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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

International arms transfers

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/44/150.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 7 December 1988, the General Assembly adopted resolution 43/75 I entitled "International arms transfers", paragraphs 1 to 4, of which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"1. Expresses its conviction that arms transfers in all their aspects deserve serious consideration by the international community, inter alia, because of:

"(a) Their potential effects in areas where tension and regional conflict threaten international peace and security and national security;

"(b) Their known and potential negative effects on the process of the peaceful social and economic development of all peoples;

"(c) Increasing illicit and covert arms trafficking;

"2. Requests Member States to consider, inter alia, the following measures relating to these concerns:

"(a) Reinforcement of their national systems of control and vigilance concerning production and transport of arms;

"(b) Examination of ways and means of refraining from acquiring arms additional to those needed for legitimate national security requirements, taking into account the specific characteristics of each region;

"(c) Examination of the ways and means of providing for more openness and transparency with regard to world-wide arms transfers;

"3. Requests the Disarmament Commission to take into account the above-mentioned matters in its deliberations on the issue of conventional disarmament;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to seek the views and proposals of Member States on the matters contained in paragraphs 1 and 2 of that resolution and to collect all other relevant information for submission to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session."

2. Pursuant to paragraph 4 of the resolution, the Secretary-General, in a note verbale dated 7 February 1989, requested all Member States to submit their views and proposals as well as any other relevant information on this matter by 1 July 1989. To date the Secretary-General has received replies from Colombia, Ecuador, Finland, France, Norway and Poland. The replies are reproduced in section II of the present report.

II. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

COLOMBIA

[Original: Spanish]

[5 May 1989]

1. The Government of Colombia is convinced that the problem of arms transfers in all its aspects merits serious consideration within the framework of the United Nations as it is maintained through a complex network of commercial and political international relations which involve the responsibility of all States.
2. The Secretary-General's studies, in particular those on "The economic and social consequences of the arms race and military expenditures", on "The relationship between disarmament and development", on "Conventional disarmament" and on "The relationship between disarmament and international security", have presented a vivid picture of the enormous scale of the arms race, the catastrophic destruction modern weapons can cause and the pernicious consequences of the illicit arms trade for international peace and security.

Arms transfers and international security

3. The active race to accumulate more and more sophisticated and destructive weapons, whether through production or import, affects all aspects of international relations in the most dangerous manner, and constitutes one of the greatest obstacles to the establishment of a peaceful system of international relations based on justice, equality, independence and co-operation.
4. The arms race, in which the militarily and economically most powerful States, the main political-military alliances and, directly or indirectly, the whole world participate, has profound political, economic, social and psychological repercussions for mankind.
5. International arms transfers occupy a pre-eminent place in the arms race, particularly that in conventional weapons, and thus create a climate more conducive to armed confrontation by preparing the world for conflict rather than for building peace. Moreover, arms transfers help shape the vicious circle of suspicion and fear which leads to the arms race and make more difficult efforts to guarantee international security, especially through the system provided for in the United Nations Charter for the peaceful resolution of disputes.
6. Although arms transfers are not the principal cause of conflicts nor control of such transfers the only solution, recent history has shown that arms transfers increase the possibility of armed confrontation, prolong and intensify conflicts and interfere with their peaceful solution.
7. The transfers of conventional weapons, which fuel regional conflicts, called by some "low-intensity wars", have enabled the great Powers to intervene politically in other States with minimum risk to themselves and immeasurable cost

in death and destruction for the countries in conflict. In addition, arms transfers which serve the interests of rivalry between the great Powers entail the risk that a critical situation in some region of the world may turn into a direct confrontation between them. Moreover, the pressures they exert through arms transfers, utilized as a political or economic instrument, reduce the freedom of action of the parties in conflict to find a possible solution.

8. In the 1980s the arms trade has continued to operate freely throughout the length and breadth of the world. The few restrictions some States placed on it in past eras have been significantly weakened for the sake of political and economic strategies, to the detriment of international peace and security.

9. Nor have the 1980s witnessed a decrease in the efforts to develop new types of weapons which contribute to keeping the dynamics of the arms race vigorous. Moreover, a greater number of countries are now designing, producing and deploying new and even more lethal weapons, many of which are transferred to third world countries.

10. Similarly, the lack of control over military technology has enabled various highly militarized countries - some of them in areas where tensions or conflicts exist - to acquire technology for the production of weapons of increasingly destructive power. Some countries have also acquired launching systems capable of transporting nuclear, chemical and other weapons of mass destruction over great distances.

