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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Institutional arrangements relating to the process of disarmament

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary General has the honour to transmit to the members of the General Assembly the report of the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research in accordance with General Assembly resolution 37/99 K, section IV, of 13 December 1982.

ANNEX

Report of the Director of the United Nations Institute
for Disarmament Research

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, by its resolution 37/99 K, section IV, of 13 December 1982, invited the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session on the implementation of that resolution and on the activities carried out by the Institute.

2. The following operative paragraphs of the resolution are relevant to the present report:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"3. Decides that:

"(a) The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research shall:

(i) Function as an autonomous institution working in close relationship with the Department for Disarmament Affairs;

(ii) Be organized in a manner to ensure participation on an equitable political and geographical basis;

(iii) Continue to undertake independent research on disarmament and related security issues;

(iv) Duly take into account the recommendations of the General Assembly;

"(b) The Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies shall function as the Board of Trustees of the Institute;

"(c) The headquarters of the Institute shall be at Geneva;

"(d) Activities of the Institute shall be funded by voluntary contributions from States and public and private organizations;

"4. Invites Governments to consider making contributions to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to give administrative and other support to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research;

"6. Requests the Board of Trustees to draft the statute of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research on the basis of the present mandate of the Institute to be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session."

3. The present report is submitted in pursuance of the above-mentioned resolution.

/...

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 37/99 K, SECTION IV

4. The new status of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research became effective on 1 January 1983 and an information circular to that effect was issued by the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management (ST/IC/83/9).

5. The Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies met as Board of Trustees of the Institute at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 6 to 13 September 1983 with the following agenda:

1. Report of the Director on the work of the Institute;
2. Draft statute of UNIDIR;
3. Research programme for 1984-1985;
4. Principles and policies governing the activities and operations of the Institute;
5. Financing of UNIDIR activities.

6. An account of the activities of the Board of Trustees at its first session, including the decisions and recommendations adopted is contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Advisory Board (A/38/467, sect. III).

7. The following countries responded to the invitation of the General Assembly and made contributions to UNIDIR: Australia, Canada, France and Norway.

8. The funds of the Institute are kept in a special account established by the Secretary-General in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations. The Controller of the United Nations performs all necessary financial and accounting functions for the Institute, including the custody of its funds, and prepares and certifies the annual accounts of the Institute. The Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and the financial policies established by the Secretary-General apply to the financial operations of the Institute. Funds of the Institute are subject to audit by the United Nations Board of Auditors.

9. The Board of Trustees, at its first session also adopted the text of the draft Statute of the Institute contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies (A/38/467, sect. III), submitted to the General Assembly under items 50 (j), 62 (j) (iii) and 63 (g).

III. REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INSTITUTE

10. The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) was established on 1 October 1980, within the administrative framework of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) as an interim arrangement until the twelfth special session of the General Assembly, the second special session devoted

to disarmament (see Assembly resolutions 33/71 K of 14 December 1978, 34/83 M of 11 December 1979 and 35/152 H of 12 December 1980).

11. A 17-member Advisory Council was set up in 1981 with the mandate to: "(a) assist the Board of Trustees of UNITAR in ensuring progress towards the achievements of the objectives of the Institute for Disarmament Research, taking into account the goals laid down in General Assembly resolutions 33/71 K and 34/83 M and noting the recommendations submitted by the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies; (b) assist in identifying research priorities and in the planning and operating of the Institute for Disarmament Research; and (c) advise on possibilities for fund-raising".

12. The Advisory Council comprised: five members of the Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies; four members of the UNITAR Board of Trustees; three specialists designated by the Executive Director of UNITAR in consultation with the Secretary-General; and as ex officio members: the Chairman of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies; the Chairman of the UNITAR Board of Trustees; the Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations Centre for Disarmament; the Chairman of the Disarmament Commission; and the Chairman or the representative of the Committee on Disarmament.

13. The Advisory Council of UNIDIR met at United Nations Headquarters in New York for its first session on 5 May 1981 and for its second session on 29 September 1981. It adopted the following research programme, which was subsequently approved by the Board of Trustees of UNITAR:

- (a) Repertory of Disarmament Research;
- (b) Preliminary study on the establishment of a disarmament data base;
- (c) Prevention of accidental nuclear war;
- (d) Security of States and the lowering of the levels of armaments;
- (e) Disarmament;
- (f) Negotiating disarmament;
- (g) Science and technology for disarmament;
- (h) The convening of a conference of research institutes on disarmament;
- (i) Establishment of a disarmament fund for development.

14. The Council furthermore expressed the hope that most of the approved research projects would be completed before the convening of the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. It also considered that a long-term research programme should be adopted only after the second special session so that it would be possible to take the results of that session into account and, in

particular, the provisions of the comprehensive programme for disarmament which the session was expected to adopt.

15. The Advisory Council could not meet in 1982 as the mandate of the members of the Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies expired on 31 December 1981.

16. At both its 1981 sessions, the Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies considered the questions of the work programme of UNIDIR and its methods of work. At both sessions the Director of the Institute made presentations and answered questions.

17. At its 1981 session, the Board of Trustees of UNITAR also examined the questions related to the activities and functioning of UNIDIR on the basis of the documents submitted by the Director of UNIDIR. The Board of Trustees of UNITAR endorsed the research programme and the methods of work approved by the Council.

18. At its session in September 1982, the Board of Trustees of UNITAR took note of a report by the Director on the activities of UNIDIR.

A. Organization and methods of work

19. Within the approved research programme, the Institute itself hires the services of, or develops co-operation with, individual experts or research organizations for the implementation of the programme. It approaches those whom it considers qualified to be engaged in the respective research projects, determines the framework of the research and subsequently reviews it in view of its finalization by the author, publication and dissemination. The independence of the Institute in implementing its work programme is thus assured. Proposals of co-operation coming from outside have been and are carefully considered.

