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INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PEACE

CRITICAL ECONOMIC SITUATION IN AFRICA

POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

QUESTION OF NAMIBIA

PREVENTION OF AN ARMS RACE IN OUTER SPACE

REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF
THE TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Letter dated 25 June 1986 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey to you the declaration and resolutions adopted at the International Seminar on the Struggle for Peace and Progress, held at Addis Ababa from 7 to 9 June 1986 (see annexes I to IV).

I would greatly appreciate if the declaration and the resolutions were circulated as official documents of the General Assembly under items 21, 29, 33, 36, 56, 63 and 67 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Debebe WORKU
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Deputy Permanent Representative

* A/41/50/Rev.1.

ANNEX I

Declaration adopted at the International Seminar on the Struggle for
Peace and Progress held at Addis Ababa, from 7 to 9 June 1986

The **International Seminar on the Struggle for Peace and Progress, organized by the World Peace Council** in co-operation with the **Ethiopian Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Committee**, was convened in **Addis Ababa** from 7 to 9 June 1986.

The participants in the **International Seminar** listened to the keynote address by Comrade **Mengistu Haile-Mariam**, General Secretary of the **Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia**, **Chairman of the PMAC** and **Commander-in-Chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Socialist Ethiopia**, and the inspiring speech by Comrade **Romeeh Chandra**, **President of the World Peace Council**.

The **Seminar reviewed vital problems related to the question of peace and disarmament, the threats to mankind and the staggering costs of the arms race, ways by which disarmament may benefit the human race, the setting-up of the New International Economic Order and the hastening of the process of economic decolonization on the developing countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America.**

Having **considered the unprecedented arms race and the "cold war psychosis" launched and fuelled by the aggressive policy of the United States of America and its NATO allies, the International Seminar emphasizes the need to display a sense of realism and responsibility by all countries and peoples to make the world a safer place for humanity.**

The **Seminar acknowledges that today more than ever before, the question of mobilizing world public opinion and forging international co-operation in the interest of global peace and security has become a burning issue that calls for the concerted action of all peace forces.**

In the light of these historical realities, the participants in the **International Seminar re-affirm their unanimous support for the United Nations decision for the observance of 1986 as the International Year of Peace. The hope and the renewed optimism, regenerated as a result of this historic decision should enable the international community to work in unison for global peace and security.**

The participants, in recognition of the indispensable role the **United Nations** plays in trying to **safeguard global peace and security, reaffirm their commitment to the decisions of the Organization in this respect in general and the practical realization of the aims and objectives of: the International Year of Peace in particular.**

The **Seminar recalls that the Geneva Soviet-American summit of November 1985 was a positive step towards normalizing bilateral relations and ameliorating the precarious international situation.**

The participants in the International Seminar are convinced that the proposal enunciated by the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Mikheil Gorbachev on 15 January 1986 to secure the complete abolition of all nuclear arsenals and chemical weapons by the end of this century, opens up exciting possibilities for mankind to divert its resources and creative potentials to solving the most pressing socio-economic problems of our time.

The Seminar deplores the flagrant refusal of the United States Administration to reciprocate all Soviet peace proposals including the 18 April proposal to reduce conventional weapons and armed forces in Europe. Washington's stubborn refusal to respond positively to the unilateral Soviet nuclear test moratorium remains a grave source of concern for international peace and security.

The Seminar draws the attention of the peace-loving public to the frenzied preparations by United States imperialism to extend the arms race to outer space and its unremitting efforts to draw other NATO members into this dangerous plan. The militarization of outer space will close the hair-breadth distance separating mankind from total annihilation.

The Seminar denounces the so-called "Star Wars" programme and the latest decision by the United States Administration to continue its production and stockpiling of new generations of chemical weapons as an ominous turn in the already alarming pace of the arms race.