11. This dangerous convergence in the transfer of arms with indiscriminate effects, the consequent proliferation of nuclear and chemical weapons and the capacity of a growing number of countries to launch them merits the priority attention of the international community.

Arms transfers and the developing world

12. The third world has been the scene of the wars waged since the Second World War and of the conflicts and wars still going on. These conflicts have generated a continuous demand for various kinds of arms and military equipment from which few of the supplying countries have resisted the temptation to profit.

13. The third world has provided the theatre in which new technologies have been tested under real rather than simulated conditions, with the aggravating factor that the new technologies applied to the arms transferred, in addition to increasing their range and destructiveness, entail greater risk for the civilian population because of their indiscriminate effects.

14. Countries with border or racial conflicts or internal struggles which, faced with security imperatives, need arms for their defence, fall an easy prey to arms producers, distributors or intermediaries who are governed by the inexorable laws of commerce and are not exactly moved by humanitarian considerations. Moreover, those countries may find themselves tempted to use the arms which to some of them may seem more attractive than peaceful means of solving disputes.

15. Even on the basis of the limited data available, it is estimated that about 75 per cent of total arms exports go to the developing countries. Given the volume and the increase in unit value of the arms exported, this represents a heavy flow of wealth from the poor to the rich countries, which is particularly prejudicial as it entails a massive loss of foreign exchange, the scarcity of which is one of the most serious obstacles to economic growth and development in the third world.

Arms transfers, development and security

16. It is clear that the conventional arms race absorbs many of the resources, both national and international, which would otherwise be directed towards social welfare and economic development. The size of the resources necessary to maintain, increase and update present weapons arsenals, in both the producing and the importing countries, is the most obvious aspect of the negative effects of the arms race on world prospects for economic growth and its serious consequences, in particular, for the economic and social development of the developing countries.

17. Conventional arms and arms transfers are also responsible for the militarization of our societies. On these arms falls a large share of responsibility for the moral, social and human costs which must be added to the economic burden of conflicts and wars and the preparations for them.

18. Conventional arms also attract to research and development a growing number of scientists and technicians who then have a special interest in the continuation of their specialized work. A hierarchy is thus created which can interfere with the efforts of those who wish to limit arms production programmes.

19. Expenditures on conventional armaments are several times greater than on nuclear weapons. In terms of cost, conventional arms and the labour and scientific and technical resources tied up in their production and maintenance represent an enormous financial burden and therefore constitute a drain on the resources of the countries producing them. These countries then depend on the continued export of the arms in order to compensate for the costs of production and balance their payments. The mere fact that the countries producing arms have a surplus to sell constitutes a factor which promotes arms transfers and stimulates unrestrained competition to meet the demand or create it.

20. Arms imports create dependence in the recipient countries. The suppliers generally finance their arms sales through loans granted for the purpose which create financial and even political obligations in the recipient countries. Military aid also creates obligations and political dependence. In both cases, the recipient countries remain tied to the suppliers, generally on a long-term basis, because of their debt and the need to obtain spare parts and continued supplies.

21. Although arms imports are justified, or said to be justified, by the strengthening of security for national defence, that motive cannot be attributed to the exporting countries. Their security is not increased by the trade, nor do the economic benefits derived from the sales appear at present to be enough to compensate for or justify the military costs more than marginally. Nor does the acquisition of arms seem to compensate the recipient countries in terms of

security, particularly when it is taken into account that it is mostly the arms received which have contributed to generating the wars and conflicts which the world has endured in recent decades, and that the resources diverted from the tasks of economic and social development help accentuate non-military threats to security.

22. The military industry which is now developing in a number of developing countries is a specific response to the security problems those countries face in their international or regional relations. Nevertheless, although such industries may constitute a source of foreign exchange savings and military import substitution, they entail the commitment of a large share of future tax revenues and do not constitute an appropriate response to present international circumstances. Consequently, the medium- and long-term effects and consequences this allocation of budget revenue has or may have are detrimental to the peaceful process of economic and social development because it commits resources which could otherwise be used to satisfy national needs.

23. The military equipment is in any case doubly paid for - although this is less true in the industrialized countries - by ordinary citizens who have not been consulted on their loss in health services, educational opportunities and uncontaminated water, better food, adequate housing, industrial development and so on.

24. There is a tendency for the developing countries to emulate the developed countries in military equipment more than in economic growth and standards of living. Nevertheless, the developing countries largely depend on imports, while the industrialized countries are not only relatively independent when it comes to increasing their arsenals, but derive advantages - material or political - from the sale or transfer of arms.