20. Besides a very small - mostly administrative - staff, UNIDIR relies heavily on project-related short-term contracts in the implementation of its research programme. This system of recruitment, which is geared to the research programme and designed on a project basis, permits recourse to and utilization of reputable expertise available both inside and outside the United Nations system. This method has also contributed to the efforts of UNIDIR to expand its relations and contacts with other institutes and individual experts from all over the world. Full use has been made of existing United Nations services.

21. In the light of the objectives of the Institute and its mandate, the following research units have been established: (a) General and complete disarmament; (b) Nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction; (c) Conventional weapons; (d) Operation of disarmament agreements; verification; (e) Military expenditures; disarmament and development; (f) Disarmament machinery; (g) Disarmament data base; and (h) External relations, publications and administration.

22. The research papers produced by UNIDIR are intended for publication and wide dissemination. All such papers are first reviewed and critically examined by the

staff of the Institute and other invited experts. The author of the paper will then take into account the views and suggestions expressed during this review and finalize the paper for publication. In the preface of each UNIDIR publication the procedure followed in the elaboration and finalization of the study is stated to make it understood that, although conducted within the research programme of UNIDIR and on its initiative, the content of the study is the responsibility of the author. Nevertheless, without taking a position on the views expressed by the authors of its studies, UNIDIR assumes responsibility for determining whether a study merits publication and dissemination.

B. Relations with organizations of the United Nations system

23. UNIDIR has developed close relations with other organs and organizations of the United Nations system interested in disarmament. The Director of UNIDIR has worked in constant and close contact with the Executive Director and the staff of UNITAR within the framework of which UNIDIR functioned as an autonomous institute. Good working relations were maintained with the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs and the staff of the Department. A working session was held with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and constant contact was maintained with UNESCO staff on projects of common interest. Co-operation has also been developed with the International Atomic Energy Agency, the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations University. UNIDIR has participated in the Inter-Agency Ad Hoc Group on Disarmament, in the Joint United Nations Information Committee (JUNIC) session dealing with preparations for the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament as well as in meetings of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) that were of relevance to the work of the Institute.

24. Very fruitful working relations have been established with the Assistant Secretary-General, Secretary of the Committee on Disarmament and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General. The Director of UNIDIR addressed the Committee on Disarmament on 27 February 1981, informing the members of that body of the objectives of the Institute and its research programme. Contacts have been maintained with delegations to the Committee on Disarmament.

C. Relations with non-governmental organizations and the media

25. The staff of the Institute and researchers participating in the UNIDIR programme have addressed conferences of non-governmental organizations, academic audiences and representatives of the mass media on subjects within the Institute's purview. A number of press conferences and individual interviews were given in Geneva, New York and other cities.

26. Press releases were issued on various activities of the Institute and on the results of the research carried out.

27. For the use of non-governmental organizations and the mass media, several special materials have been prepared (summaries of studies and guides to sources),

which were viewed as contributions of UNIDIR to the World Disarmament Campaign launched by the United Nations. Two publications of UNIDIR, the Repertory of Disarmament Research 1/ and Risks of Unintentional Nuclear War, 2/ have been widely distributed to non-governmental organizations and the media, as they contain basic reference material on subjects of interest to them.

D. Implementation of the research programme

1. Repertory of Disarmament Research

28. The aim of UNIDIR in preparing the Repertory was to make available to all those who have responsibilities in the disarmament field or are interested in it - diplomats, officials, academics, journalists, members of non-governmental organizations, students - a reference work of great scientific merit, which should at the same time be a practical working tool.

29. Two main concerns lay behind the compilation of the Repertory. The first was that disarmament problems should be dealt with in their totality. This meant that the sphere of investigation must be as broad as possible. It was therefore decided to include in the concept of disarmament questions relating to demilitarization and the limitation, reduction, regulation and control of arms, and to take account of all data relevant to peace and war, the arms race and security. The second concern was that the sources of information should be as varied as possible, and efforts were therefore made to collect, with respect to official documentation, scientific research and research institutes, a representative body of references from all corners of the globe.

30. The choice of the period to be covered by the Repertory was a difficult one, the desiderata in that respect being mutually contradictory. In order to give an adequate representation of research in the matter of disarmament, it was necessary to choose a period of some length. But that entailed the risk of making the Repertory too bulky or else extremely selective. The period eventually selected, that of the first Disarmament Decade - 1970-1980 - represents a compromise between these contradictory requirements. For the period prior to 1970, several comprehensive bibliographies exist, many of them being referred to in the Repertory.

31. The Repertory is divided into three main parts:

- I. Research materials
- II. Documents and studies
- III. Research institutes.

32. The first part covers works of reference - bibliographies, guides to research and the principal yearbooks, periodicals and collections.

33. The second part, which is the longest, includes official documents and studies of a scientific nature. The documents section comprises agreements, conventions, treaties and other international instruments relating to disarmament, the principal General Assembly resolutions, reports of the First Committee, the Disarmament

Commission, the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, the Committee on Disarmament and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and documents of conferences of non-aligned countries, of military alliances and of States. The Studies section lists the principal books, articles, reports and theses. The usual methods of compiling bibliographies - consulting specialized bibliographies and book catalogues, and examining periodicals - were supplemented by a questionnaire addressed to institutes concerned with disarmament problems, or more broadly, with security matters.

34. The documents and studies are arranged under headings which correspond to the topics of discussions and negotiations in the main United Nations disarmament bodies, as well as to the subjects of current research. Cross-references between sections are given in order to avoid repetition. Within each section or subsection, documents and studies are listed by year and then in alphabetical order of authors' names. Where the number of references under any one year is small, several years have been grouped together, or else the arrangement by year has been dropped altogether in favour of the list in alphabetical order. A recapitulation of events prior to the period under consideration and indications relevant to research appear at the beginning of most of the sections.

