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

Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 16 December 1985, the General Assembly adopted resolution 40/152 L, entitled "Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade", which reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 35/46 of 3 December 1980, by which it adopted the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade,

"Recalling also its resolution 39/148 Q of 17 December 1984, by which it decided to review and appraise at its fortieth session, in 1985, the implementation of the Declaration,

"Noting with concern that half-way through the Second Disarmament Decade its goals are far from being achieved and that no substantial progress has been made even on items of highest priority,

"Alarmed at the continued escalation of the arms race, particularly the nuclear-arms race,

"Also alarmed at the recent findings of the possible consequences of a nuclear war under present circumstances, as documented by competent scientists,

"Deeply concerned at the continued dissipation of ever-increasing human and material resources on the arms race,

"Taking note of the views of Member States and suggestions made by them on the implementation of the Declaration,

"Taking note with satisfaction of the part of the report of the Disarmament Commission on the item entitled "Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade: preliminary assessment and suggestions to ensure progress", 1/

"Welcoming the bilateral negotiations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America in accordance with the joint statement issued by the two Governments on 8 January 1985, 2/

"1. Decides to adopt the relevant part of the report of the Disarmament Commission; 1/

"2. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to accelerate the implementation of the activities elaborated in the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade, as enumerated in the report of the Disarmament Commission;

"3. Calls upon all States, particularly the nuclear-weapon States:

"(a) To reaffirm their commitment to the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade;

"(b) To reaffirm their commitment to the attainment of the ultimate objective of general and complete disarmament under effective international control;

"(c) To adopt concrete and practical measures for preventing the outbreak of war, in particular nuclear war;

"(d) To take appropriate steps to halt and reverse the nuclear-arms race with a view to improving the international climate and enhancing the efficacy of disarmament negotiations;

"(e) To exert greater efforts in the implementation of the World Disarmament Campaign;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to report annually to the General Assembly on the implementation of the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade."

2. At its thirty-fifth session, the General Assembly, in its resolution 35/46 of 3 December 1980, unanimously adopted the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade. Paragraph 24 of the Declaration stated that the question should be included in the agenda of the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, in 1982, and paragraph 25 stated that the General Assembly would undertake at its fortieth session, in 1985, a review and appraisal, through the Disarmament Commission, of progress in the implementation of the measures identified in the Declaration.

3. In 1982, the General Assembly, at its twelfth special session, which was devoted to disarmament, undertook the review provided for in paragraph 24 of the Declaration. Following the exchange of views organized in connection with that review, it drew up a list of proposals and suggestions presented by Member States. 3/

4. At its thirty-ninth session, the General Assembly, by its resolution 39/148 Q, decided to undertake the review and appraisal called for in paragraph 25 of the Declaration and requested the Disarmament Commission at its 1985 session to make a preliminary assessment of the implementation of the Declaration, as well as suggestions to ensure progress, and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fortieth session.

5. The Disarmament Commission submitted such a report at the fortieth session of the General Assembly, which adopted the relevant part of the report by its resolution 40/152 I, which was quoted in paragraph 1 of this report. The Commission's conclusions and recommendations, contained in paragraphs 6 to 10 of annex VII to its report, were as follows:

"6. Though the mid-point of the Decade has been reached, its goals are far from being achieved. It is a matter of regret that, in spite of the efforts of many States, no substantial progress has been made even on items of highest priority. The threat to the survival of mankind is no less today than it was at the beginning of the Decade.

"7. An encouraging development is the initiation of bilateral negotiations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America in accordance with the joint communiqué issued by the two Governments on 8 January 1985. Progress in these talks should have beneficial effects on the multilateral disarmament process as well as help to reduce international tension, thus promoting the global security environment.

"8. The United Nations should be kept appropriately informed of these negotiations without prejudice to their progress.

"9. The Disarmament Commission expects that all States Members of the United Nations, in particular those possessing the largest military arsenals, will resolutely pursue the objectives set forth in the Declaration and achieve concrete results during the remaining five years of the Decade.