The participants in the International Seminar acknowledge that the militaristic policy of imperialism and especially of the United States Administration is fraught with grave and incalculable danger to peoples all over the world. It therefore calls upon all peace-loving and progressive forces the world over to redouble their efforts in disseminating information related to the nuclear arms race and the benefits of peace and disarmament, in releasing funds vital for development in general and overcoming the pressing problems of developing countries in particular.

The Seminar appeals strongly to the United Nations, the Non-Aligned Movement, and all peace-loving and progressive forces around the world to intensify their efforts to avert the dangerous turn the arms race is taking as a result of Washington's militaristic policy.

The indisputable fact that development is only possible in peace calls for greater unity among all peace-loving and progressive forces. The International Seminar affirms that the struggle to curb the arms race is a struggle to divert the staggering human and material resources being wasted on the arms build-up for peaceful ends and, therefore, needs to be pursued energetically and on a world-wide scale.

The participants in the Seminar reiterate their conviction that the struggle to halt the senseless and wasteful arms race opens up wide possibilities to redirect the usage of science and technology for genocidal purposes to the common good of mankind.

The Seminar takes note of the fact that imperialism is desperately trying to ensure the continued realisation of its policy of domination and exploitation of the peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America. Its transnational corporations and monopolies are acting as tools for the imposition of its will upon the developing countries.

The participants in the Seminar note with deep concern the impact of the burden of foreign debt on the already struggling economies of the developing countries. "Aid" with the growing debts it entails, has therefore become a vital international issue in the struggle for the reconstruction of international economic relations on a sound and equitable basis.

The Seminar affirms its support for the legitimate struggle of developing countries towards the establishment of the New International Economic Order and the efforts to bring about an end to the present unjust economic order. It also calls upon the developing countries to strengthen their negotiating power in order to raise their capability to redress the prevailing international system of exploitation and the dismantling of the international structure of dependence.

The Seminar emphasizes the need to forge greater unity and closer co-operation among developing countries to withstand and foil imperialist conspiracies directed at undermining their common position.

The participants in the Seminar express their grave concern over the policy of "Neo-globalism" pursued with great vigour by the United States Administration in the various regions of the globe. United States imperialism has embarked on a fierce counter-offensive against developing countries endeavouring at national reconstruction and the national liberation movements, with a view to arresting the march of history and the high tide of political and economic decolonization.

The participants in the Seminar strongly condemn the United States policy of State terrorism including its recent brazen aggression against Libya. The wide propaganda campaign and psychological warfare directed against the people of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the barbaric attack amply demonstrate its total disregard for norms and laws governing inter-State relations and civilized international behaviour.

The Seminar notes with satisfaction the fact that today, the struggle of the South African and Namibian peoples against imperialism, colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination has entered a crucial and decisive stage. The racist régime on the other hand, out of desperation, is attempting to deceive the international community through fraudulent and cosmetic changes.

The participants in the Seminar note with deep concern that the heinous system of apartheid is a source of violence and insecurity in southern Africa and a threat to international peace and security. The white minority, emboldened by the support it receives from international imperialism, continues to rely on its ways of perpetuating the system of institutionalized racism through repression, brutal executions, arbitrary arrests and torture against the African peoples.

The Seminar strongly condemns Pretoria's continued illegal occupation of Namibia in defiance of the various decisions adopted by both the General Assembly and the Security Council of the United Nations and expresses its conviction that sanctions against the South African régime are the only effective and peaceful means to bring an end to the sufferings of the black majority and to avert the impending danger to international peace and security.

The Seminar notes with satisfaction the mounting strength of the national liberation movements of South Africa and Namibia led by their respective legitimate representatives, the African National Congress of South Africa and the South West Africa People's Organisation of Namibia, and appeals to all democratic and progressive forces of the world, in particular the socialist countries, to further extend the necessary assistance to the struggling peoples of southern Africa.

The participants in the Seminar also strongly condemn the wanton acts of aggression by the racist régime against the independent neighbouring African countries. The recent attack against the sovereign States of Zimbabwe, Zambia and Botswana is a clear manifestation of the blind and desperate attempts of the white minority régime to turn the tide of the national liberation struggle. While vehemently condemning this act of brazen aggression, the participants in the Seminar call upon the international community to heighten its all-round support for the front-line States to enable them to defend their territorial integrity and national sovereignty against destabilisation and the brutal attacks of the racist régime.

