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IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS  
IN THE FIELD OF DISARMAMENT

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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\* A/43/150.

BULGARIA

[Original: English]

[5 September 1988]

1. The People's Republic of Bulgaria endeavours actively to open up the most favourable avenues in order to implement consistently General Assembly resolutions in the field of disarmament. It assesses positively the new assertive political climate in international relations.
2. The intensive and, on the whole, fruitful dialogue between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America, between East and West, is propitious for an atmosphere of ever larger confidence and mutual understanding. The new political thinking in international affairs stems from realism, respect for the interests of all members of the international community and the recognition of the right to free political choice. As such it is increasingly gaining foothold. The proceedings of the recently terminated third special session of the United Nations General Assembly on disarmament have confirmed this trend. They have also brought into evidence the fact that there are still serious impediments for the international community to agree on a unified strategy for action in the field of disarmament, a strategy that would meet the requirements of the present day.
3. In the international arena Bulgaria advocates the establishment of conditions where the security of all countries and peoples in all realms of human endeavour would be safely guaranteed. The Bulgarian Government is convinced that in the face of today's realities the comprehensive approach to the issues of peace and international security is the sole possible one. One of the ways to bring to fruition such an understanding is to create a comprehensive system of international peace and security by enhancing resolutely, in the first place, the prestige and role of the United Nations. This objective presupposes reliable political, legal and material guarantees for security in the field of military matters, political and economic relations, ecology, humanitarian issues and others.
4. Bulgaria has submitted constructive proposals and suggestions aimed at enhancing the United Nations role in the field of disarmament and security and improving the multilateral mechanism in that priority sphere. Concurrently, it strives for the practical implementation of the recommendations and decisions of the United Nations General Assembly on these issues.
5. Bulgaria believes firmly that the General Assembly is and should remain the fundamental United Nations body for discussing problems of disarmament, and that it should spare no effort to facilitate the implementation of disarmament measures. In this context it endorses the view that the efficiency of the General Assembly in the field of disarmament would be significantly increased by providing frequent convenings of special sessions on most urgent political problems, including on the most acute disarmament issues.
6. To sum up, it is necessary for the whole multilateral disarmament mechanism to start turning at higher gear with a larger, result-oriented output. It is only in

this way that it would be able to carry out its important functions and tasks, i.e. to stimulate and complement bilateral efforts in that field and to impart to disarmament a comprehensive and universal character, to guarantee its continuity and irreversibility.

7. Bulgaria shares the opinion that the United Nations role in the field of disarmament would be considerably enhanced should Member States intensify their efforts to implement General Assembly resolutions in the field of disarmament. It is exceedingly important that Member States treat with due respect the decisions and recommendations of the General Assembly in the field of disarmament, in accordance with their commitments under the Charter of the United Nations. The People's Republic of Bulgaria submits that the important political instruments adopted by the General Assembly by consensus should stand out very highly with their special moral and political force and be duly observed by Member States. This would turn these instruments into an exceptionally important additional source of international law and would promote the prompt realization of a weapon-free and non-violent world, a world of all-round co-operation and mutual respect.

#### UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

[Original: Russian]

[19 August 1988]

1. The Soviet Union views the implementation of United Nations resolutions on disarmament in the broad context of the problem of enhancing the role, effectiveness and authority of the United Nations under present-day conditions. Today as never before, the ability of the United Nations to function as a true centre for harmonizing the actions of all nations to save the present and succeeding generations from the scourge of war needs to be consolidated. The Soviet Union's proposals for a positive renewal of international relations and an enhancement of the role and effectiveness of the United Nations are set forth in condensed form in the article of 17 September 1987 by M. S. Gorbachev, the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, entitled "Reality and safeguards for a secure world".
2. Many other States Members of the United Nations are also making interesting and constructive suggestions on this matter. Important areas of agreement on these crucial questions were identified during the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. And although the special session did not succeed in reaching agreement on a concluding document, it was on the whole a useful forum, serving as a laboratory for new thinking.
3. The joint initiative by the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and Czechoslovakia to improve matters with respect to the implementation of United Nations resolutions in the field of disarmament is very much in line with these efforts. That the subject is a topical one was confirmed by the General Assembly's adoption of resolution 42/38 J of 30 November 1987.