"10. The Disarmament Commission accordingly recommends to the General Assembly to call upon all States, particularly the nuclear-weapon States, to:

"(a) Reaffirm their commitment to the Declaration of the Second Disarmament Decade;

"(b) Reaffirm their commitment to the attainment of the ultimate objective of general and complete disarmament under effective international control;

"(c) Adopt concrete and practical measures for preventing the outbreak of war, in particular nuclear war;

"(d) Take appropriate steps to halt and reverse the nuclear-arms race with a view to improving the international climate as well as enhancing the efficacy of disarmament negotiations;

"(e) Exert greater effort in the implementation of the World Disarmament Campaign." 1/

6. With regard to the activities of the Conference on Disarmament, each year the Secretary-General transmits to the President of the Conference the text of the various resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly relating to disarmament questions, in particular those which entrust the Conference with particular responsibilities.

7. The status of the activities provided for in the Declaration and enumerated in the report of the Disarmament Commission is described in the report of the Conference on Disarmament to the Secretary-General. 4/

8. On 22 July 1986, the Secretary-General addressed a note to all Member States, requesting them to indicate what measures their Governments had taken or intended to take in implementation of resolution 40/152 L. As at 14 October, the Secretary-General had received replies from Australia, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Finland, the German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Panama, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, which are reproduced in this report.

II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

AUSTRALIA

[Original: English]

[2 September 1986]

1. Australia is disappointed by the lack of progress in disarmament and arms control during the Second Disarmament Decade, but Australia continues to set great store by the multilateral disarmament process. The Australian Government therefore continues to support the goals of the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade, as well as the attainment of the ultimate objective of general and complete disarmament under effective international control.

2. The commitment to general and complete disarmament was specifically reaffirmed by the Australian Labour Party during its biennial Conference at Hobart in July 1986. The relevant extract from the Conference document is as follows:

"Labour is committed to the elimination of nuclear weapons and the ultimate achievement of general and complete disarmament."

3. Australia has been active, especially in the Security Council, of which it has been a member during 1985 and 1986, in seeking to persuade all countries to settle their disputes by peaceful means, and to prevent the outbreak of war, in particular nuclear war.

4. Australia has also sought to curb the nuclear-arms race by promoting a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty, and has supported the concept of a mutual and verifiable freeze on nuclear-weapon testing, production and development, as a means of breaking the upward spiral of the arms race, followed by negotiations which aim for deep cuts in the high stockpiles of nuclear weapons. Australia believes that the immediate goal must be the most stable possible balance of the lowest level of nuclear weapons. The ultimate goal must remain their complete elimination.

5. Australia has continued to support the World Disarmament Campaign with three voluntary donations, each of \$A 50,000, with \$A 20,000 of each donation being earmarked for the United Nations Institute of Disarmament Research.

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BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

[Original: Russian]

[24 September 1986]

1. The Byelorussian SSR supported the adoption of the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade, viewing it as a text which would facilitate progress towards disarmament. In the ensuing years the Byelorussian SSR, convinced of the need to halt the arms race on earth and prevent it in outer space, has done everything it could to promote the achievement of the goals of the Decade. The Byelorussian SSR's position of principle with regard to the tasks of the Second Disarmament Decade was set out in a letter of 18 April 1980 addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Byelorussian SSR (A/CN.10/10/Add.3). An appraisal of the implementation of the goals of the Decade in the first half of the 1980s is contained in a letter of 15 May 1985 addressed to the Secretary-General by the Permanent Representative of the Byelorussian SSR to the United Nations (A/CN.10/68/Add.4).
2. The delegation of the Byelorussian SSR participated actively in the drafting of the consensus recommendations of the United Nations Disarmament Commission in 1985, when it considered the item "Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade". Those recommendations formed the basis of General Assembly resolution 40/152 L.
3. It should be noted that not all States have duly heeded the General Assembly's call in that resolution to adopt concrete and practical measures for preventing nuclear war and to halt and reverse the nuclear-arms race with a view to improving the international climate and enhancing the efficacy of disarmament negotiations.
4. In this field, the key issue remains the prohibition of nuclear-weapons tests, which would be a major step towards halting the nuclear-arms race. The unilateral moratorium on all nuclear explosions introduced by the USSR as from 6 August 1985, which was extended four times in one year and is still in effect now, provides a unique and unprecedented opportunity for halting and subsequently prohibiting nuclear-weapons tests. All problems which might have existed in the field of verifying such a cessation and prohibition have been eliminated as a result of the constructive and bold initiatives by the Soviet Union. In such circumstances, and particularly in the light of the readiness of the six countries from four continents to promote the implementation of this measure, which the USSR has welcomed, the continued refusal of the United States of America to join in the moratorium and in urgent efforts to prohibit nuclear-weapons tests is a challenge to the international community and to the security of mankind.
5. In the field of nuclear disarmament, beginning as early as 1986 - the International Year of Peace - and up to the end of the present decade, major practical steps can be taken. They have been proposed in the Soviet phased programme for the elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction and the prohibition of offensive space weapons. This programme is intended completely to rid the planet of these terrible instruments of destruction by the year 2000 (A/41/97).