The illicit arms trade

25. The growing illicit arms trade is an integral part of arms transfers involving a dangerous interaction between war, terrorism, subversion, crime and the narcotics traffic with the appetite for power and money, ideologies, propaganda and cracular pronouncements which traverse seas and continents and adapt themselves to the most varied and heterogeneous situations and special circumstances.

26. Colombia has often warned the international community of the consequences of the illicit arms trade as a phenomenon which further aggravates tensions, threatens the domestic security of States as well as regional security, and strengthens the forces opposed to the disarmament process. It has also called attention to the cutthroat competition in the arms trade and the alarming indifference of the States in which arms are freely sold, transferred and supplied, thus leading to the consolidation of a market in which criminals, terrorists and narcotics dealers with unlimited economic resources can acquire all the equipment needed to carry out their deadly purposes.

27. In spite of the consequences to which many countries have fallen victim because of the illicit arms trade, we know more about its impact on our societies than about the way in which it is conducted. Given the clandestine character of

the trade, in order to understand its nature better we must examine the cases in which these transactions have come to the knowledge of Governments or the public.

28. The illicit trade comprises those transactions which are conducted in violation of national or international law or established procedure and in which the Governments or individuals involved would be liable to punishment or sanctions.

29. The illicit trade, by definition, is conducted in the shadows, and generally involves arms or military equipment which has been obtained by irregular procedures and is likewise supplied in an irregular manner.

30. Some forms of the illicit trade can be called "the grey market in arms", depending on the nature of the arms or military equipment transferred or the character of the transaction. For example, a transferred product falls into the grey area when it has both civil and military applications and is supplied to countries subject to "embargoes" or to groups or individuals in the knowledge or suspicion that it is intended for violent purposes.

31. Examination of the problem of the illicit arms trade and its origins, and evaluation of its consequences for international, regional and national peace and security and ultimately for the preservation of human rights, constitutes a basic and urgent task.

32. Colombia considers that the United Nations, whose essence and goal is peace, security and the economic and social progress of States, as well as the realization of human rights, can make a positive contribution to dealing with the problem of illicit arms traffic and eliminate a threat which knows no ideological, territorial or legal frontiers and may constitute a hidden form of intervention.

Principles and necessary components of measures for the regulation and control of international arms transfers

33. Consideration of the principles which are to govern measures for making regulation and control of international arms transfers feasible must be based on the premise that weapons are instruments of war which are designed and produced to kill and destroy, and hence their use is a violation of the right of every human being to life itself, in the following sense:

(a) Arms transfers prevent the full enjoyment of the right of every human being to the basic necessities and to a decent life;

(b) Arms transfers distort the right of every human being to all-round development;

(c) Arms transfers impinge on the right of peoples to self-determination;

(d) There also exists the fundamental principle of State responsibility under international law, a responsibility which is a corollary to the well-protected right to sovereignty. Every State has a duty to respect international norms within

its own boundaries. (Therefore, no State may participate in or ignore breaches of such norms, or disregard its responsibility);

(e) International arms transfers play a preponderant role in the basic problem of security facing many countries. One such problem is protecting their economic, political and social development from both internal and external threats - from the threats inherent in the process of national construction and from those originating at the international level, where the use of force and intimidation continue to be part of the diplomacy of force, especially by nations which wield economic, technological and military power.

34. Measures to counteract the problems inherent in international arms transfers must be considered in the broader context of international security, which includes the peaceful solution of regional conflicts, negotiations for nuclear disarmament, strict interpretation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, adoption of the Convention on Chemical Weapons, negotiations to reduce the level of conventional weapons and, above all, respect for the international norms embodied in the Charter of the United Nations.

35. An examination of measures to deal with the problem of international arms transfers must take into account the following:

(a) The measures must contribute to the process of conventional disarmament, to a reduction in threats to security - both military and non-military - to confidence-building and, in particular, to a reversal of the trend which makes arms transfers an instrument of violence and a lucrative business;

(b) Because of the particularly harmful characteristics of the illicit trade in arms, measures to eliminate it and the human rights violations it brings with it deserve attention on a priority basis;

(c) The production and supply of and trade in weapons of mass destruction and their launching systems, and the transfer of such technology, must be banned as a first step in their total elimination;