4. The Soviet Union fully shares the belief that the role of the United Nations could be substantially increased by more strenuous efforts on the part of Member States to act on General Assembly resolutions in good faith. We are convinced that the significance of recommendations by the United Nations on current international problems is growing as the modern world becomes increasingly inter-dependent and integrated. General Assembly resolutions represent a summation of the political will of States within the co-ordinate system of comprehensive security. And, in our view, the practicality of General Assembly resolutions is one of the key issues in the construction of a nuclear-free and non-violent world.

5. The Soviet Union believes it important to give all the political texts and resolutions adopted in the United Nations, including those on disarmament - and in particular those adopted by general agreement - more of a morally and politically binding status. Such texts and resolutions would include the Final Document of the first special session devoted to disarmament and others whose objective is the adoption of practical measures to reverse the arms race and the creation of a moral and political climate in which real steps can be taken to limit and reduce States' military potential.

6. It should be explained why we single out General Assembly resolutions adopted by general agreement. Formally, their status is no different from that of resolutions adopted by vote: they are recommendations. At the same time, it seems to us that consensus resolutions, reflecting a concerted approach by all Member States, best support the development of a businesslike, non-confrontational dialogue that seeks to balance the interests of all groups of States in the formulation within the United Nations of disarmament resolutions.

7. It is also important that consensus, once attained, should also be in evidence during the implementation of resolutions and should truly reflect the willingness of States to take action on disarmament. There is a solid foundation for this - the requirement that every Member State should fulfil in good faith the obligations assumed by it under the Charter and assist the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security.

8. The Soviet Union treats the recommendations of the United Nations with due respect, and consistently takes concrete steps to put them into effect.

9. Member States and the Secretary-General have available to them regular information on how we comply with General Assembly resolutions on questions of disarmament. In response to decisions by the General Assembly, we provide accounts, inter alia, of negotiations outside the United Nations in which we take part, report nuclear tests, and send the United Nations information on matters relating to the banning of bacteriological and chemical weapons. We will be prepared, within the time-frame we have set, to compare military expenditures using the United Nations standardized reporting system.

10. There is also scope for improving the organizational side of matters and streamlining the work of the First Committee. We welcome the decisions on this subject taken at the forty-second session of the General Assembly (resolution 42/42 N), and consider it important that these innovations should promote the

formulation of effective resolutions on key aspects of arms limitations and reductions and enable the General Assembly to discharge its responsibilities for disarmament efficiently and in full. From our point of view, one could also make a practice, with sponsors' consent, of adopting only the operative parts of certain disarmament resolutions that recur every year, and adopting such resolutions at two- or three-year intervals.

11. The Soviet Union attaches great importance to the report of the Secretary-General to be prepared pursuant to resolution 42/38 J. We consider that in future this report might also present the views of the Secretary-General himself on the course of the disarmament process. In order to prepare such a report, the Secretary-General must be able to consult and seek information from the parties in disarmament negotiations, and States taking part must keep the United Nations informed of the course of the talks - without prejudice, naturally, to any confidential aspects.

12. The implementation of United Nations resolutions in the field of disarmament could also be promoted by making the World Disarmament Campaign still more vigorous and improving on the methods and means used to attain its goals: informing, educating and generating understanding and support among members of the public and their elected representatives for United Nations activities in the field of disarmament.

13. It is important to provide the public with more extensive information on disarmament resolutions adopted by the General Assembly. The texts of the most important resolutions are published every year in the Soviet press.

14. The Soviet Union is prepared to entertain in a constructive spirit any other ideas about enhancing the effectiveness with which United Nations resolutions on disarmament are implemented, in the interests of making the limitation, reduction and elimination of armaments an onward, far-reaching and, ultimately, irreversible process.

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