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6. In its efforts to implement this programme, the USSR has put forward a set of concrete proposals in the Soviet-American negotiations on nuclear and space weapons. If the other side takes an equally constructive approach to these negotiations, the hopes which the international community has of them can be realized in the near future.

7. The way to the transformation of outer space into an arena for the arms race, must be firmly blocked. The Byelorussian SSR is convinced that the plans to extend the arms race into outer space undermine international security and run counter to the goals of the Second Disarmament Decade. What mankind needs is not "Star Wars" but "Star Peace" and co-operation in the peaceful conquest and use of outer space. The well-known proposals of the USSR are intended for this very purpose. The views of the Byelorussian SSR concerning the need for extensive peaceful international co-operation in outer space as an alternative to military confrontation there are set out in the letter of 2 July 1986 from the Permanent Representative of the Byelorussian SSR addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations (A/41/470).

8. The present, sixth year of the Disarmament Decade has been marked by important initiatives of the socialist States in other areas of the struggle for disarmament as well. The compromise proposals introduced by the USSR in the Conference on Disarmament negotiations on the prohibition of chemical weapons will make it possible before the end of this year or during the coming year to finish drafting and sign a convention on the prohibition of those weapons and the elimination of the industrial base for their production. The far-reaching measures proposed by the States parties to the Warsaw Treaty in the area of cutting back on conventional armed forces and armaments afford an opportunity to bring about a substantial reduction in them throughout the European continent from the Atlantic to the Urals. Increased stability in the world is also being promoted by another serious initiative of the members of the Warsaw Treaty - their declaration at Budapest in June this year that they would never under any circumstances initiate military action against any State, whether in Europe or in any other region of the world, if they themselves were not the victims of aggression.

9. The achievement of agreement at the Stockholm Conference on Confidence- and Security-building Measures and Disarmament in Europe is an important factor which can have a positive impact on progress towards realizing the goals of the Disarmament Decade in the European and wider contexts.

10. In the opinion of the Byelorussian SSR, the constructive stance of the socialist States on disarmament matters, including the question of verification, opens the way for substantial progress in the current negotiations and the beginning of new negotiations in areas where they are vitally necessary.

11. The Byelorussian SSR consistently devotes significant attention to the question of prohibiting the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons. At the fortieth session of the General Assembly, resolution 40/90, introduced by the Byelorussian SSR on behalf of a number of sponsors, put forward compromise proposals on the matter which also provide a good basis for solving this problem.

12. Convinced of the need for a new approach in order to bring about a radical change for the better in international affairs, the Byelorussian SSR was one of the sponsors of the proposal that an item entitled "Establishment of a comprehensive system of international security" should be considered at the forty-first session of the General Assembly. The States of the socialist community, which sponsored that proposal, firmly believe that in the nuclear and space age security for all is the only real form of security and propose that appropriate measures should be taken in the military, political, economic and humanitarian spheres to build a comprehensive system of international security. The Byelorussian SSR considers that the international community's efforts to achieve the goals of the Second Disarmament Decade will make an important contribution towards the establishment of such a system. For its part, the Byelorussian SSR is prepared to co-operate further with all interested States in order to realize the goals of the Disarmament Decade.