The Seminar strongly denounces the collaboration between United States imperialism and Pretoria to back up counter-revolutionary forces against the People's Republics of Angola and Mozambique. It is common knowledge that the recent decision by the United States Administration to resume military support to bandits is part of the diabolical schemes hatched by imperialism to undermine the struggle of the Angolan people to build a society free from exploitation.

The participants in the Seminar appeal to the international community to further raise global efforts for the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners suffering in the racist dungeons and underline the need to intensify the international campaign for the release of Nelson Mandela, the prominent freedom fighter and leader of the South African people.

The Seminar appeals to the United Nations, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Organisation of African Unity and all peace-loving and progressive forces around the world to redouble their efforts to further isolate the white minority régime and assist all efforts towards the imposition of all-round sanctions against it.

The participants in the Seminar reaffirm their strong support for the heroic struggle of the Palestinian people against imperialism and Zionism and appeal for the convening of an international conference on the Palestinian question encompassing all the parties concerned.

The Seminar also notes with grave concern the situation now prevailing in Central America, in particular the aggressive and interventionist policy of the

United States in the region. Besides giving financial and military support to counter-revolutionary forces fighting the progressive Government of Nicaragua, the United States Administration has engaged itself in propping up dictatorial and Fascist régimes in the Latin American sub-continent.

The participants in the Seminar reaffirm their solidarity with the Nicaraguan people in their struggle against United States interventionism and trade embargo and with Salvadorian patriots battling for freedom and democracy.

ANNEX II

Resolutions adopted at the International Seminar on the
Struggle for Peace and Progress

I. Resolution of support to the World Conference on Sanctions
against Racist South Africa, Paris, 17-26 June 1986

We, the participants in the International Seminar on the Struggle for Peace and Progress, organized jointly by the World Peace Council and the Ethiopian Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Committee and held at Addis Ababa, from 7 to 9 June 1986,

Having examined the issues related to disarmament and development as a contribution to the United Nations programme for the International Year of Peace and having considered the problems of development and the New International Economic Order, paying special attention to disarmament and development as well as focusing on acute economic problems such as drought, food shortage and the external debt problem with some highlight on the struggle against imperialism, apartheid, racism and colonialism in all its manifestations, and,

Cognizant of the fact that the 1986 world conference on comprehensive and mandatory economic sanctions against South Africa coincides with the tenth anniversary of the Soweto uprising of 1976, and the 26th anniversary of the proclamation of the freedom charter and hoping that this World Conference On Sanctions against Racist South Africa will be the last in the history of racial discrimination and apartheid in South Africa,

Further cognizant of the fact that the International Conference on Sanctions against South Africa held in Paris in 1981 made certain recommendations putting more emphasis on the oil embargo and that the recommendations had not been implemented, hence the convening of this International Conference with the purpose of reorienting the fundamental objective of the general campaign for comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against South Africa, which include among others:

To force South Africa to abandon its racist policy of apartheid and to put an end to its illegal occupation of Namibia;

To demonstrate, by action, the universal abhorrence of apartheid and solidarity with the legitimate aspirations and struggle of the people of South Africa and Namibia;

To deny the benefits of international co-operation to the South African régime so as to oblige it and its supporters to heed world opinion, to abandon the policy of racist domination and to seek a solution by consultation with the genuine leaders of the oppressed peoples;

To undermine the ability of the South African régime to repress its people, commit acts of aggression against independent States and pose a threat to international peace and security;

To remove economic support from apartheid so as to mitigate suffering in the course of the struggle of the people of South Africa and Namibia for freedom and hereby promote as peaceful a transition as possible,