35. The third part of the Repertory includes a list of research institutes and centres. The institutes and centres mentioned are those that replied to the questionnaire sent out by UNIDIR and those reported by permanent missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva. The questionnaire sent out by UNIDIR included questions relating to the structure of the institutes as well as questions on their research and teaching activities, the holding of symposia, their publications, etc. The information included in the Repertory was, in all cases, supplied by the institutes themselves or by the permanent missions.

36. Institutes are divided into two categories:

- (a) International institutes, listed in alphabetical order;
- (b) National institutes, listed by country and in alphabetical order.

37. An index of authors is provided to facilitate the use of the Repertory.

38. The Repertory of Disarmament Research is the first publication of UNIDIR. It is the outcome of a team effort by Professor Jean-Pierre Cot, assisted by Dominique Raymond (Centre d'études et des recherches sur le désarmement (CERDE), Paris); Professor Jean-François Guilhaudis, assisted by Gasshan El Jundi (Centre d'études de défense et de sécurité internationale (CEDSI), Paris); and Chantal de Jonge Oudraat (UNIDIR). The United Nations Library at Geneva offered valuable co-operation. The manuscript was submitted to several experts whose comments were taken into account and served to help rectify, as far as possible, the errors and omissions inevitable in a publication of this kind. The Publishing House of the Academy of the Socialist Republic of Romania made a substantial contribution during the final stage of the drafting and also printed the Repertory.

39. The Repertory is available as a United Nations sales publication 1/ in French and English and was distributed to delegations at the second special session of the

General Assembly devoted to disarmament and to members of the Committee on Disarmament.

40. The Repertory of Disarmament Research is being updated, in co-operation with the University of Grenoble, France, and with the United Nations Library at Geneva, to include material up to 1983.

2. Study on the establishment of a disarmament data base

41. The General Assembly of the United Nations, as well as many other international organizations and conferences, has recognized that, because of the universal nature of concerns relating to disarmament, the dissemination of information on the arms race and on the efforts being made in the disarmament field is of great importance to the disarmament effort itself.

42. In establishing UNIDIR, the General Assembly stressed the need of the international community to be provided with more diversified and complete information on problems relating to disarmament.

43. Up to now, no specialized body has existed where all information pertaining to the arms race and disarmament was collected systematically and made readily accessible to all interested persons. Although there are several data bases containing some material on these subjects, the information available is inadequate both in quantity and in quality. The expansion of disarmament efforts, the need to make world public opinion alive to this cause and the necessity of ensuring access to the fullest possible information on the arms race and disarmament, call for a system based on modern technology and capable of collecting, processing and disseminating information on these matters.

44. The study on the establishment of a disarmament data base contains two parts. The first indicates what the principal attributes of a disarmament data base should be, draws attention to the main difficulties and options and sketches out solutions. It seeks to cover all aspects of the notification of such a data base, rather than to propose detailed technical solutions to a particular difficulty. The time for such proposals will come when the decision to establish the base has been taken and its main features have been defined. The second part aims at showing how the 10 data bases chosen for testing purposes may be of use to persons particularly concerned with disarmament.

45. The proposed data base would contain the following elements:

(a) Documents

- (1) International documents: international agreements; resolutions, reports of committees and commissions and positions adopted by States at debates of the United Nations and other organizations; intergovernmental conferences; documents of conferences of non-aligned countries; documents of military alliances

(ii) National documents: laws, reports, parliamentary debates

(b) Studies: books, bibliographies, articles from periodicals, theses; memoranda; reports

(c) Statistics: This would take the form of a bank of the available data on armed forces, armaments, military expenditure contained in official sources. The estimations contained in unofficial sources (for example, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)) could be included in the "Studies" file

(d) Institutions: teaching and research institutes, but also specialized administrations, international institutions, associations, etc.

(e) Specialists

(f) Research in progress: contracts, theses, books, articles, etc.

(g) Meetings and symposia

(h) Periodicals

(i) Publishers

46. The base could work on conversational or batch-processing modes. On the other hand, a number of printed products would be available. For the documents and studies, a quarterly bulletin, a recapitulative annual and standard profiles on topical questions would be available, and for the other categories of data, an annual publication.

47. The data base is intended for the use of diplomats and other officials, academics, journalists, members of non-governmental organizations, students and interested members of the public. The base could also be used within the training and documentation programmes on disarmament.

48. During the entire period of the preparation of the preliminary study on the base, ^{2/} UNIDIR maintained close contact with the Inter-Organization Board for Information Systems, the United Nations Centre for Disarmament, the United Nations Library at Geneva, UNESCO and other organizations and the regional commissions of the United Nations system. In fact, the establishment and functioning of the data base are envisaged as a joint effort, with the participation of users, particularly the institutes and research centres from various parts of the world.

49. The disarmament data base would not duplicate or overlap with any of the existing documentary systems. On the contrary, it will use the work already done by the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs (indexation of records of the General Assembly - Plenary and First Committee - and the Committee on Disarmament) and by UNESCO in its field of competence.

50. The study was submitted to the Conference of Directors of Research Institutes convened by UNIDIR and held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva in November 1981 (see para. 86). Participants at the Conference unanimously supported the proposal to establish a data base, but some cautioned about the difficulties inherent in such an enterprise. This reaction of participants at the Conference encouraged UNIDIR to continue its work in this field.

51. This study has been prepared by Professor Jean-François Guilhaudis, Director of the Centre d'études de défense et sécurité internationale, Faculté de droit, Université des Sciences sociales, Grenoble, with the assistance of Anne Claudel, Jacques Fontanel and Françoise Renzetti of the same University.

52. The study was circulated to delegations at the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament and to members of the Committee on Disarmament.