FINLAND

[Original: English]

[14 August 1986]

1. The Government of Finland considers the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade as a reflection of the widespread international concern about the continuing arms race and the present status of disarmament. The objectives of the Second Disarmament Decade are, however, far from being satisfactorily achieved. During the first half of the Decade the general international situation has been characterized by the escalating and expanding arms race. Many States have sought to improve their security unilaterally by increasing their armaments. Negotiations on the limitation and reduction of strategic arms as well as of intermediate nuclear forces have been conducted in an atmosphere which has reflected a deep controversy. At the same time, the rapid development of nuclear-weapons technology has brought about changes in military doctrines. The accelerating arms buildup has become a threat to the security of all.

2. Finland believes that the most urgent task of the international community is to halt the arms race, to reduce nuclear arms and the threat created by them. The two leading nuclear Powers carry the main responsibility in this field while the promotion of disarmament is a duty shared by all countries.

3. Finland has followed the ongoing United States-Soviet negotiations at Geneva on nuclear and space arms, which have as their objective the working-out of effective agreements aimed at preventing an arms race in space and terminating it on Earth. We hope that the negotiations will lead to concrete results in limiting and reducing nuclear arms and strengthening strategic stability.

4. Finland, for her part, pursues an active policy in many fields of disarmament in forums available to her, such as the United Nations, the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva and the Stockholm Conference on Confidence- and

Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe. Finland has her own role in the field of disarmament in specialization in some specific issues, well adapted for the policy of neutrality.

5. In respect of regional arrangements, Finland promotes the establishment of a Nordic nuclear-weapon-free zone. Over the years, Finland has had a continued exchange of views regarding the zone idea with other States, particularly with her Nordic neighbours. In July, a thorough study on the zone proposal was published in Helsinki by an in-house working group set up by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Finland has also consistently emphasized the importance of the continuity of the process of security and co-operation that began in Helsinki in 1975. In our view, the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe process has proved its viability and usefulness.

6. Finland considers it urgent that a comprehensive test ban be concluded as soon as possible. As a member of a seismic expert group set up by the Conference on Disarmament of Geneva, Finland has actively taken part in the work to develop the seismic verification of nuclear tests. Also, the elements for a comprehensive treaty on chemical weapons seem to be at hand. Finland continues to take an active part in the endeavours towards the conclusion of the treaty through her long-standing scientific project on chemical weapons verification, which aims at facilitating the negotiation of the treaty.

7. Finland regards the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as one of the most significant single achievements in the field of disarmament and hopes that the régime created by it will be further strengthened.

8. It is important also to search for other means designed to build confidence and security, to improve stability, to promote crisis management and to diminish the risk of accidental wars. There should be increased international co-operation towards these ends. According to the Finnish view, security cannot be strengthened through increasing armaments, but through their effective limitation and reduction. There should be a search for security through co-operation and negotiation instead of conflict and confrontation. Therefore the Government of Finland is ready to support all sensible and feasible proposals in the field of arms control and disarmament.

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

[Original: English]

[29 August 1986]

1. In its reply to the United Nations Secretary-General of 30 April 1985 (see A/CN.10/68/Add.1), the German Democratic Republic elaborated its fundamental position on the review of the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade. In the meantime it has submitted, together with the other States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty, a number of major initiatives serving the implementation of the measures contained in the Declaration. The Eleventh Congress of the Socialist

Unity Party of Germany (SED), held at Berlin, from 17 to 21 April 1986, reaffirmed that the German Democratic Republic will continue to work consistently for the mobilization of and joint action by all forces committed to peace, common sense and realism against nuclear war, as well as effective steps towards arms limitation and disarmament, the prevention of the militarization of outer space, the elimination of nuclear weapons and the replacement of confrontation by co-operation among States.

2. At their meetings at Sofia on 22 and 23 October 1985, and Budapest, on 10 and 11 June 1986, the Warsaw Treaty Member States submitted a comprehensive and concrete programme showing a practicable road in the search for a solution of the priority issues set out in the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade. Its main elements are:

(a) Creation of an all-embracing system of international security covering the military, political, economic and humanitarian fields alike, the essential component of which being the programme proposed by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for the complete elimination of weapons of mass destruction by the year 2000;

(b) Cessation of all nuclear tests, which could be achieved through a bilateral Soviet-American moratorium on nuclear explosions as well as through negotiations on a complete nuclear-test-ban with strictest verification assured;