Also aware of the fact that the United States Administration, the British Government and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany have constantly refused to heed to the call for comprehensive and mandatory sanctions, insisting that economic sanctions would among other things unrealistically stiffen Afrikaaner resistance to change in the society which invented the laaget mentality, hit the black population hardest, destroy neighbouring African economies and undermine the process of economic development which is increasingly showing apartheid to be unworkable as well as unjust,

1. The participants in the Seminar, therefore, wish to state that the reluctance of the Western countries to endorse the call of the international community for sanctions and their persistent and unconvincing arguments is simply the result of their economic as well as strategic interests in South Africa;
2. The participants wish also to call upon the participants to the World Conference on Sanctions against Racist South Africa to be aware of the machination of the imperialist Powers to obstruct the objectives, orientation, and purpose of the conference and therefore to reject in their totality the absurd arguments of the imperialist Powers on sanctions against South Africa;
3. Participants in the Seminar believe that comprehensive and mandatory economic sanctions can bring about the downfall of the apartheid system and the emergence of a free and stable South Africa and that comprehensive mandatory sanctions against South Africa should be viewed as a necessary complement to the ongoing struggle of the people of Namibia and South Africa and that the truth about sanctions in general, and comprehensive and mandatory sanctions backed by the United Nations in particular is that they constitute one of the most effective ways by which those who sincerely abhor apartheid, injustice, oppression and genocide can support the struggle for liberation in Namibia and South Africa;
4. Participants feel that sanctions against South Africa should not be associated by the concepts of destroy and damage advanced by the British Government because those two concepts are designed to register a doom and disaster scenario in the minds of those who advocate sanctions. Sanctions would not hit the majority of the black community in South Africa any more than they have been hit by the state of terror inside South Africa and South Africa's policy of destabilizing the front-line States;
5. The participants in the Seminar wish the World Conference on Sanctions against Racist South Africa every success in its deliberations and hope that the 1986 recommendations of the Conference would be concrete, action-oriented and practicable.

II. Resolution on South Africa

The participants in the International Seminar on the Struggle for Peace and Progress having reviewed the current political situation in South Africa,

Expressing grave concern over the situation in South Africa, resulting from the policies and actions of State terrorism, increasing torture, and intensified repression unleashed by the South African régime and over the danger of a wider conflict if effective action is not taken urgently to eradicate apartheid,

Noting with anxiety that the Pretoria régime relies more and more on the use of open armed force against the majority of South Africans to maintain itself in power,

Noting with great satisfaction the heroic struggle of the South African peoples, spearheaded by the African National Congress (ANC),

Noting also the successes achieved by the heroic freedom fighters of the ANC in the armed struggle against the racist régime of South Africa,

1. Salute the dedication and the determination of the masses, the whole black population of South Africa and their vanguard organization for the intensive struggle they were waging and the heroic sacrifices they pay for freedom, democracy and social progress;

2. Strongly denounce the apartheid régime for its ruthless and massive repression of the black majority of South Africa in utter contempt and complete disregard of international public opinion;

3. Deeply appreciate the concerted and united stand of the front-line States in their support of the struggling masses of South Africa despite threats of intimidation and acts of brazen aggression directed against them by Pretoria. While commending the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity, the Non-Aligned Movement and all progressive, democratic and peace-loving forces for committing themselves to bring about the end of the abhorrent apartheid system, stress the urgent necessity of intensifying all-out material, political and diplomatic support to the freedom fighters;

4. Strongly condemn the inhuman campaign of terror unleashed by the brutal Pretoria régime against men, women and children and demand that it immediately stop the massacres and reprisals against the innocent people and patriots of South Africa!