53. By the establishment of the proposed data base, it is envisaged that modern technology will be used for collection, retrieval, compilation and dissemination of existing information on disarmament - information that is already publicly available in various forms but scattered throughout many publications. The proposed data base on disarmament could be established in stages. It is, however, to be understood that this is a major operation involving important human and material resources.

3. Risks of Unintentional Nuclear War 3/

54. The current arms race gives rise to nightmares of nuclear war breaking out even though no Government may want such a war or plan deliberately to unleash one. There is a growing concern that nuclear accidents and incidents or fatal mistakes or misunderstandings under conditions of crisis might trigger a nuclear holocaust. This UNIDIR study tries to answer the question of how to assess the risks involved by providing a broad view of the widely dispersed and heterogeneous literature relevant to this subject.

55. The analysis is based primarily on a critical evaluation of the literature available; so far about 500 titles can be identified. The knowledge gathered from the literature was supplemented by information collected in the course of consultations held with government agencies and academic institutes in both Moscow and Washington, D.C.

56. Examining all information available, the authors conclude that, while there may be only minor danger of technical malfunctions or accidents, serious risks are involved in the tendency towards strategic instability. Such instability, when coupled with an acute international crisis, constitutes a danger because misunderstandings, misinterpretations and other mistakes may occur in the process of decision-making, with a triggering effect.

57. The study, which discusses North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and Warsaw Pact positions in detail, deals with the arms race and strategic stability;

doctrinal developments and strategic stability; the failure of deterrence; international crises as catalytic triggers; nuclear accidents and incidents; effects of nuclear proliferation; and existing agreements to counter the risk of unintentional nuclear war.

58. "The risk of unstable deterrence, which constitutes the very essence of strategic or crisis instability, is currently being aggravated and multiplied by a series of strategic developments at both the global and regional levels," the authors declare. "Doubts regarding the credibility of deterrence postures are increasing for a multitude of reasons, and this is conducive to miscalculation or inability to prevent miscalculation by the opponent." While credibility is sufficient to stave off any failure of deterrence at present, the situation of relative stability "is not safe for an indefinite future".

59. In a crisis "decision-makers suffer from stress, which causes a number of cognitive and behavioural maladaptations ... These maladaptations greatly enhance the risk of decisions not being made correctly and rationally, thus leading to nuclear war by miscalculation. Similar maladaptations may occur due to organizational problems of decision-making units: contraction of the decision-making group, information overflow, 'group think,' internal dissension and inflexible standard operating procedures" may result, according to the authors, in poor-quality decisions in a crisis.

60. A number of proposals are put forward to reduce the risks, such as: prior notification or restrictions on missile tests; prohibition of anti-satellite weapons; moderation of the "secrecy principle"; possible agreements limiting development of weapons designed for use against command, control and communications systems; possible new procedures for verification of arms agreements; a "code of conduct" for major Powers concerning their commitments and actions in third-world regions, and agreements on limiting arms transfers.

61. The study was prepared by Professor Daniel Frei with the collaboration of Christian Catrina, both of the University of Zurich.

62. The study is available as a United Nations sales publication. ^{3/} It was distributed to delegations to the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament and to members of the Committee on Disarmament.

4. Security of States and the lowering of the levels of armaments

63. This is a continuous project, the objective of which is to analyse the currently prevailing security concepts and doctrines. The selection of case studies aims at giving a representative picture of the different situations in which various countries are:

- (a) Major nuclear-weapon States;
- (b) Medium nuclear-weapon States;

- (c) Small and medium-sized countries:
 - (i) Members of military alliances;
 - (ii) Non-aligned countries;
 - (iii) Neutral countries;
- (d) Regional approaches;
- (e) Zones of peace, denuclearization.

54. Within this project a number of papers have already been completed:

- (a) "A Perspective from the United States of America" by James A. Dougherty;
- (b) "The Policy of a Medium-sized Nuclear Weapon State: France" by Pierre Dabezies;
- (c) "National Security and a Lower Level of Military Forces" by Tan Han;
- (d) Security of small and medium-sized European States:
 - (i) Belgium, by Col. René Schalbroeck,
 - (ii) Romania, by Constantin Vlad,
 - (iii) Yugoslavia, by Vojin Dimitrijevic;
- (e) "Africa, its Security and the Nuclear Option" by G. Aforika Nweke;
- (f) "Security Doctrines in Central Africa" by Joseph Owona and Antoine Zanga;
- (g) "The Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Latin America" by Gros Espiell;
- (h) "The Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace" by K. Subrahmanyam.

55. A meeting of authors and other invited guests took place from 15 to 17 March 1982 at the Palais des Nations at Geneva for a critical examination of these contributions. It was agreed that in the light of the discussions that took place at that meeting, authors would finalize their papers and submit them to UNIDIR. Several of these papers were circulated in mimeographed form to delegations at the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

56. Three new case studies are currently under preparation on Austrian, Egyptian and Swiss security policies.

5. Disarmament

67. This project was envisaged originally as a general analysis of the field of disarmament, defining it in the general context of international relations, presenting its goals, principles and institutions, as well as the efforts to reach its objectives, including national international machinery for disarmament. The discussions within the Institute on the first draft indicated the need for more conceptualization and it was decided to continue work on the subject. Nevertheless, part of the draft, dealing with national machinery for disarmament, was circulated to delegations at the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

68. Besides UNIDIR staff, the following experts participated in the work on this project: Anders Boserup, Nicolae Ecobescu, Jean Klein and Volker Rittberger.

6. Negotiating disarmament

69. This is a comparative analysis of various multilateral negotiations on global issues, with the aim of suggesting possible ways and means of improving disarmament negotiations. Besides the disarmament negotiating forums, the study includes the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, negotiations on North/South issues and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

70. Among the topics analysed, the following could be mentioned: the criteria to assess the degree of success; the continuous character of negotiations; their relative openness; the importance of groups; the inequality among countries and its consequences on negotiations; the importance of outside bodies; the influence of bilateral work; the rules of procedure; the speed of reaching agreement, etc.