(c) Mutual and complete elimination of Soviet and American medium-range missiles deployed in the European zone, on the understanding that Great Britain and France will not increase the corresponding nuclear arsenals and the United States will not transfer its strategic and medium-range missiles to other countries;

(d) Conclusion of specific agreements at the Soviet-American talks on nuclear and space weapons which would take into account the interests of both sides and of all other States, and use of outer space for peaceful purposes for the benefit of all mankind;

(e) Destruction of chemical weapons and liquidation of the industrial base for their production by the end of this century as a result of intensified efforts to ensure the successful completion of negotiations at the Geneva Conference on Disarmament on the conclusion of an international convention;

(f) Significant reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments at the global and regional levels, in which connection the Warsaw Treaty Member States, in an appeal to the Member States of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and to all European countries, have submitted a relevant programme for Europe.

3. For all these measures proposed effective verification is indispensable in all areas and stages of the reduction of armed forces and armaments as well as in the disarmament process by both national technical means and international procedures, including on-site inspections. In order for progress to be achieved in the implementation of the objectives of the Second Disarmament Decade, it is necessary to strictly adhere to the agreements on arms limitation and disarmament concluded

so far and to conduct negotiations in good faith. No actions must be taken which could undermine such negotiations. The beginning of the production of binary weapons and their deployment in West European NATO States, planned by the United States, would considerably impede the efforts for a chemical weapons ban. At the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva, the Stockholm Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe, and the Vienna talks on the mutual reduction of armed forces and armaments in Central Europe, the German Democratic Republic is consistently working for these bodies to fulfil their respective mandates and reach mutually acceptable agreements very soon. Together with the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the German Democratic Republic in May 1986 submitted "Principles and main lines for future negotiations of the German Democratic Republic, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany on the establishment of a zone free of chemical weapons in Europe". The establishment of such a zone would enhance confidence and security in the heart of Europe and promote agreement on a global prohibition of such weapons.

4. Within the United Nations system, the German Democratic Republic, initiating and co-sponsoring quite a number of relevant resolutions, has endeavoured in this representative forum to increase its contribution to the cessation of the arms race and to disarmament and towards a real turn for the better to be achieved especially in the International Year of Peace. It has pledged a financial contribution also in 1985 to support the World Disarmament Campaign. In its efforts for the implementation of the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade, the German Democratic Republic proceeds from the premise that reliable security for all countries and peoples as well as development in peace can only be ensured by political means, by the joint efforts of all States.

GHANA

[Original: English]

[12 August 1986]

Ghana remains committed to the objectives of general and complete disarmament. Consistent with this policy, Ghana has no difficulties in reaffirming positive support for the objectives outlined in paragraphs 3 (a) to (e) of resolution 40/152 L.

PANAMA

[Original: Spanish]

[3 October 1986]

1. The Republic of Panama attaches the greatest importance to the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade and has therefore supported and continues to support its purposes, principles and priorities, bearing in mind, in particular, that the ultimate objective of the efforts towards disarmament is

general and complete disarmament under effective international control, as agreed in the Final Document of the tenth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (resolution S-10/2).

2. Panama bases its foreign policy in the field of disarmament on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and on the fundamental principles set forth in the Final Document of the tenth special session of the General Assembly held in 1978. Accordingly, Panama attaches special importance to observance of the principle of refraining from the threat or use of force against the sovereignty, territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or against peoples under colonial or foreign domination seeking to exercise their right to self-determination and independence; of the principle of non-intervention and non-interference in the internal affairs of other States; of the inviolability of international frontiers and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

3. Panama recognizes the right of every State to security, as well as the fact that people throughout the world have an interest in preventing war, in particular nuclear war, in halting and reversing the arms race and in the success both of bilateral and multilateral negotiations directed towards effective disarmament agreements as part of the process of general and complete disarmament under strict international control, as means of strengthening international peace and security.

4. Panama has consistently supported the practical measures identified in the Final Document, which should be applied in a balanced and equitable manner with respect for the right of every State to security and in the light of the urgency of nuclear and conventional disarmament, the primary responsibility of the great Powers and militarily significant countries, the specific requirements of regional situations and the need to adopt adequate verification measures.

