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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Objective information on military matters

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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SWEDEN

[Original: English]

[13 December 1989]

1. By adopting resolution 43/75 G, which commanded an overwhelming majority, the General Assembly expressed the belief that the adoption of confidence-building measures to promote openness and transparency would contribute to the prevention of misperceptions of military capabilities and intentions.
2. The General Assembly, furthermore, therein expressed the belief that balanced and objective information on all military matters, in particular of nuclear-weapon States and other militarily significant States, would contribute to the building of confidence among States. It deserves to be highlighted, therefore, that this resolution obtained favourable votes from all five nuclear-weapon States.
3. Pursuant to resolution 43/75 G the five nuclear-weapon States have taken on the responsibility to display openness and transparency in all areas of military activity, regardless of whether it takes place on land, in the air or at sea.
4. In the opinion of the Swedish Government there is an urgent need for more openness and transparency at sea, especially with regard to naval nuclear deployments. Sweden finds the secrecy surrounding the deployment of tactical nuclear weapons at sea particularly disturbing.
5. The resistance against greater transparency at sea, in particular with regard to nuclear deployments, runs counter to a general trend in the direction of greater openness and may even threaten to undermine the credibility in demands for openness in other spheres of military activity.
6. Today we see a growing realization of the need for openness and transparency in the world. In the General Assembly, the two major military Powers have declared that the fundamental idea behind the "Open Skies" proposal is confidence building and relieving of tensions through transparency. Another manifestation of this realization is the seminar on military doctrines that is to be held in Vienna within the framework of the CSCE negotiations. On a regional basis the process of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) has served as a source of openness and confidence.
7. Negotiations on confidence- and security-building measures and on conventional forces in Europe are now well under way in Vienna. In the negotiations, steps have been taken to include annual exchange of military information about land forces and land-based air forces.
8. Earlier in this process an agreement was reached to report naval activities with a functional relationship to land-based activities. In the view of the Swedish Government, this demonstrates that constructive measures are feasible also in the sphere of maritime activities.

9. The Swedish Government wishes to express its satisfaction that the subject of objective information on military matters has been introduced on the agenda of the United Nations Disarmament Commission. This certainly is an important step towards a meaningful dialogue in this field, that can give an impetus to further measures to enhance openness and security.

10. In earlier answers to the Secretary-General (incorporated in the reports A/38/368, A/39/436, A/41/466 and A/42/435) Sweden has already communicated various views on objective information on military matters and how to facilitate its availability, measures taken by Sweden to this end included. In addition, the Swedish Government now wishes to submit the above views for consideration by the Disarmament Commission.

11. Finally, Sweden takes this opportunity to express its hope that, in particular the nuclear-weapon States, all of which have voted in favour of resolution 43/75 G, will abide by its recommendation and begin to consistently display openness and transparency in all areas of military activity.