(d) The arms trade, while it is one of the world's most lucrative businesses, goes far beyond the realm of trade. Therefore, its serious implications for world, regional and national politics must be assessed in addition to its effects on international trade relations;

(e) Consideration must be given to how arms transfers affect relations between the civilian and military sectors in general and relations between the Government and the armed forces in particular;

(f) Arms transfers create interdependences between suppliers and recipients which impair the autonomy of efforts to reduce arms levels and the freedom of action of parties to a conflict seeking to resolve their controversies peacefully. Therefore, the circumstances of such interdependences and their impact on potential measures to regulate and control arms transfers must be examined;

(g) The transfer of arms, whether they are supplied through sales, donations, exchange or the whole range of transactions - legal or illegal - in which Governments and military industries, agents or intermediaries participate, involves both suppliers and recipients. Regulation and control of arms transfers necessarily entail taking into account the role played by all those involved in such transactions;

(h) In order to control arms transfers and, in particular, to prevent illicit trafficking, countries will have to adopt strict regulations, or strengthen existing ones, concerning the production, supply, acquisition and transport of arms and military equipment;

(i) States must examine ways and means of refraining from acquiring arms additional to those needed for legitimate security requirements. The forum provided by regional mechanisms might facilitate agreements to this end;

(j) In seeking ways of ensuring greater openness and transparency and confidence-building with regard to world-wide arms transfers, procedures must be elaborated for obtaining the necessary information on military expenditures, the production of arms and military equipment and all arms transactions, including those involving dual-purpose equipment. This information should be supplemented by a register of end-use declarations, which should be a requirement in any transaction.

36. In deciding on the principles and norms to govern international arms transfers, Member States should also decide on sanctions to be applied to States which violate them. One such sanction might be payment into a United Nations fund for disarmament and development, by the supplier country or countries, of the value of arms captured in an illicit transaction. Colombia believes that there should exist an institution which would in addition keep files on claims concerning illicit transfers of arms seized in cases where illegality has been proved.

37. The group of experts which will carry out its work under United Nations auspices in accordance with General Assembly resolution 43/75 I should recommend a programme of action and a timetable for its phased implementation by Member States.

ECUADOR

[Original: Spanish]

[12 June 1989]

1. Ecuador, a country which has a pacifist tradition, is of practically no importance in the world arms market and has a transparent policy on the matter, strongly agrees that international arms transfers in all their aspects should be continuously examined by the international community in all multilateral disarmament forums. It further supports the conduct of those specialized studies which such forums decide to carry out with a view to updating information on the subject and its true implications, in order to provide a clearer vision of the mechanisms required for the effective control and monitoring of such arms transfers.

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2. In this connection, moreover, support must be given to the implementation of unilateral, bilateral and regional initiatives designed to achieve the above-mentioned objectives, in support of and in conformity with multilateral initiatives.
3. Among the mechanisms which the international community might adopt in order to improve the control of international arms transfers, the possibility of establishing a register of such transfers should not be discounted. This suggestion has already been put forward by other countries in the interest of obtaining clear, up-to-date knowledge of these transfers. It will call for the firm participation of arms suppliers and recipients, whose support of this initiative for peace and international security must be given priority over other matters of unilateral interest.
4. Ecuador further believes that treatment of this subject by the international community must be considered not only as an inescapable moral duty, but also - in the light of the critical economic situation currently facing the world - as a necessity. The international community must not turn its back on the fact that most international arms transfers are made to developing countries. Under pressure because of internal or bilateral conflicts, these countries find themselves devoting huge sums to building up their arsenals, beyond acceptable limits, instead of using their resources to obtain the productive assets which the logic of social and economic development would dictate.
5. Similarly, it must be taken into account that arms in huge quantities are most commonly shipped to areas of conflict in various parts of the world, thereby increasing the potential risk to international peace and security. As a result, these conflicts are aggravated, to the detriment not only of the parties involved, but also of the other countries in the conflict area and, in many instances, of the international arms suppliers themselves.
6. The declining demand in the international arms market since 1980 - linked chiefly to the world-wide economic recession, external debt and the drop in oil prices - must not serve as a justification, year after year, for deferring consideration of a subject so vital to the international community. It is important that the United Nations initiate serious negotiations at the earliest possible date with a view to achieving the goal desired by the vast majority of nations in this matter.

FINLAND

[Original: English]

[17 July 1989]

1. The production, import, trade, procurement and possession of firearms and ammunition in Finland is allowed only with a permission granted for that purpose.