5. Vehemently denounce the imposition of tribal authorities and forced displacement and alienation of millions of African people through the Bantustanization policy and call on the international community to denounce the so-called independence of Kwa Ndebele scheduled for December 1986, which has been totally rejected by the South African people;

6. Strongly condemn the so-called constitutional reforms which the subjugated masses have rightly rejected as a device to consolidate and perpetuate apartheid;

7. Reiterate that apartheid cannot be reformed, it must be destroyed;

8. Strongly demand the immediate halt of the continued arrests and murder of South African patriots and call for the intensification of the international campaign for the unconditional release of Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners languishing in the Fascist jails;

9. Strongly condemn the latest acts of flagrant aggression and escalation of military raids committed by the racist Pretoria régime in violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the front-line States of Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana and Angola under the pretext of pursuing ANC freedom fighters;

10. Categorically condemn the discredited United States policy of constructive engagement with racist South Africa which has encouraged Pretoria to persist in its intransigency;

11. Strongly denounce those leading Western countries which, oblivious to world public opinion, persist in their collaboration with Pretoria and continue to oppose the imposition of mandatory and comprehensive economic sanctions against the racist régime;

12. Appeal to the international community and all peace-loving forces all over the world to step up their efforts to bring about the dismantling of the apartheid system in South Africa;

13. Call upon peace-loving and all progressive forces to intensify all-round support to the legitimate vanguard national liberation movement of the people of Youth Africa, the ANC and all democratic and progressive forces which are struggling for the total eradication of apartheid and the establishment of a democratic, non-racial South Africa.

III. Resolution on Namibia

The participants in the International Seminar on the Struggle for Peace and Progress,

Having reviewed the current political situation in Namibia,

Expressing profound concern over the situation in Namibia emanating from the violence, brutality and continued illegal occupation of Namibia by the racist régime of South Africa,

Noting with great satisfaction the heroic struggle of the Namibian people, led by their sole and authentic representative, the South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO),

Noting also the successes registered by the heroic freedom fighters of SWAPO in the armed struggle against the racist régime of South Africa,

1. Hail the Namibian people's resolve under the leadership of SWAPO to liberate their country free from the shackles of colonialism through the intensification of the armed struggle and the mobilization of the masses against the colonial racist régime of South Africa?

2. Reaffirm the inalienable right of the Namibian people to self-determination, freedom and national independence in accordance with the charters of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity;

3. Reiterate the legitimacy of the armed liberation struggle as an effective means of ending the illegal occupation of Namibia by the racist régime;

4. Condemn the continued illegal occupation of Namibia by the racist régime of South Africa and call for the immediate and unconditional implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 435 (1978);

5. Strongly condemn the Pretoria régime for its continued sabotage against the implementation of the United Nations Plan for Namibian independence as set out in its relevant resolutions, particularly resolution 435 (1978);

6. Vehemently condemn the racist South African régime for the imposition of the puppet and neo-colonial multi-party conference government on the people of Namibia as a calculated move to bypass the United Nations Plan on Namibian independence!

7. Reject the United States linkage of Namibia's independence to the presence of Cuban international forces in Angola;

8. Denounce the South African move to set Namibians against each other through forced conscription of Namibians into the racist army in their efforts to delay Namibia's independence;

9. Condemn the use by racist South Africa of Namibian territory as a launching pad for its armed aggressions, subversive activities and destabilization of neighbouring independent African States;

10. Call upon the United Nations Security Council to discharge its responsibilities under all relevant provisions of the United Nations Charter for the independence of Namibia;

11. Express their militant solidarity and firm support to the just struggle of Namibians for their national independence under the authentic leadership of SWAPO.

IV. Resolution on acute economic problems and efforts for economic security

In recognition of the close interdependence and relationship between peace, disarmament and development,

Taking into account the worsening international, economic and political situation,

Cognizant of the negative effect of the spiralling arms race on the economies of developing countries,

Realizing the impact of the collapsing commodity prices, the mounting debt burden and the sharply declining debt-servicing capacity which has been further compounded by contracting external capital flows, severe drought and famine,

In light of the human and social tragedies of the immediate past and the economic retrogression over the last few years,

Considering that this Seminar is partly devoted to the African economic problems,

1. We, the participants of the WPC Seminar on the **Struggle for Peace and Progress, hereby resolve:**

(a) To intensify our struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, and all forms of exploitation and work for peace and socio-economic progress;

(b) To struggle against the unbridled arms race which consumes billions of dollars that could have been used for development and social progress;

