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GENERAL AND **COMPLETE DISARMAMENT**

Objective information on military matters

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/41/150.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 12 December 1985, the General Assembly adopted resolution 40/94 K, the operative paragraphs of which, inter alia, read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"2. Urges all States, in particular nuclear-weapon States and other militarily significant States, to consider implementing additional measures based on the principles of openness and transparency such as, for example, the international system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures, with the aim of facilitating the availability of objective information on, as well as objective assessment of, military capabilities;

"3. Invites all Member States to communicate to the Secretary-General before 30 April 1986 the measures they have adopted to contribute to greater openness in military matters in general and in particular to improve the flow of objective information on military capabilities;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-first session on the implementation of the provisions of the present resolution;

"5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-first session the item entitled 'Objective information on military matters'."

2. A note verbale dated 6 February 1986 was sent to all Member States requesting information on the measures they had adopted in pursuance of paragraph 3 of the resolution. The Secretary-General has to date received replies from Australia, Botswana, Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. These are reproduced in section II of the present report.

II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

AUSTRALIA

[Original: English]

[30 April 1986]

1. Australia believes that improved transparency of information and hence of understandings about the range of defence and military activities throughout the world will assist in the development of an international climate of confidence and trust essential to the maintenance of peace and for progress in any negotiations, especially in the areas of arms control and the reduction of military budgets.

2. Improved transparency of information on military expenditure⁸ and capabilities could also assist States in making more considered decisions on the relationship between the allocation of resources to military sector and to economic and social development .

3. In active support of the principles of openness and transparency, the Australian Government makes available to the Secretary-General each year the details of its military expenditure in the form of the standardized United Nations reporting instrument. Australia is one of few countries willing to do so.

4. The annual Australian Defence Report gives a detailed account of the size, shape and equipment of the Australian defence force. A statistical manpower report is compiled monthly and released to the press. Australia has agreed to provide to the Secretary-General, if requested, a summary of this information, which is already in the public domain, about Australia's military capability.

5. Australia is doing more in providing information on military capabilities than many other States. Australia would be glad to lend its support to any efforts of the Secretary-General to encourage a wider participation in the reporting of military expenditure⁶ and capabilities, particularly from the nuclear-weapon States, other militarily significant States and States of various economic and national accounting systems.

BOTSWANA

[Original: English]

[7 March 1986]

Botswana has no information to communicate on military matters.

DENMARK

[Original: English]

[2 June 1986]

1. Denmark was a sponsor of resolution 40/94 K, entitled "Objective information on military matters", which was adopted by a vast majority of Member States of the United Nations. The resolution represents the view that a better flow of objective information on military matters would contribute to a reduction in international tension, to the building of confidence among States and to the conclusion of concrete disarmament agreements.

2. In order to promote disarmament and international relations based on peace and trust, Denmark vigorously supports measures contributing to greater transparency on military matters and has developed a tradition for openness on defence issues. This tradition has produced a large variety of initiatives some of which deserve special emphasis:

(a) Annual reporting to the Secretary-General on Danish military budgets

Since 1981, Denmark has participated annually in the system for standardized reporting of military expenditures and has reported to the Secretary-General on the size of its military budgets for the preceding fiscal year.

(b) Exchange of military observers

Denmark participates in the exchanges of military observers by attending major military manoeuvres abroad and by inviting military observers from other States to watch exercises on Danish territory.

(c) The Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe process

As a signatory to the Helsinki Final Act, Denmark is committed to observe the provisions thereof concerning prior notification of major military manoeuvres in order to promote mutual understanding and strengthen confidence, stability and security.

At the Conference on Confidence- and Security-building Measures and Disarmament in Europe, at Stockholm, Denmark has co-sponsored a draft proposal on an enlargement of the notification régime.

(d) Briefing of defence attachés

The Danish Ministry of Defence invites all foreign defence attachés to semi-annual briefings by individual defence units around the country. All attachés may, moreover, at any time apply to the Danish Minister for Defence for arrangement of a special visit to a unit.

(e) Annual review by the Minister for Defence

Since 1982 the Danish Minister for Defence has issued an annual review in order to inform about the goals and means of the Danish Defence. The review is sent every year to all defence attachés who also receive copies of the Danish finance bills and defence budgets. The review helps to generate an open and democratic debate on Danish defence policy and Denmark's place in the activities of North Atlantic alliance.

(f) Publications

The Danish Defence has for many years been engaged in information service through the distribution of publications providing facts about the Danish Defence, defence acts, defence arrangements, etc. Some are published in English and thereby made readily available to staff members of foreign embassies and organizations. The publications are also used in secondary education.

(a) Mass media

Like other sectors of the Danish central administration, the Defence makes extensive use of press visits, press releases and press conferences in order to inform about the current status of the Danish Defence. Specialized personnel conduct and co-ordinate these activities.

(h) Films, slides, video, etc.

Films and other audio-visual materials are also offered to the public by the Danish Defence. Catalogues are issued regularly.

(i) Arrangements and exhibitions

Several defence outfits hold an annual "open house" to which the public is admitted and briefed about what goes on at that particular post. The visits often include military shows and exhibitions. The Danish Defence also runs two large portable exhibitions; one is a United Nations display about peace-keeping forces, the other a general exhibition about the Danish Defence. Exhibitions on special topics are shown occasionally.

3. The Danish Government, therefore, considers itself to have adopted extensive measures which contribute to greater openness in military matters in general and in particular to improving the flow of objective information on military capabilities.

GERMANY, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF

[Original: English]

[6 June 1986]

1. The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany welcomes the fact that the General Assembly, in adopting resolution 94 K entitled "Objective information on military matters", once again has stressed, in conformity with the position taken at the tenth special session of the Assembly, the first special session on disarmament, in 1978, the paramount significance of factual information and data-based information for arms control and disarmament.

2. With regard to the negative repercussions an insufficient flow of information on military matters will have on the development of the international security situation, the United Nations study on the relationship between disarmament and development (A/36/3 56, annex), commended by the General Assembly by consensus in 1981 (resolution 36/92 G), stated the following in paragraph 17:

"There is at present a vicious circle in which excessive and unreasonable secrecy and the arms race tend to reinforce each other. A review of the post-war arms race would establish beyond any doubt that excessive secrecy has contributed to the intensity of the arms race by motivating the acquisition of weapons and yielding force levels that subsequently proved to be unnecessary or excessive, but which became irreversible due to inertia or countervailing actions by the adversary."

3. Enhanced openness and transparency in the military sphere as well as the preparedness of States to make available military information that conforms to truth and is reliably verifiable are indispensable prerequisites for reducing tensions and creating confidence and thus in particular for all specific measures serving the ends of arms control and disarmament, such as restraint, confidence-building measures, negotiations on agreements and subsequent verification of adherence to such agreements.
4. The policy of the Federal Government, oriented towards the strengthening of international security by limiting and reducing armament, takes full account of the resultant requirement of sufficient objective information.
5. For the purpose of general and public information on its defence efforts, the Federal Government every other year publishes a comprehensive White Book on the Situation and Development of the Bundeswehr (Federal Armed Forces). In addition to basic information on the defence mandate of the Bundeswehr, its role within the Alliance and its status among the population at large, it contains detailed information and comprehensive statistical data on the leadership, planning activities, organizational set-up, equipment and personnel of the Bundeswehr.
6. The Federal Government furthermore publishes annually a report on the latest developments in the field of disarmament and arms control, which also contains plentiful and detailed information.
7. Convinced that improved availability of military data and facts must be achieved especially on a worldwide scale, the Federal Government from the outset therefore supported the efforts by the United Nations at transparency and comparability of the military expenditures of States. The Federal Government each year presents to the United Nations data on its defence budget within the framework of the system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures. This United Nations instrument will be able, though, to fulfil its envisaged purpose only if broad, representative participation by States from all regional groups in the reporting system is ensured. Regrettably, this pre-condition is still far from having been met.
8. Another important complex of problems, for which solutions can only be achieved through comprehensive international availability of reliable data, is the international transfer of weapons. This is why the Federal Government for many years now in United Nations forums has advocated the establishment of an additional United Nations register in which both the exports and the imports of weapons by States will be recorded.
9. At the regional European level, the Federal Government strictly fulfils its obligations under the Helsinki Final Act to notify military manoeuvres and to invite observers from all participating States.
10. In addition, the Federal Government stresses that the availability of objective information on military matters - as well as in other fields - must be viewed from two aspects: no less importance attaches to the extent of dissemination and accessibility of information than to the quality and quantity of such information.

11. It has been rightly emphasized, therefore, in resolution 37/100 J, adopted by consensus by the General Assembly in 1982, "that the best way to build trust and confidence and to advance the conditions which contribute to the cause of disarmament is through the co-operation and participation of all States and by the widest possible dissemination of information and unimpeded access by all sectors of the public to a broad range of information and opinion on questions of arms limitation and disarmament".

12. It is, therefore, particularly gratifying that the principles of widest possible dissemination and of unimpeded access have been made a cornerstone of the World Disarmament Campaign, approved by the General Assembly at its twelfth special session, the second special session on disarmament, in 1982.

13. In conformity with these principles, a lively and frank public discussion on all questions of security and arms control takes place in the Federal Republic of Germany. This discussion is carried forward both by the personal interest of individuals and the activity of numerous non-governmental organisations. In accordance with the aims of the United Nations in the disarmament field, the Federal Government contributes to this public discussion by fulfilling important complementary tasks of information, public-relations work and education.

ITALY

[Original: English]

[23 June 1986]

1. The Italian Government, which was a sponsor of General Assembly resolution 40/94 K on the flow of objective information on military capabilities, considers the transparency of data on military matters as particularly important in the present context of international relations, since it can contribute to promoting an atmosphere of mutual confidence among States, to improving the prospects for progress in disarmament negotiations and to relieving tensions.

2. In accordance with the principles it has always supported, Italy yearly submits detailed and transparent data on its military expenditures through the international system for standardized reporting and has reported on the size of its military budget. In this context Italy notes with regret that a certain number of States are still not willing to use the international system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures created under the auspices of the United Nations.

3. Furthermore, Italy fully complies with the provisions of the Helsinki Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe concerning prior notification of military manoeuvres and the exchange of observers at such manoeuvres. The Italian Government is among the sponsors of various proposals at the Conference on Confidence- and Security-building Measures and Disarmament in Europe at Stockholm, aiming at strengthening confidence and security through the adoption of militarily significant and verifiable measures of different kinds and in various fields, including the enlargement of the notification régime and the increase of information on military capabilities and activities.

4. At the Vienna negotiations on the mutual and **balanced** reduction of armed forces in Central Europe, Italy, as a participant with special status, has given its support to a series of proposals aimed at increasing the transparency of military information and, consequently, at creating the necessary confidence to pursue deeper reductions.
5. In a more general context, the Italian Government has repeatedly proposed that the scientific community play a role in promoting openness and overcoming anachronistic attitudes of exacerbated secretiveness in international relations.
6. Finally, the Italian Ministry of Defence periodically publishes a white paper providing full information on the situation on national defence.
7. The Italian Government is firmly convinced that transparency of intentions and of military capabilities are essential elements for the reduction of the risks of war and for the enhancement of security and mutual trust. It is willing to take into consideration any additional proposal in the spirit of resolution 40/94 K, in order to increase the flow of objective information on military matters and to promote confidence among States.

NETHERLANDS

[Original: English]

[7 July 1986]

1. The Netherlands supports efforts to achieve greater openness in military matters, in the hope that this will relieve international tension by contributing to confidence-building and that this will facilitate the conclusion of concrete disarmament agreements. Consequently it welcomed General Assembly resolution 40/94 K entitled "Objective information on military matters".
2. The Netherlands helps to prevent war and promotes peace by maintaining a defence posture within the framework of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). It is able and willing to defend the freedom and independence of the Netherlands people, with due regard for the peaceful character of Netherlands society. In a society which is organized in accordance with democratic principles, as Dutch society is, defence must be rooted in society. This means that there must be constant interaction between the armed forces and society in order that the armed forces form an integral part of society. The provisions of information and openness about defence matters serves this purpose, among others.
3. The Netherlands reports annually to the Secretary-General through the system for standardized reporting of military expenditures.
4. The Netherlands Government supplies information to Parliament and the People without reservation. An exhaustive account would take up too much space, and certain major elements will therefore be noted:
 - (a) The defence budget is put before Parliament annually, and plans for the year ahead are discussed in a public parliamentary debate;

(b) In 1984 the policy document on defence was presented, stating the Government's plans and intentions with regard to policy on the Netherlands armed forces for 1984-1993 ;

(c) Parliament is very regularly informed of new developments in the field of defence by means of letters, policy documents and situation reports;

(d) The media often receive the same information as Parliament;

(e) The Ministry of Defence gives regular press briefings on current issues and background information on important aspects of policy;

(f) A number of periodicals are published to keep Ministry of Defence staff informed ;

(g) At the end of 1982, the fundamental information project was initiated. Conscripts and volunteers in the armed forces are told about Netherlands security policy, the origins of NATO and the Warsaw Pact, East-West relations and, in particular, the importance of arms-control discussions;

(h) One of the ways in which information is supplied direct to the Netherlands public is by means of a pool of speakers: officers in the armed forces visit secondary schools to tell young people about national and allied defence and the main lines of defence policy. Officers belonging to the pool also attend many meetings of youth and students' organisations and of denominational and other groups

(i) Brochures are issued to provide general information to the public;

(j) "Open days" are held by the armed forces every year, at which the many visitors can familiarize themselves with the armed forces and the latter can inform the public about what they do.

5. The Netherlands is in full agreement with the ideas underlying resolution 40/94 K and has already been supplying information about defence matters for a long time in a variety of ways; it will continue to seek to improve the information it provides, which is as objective as possible.

NORWAY

[Original: English]

{ 8 May 1986 }

1. Norway has traditionally strongly supported the idea that a free flow of information between nations is an important contribution to the maintenance of a stable and peaceful international situation. It is our firm belief that lack of open and objective information can but lead to misunderstandings and increased tension.

2. The question of objective information on military matters is obviously of particular importance in this connection. A larger degree of openness in this field would in our view serve as an important confidence-building measure which could in the longer perspective prove significant by facilitating future disarmament efforts.

3. In pursuance of this general attitude, Norway has undertaken a number of measures on the national, regional and global levels designed to disseminate information on military matters,

4. Nationally, Norwegian authorities annually make public a wide range of information pertaining both to military budgetary matters and to questions of military policy. Thus, the annual national budget gives a public presentation of military procurement and defence priorities and provides an extensive array of statistical background material. Norwegian authorities also make a considerable effort to present factual information on all questions of importance to Norway's defence policy. In order to facilitate the dissemination of this information, translations are made into a number of foreign languages.

5. On the regional level, Norway has since the outset given active support to the process related to the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. In accordance with the Final Act of the Helsinki Conference, Norway closely observes its commitments to give advance notice of military exercises and to invite observers. Norway, together with her allies, continues to make every effort to bring the Conference on Confidence- and Security-building Measures and Disarmament in Europe to a successful conclusion. A positive outcome of this Conference primarily in terms of the establishment of new confidence-building measures will, in our view, signal a significant step forward in our efforts to create a larger degree of openness in military matters.

6. On the global level, Norway has consistently supported the efforts undertaken within the United Nations with the aim of establishing an international system for standardized reporting of military expenditures. Norway, by responding to General Assembly resolution 40/91 B, has also this year completed a report to the United Nations on Norwegian military expenditures. The United Nations reporting system is of great importance if we are to be able to compare in a meaningful way the military expenditures of nations belonging to different geographic regions and having different budgeting and accounting systems.

7. In our view, efforts should be made to encourage Member States to observe greater openness in military matters on all levels. In this context, it would be of particular importance to obtain a better understanding of the potential for confidence-building measures also at the global level. Participation in the United Nations reporting system by countries from all groups of nations would be a significant contribution in this respect.

SWEDEN

[Original: English]

[16 May 1986]

1. AA is noted in General Assembly resolution 40/94 K, misperceptions of the military capabilities and the intentions of potential adversaries, which could be caused, inter alia, by a lack of objective information, could induce States to undertake armaments programmes leading to the acceleration of the arms race, in particular the nuclear-arms race, and to heightened international tensions.
2. The Government of Sweden shares the conviction that, as expressed in this resolution, a better flow of objective information on military capabilities could help relieve international tension and contribute to the building of confidence among States on a global, regional or subregional level and to the conclusion of concrete disarmament agreements.
3. However, it is important that this proposition be viewed in a broad perspective. The benefits from a better flow of information must be assessed on the basis of its actual role in interaction with other relevant factors. Information is not an independent agent behind political processes, but a product of them. In itself, information, however scrupulous it may be, does not automatically solve all political problems.
4. Furthermore, it is not only military capabilities that are unevenly distributed among nations. The same holds good for political means to obtain objective information about the military capabilities of other nations. It is therefore most appropriate that this resolution urges all States, in particular nuclear-weapon States, and other militarily significant States, to consider implementing additional measures, with the aim of facilitating the availability of objective information on, as well as objective assessment of, military capabilities.
5. Yet, Sweden maintains its readiness to make available information on Swedish military matters in the conviction that the international availability of, and the exchange of information on, military and other defence efforts would contribute to greater confidence among States and would help to facilitate future negotiations on substantive disarmament agreements. The Swedish Government has consistently supported various proposals and actively taken part in efforts aimed at improving the information available to the international community.
6. One such effort was the elaboration and subsequent adoption by the United Nations of an international system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures, which is now being used by an increasing number of Member States with different economic systems and at very different levels of economic development. The Swedish Government is pleased to see that this system is being maintained and can only hope that more and more States will decide to participate in this reporting.

7. Upon the adoption of the reporting system in 1980, two successive United Nations groups of experts have studied the problems of international and intertemporal comparisons of military expenditure and the modalities of constructing appropriate instruments for such comparisons. Through the voluntary co-operation of several Member States, additional information on this matter has become available in the course of these studies.

8. A related effort to collect information on economic and other resources devoted to military purposes was made by the Group of Governmental Experts on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development. At the Group's request some Member States, including Sweden, submitted data on numbers and kinds of military and civilian personnel employed in their military sectors and on different resources and capacities of their defence industries.

9. In 1982, the General Assembly recommended a fuller and more systematic compilation and dissemination by Governments of data on the military use of human and material resources and military transfers. Also, member Governments were urged to follow up the United Nations expert study on the relationship between disarmament and development (A/36/356, annex) with studies in their own countries.

10. The Swedish Government commissioned a study of the implications for Sweden, within the frame of unchanged security-policy goals and on the basis of an assumed future international disarmament process, of reducing defence spending and converting military resources to constructive civilian use. The first report on this Swedish study was submitted to the Government in 1984, the second in 1985. The descriptive and analytical parts of the two reports, both entitled "In Pursuit of Disarmament: Conversion from Military to Civil Production in Sweden", have been transmitted to the United Nations. In Sweden's judgment, it would be most valuable if other Member States were to implement the 1982 General Assembly recommendations in this regard.

11. While, for purposes of confidence-building, the international perspective is clearly paramount, it might be added that access to objective military information has also an important national dimension.

12. The Government of Sweden believes that the traditionally broad and strong popular support for its policy of national security and for an active and wide participation in the defence effort is strengthened by, and could not in the long run be sustained without, an open defence debate based on ample and accessible information. Authoritative information is therefore continuously released. The Government's annual bill to Parliament on Sweden's national defence is an important source of information as also are the Parliamentary proceedings and the reports of successive parliamentary defence committees. Other examples are the Supreme Commander's long-term and medium-term plans, which contain substantive information on the current status and further development of the armed forces, and similar plans provided by the civilian defence authorities. This general openness in military and other defence matters, which is a corollary of the democratic political system, is considered to be entirely compatible with Sweden's national interests.

13. Finally, in the opinion of the Swedish Government, a better flow of information on military capabilities needs to be accompanied by a broad international dialogue about perceptions of such capabilities. Such a dialogue may be conducted at the global, regional or any other level.

14. With a view to facilitating such an international dialogue, and considering the United Nations to be the appropriate forum for its global dimension, Sweden proposed and participated in the study of concepts of security (A/40/553, annex). The objective of integrating the need for an improved flow of information with a dialogue on perceptions of military capabilities and plans was also at the forefront of Sweden's proposal for a United Nations study of the military use of research and development; the Swedish Government made, on its own initiative, a considerable amount of information available for this study. The same applies to Sweden's involvement in successive United Nations studies of military budgets.

15. In a regional perspective, the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe has set in motion negotiations, currently being conducted at Stockholm, on confidence- and security-building measures in Europe. A considerable number of the measures under negotiation relate to increased openness in the military field. Sweden is striving for an agreement leading to the greatest possible openness and predictability in military matters. The proposals tabled by Sweden, together with the other neutral and non-aligned countries participating in those negotiations, emphasize such openness.

16. It should be stressed, however, that greater openness must not be used as a justification for increased military activities. This is an essential principle for Sweden and the other neutral and non-aligned States participating in the Stockholm negotiations on regional measures. The principle is equally valid at the global, or any other, level.

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

[Original: English]

[25 April 1986]

1. As part of the natural contribution by a democratic Government to a free and open debate on defence issues, the United Kingdom has consistently implemented a wide variety of measures whose aims are to contribute to the maximum practicable level of openness in military matters in general. In common with its Western partners, the United Kingdom already provides extensive objective and publicly available information on its own military capabilities.

2. As requested in General Assembly resolution 46/91 B, the United Kingdom has again this year completed the standardized international reporting instrument, designed to communicate to the Secretary-General military expenditures in a readily comparable form. The United Kingdom has repeatedly stressed the importance it attaches to the completion of the reporting instrument by a representative sample of States, and in particular by the major military Powers, from different regions.

and with different budgeting and accounting systems, as a contribution to confidence-building among States. The United Kingdom believes that maximum benefit cannot be obtained from this exercise in the absence of a more forthcoming attitude on the part of countries with centrally planned economies. More information from these countries could help balance the representative sample of countries with free-market economies which have already completed the matrix.

3. The United Kingdom provides extensive information on its military capabilities in the form of a White Paper presented annually to Parliament, which contains a Statement on the Defence Estimates. This comprehensive statement covers every facet of the United Kingdom's defence posture and it provides factual background to British defence activities and the Government's thinking on defence and on the international situation which British defences are designed to face. A substantial part of the White Paper on British defence activities is devoted to statistical analysis of the content and expenditure of British forces. The information contained in the Statement is readily available to the general public in the form of a Government publication.

4. The United Kingdom also scrupulously observes its commitments under the Helsinki Act, in accordance with which the United Kingdom has given advance notification of exercises and has also invited observers representing all parties to the Act.

5. It is a matter of importance and urgency, if a level of confidence is to be established which can lead to the conclusion of worthwhile agreements on a wide variety of defence issues, that other States, particularly those with different social and economic systems, take steps to provide similar types and amounts of factual information on their military activities.

6. Finally, the United Kingdom believes that once the General Assembly has received the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 40/94 K consideration should be given to how the United Nations might pursue this subject further.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

[Original: English]

[13 May 1986]

1. The United States has been a consistent and strong supporter of the objective of greater openness in military matters. In the firm belief that transparency in such matters enhances mutual trust and thus reduces international tensions, whereas secrecy breeds mistrust and suspicion, the United States voted in favour of General Assembly resolution 40/94 K. Earlier, in 1982, the United States had sponsored General Assembly resolution 37/100 J, which was adopted without a vote and in which the Assembly urged Member States to facilitate the flow of a broad range of information on disarmament matters, both governmental and non-governmental, to and among their citizens, and to carry out the World Disarmament Campaign in all

regions of the world in a balanced, factual and objective manner. The following year, the United States supported General Assembly resolution 38/188 C, in which the Assembly called on Member States to provide objective information on military capabilities. In addition, beginning with General Assembly resolution 35/142 B of 12 December 1980, the United States has consistently supported all resolutions calling for the systematic use by all States of the standardized international instrument for reporting to facilitate verifiable and equitable reductions of military budgets. The United States annually reports its military expenditures in standardized form to the Secretary-General.

2. The United States being a country with a constitutionally proscribed democratic form of government in which the people, through their freely elected representatives and leaders, ultimately determine national policy, the United States Government makes available objective information that is broad and deep in scope on its military establishment and military matters in general. Such information is made available to the general public and especially to the United States Congress, which enacts legislation establishing the armed forces of the United States and enabling them to operate. Among the more prominent annual reports to the Congress are the following:

(a) Office of the Secretary of Defense: the Annual Report to the Congress from the Secretary of Defense;

(b) Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff: United States Military Posture;

(c) United States Army: the Posture of the United States Army; the Army Budget Book; and the Army Weapons System Handbook;

(A) United States Naval services: Report by the House Armed Services Committee on the Posture and the Budget of the United States Navy and Marine Corps; Report by the Chief of Naval Operations on the Posture and the Budget of the United States Navy; Department of Navy Budget; and Commandant of the Marine Corps Posture Statement;

(e) United States Air Force: the United States Air Force Report to Congress; the Weapon System Information Brief for Members of Congress; and the United States Air Force Research and Development Posture Statement.

3. The volume of military information, both ad hoc and recurrent, that is made public far exceeds that contained in these reports. The Congress in particular requires and obtains much information in various ways. For example, annually (on the average over the last decade), 79 committees and subcommittees of the Congress hold 456 hearings at which the Secretary of Defense personally testifies 19 times and 1,500 other Department of Defense officials also testify. Over 100,000 written inquiries are made annually by the Congress. The annual Department of Defense budget request is supported by over 20,000 pages of budget justification books, on the average.

4. In addition to this provision of information by Congressional request, much of which is published and available to the public, the Department of Defense regularly reports to the Congress on a wide variety of subjects and also publishes many other reports that are not necessarily for the Congress. These reports number in the thousands, as may be seen in catalogues and bibliographies prepared by the Superintendent of Documents and the Controller General, as well as the Department of Defense. The information issued by the United States Government is generally accessible to analysts and authors, who in turn produce reference works that help to make the information readily available to the general public.

5. The United States, in supporting the General Assembly's call for greater openness and transparency on military matters on the part of Member States, does not put itself forward as a model for all countries to follow; the United States practice has evolved out of American history and institutions which differ from those of other countries. However, the United States experience can serve to illustrate that extensive military openness is not harmful to security and indeed is essential to enable an informed populace in a democratic system of government to make wise decisions, and to make clear, for the benefit of Governments and peoples of other countries, the peaceful objectives underlying United States military activities and programmes.