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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS
ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION

United Nations studies on disarmament

Report of the Secretary-General

1. In paragraph 98 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly (resolution S-10/2), the Assembly stated that "at its thirty-third and subsequent sessions the General Assembly should determine the specific guidelines for carrying out studies, taking into account the proposals already submitted including those made by individual countries at the special session, as well as other proposals which can be introduced later in this field. In doing so, the Assembly would take into consideration a report on these matters prepared by the Secretary General." In paragraph 124 of the Final Document, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to set up an advisory board of eminent persons, selected on the basis of their personal expertise and taking into account the principle of equitable geographical representation, to advise him on various aspects of studies to be made under the auspices of the United Nations in the field of disarmament and arms limitation, including a programme of such studies.
2. At its thirty-third session the General Assembly had before it two reports of the Secretary-General on the subject of United Nations studies on disarmament (A/33/312 and Add.1).
3. This subject was examined by the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies during its two sessions in 1979, and the Secretary-General herewith submits for the attention of the General Assembly some considerations expressed by the Board during these sessions, as well as the recommendations made by the Board. 1/

1/ For the present composition of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies, see annex I to the present report.

4. The Board again discussed its tasks in respect of studies in the area of disarmament and arms limitation and confirmed the conclusions it had reached on this matter at its first session. 2/ The Board noted that, pursuant to paragraph 12⁴ of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session, it was expected to advise the Secretary-General on various aspects of studies to be made under the auspices of the United Nations in the field of disarmament and arms limitation. In doing so, the Board agreed that it could clarify the direction which particular studies might take and could give useful advice on the way studies should be carried out. In this way the Board might introduce an element of order and cohesion into the studies made under United Nations auspices.

5. The Board further confirmed that it could itself generate proposals to the Secretary-General for studies, although it was mindful of the constraints on the number of studies that could usefully be undertaken at the present time.

6. The Board agreed that the "comprehensive" nature of a programme of disarmament studies lay in its potential coverage of those topics which were found to deserve study. Such a programme should be an "integrated" programme, in the sense that the studies chosen should constitute the elements of a conceptually cohesive whole. Bearing in mind that a programme of disarmament studies should be related to a strategy for disarmament and to negotiations to implement that strategy, the Advisory Board, in considering the recommendations it would make for 1980 and following years, took note, in particular, of the report of the Committee on Disarmament on its 1979 session 3/ and the report of the Disarmament Commission containing the elements of a comprehensive programme of disarmament. 4/ In the light of the purposes of studies on disarmament which the Board had identified at its first session (A/33/312/Add.1, para. 3 (f)), the Board agreed that the coverage of a programme of studies might differ from the scope of a comprehensive programme of disarmament.

7. The Board recognized that the task of elaborating the comprehensive programme of disarmament studies must be a continuing process, conducted in the light of the elaboration of a comprehensive programme of disarmament. The Board was of the opinion that, while it should adopt an integrated approach to this task pending the elaboration of a comprehensive programme of disarmament, its recommendations could only cover some elements of a comprehensive programme of studies. Thus, topics would have to be selected on the basis of priorities.

8. The Board further agreed that, in drawing up an integrated programme of studies, it should take careful account of the studies that had already been carried out and those that were underway. It would then determine what needed to be done. The Board expressed the realization that, in determining what further studies were needed, particularly in the light of the purpose of assisting ongoing

2/ For the report of the Advisory Board on its first session, see A/33/312/Add.1.

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/34/27), vol. I.

4/ Ibid., Supplement No. 42 (A/34/42), sect. IV.

negotiations, it was neither necessary nor realistic to attempt to fill all gaps at once. Accordingly, the Board held that it should apply criteria for the selection of studies, as foreseen at the first session. It felt that among the selection criteria that could be followed were the importance of a given study for the United Nations, the urgency, the timeliness, the need to avoid unnecessary duplication, the financial means available and the question of whether the subject of the study could be effectively dealt with under United Nations auspices.