(c) That international measures that lead towards the curbing and eventual elimination of the arms race on earth and the stopping of its extension to outer space should be stepped up;

(d) That the drainage of abundant financial and material resources as well as the tremendous utilization of highly qualified personnel engaged in the arms race should cease and call for the immediate reallocation of the above resources for socio-economic development;

2. We denounce all discriminatory and protectionist policies pursued by Western industrialized countries in their trade practices with developing countries;

3. We vehemently oppose the ruinous financial and monetary policies of Western Governments and their financial and banking institutions which want to keep developing countries under economic bondage and servitude;

4. We strongly condemn the use of economic pressures by imperialist countries as a political weapon to destabilize free nations pursuing independent courses of their own choice and as a means of infringement on the sovereignty of States;

5. We call upon the international community to respond to the pleas of developing countries in general and to the chronic economic problems of Africa in particular with the view to give a lasting solution to the mounting foreign debt, food crisis and drought, famine and desertification;
6. We note the importance of the recently held special session of the United Nations General Assembly which was exclusively devoted to African economic problems and which has drawn the attention of the international community to African problems;
9. We appreciate the understanding which the international community has shown to Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990;
8. We voice support for the United Nations proposal to hold, next July, an international conference in Paris which would deal with the issue of the interdependence of disarmament and development;
9. We urge the holding of an international conference of debtors and creditors to alleviate Africa's debt burden;
10. We also demand the establishment of balanced, fair and equitable trade at the international level to ameliorate the external constraints which hamper the progress of the developing countries;
11. Realizing that pooling of efforts is more than necessary for developing countries, we consider the enhancement of economic co-operation between and among themselves as an effective way to surmount heavy dependence on the industrialized West;
10. We extend our full support to the proposal by the Soviet Union to hold a world congress on economic security;
13. The participants in the World Peace Council Seminar on the Struggle for Peace and Progress reiterate their whole-hearted support for the establishment of a New International Economic Order so that their development efforts can be bolstered;
14. We support all international efforts under way to restructure the present global economic order along free and fair exchanges and reaffirm our commitment to this goal;
15. The participants of the World Peace Council Seminar pledge their commitment to work for humanity's better future, for democracy, justice and socio-economic progress;
16. We emphasize the need for urgent mobilization of every effort to fight for peace, disarmament and development;
17. We stress the importance of creating a healthy international atmosphere that ensures and guarantees détente, mutual understanding, co-operation and economic emancipation.

ANNEX III

Message of support to the Ethiopian people

We the participants in the International Seminar on the Struggle for Peace and Progress, held in Addis Ababa from 7 to 9 June 1986, express our heartfelt gratitude and utmost thanks to the Party, Government and people of Ethiopia for their generous offer of the necessary facilities and excellent conditions for the convening in Addis Ababa of the International Seminar on the Struggle for Peace and Progress.

As this Seminar is being held on the eve of the founding of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, we take this opportunity to extend our best wishes for the heroic people of Ethiopia to successfully accomplish the arduous task of building a new society.

On this momentous occasion, we would like to renew our firm solidarity with the Party, Government and people of Ethiopia and express our appreciation for their determination and firm stand against the sinister designs of imperialism and reactionary forces.

The founding of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia (WPE), in response to the aspirations of the Ethiopian people, under the able leadership of Comrade Mengistu Haile-Mariam, is a brilliant achievement which effirms the country's irreversible march along the path of peace and progress.

Hailing the country's commitment to the cause of peace and development, we strongly condemn the overt and covert machinations and manoeuvres being constantly perpetrated by imperialism and the forces of reaction against the Ethiopian revolution, the country's sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity.

In this regard, we applaud the traditional gallantry and heroism of the Ethiopian people against colonialism, neo-colonialism, expansionism and apartheid.

