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FIRST COMMITTEE
Agenda item 64 (f)

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT: OBJECTIVE INFORMATION ON MILITARY MATTERS

Australia, Belgium, Botswana, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany,
Federal Republic of, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands,
New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Portugal, Samoa, Spain,
Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
and United States of America: draft resolution

Objective information on military matters

The General Assembly,

Recalling paragraph 105 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 1/ the first special session devoted to disarmament, which encourages Member States to ensure a better flow of information with regard to the various aspects of disarmament to avoid dissemination of false and tendentious information concerning armaments and to concentrate on the danger of escalation of the arms race and on the need for general and complete disarmament under effective international control,

Taking into account the attention paid to the questions of openness and ensuring an exchange of objective information in the military field at the fifteenth special session of the General Assembly, the third special session devoted to disarmament,

Noting with satisfaction that recent agreements in the field of arms control and disarmament have provided for qualitatively new standards of openness,

1/ Resolution S-10/2.

Believing that the adoption of confidence-building measures to promote openness and transparency would contribute to the prevention of misperceptions of military capabilities and intentions, which would induce States to undertake armaments programmes leading to the acceleration of the arms race, in particular the nuclear-arms race, and to heightened international tensions,

Believing that balanced and objective information on all military matters, in particular of nuclear-weapons States and other militarily significant States, would contribute to the building of confidence among States and to the conclusion of concrete disarmament agreements, and thereby help to halt and reverse the arms race,

Recognizing that greater openness and transparency would contribute to enhancing security,

Convinced that greater openness on military activities, inter alia, through transmittal of relevant information on these activities, including on the levels of military budgets, would contribute to increased confidence among States,

Taking into account the work undertaken in the United Nations Disarmament Commission on the reduction of military budgets,

Noting with satisfaction that an increased number of States have provided annual reports on military expenditures in conformity with the international system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures under the auspices of the United Nations,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on this subject to the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament; 2/

2. Reaffirms its firm conviction that a better flow of objective information on military capabilities would help relieve international tension and contribute to the building of confidence among States on a global, regional or subregional level and to the conclusion of concrete disarmament agreements;

3. Recommends that those States and global, regional and subregional organizations that have already expressed support for the principle of practical and concrete confidence-building measures of a military nature on a global, regional or subregional level should intensify their efforts with a view to adopting such measures;

4. Recommends that all States, in particular nuclear-weapons States and other militarily significant States, should implement forthwith the international system for the standardized reporting of military expenditure, with the aim of achieving a realistic comparison of military budgets, facilitating the availability of objective information on, as well as objective assessment of, military capabilities and contributing to the process of disarmament;

2/ A/S-15/7 and Add.1 and 2.

5. Invites all Member States to communicate to the Secretary-General before 30 April 1989 measures they have adopted towards these ends, for submission to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session;

6. Further invites all Member States also to communicate to the Secretary-General their views on ways and means of further consolidating the emerging trend toward greater openness in military matters specifically with regard to the provisions of objective information on military matters for consideration by the United Nations Disarmament Commission at its 1990 session;

7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fourth session the item entitled "Objective information on military matters".
