



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERALA/41/272
9 April 1986

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-first session
Item 64 of the preliminary list*

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

Letter dated 8 April 1986 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of a message sent by His Excellency President José Sarney to the Conference on Disarmament on the occasion of the assumption, on 1 April, of the presidency of the said organ by Ambassador Celso A. de Souza a Silva, Permanent Representative of Brazil to the Conference.

The Brazilian Government would appreciate the circulation of the message as an official document of the General Assembly under item 64 of the preliminary list.

(igned) Adhemar G. BAHADIAN
Chargé d'affaires a. i.

* A/41/50/Rev. 1.

ANNEX

Message sent by His Excellency President José Sarney
to the Conference on Disarmament on the occasion of
the assumption of the Presidency of the said organ
by Ambassador Celso A. de Souza e Silva, Permanent
Representative of Brazil to the Conference

On the occasion of the Brazilian Presidency of the Conference on Disarmament, an honour . . . my country, I wish to reiterate formally and solemnly my Government's **commitment** to the efforts and purposes of **the only multilateral forum mandated by the international community to negotiate** measures and agreements vitally important to the peace and security of all countries,

Brazil assumed this very same commitment a quarter of a century ago, at the inception of the eighteen-nation Disarmament Committee, in which we participated. Brazil has since maintained the consistency of its conduct,

At a meeting with all the Ministers in my Cabinet, on 20 February, I have set forth the basic guidelines for the present administration and established the priorities of the foreign policy of Brazil, the first of which I formulated as follows: "Disarmament and the easing of tensions, to which Brazil shall contribute in accordance with its tradition of conciliation, balance and realism". I am convinced that such a priority is in full keeping with the concerns and aspirations not only of the 40 Governments that make up this august forum, but also with those of all the peoples of the world. Nor could it be otherwise. A significant portion of mankind survives on little else than the mere hope of keeping on living, while direct and indirect military expenditures are approaching one trillion dollars annually, adding to the dangers which threaten the survival of all. Many developing countries, like Brazil, must face severe sacrifices, including the curtailment of their ideal rates of growth, in order to honour and settle their international commitments, while the wealthier and overarmed nations continue to ignore the political and legal obligations they have formally assumed to reverse the armaments race and thus reduce the squandering of resources so much needed by so many.

Based on such concerns, which I believe are shared by all, I have established the second priority of the Brazilian foreign policy, namely, "a just economic order which may generate, even as from now, equitable procedures to solve the debt crisis".

Far too long have de facto situations prevailed which can only widen the gap of wealth and power among nations. It is imperative that such trends be reversed, together with the negative expectations that they breed. Brazil welcomed the resumption of bilateral negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union, and took note with satisfaction of the stated common objectives of their leaders, that mankind must sooner or later rid itself of nuclear weapons. Without relinquishing our right to put forth our own views and to participate in decisions by the great Powers that may affect our interests, we follow with growing attention

the proposals **and** counter-proposals aimed at **bridging** their conflicting positions, especially **between** the most heavily armed nations,

For our part, and in accordance with our **possibilities**, we shall **not be** found wanting **in our endeavours and** in our spirit of compromise which may contribute to understanding, in particular regarding the **widening** of the **areas** where nuclear weapons **must** be totally outlawed.

Brazil made an option for the banning of **atomic** armament on **its** own territory and **subsequently** signed and ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of **Nuclear** Weapons in Latin **America**. More recently, at **the** opening of **the fortieth session of the General** Assembly on 23 September last year, I had the occasion to propose that the **prohibition be** extended to the South Atlantic, when I stated: "**Brazil** will bend every effort in her power to preserve the South **Atlantic** as **an** area of **peace**, shielded from the **arms race**, from the presence of nuclear arms and from any form of confrontation or **igniting** in other regions."

The concerted **efforts of** all members of this Conference in **search of common objectives, by** placing the collective interests of the international **community above** one's own transitory and domestic interests, are the key to the accomplishment **of** the vital task entrusted to all of you.

It is with **such** purpose in mind, and with **a true** spirit of co-operation, **that** I make my best **wishes** for the success of present and future endeavours of the Conference **on Disarmament**.