Ethiopia's consistent foreign policy which adheres to the principles of good-neighbourliness, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, strict observance of the charters of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity as well as the principles of the Non-Aligned Movement, attests to the country's commitment to peaceful co-operation with all nations the world over,

We commend the herculean efforts of the country to withstand the effects of the drought that afflicted millions of the country's nationals and in that respect strongly support the resettlement and rehabilitation programme instituted to overcome the problem once and for all. We vehemently condemn all propaganda campaigns directed against these constructive measures.

We also support the villagization programme which is necessary not only to improve the living standards of the rural population but also to lay the foundation for socio-economic progress.

We note with satisfaction the road traversed by the heroic people of Ethiopia after the outbreak of the 1974 Revolution and also note with appreciation the various revolutionary measures taken in the past decade with a view to building a just and democratic society.

We, the participants of the World Peace Council International Seminar on the Struggle for Peace and Progress once again express our wholehearted thanks to the Party, Government and Ethiopian people for their traditional hospitality and the excellent conditions that they have put at our disposal for the successful conclusion of this Seminar,

ANNEX IV

Declaration on the Paris conference concerning disarmament
and development (July 1986)

1. The arms race which is being effected through increasing expenditure, with more and more sophisticated weapons, has created a growing destructive potential; nuclear arms in particular constitute a source of serious preoccupation and anxiety for the peoples of all continents and among them, the peoples of Africa. This arms race has created in our epoch many sources of tension and it stresses the need to step up the peaceful and harmonious development of our countries in the economic, cultural and social spheres.
2. Total and comprehensive disarmament would allow people to utilize the exorbitant amount of financial resources for the development of the countries of the third world, for the construction of a life of peace and progress.
3. It is an undeniable reality that one of the consequences of the arms race has been the degeneration of the international economic and financial situation, which has been aggravated over the last decade. Military expenditures are consistently growing, particularly in the developing countries. Such measures have a negative effect on the economy of these countries and do not contribute to the solution of pressing problems with which they are confronted such as a low standard of living, famine, unemployment, lack of housing, budgetary disequilibrium, deficit in balance of payments, external debt and sometimes the negative consequences of certain natural phenomena such as desertification and cyclones.
4. People need peace and security in order to promote development. In this regard there can be no development without peace. Therefore, it is necessary to struggle for peace and for disarmament because the arms race cannot bring peace to us.
5. The current international political situation is full of serious dangers which are hovering over humanity. We are at the brink of destruction. By all means we have to prevent a nuclear conflagration and create conditions for 'better international relations in order to establish a better future for all peoples. But this will not be possible without halting the arms race, including its extension to space, and without starting the reduction of arms and the promotion of peaceful co-operation among peoples.
6. In the International Year of Peace, the mobilization of all efforts is of great importance to the broadening and consolidation of the unity of action around the problem of peace, disarmament and development, as well as other problems directly linked to this.
7. A conference like the one which will take place in Paris with the aim of discussing issues of disarmament and development is important, necessary, significant and beneficial for all peoples, for the peoples of the third world and particularly for African peoples. Such a conference helps to support the efforts

exerted by peoples of the world, governments, national and international organizations, non-governmental organizations, the United Nations, the Non-Aligned Movement and other intergovernmental organizations to safeguard peace and prevent a nuclear war.

8. The World Peace Council considers the convening of this conference essential and timely. It is also indispensably important in that it was held following the recent United Nations special session devoted to the pressing economic problems of the African continent.

9. The World Peace Council supports the efforts of the forces of peace for the convening of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development in Paris on 15 July 1986. This conference reflects the deep aspiration of the peoples of Africa for peace, security and development. It will mark a significant event in the intensification of the activities of peoples for the prevention of a nuclear war, which is an important task of the peoples of the world. It will also make valuable contributions to efforts by the French people to create a better future for humanity! However, we are worried by the rumour that the French Government plans to prevent the convening of this conference,

10. But it will surely moot the ardent hope of all peoples for whom peace is possible only through the co-operation and the efforts of all peoples, irrespective of their political and religious beliefs, and the social system they have chosen.

11. Safeguarding peace is safeguarding life! Disarmament is an indispensable condition for the realization of this noble ideal.