many other countries. At the opening of the 1987 Disarmament Week, they reported on the "Peace Wave" that was conceptualized at the Tokyo World Conference for the prohibition of nuclear weapons in August and then officially started in Tokyo on 24 October 1987. In addition, the press reported on forums, meetings, peace shift fund-raisers, peace races, collections of signatures and peace concerts.

8. They published, inter alia, the statement of the WFDY on Disarmament Week, in which the special responsibility of the young generation for concrete disarmament measures was stressed, and reported on the festive function of the German Democratic Republic League for the United Nations ushering in the Week devoted to fostering the objectives of disarmament. German Democratic Republic mass media also devoted great attention to forums held in enterprises and institutions, as well as to initiatives in many towns of the country in the framework of Disarmament Week.

9. The media reported on the visit of the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and Chairman of the German Democratic Republic State Council, Erich Honecker, to the Socialist Republic of Romania, which coincided with the Week devoted to fostering the objectives of disarmament, and on the talks in which the struggle for arms limitation and disarmament played a prominent role.

10. The Prague session of the Committee of foreign ministers of the Warsaw Treaty Member States, convened during Disarmament Week, was also granted prime time coverage by the media. In this regard, the media emphasized that the socialist countries at this session again corroborated their constructive disarmament positions concerning both nuclear and conventional weapons in Europe and the world at large.

11. The activities undertaken in connection with Disarmament Week in the German Democratic Republic were designed further to strengthen the United Nations in the interests of peace, disarmament and propitious co-operation among States. The German Democratic Republic will intensify its efforts towards making peace more secure in the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations. It will join in a world-wide coalition of reason and realism with all those who are prepared to do their utmost for the maintenance of peace, for arms limitation and disarmament.