9. The Board agreed that once a selection had been made, guidelines for the implementation of the studies in question would have to be adopted. Several members remarked that such guidelines might suggest themselves once substantive areas of study had been identified. The Board noted that the concept "under the auspices of the United Nations" need not in all cases mean "by" the Organization itself, and in this connexion it was pointed out that the burden on the United Nations might be lightened by making appropriate use of the assistance of other bodies, both inside and outside the United Nations system, as envisaged in the Board's report on its previous session.

10. The Board was of the opinion that review conferences should be considered as one important source for disarmament studies. It endorsed the policy of having the United Nations Secretariat, the specialized agencies concerned, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other interested bodies, such as the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America, make the appropriate studies in preparation for such review conferences.

11. The Board expressed the opinion that, to the extent appropriate, studies on disarmament would have to include consideration of the related armaments aspects, including the dynamics of the arms race, as well as questions of national security and political, economic and social factors. It also noted that there was a need to consider the dynamics of technological innovations, with a view to identifying the points at which disarmament or arms control measures could be introduced. In addition, it would be necessary to look ahead at areas where no arms race existed but where one might eventually occur, so as to avoid it, and to attempt to identify those circumstances which must obtain before arms control agreements would become feasible.

12. In considering proposals for specific studies, the Board took note firstly of those studies already made by, or under the auspices of the United Nations (A/33/312, annex). The Board further took note of the current status of the following six studies underway:

- (a) Comprehensive study on nuclear weapons;
- (b) International reporting on military expenditures;
- (c) Relationship between disarmament and development;
- (d) Relationship between disarmament and international security;

- (e) Technical, legal and financial implications of establishing an international satellite monitoring agency;
- (f) All the aspects of regional disarmament.

13. The Advisory Board discussed a number of proposals for further studies to be made under the auspices of the United Nations. It had an extensive exchange of views on each of these, in particular on the proposal for a study on the basic facts of a nuclear test ban. This study was proposed in light of the fact that the cessation of nuclear weapon testing by all States was considered to be an item of the highest priority for the negotiating body, and because it was further thought that such a study could be of great assistance in the multilateral negotiations in the Committee on Disarmament. On the other hand the view was expressed that this subject had been adequately studied, that much of the relevant information was classified and would not be accessible for a United Nations study, and that the obstacle to the speedy conclusion of a comprehensive test ban was not the lack of knowledge but of political will to conclude such an agreement. It was also remarked that there was no need to convoke an expert panel for this purpose but that the work could be done by the United Nations Centre for Disarmament.

14. In conclusion, the Board agreed to recommend that a study should be made on the subject of a nuclear test ban which should consist of the following chapters: introduction; a brief background summary, analytical summary of the negotiations which have led to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water 5/ (partial test ban Treaty); the partial test ban Treaty and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; 6/ proceedings in the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament and the Committee on Disarmament; three-Power negotiations; major unresolved issues; and conclusions. There should be appendices on the present nuclear arsenals, nuclear weapons tests from 1945 to 1963 and nuclear weapons tests from 1965 to 1979. The study should be completed in time for its results to be submitted to the Committee on Disarmament at its 1980 session i.e., in the spring of 1980.

15. The Board identified a range of other subjects as relevant and interesting topics of study, which will be examined at its next session and which might form part of a programme of studies to be recommended to the Secretary-General, with an indication of the corresponding priorities. In order to permit members to give fuller consideration to these subjects and to give those members who raised them an opportunity to supply additional detail, where necessary, the Board agreed to take up at its next session, in the spring of 1980, the following topics as subjects of possible study:

5/ United Nations Treaty Series, vol. 480, No. 6964, p. 43.

6/ Ibid., vol. 729, p. 161.

(a) Cessation of the production of all types of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery, and of the production of fissionable material for weapons purposes;

(b) Consequences of the military uses of science and technology on the free access of States to science and technology for peaceful purposes;

(c) (i) Further prohibition of military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques, (ii) further measures in the field of disarmament to prevent an arms race on the sea-bed and the ocean floor and in the subsoil thereof, (iii) further measures to prevent an arms race in outer space.

