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Item 70 of the provisional agenda\*

**REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON  
THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY**

**Report of the Secretary-General**

1. The General Assembly, at its fortieth session, adopted resolution 40/158 of 16 December 1985, entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security". In that resolution, the General Assembly, inter alia, reaffirmed the validity of the Declaration and called upon all States to contribute effectively to its implementation; urged all States to abide strictly, in their international relations, by their commitment to the Charter of the United Nations; called upon all States, in particular the nuclear-weapon States and other militarily significant States, to take immediate steps aimed at promoting the system of collective security envisaged in the Charter and at halting effectively the arms race and achieving general and complete disarmament under effective international control, and invited all States to refrain, especially in critical situations and in crisis areas, from actions, including military activities and manoeuvres used as a means of pressure on, threat to and destabilization of other States and regions. The Assembly also urged all States, in particular the permanent members of the Security Council, to take all necessary measures to prevent the further deterioration of the international situation, to seek, through more effective utilization of the means provided for in the Charter, the peaceful settlement of disputes and the elimination of the focal points of crisis and tension which constitute a threat to international peace and security; to proceed without delay to a global consideration of ways and means for bringing about a revival of the world economy and for the restructuring of international economic relations within the framework of the global negotiations with a view to establishing the new international economic order; to accelerate the economic development of developing countries, particularly the least developed

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\* A/41/150.

ones, and to implement urgently measures agreed upon to ameliorate the critical economic situation in Africa. The Assembly also called upon all States to promote the role of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General in the strengthening of International security, in accordance with the Charter. The Assembly stressed the urgent need to enhance the effectiveness of the Security Council and emphasized the need to examine mechanisms and working methods in order to enhance the authority and enforcement capacity of the Council in accordance with the Charter. It further emphasized that the Security Council should consider holding periodic meetings in specific cases to consider and review outstanding problems and crises, thus enabling the Council to play a more active role in preventing conflicts. The Assembly reiterated the need for the Council, in particular its permanent members, to ensure the effective implementation of its decisions. It considered that the promotion of human rights and the strengthening of international peace and security mutually reinforced each other; it reaffirmed the legitimacy of the struggle of peoples under colonial domination, foreign occupation or racist régimes and their inalienable right to self-determination and independence; urged Member States to take urgent and effective measures for the speedy completion of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and for the final elimination of colonialism, racism and apartheid. It called upon all States to take appropriate and effective measures to promote the fulfilment of the objective of the denuclearization of Africa in order to avert the serious danger which the nuclear capability of South Africa constitutes to the African States, in particular the front-line States, as well as to international peace and security. The Assembly expressed the hope that the Stockholm Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe would achieve significant results; and stressed its belief that the United Nations offered the best framework for the promotion of the full development and independence of all States as well as the attainment of genuine security, peace and co-operation in the world.

2. The General Assembly invited Member States to submit their views on the question of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Assembly at its forty-first session on the basis of the replies received. It accordingly decided to include the item in the provisional agenda of its forty-first session.

3. The Secretary-General, on 23 January 1986, addressed a note verbale to the Government<sup>9</sup> of Member States inviting them to submit their views on the question in accordance with paragraph 17 of the resolution. As at 21 July 1986, two substantive replies to the note verbale have been received, the texts of which are reproduced in the annex hereto. Additional replies which may be received will be issued as addenda to the present report.

ANNEX

Replies received from Governments

BULGARIA

[Original: French]

1. The Declaration on the **Strengthening of International Security**, adopted on the initiative of the Soviet Union by the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session, is an important international instrument whose aim is the practical realization of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations with regard to the maintenance and strengthening of international peace and security.

2. The People's Republic of Bulgaria is concerned about the worsening international situation. At the end of the 1970s, the leading imperialist circles abruptly turned their backs on détente and reverted to the stereotypes of the "cold war". The United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) have accelerated the arms race to an unprecedented level by embarking on military programmes and resorting to the most brutal and aggressive forms of ideological and economic warfare.

3. At the core of this strategy of tension is the "Star Wars" programme being prepared by the United States under the name of the Strategic Defense Initiative. The programme's implementation would lead to an unlimited and uncontrolled arms race. This programme is today the biggest obstacle to nuclear disarmament. It is fundamentally contrary to the spirit of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security.

4. Bulgaria is resolutely opposed to the disruption of the existing strategic balance and to the militarization of space. It is against the strategy of tension, and for the establishment of a positive current in international affairs. The foremost objective of its foreign policy is to eliminate the threat of nuclear war, reduce the level of military confrontation and develop international relations in the spirit of peaceful coexistence and détente. The only way to achieve that objective is through constructive negotiations aimed at drawing up effective and mutually acceptable agreements based on the principles of equality and equal security.