71. The preliminary conclusions reached in the study indicate, inter alia, that:

(a) Successful negotiations tend to be linked to a high degree of institutional support. An efficient administrative structure and access to technical expertise facilitate the entire negotiating process.

(b) Regular and continuous meetings tend to give momentum to negotiations and contribute to a successful conclusion.

(c) Contexts and mechanisms that favour cross-cutting cleavages and linkages between different topics and issues tend to enhance progress towards agreement.

(d) A certain autonomy from major cleavages in the international system or outside influence seems to be a desirable feature of negotiations. This latter condition is obviously quite difficult to realize in practice for issues that are very close to major international conflicts.

72. The study, which is being prepared by Urs. Luterbacher and Dee Ann Caflisch was completed in a first version and circulated to delegations to the second

special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament as well as well as to academics for their comments. It will be finalized, taking into account the outcome of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea and the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

7. First Conference of Directors of Research Institutes
on Disarmament

73. The Conference of Directors of Research Institutes on Disarmament was held, at the initiative of UNIDIR, from 16 to 18 November 1981, at the Palais des Nations at Geneva.

74. In convening the Conference, the objective was to strengthen international co-operation in the field of disarmament research, to find ways and means to make better use of the material and intellectual resources available, to avoid unnecessary parallelism and duplication and to strengthen the impact of research on governmental policies, as well as on deliberations and negotiations in the field of disarmament.

75. Participants in the Conference included more than 50 representatives of research institutes from all over the world, some 15 organizations from within the United Nations system as well as a number of members of the disarmament diplomatic community in Geneva and non-governmental organizations as observers. The Conference was representative both as to orientation of research and the geographical location of institutes.

76. The Conference was opened by the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, who read a message addressed to the participants by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Jean-Pierre Cot, Minister for Co-operation and Development of France honoured the conference by his presence and addressed the participants.

77. The agenda included four substantive topics, namely:

- (a) Review of current disarmament research activities and programmes;
- (b) Sources of information about armaments and disarmament; measures to facilitate the access to sources;
- (c) Strengthening co-operation among disarmament research institutes;
- (d) Contribution of disarmament research institutes to the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

78. All the participants welcomed this first Conference of Directors of Research Institutes and underlined the timely initiative of UNIDIR. It was stressed that the world-wide participation characterizing the Conference was a unique feature and should be retained not only in future conferences but in all the work of UNIDIR. That would counteract the current tendency for one-way communication, whereby

concepts and perspectives on disarmament, security and related issues, which were developed in and relevant for only a small group of leading military powers were being applied uncritically throughout the world.

79. There was general recognition of the crucial importance of promoting autonomous disarmament research in developing countries as a necessary step for obtaining more valid perspectives on the issues concerned. The presence at the Conference of research institutes from those countries was thus indeed considered as very encouraging.

80. A consensus existed among the participants that such conferences should be convened regularly by UNIDIR. Periodic conferences would allow personal contacts and a continuous basis for co-operation among the institutes - which would be of particular importance for smaller institutes without sufficient means for bilateral exchanges. In that respect, many participants pointed out that financial means had to be found to support participation in conferences.

81. It was also suggested that, in the context of future conferences, an exchange of ideas and information with officials from deliberation and negotiation bodies could take place, so as to ensure better co-ordination and mutual inspiration between researchers and the relevant political bodies.

82. As regards substance and approach, the point most persistently stressed was the need to consider disarmament problems in the context of security in all its aspects. It was agreed that the key to disarmament resides in finding approaches that could reconcile the quest for global and regional security through disarmament with the legitimate and primordial concern of States for their immediate security. But, on the other hand, it was clear that as soon as one went beyond the global issue of nuclear disarmament, concepts of security assumed a very different character in different parts of the world. Approaches to disarmament would have to take that into account. Security was not everywhere considered primarily in terms of a balance of weapons and military forces. The impact of over-armament on development and the impact of the involvement of external powers on the dynamics of regional conflict and regional security (internal and external) were cited as examples of research relevant to disarmament. Others envisaging security and disarmament more in terms of controls on, and reduction of armaments and of current negotiations needs in Europe, stressed the importance of studying criteria and means for comparing forces and military capabilities and the problems of verification. Many pointed to the need for disarmament research to draw more extensively on military expertise.

83. The disarmament/development nexus was also repeatedly mentioned as an essential subject of study. For a thorough understanding of the issue, one would have to dig deeper than the questions of conversion and resource transfer. It was the total social and political impact of militarization in the countries concerned and the impact of the arms race on global economic development and on the new international economic order that would have to be considered.

84. Consequently, many called for strengthening the social science and political science perspective in disarmament research. Some also felt that to address the

problem of disarmament in a meaningful way, conducive to genuine progress, it would be important to get a better understanding of the factors and processes purporting to the arms race and, with it, of the fundamental impediments to disarmament. Others stressed the need for concrete studies relating to regional security and to the reduction of sources of tension and conflict as important elements in the context of regional disarmament.

85. In more general terms, many urged the orientation of research towards practical achievements and relating to issues under consideration in negotiating and deliberating organs. It was equally felt that future conferences should have a more focused agenda, which could help concentrate research efforts in this respect.

86. All the participants agreed that a focal point should exist for collection and dissemination of information of interest to research institutes, including research projects, significant developments in the field - thus of interest for the orientation of their future research programmes - as well as a calendar of conferences within and outside the United Nations. In consequence, the establishment of a disarmament data base was very enthusiastically supported. On the basis of the preliminary study, "The establishment of an automated disarmament data base", prepared by UNIDIR and submitted to the conference, very detailed discussion on this matter developed. Participants were of the opinion that such a centralized source of information was essential if one really wanted to strengthen and promote research in that field. It was furthermore felt that the study was an excellent guideline and point of departure as to the services such a base should provide. Some, however, cautioned about the difficulties in obtaining official information to be included in the statistical file of the base. Several participants made concrete proposals for collaboration in setting up and running the base.

