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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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NEW ZEALAND

[Original: English]

[23 October 1989]

1. It is now more than 10 years since the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament decided to proclaim one week of the year as Disarmament Week in order to promote the objectives of disarmament and arms limitations.
2. Over that time, and in the past year in particular, the international community has witnessed some outstanding disarmament achievements. Public opinion has continued to be influential in spurring the leaders of nations to make the world a safer and more secure environment. However, it is also true that while worthwhile gains have been made and more have been foreshadowed, we are far from the objectives that we as a community of nations set ourselves. Nuclear weapons, weapons of mass destruction and conventional arms continue to be produced. The arms race continues. Disarmament Week must, therefore, continue to have an important place in the global disarmament campaign.
3. New Zealand was pleased to be associated with last year's Disarmament Week resolution, which was adopted by consensus for the first time in a number of years.
4. This broad basis of support reflects the recognition that the United Nations continues to give to this one week of the year that provides a focus of opportunity for the dissemination of public information and interchange of ideas and views on disarmament and arms control goals.
5. The New Zealand Ministry of External Relations and Trade, as in earlier years, has chosen to mark this year's Disarmament Week with the publication of the Disarmament and Arms Control Bulletin. The Bulletin gives comprehensive coverage of New Zealand's disarmament and arms control policy, and is distributed widely in New Zealand and overseas.
6. In addition, the Ministry's quarterly publication, External Relations Review, provides comment on significant international disarmament and security issues.
7. On Hiroshima Day this year, the Prime Minister of New Zealand announced the second phase of a major study on the potential impacts of a nuclear war on New Zealand. A major component of the study will involve public participation and information exchange on wider disarmament issues.
8. The Government of New Zealand holds high the need for public participation in disarmament and peace-making activities.
9. In 1987 the Government of New Zealand established the Public Advisory Committee on Disarmament and Arms Control. The Committee, which is chaired by the Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control, comprises eight members of the public

with special expertise and wide experience in disarmament issues. It is charged with advising the Minister of Foreign Affairs on such aspects of disarmament and arms control as it thinks fit. In this way the public has a formal channel through which its views may be conveyed to the Government.

10. The Committee also has a special role in making recommendations on the granting of funds for a Peace and Disarmament Education Trust to promote greater public understanding of disarmament and arms control issues.

11. In 1989 grants have been made to support a variety of peace education related projects: for example, funds were given to a New Zealand non-governmental organization, the Peace Movement, Aotearoa, to assist it with its peace research and education programme. The University of Canterbury was assisted in its peace studies programme and the New Zealand Foundation for Peace Studies was given help to promote its resource catalogue and pay field officers' expenses. Church groups have been given funds to produce publicity and educational material.

12. Besides funding peace education activities, the Public Advisory Committee has also allocated funds this year to initiate a research project on peace education and peace studies in New Zealand. Researchers have been appointed to investigate the extent and nature of peace education in New Zealand schools and peace studies in New Zealand institutions. They are also identifying existing resources and resource needs, and the scope for further development in this field. They will take into account New Zealand's specific needs and challenges, taking into account the global context.