5. Bulgaria has expressed its satisfaction at the Geneva meeting last November between General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev and President Ronald Reagan. In its view, this meeting had the merit of opening the way to the normalization of Soviet-United States relations, and thereby of international relations. Of particular importance are the agreements reached and the acknowledgement on both sides that nuclear war must be absolutely rejected! that any war, whether nuclear or conventional, between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States must be avoided and that the two Powers will not seek military superiority over each other.

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6. The Geneva negotiations **between the USSR and the United States** on the whole range of questions dealing with **space and nuclear weapons and strategic and intermediate-range missiles are also** of major importance. The success of the negotiations depends on strict respect for **their agreed aim and purposes.**

7. **Together with the other socialist countries signatories to the Warsaw Treaty, Bulgaria has taken constructive steps to improve current international relations in general.** These initiatives **are aimed at halting the arms race on earth and preventing it in space, and at strengthening international confidence and security.** The Sofia meeting of the Political Consultative Committee of the **member States of the Warsaw Treaty** in October 1985 drew up **a broad and comprehensive platform for solving the most urgent international problems, safeguarding world peace and strengthening international security.**

8. **Bulgaria welcomes, for its exceptional scope and concrete nature, the statement by General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev of 15 January 1986 with regard to ridding the earth, by the end of the century, of all weapons of mass destruction, first and foremost nuclear weapons.** This **statement** responds to **the vital interests of all mankind.**

9. The extremely important programme launched **by the twenty-seventh Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union** and aimed at building **an all-embracing system of international security** would make it possible to **achieve the conditions for truly peaceful coexistence among States of different political, economic and social systems,**

10. Bulgaria declares itself strongly in favour of **the immediate cessation of all nuclear tests.** It greatly appreciates **the unilateral moratorium proclaimed by the USSR on 6 August 1985, and subsequently extended several times, whose purpose is to promote the complete prohibition of all nuclear tests.** This goal will **be attained only if the United States and the other nuclear States follow the Soviet example and stop their nuclear testing.**

11. The **new Soviet initiative put forward by Mikhail Gorbachev at Berlin, with its proposal for a substantial reduction in ground and tactical air forces from the Atlantic to the Urals and a simultaneous reduction in operational-tactical nuclear weapons, deserves serious attention.** If **accepted by the member countries of NATO, this proposal would greatly contribute to strengthening peace and security not only in Europe but throughout the world.**

12. Regional initiatives are also of **significance in the strengthening of international security.** As **the culmination of collective efforts by the European States, the United States and Canada, the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe 11 years ago adopted the major principles and postulates on which security and co-operation in Europe are based.** **The tenth anniversary of the signing of the Helsinki Conference Final Act confirmed the vitality of this instrument and its importance for the maintenance of peace and development of co-operation in that part of the world.**

13. Bulgaria feels, moreover, **that the objective conditions exist for strengthening security in other parts of the world as well.**

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14. The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in various parts of Europe and the world would contribute substantially to reducing the nuclear threat and strengthening security. It is precisely in this context that Bulgaria's efforts to transform the Balkans into a nuclear-free zone should be considered,

15. Positive results on other disarmament problems are of considerable importance for halting the frenetic arms race. As is well known, the Heads of State of Bulgaria and Romania, Todor Zhivkov and Nicolae Ceauseacu, appealed in a statement on 22 December 1985 for the transformation of the Balkans into a zone free of chemical weapons as well. This proposal and that of the other member countries of the Warsaw Treaty concerning chemical weapons bears eloquent witness to the good will of the socialist countries with regard to the complete prohibition of this type of weapon.

16. The strengthening of international security also calls for putting an end to the tension in various regional focal points. Bulgaria fully supports any constructive proposal for a just, peaceful and lasting solution of all regional conflicts - in the Middle East, Cyprus, Central America, southern Africa and other regions.

17. Bulgaria is firmly convinced that international security cannot be ensured by military means. A constructive and coherent dialogue is necessary. Bulgaria will therefore do everything in its power to contribute to the success of the Stockholm Conference, the forthcoming Vienna meeting of representatives of the participant countries of the Helsinki Conference, the negotiations on the reduction of forces and weapons in central Europe and other European and world forums.

#### LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

[Original: French]

1. On the initiative of the Soviet Union, the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security was proclaimed by the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session. In keeping with the Charter of the United Nations, this historic document of universal scope laid the foundations essential to the maintenance of peace and the strengthening of international security. Because of their cardinal importance, the principles it contains have been reiterated in many General Assembly resolutions aimed at ameliorating the international climate, eliminating the threat of nuclear war, preventing the militarization of space and reducing conventional and nuclear weapons.