2. Finland does not acquire arms material beyond her own national security requirements. The defence industries existing in Finland have been established in order to provide the necessary material for the Finnish defence forces.
3. The Finnish Government maintains strict control over export of arms. All exports require a permission granted by the Government. (If the exported material only includes samples or small quantities, the export licence may be granted by the Ministry of Defence. For firearms and ammunition which are not regarded as war material the export licence is granted by the Ministry of the Interior.)
4. Export licence cannot be granted if national regulations, based on binding resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, prohibit arms exports to a certain country.
5. In cases where no such regulations apply, Finland follows the principle according to which exports to States at war or involved in a military conflict or to areas where there is a serious and obvious risk of armed conflict or to régimes with serious human rights violations are not permitted.
6. The exporter is required, with certain exceptions, to produce an end-user certificate, issued by the competent authorities of the recipient country, stating that the material in question will not be re-exported. As an additional means of control, the Finnish authorities require, within a month after the date of export, a document, issued by the customs authorities of the recipient country, confirming that the material in question has been imported into that country.
7. In the light of the above, the Government of Finland considers that the matters dealt with in General Assembly resolution 43/75 I have been duly taken into account as far as arms exports of Finland are concerned.
8. With the aim of further promoting international co-operation for limiting arms transfers and thus strengthening international peace and security the Government of Finland would like to propose the following:
 - (a) With reference to paragraphs 1 (a) and 1 (b) of the said resolution, the Government of Finland would consider it useful that a study be undertaken under the auspices of the United Nations on the effects of international arms transfers. Such a study could provide the basis for further international action in this field;
 - (b) As regards paragraph 1 (c), the Government of Finland proposes that the Secretary-General be informed of all arms transfers in the Member States. The Secretary-General should be provided with information on the quantity and quality of the exported material, its value and the recipient countries. This information could be collected and published annually by the United Nations. National legislation concerning arms transfers in each country should also be made public. Further, it should be considered whether a reporting arrangement should cover the transfers of technology necessary for arms production;
 - (c) With reference to paragraph 2 (b), Finland considers that the United Nations should encourage its Member States to refrain from arms transfers to conflict areas and to countries at war;

(d) With reference to paragraph 2 (c), Finland would like to note that an arrangement for reporting and publishing information envisaged under paragraph 1 (c) would also serve the purposes of openness and transparency.

FRANCE

(on behalf of the Twelve States members of the European Community)

[Original: English]

[24 July 1989]

1. During the past 20 years the need for increased restraint and greater transparency in the field of international arms transfers has been repeatedly invoked by a growing number of States in the context of the debate on disarmament. Proposals have been introduced in the General Assembly at various times on this issue. It has also been addressed in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session, the first special session of the Assembly devoted to disarmament.
2. The Twelve believe that an increased restraint in the field of arms transfers by all members of the international community is also a factor towards promoting international security and peace at a lower level of armaments.
3. The search for greater transparency and openness in this, as in all military matters, would also help to generate confidence and remove misperceptions, thus easing international and regional tensions and thereby contributing to the promotion of disarmament and arms control.
4. The Twelve consider that the issue of international arms transfers and their political, economic and security implications call for the greatest attention of the international community.
5. Against this background, the Twelve have contributed to the adoption at the forty-third session of the General Assembly of resolution 43/75 I, co-sponsored, among others, by five members of the Twelve. In adopting that resolution the Assembly underscored the need for Member States to examine the means to promote more restraint, openness and transparency in the field of international arms transfers, in line with the constant endeavour of the Twelve.
6. The Twelve also consider it important that the Disarmament Commission at its 1989 substantive session, in accordance with Assembly resolution 43/75 I, held a discussion on the issue of international arms transfers in the course of its deliberations on conventional disarmament.
7. The Twelve have welcomed the fact that the Secretary-General, in pursuance of the above-mentioned resolution, has been requested to carry out, with the assistance of governmental experts, a study on ways and means of promoting transparency in international transfers of conventional arms on a universal and non-discriminatory basis, also taking into consideration the views of Member States as well as other relevant information, including that on the problem of illicit arms trade.

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8. It is the view of the Twelve that the question of international arms transfers should be pursued on the basis of a gradual approach, aimed first of all at identifying and clarifying its implications and its dimension.

9. The Twelve are convinced that new and imaginative efforts also in the field of arms trade are required if the level of conventional armaments is to be lowered throughout the world. Restraint in arms trade and refraining from acquiring arms additional to those needed for legitimate national security requirements could contribute towards achieving this goal.

