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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Study on all the aspects of regional disarmament

Report of the Secretary-General

1. By resolution 33/91 E of 16 December 1978, the General Assembly decided to undertake a systematic study on all aspects of regional disarmament and requested the Secretary-General to carry out the study with the assistance of a group of qualified governmental experts, appointed by him on a balanced geographical basis. The General Assembly further requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its thirty-fourth session a progress report on the work of the group and a final report at the thirty-fifth session.
2. Pursuant to resolution 33/91 E, the Secretary-General appointed a Group of Governmental Experts on Regional Disarmament, which held its first session from 18 to 22 June 1979. By a letter dated 22 June 1979 addressed to the Secretary-General, the Chairman of the Group submitted a progress report which is annexed to the present document.

ANNEX

Letter dated 22 June 1979 from the Chairman of the Group of
Governmental Experts on Regional Disarmament to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to submit herewith a progress report of the study Group of Governmental Experts on Regional Disarmament which was appointed by you in pursuance of resolution 33/91 E adopted on 16 December 1978 by the General Assembly at its thirty-third session.

The experts appointed were the following:

Mr. Olu Adeniji
Ambassador, Nigeria

Mr. Antonio González de León
Director, Mexico

Mr. Wolfgang Heisenberg
Scientific Adviser, Federal Republic of Germany

Mr. Niaz Naik
Ambassador, Pakistan

Mr. José María Otegui
First Secretary, Argentina

Mr. Stanislaw Przygodzki
Adviser to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Poland

Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim Shaker
Minister Counsellor, Egypt

Mr. Purbo S. Suwondo
Ambassador, Indonesia

Dr. Klaus Törnudd
Director, Finland

Mr. Albert Willot
Director, Belgium

The study Group held its first session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 18 to 22 June 1979. All Experts participated at the session with the exception of Mr. Antonio González de León who was unable to attend.

The study Group asked Mr. Albert Willot of Belgium to serve as its Chairman.

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The study Group held seven formal meetings as well as informal consultations during which it discussed the scope of the study and the programme and methodology of its work.

The study Group agreed on a provisional outline for the study, attached hereto.

The study Group also agreed that the Experts would submit draft texts by 15 September 1979 of material to be included under the various items in the provisional outline.

The study Group decided to hold its second session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 8 to 12 October 1979. It also decided tentatively to hold two sessions in 1980, each of two weeks duration, in April at Geneva and in September in New York.

The study Group was assisted in its work by Mr. Prvoslav Davinić, Secretary of the study Group, and Mr. Anders Boserup, Consultant.

I have been requested by the study Group, as its Chairman, to submit this progress report to you on its behalf.

(Signed) Mr. Albert WILLOT
Chairman of the Group
of Governmental Experts on
Regional Disarmament

APPENDIX

Study on regional disarmament: provisional outline

- I. INTRODUCTION
 - A. Terms of reference
 - B. Organization and composition of the Study Group
 - C. Programme and method of work
- II. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND
 - A. Measures already agreed upon
 - 1. Antarctic Treaty
 - 2. Tlatelolco Treaty
 - 3. Conference on Security and Co-operation
 - B. Measures under negotiation
 - 1. Mutual reduction of forces and armaments and associated measures in Central Europe
 - 2. ...
 - C. Other measures proposed
- III. REGIONAL APPROACH TO DISARMAMENT
 - A. The concept of regional disarmament
 - 1. Objective - (To complement world-wide disarmament measures, with a view to strengthening regional security and stability, by means of measures promoting or leading to the ultimate goal of general and complete disarmament).
 - 2. Importance - (Growing recognition of regional specificities in security matters; multiplication of regional disarmament projects; increasing pre-occupation with military budgets expanding at the expense of development resources; etc.)

3. The "Region" in a disarmament context - (Known geographical regions should provide a most effective setting; nevertheless, the "region" can be defined in another context, e.g., strategical coherence, economic or cultural links, presence of outside forces, etc; a flexible approach is needed).

B. Basic conditions and guidelines

1. General principles valid for any disarmament measure

- (a) United Nations Charter and other generally accepted rules of international law (Elaborate)
- (b) Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (Elaborate)

2. Guidelines specific to the regional approach

Keeping constantly in mind the ultimate goal of general and complete disarmament:

- (a) Initiative to come from States within the region; such initiative may emanate from a regional organization where it exists
- (b) Participation of all States of the region in which contemplated measures would be implemented
- (c) Possible participation of other States having forces stationed in the region
- (d) Right of States in the region to determine the modalities relevant to their approach to regional disarmament
- (e) Undiminished security of all the States within the region
- (f) Undiminished security of the States outside the region
- (g) Respect of agreed regional status by external Powers
- (h) Upon request, assistance of the United Nations or a regional organization in the elaboration and/or implementation of measures
- (i) Legal aspects (conformity with international law and other binding obligations previously assumed)
- (j) Etc.

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IV. NON-EXHAUSTIVE LIST OF CONCEIVABLE MEASURES OPEN TO SELECTION BY STATES
IN ANY "REGION" (Being understood that nothing should prevent States from
negotiating any such measures in any sequence, or simultaneously, as they see
fit)

Keeping in mind the elements for a comprehensive Programme of Disarmament,
agreed upon in the United Nations Disarmament Commission:

A. Disarmament measures

1. Nuclear weapons
2. Other weapons of mass destruction
3. Conventional weapons and armed forces
4. Military expenditures
5. Verification
6. Related measures

B. Other measures

1. Confidence-building measures
2. Measures aimed at achieving relaxation of international tension
3. Measures aimed at preventing the use of force or the threat of use
of force in international relations, subject to the provisions of
the United Nations Charter
4. Implementation of the provisions contained in the Final Document
intended to mobilize world public opinion in favour of disarmament

C. Disarmament and development

D. Disarmament and international security

V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

VI. APPENDICES