2. However, 15 years after their adoption, the provisions of the Declaration are not being fully implemented. The world is still deeply disturbed by the increasingly frequent resort to the threat or use of force, military intervention, aggression and occupation in violation of the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the persistence of colonialism, racism and apartheid and the fact that an appropriate solution has not yet been found to the economic crisis. These serious phenomena are the direct result of the policy of intervention in the internal affairs of other States and of State terrorism

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actively pursued by imperialist circles in close collaboration with some of their regional strategic allies. World peace and the rights of peoples and nations are thus being gravely threatened.

3. In this continually deteriorating international situation, there is no nobler and more urgent task than that of preserving peace and averting nuclear war, as eloquently demonstrated by the common concern expressed by the heads of delegation of the majority of States during the observance of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations last autumn. Along these same lines, the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev, stated on 15 January 1986 that "When it is a question of preserving peace and saving mankind from the threat of nuclear war, no one must remain indifferent or stand aloof. It concerns each and every one of us. Every State, large or small, socialist or capitalist, has an important contribution to make. Every responsible political party, every social organization and every individual can also make an important contribution."

4. Aware of their international responsibility, the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries have come forward with a whole series of constructive, concrete and wide-ranging initiatives whose implementation could bring a halt to the arms race on earth and prevent it in space. Of these important initiatives, the programme for the complete and universal elimination of nuclear weapons by the year 2000 has received broad support from world opinion and particular attention from the political circles and statesmen of various countries.

5. Moreover, by proclaiming a unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests from 6 August 1985 to 31 December 1985, which was subsequently twice extended, to 6 August 1986, despite the negative reaction of the United States, the Soviet Union has taken a courageous decision, for all sincere and honest people recognize that the halting of nuclear tests would be a concrete step towards the elimination of nuclear weapons. However, the negative response of the United States Administration to the Soviet Union's proposals has thwarted the hope of the peoples of the world that the Soviet-United States summit in Geneva would result in détente between the two countries.

6. Furthermore, not content with turning a deaf ear to these peace proposals and to the appeals of a number of major nations, the Government of the United States has again undertaken acts of intervention and aggression against some Asian, African and Latin American States, thus creating new focal points of tension and aggravating those already in existence.

7. In southern Africa the United States Administration, by its policy of so-called constructive engagement, is encouraging the apartheid régime to pursue with impunity its illegal colonial occupation of Namibia, in flagrant violation of the resolutions of the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, and to commit constant acts of aggression against the front-line African States. Likewise, it backs the bloody oppression and repression perpetrated by the South African racists against the black population of South Africa,

8. In the Middle East, the United States aids and encourages Israel to continue its occupation of the Arab and Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem, and to persecute the Palestinian people and prevent it from exercising its fundamental, inalienable rights.

9. In the Mediterranean basin, the United States Administration is increasing its acts of sabotage against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, whose policy does not happen to please it. The recent United States air attack against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya again attests to the desire of this imperialist super-Power to strike at all countries and peoples which refuse to bend to its diktat.

10. In Central America, Nicaragua is the principal target of the Reagan Administration's political and military forces. The training of en-Somozan mercenaries, the naval and air attacks, the mining of the main ports and the imposition of the trade embargo are all terrorist practices which show the United States desire to overthrow the lawful new régime of Nicaragua by force.

11. In South-East Asia, despite the policy of confrontation pursued by the imperialists, the super-Power hegemonie and the other reactionary force of the region, the trend towards dialogue which continues to develop there is deeply significant; the possibility for co-operation and the chance to live in peace without external interference now exist, and it is imperative that the peoples of the region work diligently to achieve peaceful coexistence among themselves.

12. The declarations of Bandung in 1955, Kuala Lumpur in 1971, Bali in 1976 and that of the three countries of Indo-China submitted to the General Assembly in 1981 by the Lao Minister for Foreign Affairs are all instruments which might form the basis of an agreement between the countries of the region. It is in that spirit that at the twelfth conference of their Ministers for Foreign Affairs, held at its capital, Vientiane, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, together with the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the People's Republic of Kampuchea, reiterated their five-point proposals aimed at bringing about a negotiated settlement to the problems of South-East Asia, including the question of Kampuchea. The three countries of Indo-China hope that these constructive and realistic initiatives, which take into account the legitimate interests of all the countries of the region, will be duly taken into consideration by the other countries concerned.

13. In the worsening international situation, the consideration by the General Assembly of the question of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security is imperative. Governments must become aware of this serious issue and accordingly adopt concrete measures to improve the international climate.

14. The Lao People's Democratic Republic, for its part, will continue to make every effort to contribute to the realization of the aim of this important and historic Declaration.