10. At the same time the Twelve wish to point out that the submission of views and proposals to the Secretary-General and the forthcoming study on ways and means of promoting transparency in international transfers of conventional arms are in no way meant to limit the inherent right of any State to self-defence and to protect its own security, in conformity with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations.

11. An increasing restraint of a universal and non-discriminatory character might prove acceptable to both producing and recipient countries and would certainly help to expand international confidence.

12. In addition, Governments that are the main suppliers and buyers of armaments should consult on how to strengthen their co-operation with the aim of constraining international illicit trade in conventional armaments and of identifying possible measures to halt it.

13. The Twelve are confident that along these lines and on the basis of General Assembly resolution 43/75 I, it will prove possible to promote greater restraint together with openness and transparency in international arms transfers on a universal and non-discriminatory basis. Furthermore, it is expected that in the framework of the implementation of the resolution a new pattern of behaviour as regards international arms transfers may emerge and, thus, greatly benefit world peace and stability.

NORWAY

[Original: English]

[13 July 1989]

1. The adoption of resolution 43/75 I entitled "International arms transfer" at the forty-third session of the General Assembly is an expression of the world community's concern about the increasing scope of arms exports. The resolution outlines some of the most significant problems associated with international arms transfers and, it is to be hoped, marks a new beginning for United Nations involvement in this area. The planned study will provide a good basis for further efforts.

2. Future measures limiting international arms transfers should be designed with greater openness and transparency in order to facilitate a better international control. In many ways the international community is in the process of reshaping its ideas as far as international arms transfers are concerned. Issues relating to arms trade policies are now being discussed in many countries. In several cases remedial action is being taken to hinder clandestine trade and strengthen national control of arms exports.

3. Nations have a legitimate need for arms to protect their national security. A major objective should therefore be to limit the acquisition of arms extending beyond legitimate national security requirements. The issue of international arms transfers concerns all the nations of the world, developed and developing alike. Third world countries are also heavily engaged in trade in arms. This places a heavy burden on fragile economies and diverts resources from development objectives.

4. Arms acquisitions are normally the responsibility of a country's Government. Government responsibility regarding both the export and the import of arms must be strengthened in order to gain better insight into and control of international arms transfers. Exporting countries should consider whether or not they have a sufficiently developed system of export control. The introduction of analyses on the impact of arms could be another means of restricting arms trade to a necessary minimum.

5. In recent years, Norway has significantly strengthened its export control régime regarding arms transfers, including services and technology. Control of arms transfers by Norway aims, in particular, at preventing export to countries at war or threatened by war, or where civil war is in progress, or to countries where serious violations of human rights are taking place. In practice an even stricter policy is followed. Norway primarily exports arms to allied countries and to other closely aligned nations, including neutral countries in the Nordic area and in Western Europe.

6. Arms exports should also be considered in relation to the reliability of the export control legislation of the importing countries. Norway is concerned with preventing unwanted re-export, whether this concerns goods produced in Norway or the sublicensing of Norwegian technology. In the light of this, it is generally required that the end-user is a Government or acts on behalf of one.

POLAND

[Original: English]

[25 July 1989]

1. The Government of Poland invariably supports the efforts of the United Nations in the sphere of further reduction of uncontrolled arms sales and United Nations activities to render the debate on this issue more open.

2. Poland notices a coherent relationship between the problems of arms trade and weapons production. Therefore, Poland supports every activity which halts the

expensive arms race and tends towards reducing its negative impact on the economies of States, particularly those of developing countries.

3. The States parties to the Warsaw Treaty, including Poland, have in the past often declared themselves in favour of a reduction in the levels of armaments and arms sales and against the transfer of armaments to conflict areas. Poland would be ready to participate in possible negotiations on the matter on a regional, for example European, scale.

4. It should also be emphasized that the amount of arms that Poland purchases has always been determined by rational requirements of defence adequate to the real threat present at different times of its recent history.

5. Poland attaches great importance to effective limitations on the international trade of components used for the production of armaments. In this area, Polish regulations impose, inter alia, restrictions on dual-purpose chemicals, which could be used directly or indirectly for chemical weapons purposes.

6. The Government of Poland declares its full readiness to continue its support for the efforts of the United Nations to eliminate threats resulting from international arms transfers, while simultaneously taking note of the complexity and sensitiveness of this issue, especially as regards the establishment of effective control or settlement of such a dangerous phenomenon, which has for many years poisoned international relations and destabilized the delicate texture of peace and world security.