87. In the context of the agenda item concerning the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (see para. 77 (d)), more general remarks concerning the role of the United Nations and UNIDIR were made. Many felt that the existing approaches to disarmament research within the United Nations (in particular, the practice of establishing groups of experts) needed to be supplemented by less expensive approaches, able to cope with a greater volume of research. Better use of UNIDIR and of the institutes such as those represented would be possible ways of doing this. In order to facilitate use of existing expertise by United Nations organs, it was suggested that UNIDIR could maintain a roster of organizations and/or individuals, which could be called upon for expert studies and other possible roles.

88. The hope was also expressed that the second special session would be an opportunity to have Governments commit themselves to a much greater effort in the field of disarmament research. Many voiced the opinion that a central function of such special sessions was to strengthen the machinery and review the approaches. The strengthening of the relationship between research and negotiations was an important aspect of those two tasks.

89. The role of public opinion was also recognized on numerous occasions. It was pointed out that co-ordination among institutes, foundations, associations, and

other bodies, could facilitate dissemination of research results to wider audiences. Participants were convinced that, if one essential function of disarmament research was to provide facts, insight and options for negotiating and deliberating bodies, another, no less important, function was to contribute to an enlightened public opinion, conveying a realistic understanding of the urgency of disarmament, of the possibility of disarmament given the political will, and also of the real difficulties which were encountered. Research and analysis, the actions of States and an enlightened and committed public opinion were all of them essential if disarmament was to progress.

90. In the opinion of both the organizers and the participants, the Conference was a success. A basis for further contacts and co-operation was established, and has in some cases already borne fruit, but will in any case be followed up and developed.

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91. Of all the projects included in the research programme approved by the Advisory Council in 1981 (see para. 13 above), only one - Science and technology for disarmament - could not be fully implemented. The project on the establishment of an international disarmament fund for development was undertaken only after the adoption of General Assembly resolution 37/84 of 9 December 1982 on the relationship between disarmament and development (see para. 94 below).

E. Current activities

92. The new status of the Institute, as provided for in General Assembly resolution 37/99 K, section IV, became effective on 1 January 1983.

93. The projects mentioned below were initiated by the Director within the general framework of the research programme approved in 1981 and in the light of the discussions that took place at both the Advisory Council and the Board of Trustees of UNITAR.

1. Establishment of an international disarmament fund for development

94. The General Assembly, by resolution 37/84 of 9 December 1982, gave UNIDIR a mandate to carry out specific work in the field of the relationship between disarmament and development. The mandate is as follows:

"The General Assembly ...

"4. Recommends that an investigation - with due regard to the capabilities of existing agencies and institutions currently responsible for the international transfer of resources - of the modalities of an international disarmament fund for development should be undertaken by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, in consultation with other relevant international institutions."

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95. For the implementation of the mandate given to it, UNIDIR established a steering group to orient the research, which is composed of the following: Mr. Mansur Ahmad (Pakistan), Mr. Gheorghe Dolgu (Romania), Mr. Sergio de Queiroz Duarte (Brazil), Mr. Edgar Faure (France), Mr. Sten Lundbo (Norway) and Mr. Ibrahim Sy (Senegal).

96. The first session of the steering group, chaired by Mr. Edgar Faure, was held on 21 and 22 June 1983 at the Palais des Nations, Geneva. The meeting was also attended by Mr. Rikhi Jaipal, Assistant Secretary-General, Secretary of the Committee on Disarmament and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Committee on Disarmament; Mr. Albert Tévoédjrè, Director of the International Institute for Labour Studies; members of the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs and others who had been invited to attend.

97. The following general orientation was agreed upon to guide researchers:

(a) The report of UNIDIR will be based on the general principles of the report of the United Nations Secretary-General on the relationship between disarmament and development, and will pursue further the analyses and proposals contained in it. It will also take into account the suggestions made during the meeting of the steering group;

(b) The establishment of an international disarmament fund for development (IDFD) should be the expression of a political commitment to disarmament and should not be used to legitimize the arms race;

(c) The objective of the Fund should be to promote security through disarmament and through development;

(d) The establishment of an international disarmament fund for development should develop the link between disarmament and development at the political and institutional levels.

(e) The setting-up of an international disarmament fund for development should serve to increase the awareness of the international community as a whole of the importance of the link between disarmament and development, for it will be in the interests both of the developed countries and of the developing countries;

(f) The study ought to be sufficiently concrete to elicit, as speedily as possible, political initiatives on the part of Governments and within the framework of the United Nations.

98. Four separate but interrelated studies will be undertaken:

(a) Modalities for the establishment of an international disarmament fund for development - by Marek Thee;

(b) Institutional, technical and political aspects of an international disarmament fund for development - by Finn Sollie;

- (c) How the international disarmament fund for development should be organized: the advantages of the regional approach - by Hugo Sada;
- (d) The relationship between the conversion of military activities to civilian activities and the international disarmament fund for development - by Jacques Fontanel and Daniel Colard.

99. The steering group will meet twice in the first half of 1984, on dates to be agreed upon.

100. It should further be noted that at the meeting of the ACC Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Programme Matters), held from 10 to 14 March 1983, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system were invited to co-operate in the carrying out of this investigation.