(d) The Indian Ocean as a zone of peace (military presence in the Indian Ocean);

(e) Way in which each Government is organized to consider arms control and disarmament: focus on the internal domestic structures that support participation in international undertakings on disarmament.

The Board noted that at the session to be held in the spring of 1980 a proposal would also be submitted on the question of zones of peace and co-operation.

16. As he has stated on previous occasions, the Secretary-General considers the conclusion of an agreement on a comprehensive test ban as an indispensable step to halt the qualitative nuclear arms race. Although this matter has been the subject of much study in the past, the Secretary-General feels that any measures which may contribute to the conclusion of an agreement are welcome. The Secretary-General envisages that this study could be carried out in the United Nations Secretariat, with the help of four consultant experts, engaged for a period of approximately two months. The cost involved, including salaries and travel of the experts, would amount to approximately \$51,000.

17. The Secretary-General points out that these costs cannot be met from the regular budget of the United Nations and that, if the General Assembly were to share the view that it is desirable that such a study be made, it would have to take a decision to that effect, including the administrative and financial implications thereof.

ANNEX

Membership of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies
as at 15 October 1979

- Mr. Erich Bielka-Karltreu, Former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Austria
- Mr. Abdulla Yaccoub Bishara, Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations a/
- Mr. Frank Edmund Boateng, Ambassador of Ghana to Denmark
- Mr. Constantin Ene, Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations Office at Geneva; Representative of Romania to the Committee on Disarmament
- Mr. Alfonso García Robles, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the Committee on Disarmament
- Mr. John Garnett, Senior Lecturer in Strategic Studies, Department of International Politics, University of Aberystwyth, Wales, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- Mr. Enrique Gaviria-Liévano, Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations Office at Geneva.
- Mr. Ignac Golob, Assistant Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Yugoslavia
- Mr. A. C. S. Hameed, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka
- Mr. John W. Holmes, Director of Research, Canadian Institute of International Affairs b/
- Mr. William E. Jackson, Jr., Executive Director of the General Advisory Committee on Arms Control and Disarmament, Washington, D.C.
- Mr. Hussein Khalaf, Professor at the University of Cairo, Former Minister and Ambassador of Egypt b/
- Mr. Akira Matsui, Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
- Mr. Kasuka S. Mutukwa, Deputy Permanent Representative of Zambia to the United Nations

a/ Unable to attend the second and third sessions.

b/ Unable to attend the third session.

Mr. Carlos Ortiz de Rozas, Adviser to the Foreign Minister of Argentina and
Chairman of the Delegation to the Committee on Disarmament

Mr. José Luis Pérez, Division for International Organizations, Ministry of
Foreign Affairs of Cuba b/

Mr. Radha Krishna Ramphul, Permanent Representative of Mauritius to the
United Nations

Mr. Klaus Ritter, Director, Foundation of Science and Politics, Ebenhausen,
Federal Republic of Germany

Mr. Alejandro Rovira, Former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Uruguay

Mr. Agha Shahi, Adviser on Foreign Affairs for Pakistan

Mr. Vladimir Shustov, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet
Socialist Republics to the United Nations

Mr. Pierre-Christian Taittinger, Senator and Former Minister of the Republic of
France

Mr. Oscar Vaernø, Director General for Planning and Research, Ministry of
Foreign Affairs of Norway

Mr. Milous Vejvoda, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Czechoslovakia

Mr. M. A. Vellodi, Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs of India

Mr. Piero Vinci, Ambassador of Italy, Rome

Mr. Eugeniusz Wyzner, Director, Department of International Organizations,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland

Mr. Alejandro D. Yango, Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the
United Nations

Mr. Alexander Yankov, Deputy Foreign Minister of Bulgaria and Permanent
Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations
