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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS
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United Nations disarmament studies

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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JAPAN

[Original: English]

[21 October 1986]

1. To date, numerous United Nations disarmament studies, covering a wide range of topics, have, in accordance with mandates from the General Assembly, been completed by the Secretary-General, with valuable assistance from **governmental** experts. Japan sees studies on the question of disarmament undertaken within the framework of the United Nations as a means of increasing understanding of the problems in the area and, thus, facilitating consideration of them. Believing this, Japan has attached, and will continue to attach, great importance to such United Nations studies. This basic attitude regarding such studies has been reflected in the active participation of Japanese experts in the work of many of the studies conducted to date.

2. Estimates of the value of disarmament studies will, of course, vary, depending on Member States' differing perceptions of the objectives and role of such studies. The view of Japan is that such studies should be aimed principally at producing balanced and factual findings through in-depth consideration of the various dimensions and complexities of the problems studied. In the light of such **a goal**, there seems to be still a great deal of room for streamlining and improving the methodology of United Nations disarmament studies. Appropriate measures should be adopted to this end. Especially, it is essential to put on a brake on the proliferation of studies, particularly in view of the present grave financial situation of the United Nations. Japan was very disappointed by the recent failure of two study groups to present an agreed text, after having engaged in work that had required a very considerable investment in terms of both time and money. This failure, we believe, indicates the need for appropriate measures, **including** the drawing-up of methodological guidelines before a study is begun.

3. In order to prevent unnecessary proliferation of United Nations studies and to make the results of studies more meaningful, it is most desirable that all Member States should refrain from proposing new studies by means of General Assembly resolutions before the need for such studies has been fully examined. It is the view of Japan that the Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies can play an important role, both in selecting subjects for study and in elaborating guidelines for the conduct of studies in a co-ordinate³ and effective manner. Japan considers it important that the Advisory Board be given the opportunity to discuss any proposal for the initiation of a new study or for work to bring old studies up to date, such discussion covering the substantive relevance and timeliness of the proposed study, cost, availability of competent experts, etc., and to present its views on the appropriateness of such proposals before the General Assembly reaches any decision on the initiation of a study.

4. United Nations studies will not, by and of themselves, resolve fundamental problems in the field of disarmament. They can, however, make a valuable contribution to a better understanding of the problems of the disarmament process.

5. Needless to say, the value of studies largely depends on the extent to which impartial data and relevant information on the subject in question are available. Each study group should make every effort to arrive at an objective analysis on the basis of adequate data and information and, where divergent views exist, to present an unbiased report juxtaposing the different views in a balanced and integrated manner.