101. The UNIDIR study will be completed by June 1984 and will be submitted to the General Assembly.

2. International law of disarmament

102. Disarmament deliberations and negotiations frequently raise complex legal issues. This is the case, for example, in the interpretation of various treaties or the incidence of customary norms of international law on nuclear weapons. These questions are the subject of a large number of articles and studies, many of them mentioned already in the Repertory of Disarmament Research published by UNIDIR. Nevertheless, there is not so far a doctrinal work to deal with these issues in a comprehensive manner.

103. The UNIDIR project aims at producing a treatise on the law of disarmament, which would represent a reference work of scientific merit and a practical working tool meant for all those who have responsibilities in the field of disarmament or are interested in it, such as government officials, academics, journalists and students. It will analyse not only positive law but will also give a presentation of theses and arguments brought into the controversial issues relating to the international law of disarmament. The study will focus mainly on the provisions of existing treaties relating to disarmament and it will also examine aspects relating to the humanitarian law and other sources of law that might be relevant.

104. There will be five parts. The first will place the law of disarmament in the general framework of international law and will define disarmament in relation to other concepts such as sovereignty, security, development and human rights. The Question of a "right to disarmament" will also be discussed. The second part will deal with conventional law regarding various types of weapons: nuclear weapons, chemical and biological weapons, radiological weapons, conventional weapons, etc. The third part will deal with various areas: Antarctica, outer space, the ocean floor and sea-bed, nuclear-weapon-free zones and zones of peace. The fourth part will deal with machinery for deliberations and negotiations; and, finally, the fifth part will consider trends as they emanate from the work of the United Nations in this field and, in particular, the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly (resolution S-10/2).

105. The project will be completed in 1984.

3. Disarmament and the right to security

106. The tenth special session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament revealed the essential links between disarmament and the right of States to security. The concept of the right to security is not equivalent to other well-established concepts as, for instance, self-defence (Article 51 of the United Nations Charter). So far this concept has not been fully defined and the literature on this subject is meagre.

107. The UNIDIR project examines the concept and its relationship to similar but not identical notions and uses as basic reference points the provisions of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly (resolution S-10/2). It is meant to bring together and to analyse relevant instruments of law, international and national documents and the doctrines prevailing in various parts of the world.

108. The project is near completion.

4. Arms control

109. This is a study on the concept and practice of arms control in its relation to disarmament. It was initiated following discussions that took place within the Institute on the project "Disarmament" mentioned in paragraph 67 above.

5. Denuclearization of the Balkans

110. Over the past 25 years, alongside of efforts designed to promote bilateral relations between the Balkan countries, there has been an ever-firmer shaping of the idea to set up a zone of peace, good-neighbourliness and co-operation, free of nuclear weapons, in the Balkan area. The main goal pursued is the transformation of the Balkans - an area which used to be called the "powder keg" of Europe - into an important factor of stability, security and co-operation in the European continent.

111. Since 1957, the setting-up of such a zone has been the subject of several initiatives and proposals, which were put forward at the regional level, in the United Nations, the Committee on Disarmament at Geneva and in other international forums.

112. Over the last few years, a broad development of bilateral co-operation between the Balkan countries, and firmer multilateral actions aimed at promoting Balkan co-operation and good-neighbourliness have been evident. A few landmarks are the conferences on Balkan multilateral co-operation in economic, technical and scientific fields, as well as in such areas as communications, transport, energy, and raw materials for energy held in Athens (1976), Ankara (1971), Sofia (1981) and Bucharest (1982).

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113. The objective of the UNIDIR study is to outline and clarify various political, military, technical and legal aspects of such a project. It would take into account the experience gathered over the last quarter of a century on proposals on the setting-up of nuclear-weapon-free zones (e.g., the Tlatelolco Treaty, the Rapacki Plan, the Nordic Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone, the Palme Commission) and it would consider relevant aspects contained in the Comprehensive study of the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all its aspects. 4/

114. The singular and original character of this project is related to the fact that:

(a) It is a proposal aimed at setting up such a zone in a region covered by countries that are members of NATO and the Warsaw Treaty, and by countries that are not members of a military alliance;

(b) The project also involves a comprehensive approach to the problem, as its goal also involves turning the Balkans into a zone of peace, good-neighbourliness and co-operation.

115. It is envisaged as a case study that might be useful to members of the group of experts set up to review and supplement the Comprehensive study of the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all its aspects (General Assembly resolution 37/99 F).

116. The first draft has already been prepared.

6. Chemical weapons

117. The Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly states

"75. The complete and effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and their destruction represent one of the most urgent measures of disarmament. Consequently, the conclusion of a convention to this end, on which negotiations have been going on for several years, is one of the most urgent tasks of multilateral negotiations. After its conclusion, all States should contribute to ensuring the broadest possible application of the convention through its early signature and ratification."

118. The issue of banning chemical weapons has been for a number of years on the agenda of the General Assembly, of the successive multilateral negotiating bodies, and was the subject of bilateral negotiations between the USSR and the United States. Ample documentation and literature on this subject is available - most of it in connection with negotiations in the Committee on Disarmament.

119. The proposed UNIDIR study would try to give a comprehensive view of the technical, legal and political issues relating to the efforts to ban chemical weapons. It would, in particular, examine the consequences, for regional and international security, of the existence and possible proliferation of chemical weapons, including those that might be produced as a result of scientific and

technological progress. It would also analyse the questions relating to the prohibition of those weapons, such as a uniform interpretation of the Geneva Protocol of 1925, 5/ customary law, and the provisions of a future convention on chemical weapons. A large part would deal with the issues of verification.

120. The study will be completed early in 1984.

7. New technologies in the field of conventional armaments

121. During the last several years conventional weapons systems have undergone continual and rapid refinement in terms of size, speed, propulsion, fire-power, accuracy and so forth. Technological advances in several areas have been combined to produce new types of conventional weapons with potentially far-reaching military and political implications. New precision guided munitions (PGMs), remotely piloted vehicles (RPVs) and other devices have been developed to carry a conventional warhead to its target with a hit probability of 1 or, in the case of RPVs, for reconnaissance and similar missions. The new weapons, together with developments in such areas as night-vision devices, battlefield surveillance and communications are likely to place a still higher premium on standing military forces.

122. Nowadays, of particular importance is the strategic debate taking place within western Europe in relation to the new technologies. The study initiated by UNIDIR, "New technologies in the field of conventional armaments: strategic aspects and implications for disarmament and arms limitations", aims at identifying the following aspects: the nature and performances of the new technologies and armaments; impact on the strategic posture of States; the relationship between these technologies and the nuclear weapons; consequences on negotiations in the field of arms limitations and disarmament; proliferation of these technologies and new weapons to developing countries and its consequences.

123. The study will be completed by July 1984.

8. Nuclear-weapon-free zones: a bibliography

124. At the invitation of the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, UNIDIR has prepared a bibliography of nuclear-weapon-free zones for the use of the group of experts on nuclear-weapon-free zones set up in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 37/99 F.

9. Brief guide to some basic sources on disarmament

125. In view of the frequent requests addressed to UNIDIR by delegations, governmental and non-governmental organizations and individuals, UNIDIR has prepared several guides to some basic sources of information on disarmament and related security affairs. One of them was presented to the Symposium on the Media and Disarmament organized by UNESCO from 18 to 22 April 1983 at Nairobi, Kenya.

126. This paper indicates some general and basic reference materials and starting points for journalists reporting on disarmament and related security issues. Emphasis has been put on primary sources, that is, official sources, and in particular on the organizational structures and bodies responsible for disarmament policy-making. Practical information such as addresses and telephone numbers of press and publications divisions have also been included.

127. Part I deals with official sources of the five nuclear Powers, the non-aligned movement, military alliances such as NATO and the Warsaw Pact and international organizations including the United Nations.

128. Part II indicates some secondary sources and general reference materials such as bibliographies, collections of documents, guides to research institutes as well as a list of a few frequently used and recurrent publications.

129. Part III is a listing of United Nations reports prepared by the Secretary-General with the assistance of experts, background papers prepared by the United Nations Secretariat and general publications of the Department for Public Information of the Secretariat.

130. Another guide, A Short Guide to United Nations and Other Sources of Information on Disarmament and Related Issues was prepared by the Institute and intended for non-governmental organizations in particular. It is being circulated as a contribution by UNIDIR to the World Disarmament Campaign launched by the United Nations.

10. Conference of European Research Institutes on Disarmament

131. The convening by UNIDIR of regional conferences of research institutes on disarmament was suggested at the First Conference of Directors of Research Institutes, which was convened by UNIDIR in November 1981 at the Palais des Nations, at Geneva.

132. The European Conference will be the first in the series of regional conferences and will consist of two parts. The first part will be devoted to an exchange of views and information on disarmament research in Europe, the expanding of co-operation among research institutes and the strengthening of their relationship with the United Nations system. The second part will consist of a symposium on confidence and security-building measures and disarmament in Europe.

133. Major research institutes from European States as well as from other parts of the world have been invited to participate and many have accepted.

134. The conference was originally envisaged to take place at Bucharest, from 27 June to 1 July 1983. However, a number of smaller research institutes, the members of which are also involved in teaching, found it impossible to attend in view of their commitments at universities during that period, which coincides with the final examinations and the closing of the academic year. Therefore, they proposed postponement. As UNIDIR wished to have the largest representation

ossible from the majority of European States at the conference, it was decided to postpone it to 1984, at dates to be decided upon.

35. UNIDIR has prepared for the conference:

- (a) A discussion paper relating to the first part;
- (b) Surveys of literature on issues to be discussed in the second part.

36. In order to contribute to the shortening of the distance between research and political activities of States, a number of government officials familiar with the issues of security and disarmament in Europe have also been invited to attend.

F. Conclusions

37. In the course of its brief existence, UNIDIR has accomplished significant achievements - with extremely limited financial resources and a very small staff.

38. The establishment of the Institute imposed a number of practical and administrative problems and difficulties, inherent in the setting-up of an institute, which had to be overcome.

39. The Institute has established and consolidated its place within the institutional framework for disarmament of the United Nations and has established contacts and developed working relations and co-operation with a large number of research organizations and individual experts from all over the world.

40. The implementation of the Institute's programme of theoretical and applied research on questions relating to disarmament and international security has produced concrete results, such as research papers and books. The staff of the Institute was also engaged in a number of other activities described in the present report.

41. The General Assembly, by its resolution 37/99 K noted "with satisfaction and activities carried out by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research since its establishment" and decided that it should function as an autonomous institute. The initial stage in the development of the Institute has thus come to an end.

42. General Assembly resolution 37/99 K and the first session of the Board of Trustees of UNIDIR mark the beginning of a new phase in the Institute's existence.

43. In the future, UNIDIR will have to face tasks of a higher level and greater magnitude. It will have to further develop and consolidate its scientific activities, enlarge its audience, strengthen the confidence of Member States of the United Nations and, more generally, of the disarmament community. In order to be able to carry out its objectives successfully, the Institute should be provided with adequate human and material resources.

Notes

- 1/ United Nations publication (Sales No. GV.E.82.0.2).
- 2/ United Nations publication (Sales No. GV.E.82.0.6).
- 3/ United Nations publication (Sales No. E.82.0.1). A paperback edition was published in the United States by Allanheld Osmun and Company, Publishers Incorporated, and in the United Kingdom by Croom Helm Limited. A German edition was published by C. H. Beck. Publishing houses in the Soviet Union and Romania are preparing editions in local languages. A French translation is being prepared by UNIDIR.
- 4/ United Nations publication (Sales No. E.76.I.7).
- 5/ League of Nations, Treaty Series, vol. XCIV (1929), No. 2138, p. 65.