5. While Panama supports the implementation of the Final Document in its entirety, it also attaches priority to the need to fulfil those objectives and carry out those activities which should be implemented during the 1980s as a minimum.

6. That is why Panama took part in the work of the Disarmament Commission on the preparation of a comprehensive draft programme for disarmament and why it has supported resolutions in various United Nations forums urging the Conference on Disarmament to hold negotiations at the earliest possible date with a view to producing a comprehensive nuclear-test ban agreement and to intensify and bring to a conclusion the negotiations on an agreement for the complete and effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and their destruction. Similarly, we have supported the efforts and initiatives to work out an agreement on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of radiological weapons, and we look forward with optimism to the conclusion of the work of the Conference on Disarmament in that field.

7. Furthermore, just as we welcomed the bilateral negotiations between the United State of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on "a complex of questions concerning space and nuclear arms - both strategic and intermediate-range" according to the joint statement of 8 January 1985, we now note

with particular concern that there seems to be no encouraging progress at the negotiating table. Both parties to the negotiations should bear in mind their primary responsibility for promoting a genuine disarmament process that would strengthen international security and the fact that, in the nuclear age, such a process involves not only their own security interests but also the fundamental interests of all the peoples of the world.

8. At the international, regional and subregional levels, Panama scrupulously observes its international commitments and at the same time encourages other countries to resolve their international disputes through negotiated peaceful settlements satisfactory to all parties.

9. Panama has acceded to the principal multilateral legal instruments and agreements for the regulation of armaments and disarmament and is fulfilling all its obligations in this field. In this connection, special mention should be made of Panama's firm adherence to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, both being legal instruments designed to give effect to the proposal for nuclear-weapon-free zones.

10. At the subregional level, Panama has participated actively in the process of dialogue and diplomatic negotiation promoted by the Contadora Group, together with Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela, in the search for a negotiated settlement to the complex Central American crisis. In this context, the guidelines laid down in the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade have also proved useful, in particular the need to adopt regional and bilateral measures for the limitation and reduction of conventional weapons and armed forces, the reduction of military budgets and for confidence-building measures, bearing in mind the special conditions and requirements of the various regions, with a view to strengthening the security of States.

11. Panama shares the view that the arms race in all its aspects runs counter to efforts to achieve a further relaxation of international tensions and to establish a viable system of international peace and security.

12. Similarly, it notes with alarm that while a large segment of the world's population lives in conditions of extreme poverty, the squandering of human and economic resources on military activities continues to increase at a dizzying pace.

13. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), in the first five years of the 1980s, world military expenditures grew at rates of more than 3 per cent, thus exceeding those registered in the last five years of the 1970s.

14. The military expenditure of the two main military alliances dominates total world expenditures and jeopardizes world peace and stability. They account for 75 per cent of all the world military expenditure which, according to United Nations sources, is approaching 1,000 billion United States dollars. Consequently, the Powers leading those alliances have the primary responsibility for halting the

arms race and for adopting urgent measures for the prevention of war, in particular nuclear war, the implementation of confidence-building measures and the negotiation of disarmament agreements.

15. Panama considers that the convening of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development in 1987 will offer a valuable opportunity to examine the present dramatic situation in which the vast resources squandered on armaments contrast with the crushing poverty that affects two thirds of mankind.

16. Panama recognizes the close relationship between disarmament and development and stresses the urgent need to release resources now used for military purposes in order to devote them to the economic and social development of all nations, particularly the developing countries, thus helping to narrow the gap between the developed and developing countries.

17. Consequently, Panama has offered and continues to offer its firm support for the early convening of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, with the broadest possible participation, and as its outcome a political declaration and a programme of specific measures that will make possible a prompt start on the gradual and sustained transfer of resources now used for military purposes to development.

18. Panama believes that there is still time to halt and reverse the trend prevailing at the international level, which is leading to the frustration of disarmament efforts and to pessimism about the survival of mankind. There is still time, in what remains of the present decade, to make significant advances in the implementation of the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade.

19. To that end, we urge all States, in particular the nuclear Powers and militarily significant States, to demonstrate their political will to make the principles and priorities set forth in the Declaration a reality.

UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

[Original: Russian]

[25 September 1986]

1. The Ukrainian SSR supported the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade, adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session (resolution 35/46 of 3 December 1980) and feels that the goals and principles it proclaims and the activities referred to in it constitute priority objectives, and that the efforts of the entire international community must be concentrated on their attainment.

2. The position of the Ukrainian SSR concerning the Second Disarmament Decade was set forth in a letter sent to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in April 1980. A mid-term review and appraisal of the implementation of the

Declaration are contained in the note of 28 May 1985 from the Permanent Mission of the Ukrainian SSR to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

3. Once again it must be stated that in the time that has elapsed since the adoption of the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade, its goals have not only not been achieved, but in certain important areas there has even been regression.

4. The increase in general tension cannot but arouse concern. The level of military confrontation is also creeping upward. The imperialist circles are continuing to intensify the arms race, are pursuing a policy aimed at achieving military superiority and undermining strategic stability and are blatantly interfering in the internal affairs of sovereign states. Particularly dangerous are the plans of the United States of America to turn outer space into an arena of military competition, its attempts to involve other countries in the development of space strike weapons and the actions of the United States Administration aimed at disrupting the existing system of agreements in the area of arms limitation.

5. In the view of the Ukrainian SSR, it is essential to overcome the confrontational tendencies which have grown in recent years and, through the joint efforts of all States, to create the prerequisites for a radical turn for the better in world affairs. To this end, a new approach is required to the problems of the security of peoples, and practical actions and political thinking must be geared to the realities of the nuclear and space era.

6. In a nuclear age the security of States can only take the form of security for all. Singing this about entails rising above our narrow national interests and differences in ideologies and world views. It can be achieved only through joint efforts and extensive and constructive co-operation among all States regardless of their political and social structure.

7. It is precisely such an innovative approach that guides the socialist countries, including the Ukrainian SSR, which proposed that the forty-first session of the General Assembly should consider the question of the establishment of a comprehensive system of international security. The submission of this timely proposal was dictated by the need to adopt urgent measures to remove the threat of war and set international relations on a course of détente and co-operation.

8. The efforts of all States, including those made within the United Nations, to limit and halt armaments and bring about disarmament must become a material guarantee for the system of international security proposed by the socialist countries. The countries of the socialist community have recently put forward a number of wide-ranging initiatives whose purpose is the achievement of security through disarmament.

9. Central to the whole set of proposals of the socialist States is the programme put forward by the Soviet Union and adopted by the Budapest Meeting of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty member States for the complete and general elimination of nuclear and other types of weapons of mass

destruction by the year 2000. It is deeply symbolic that the USSR proposed to start the practical implementation of this programme in 1986, which was declared by the United Nations as the International Year of Peace.

10. The Ukrainian SSR feels that the United Nations has a real duty to promote in every way the attainment of this noble objective, using the established disarmament machinery. That would make an important contribution to the implementation of the goals of the Second Disarmament Decade.

11. The shortest road to a sharp curtailment of the arms race and, within a realistic time-frame, to the elimination of nuclear arsenals, is the end of nuclear tests. It is no coincidence that in the Declaration proclaiming the Second Disarmament Decade, first place among the issues meriting priority attention is assigned to the need to conclude a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty.

12. Unilateral measures on the part of States are also extremely important in this connection. The USSR, for example, striving to set a good example and acting in accordance with General Assembly resolutions, has for more than a year now been observing a unilateral moratorium on all nuclear explosions. This is a genuine contribution by a nuclear State to freeing our planet from lethal weapons. It is obvious that if the moratorium were to become mutual for the two major nuclear Powers, it would create favourable conditions for the conclusion of an international agreement on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests.

13. The time has come to bring into operation all the available leverage and possibilities, including the enormous positive potential of the United Nations, so as to prevent the imminent militarization of outer space.

14. The Ukrainian SSR is in favour of a ban on the manufacture, testing and deployment of space strike weapons under effective international control, and also supports such important partial steps in this direction as compliance with the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-ballistic Missile Systems for 15 years, the conclusion of an international agreement on the immunity of artificial earth satellites, and the non-creation of new anti-satellite systems and elimination of existing systems.

15. The proposals of the USSR on the development of international co-operation in outer space and its peaceful exploration, outlined in a letter of 12 June 1986 from the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR addressed to the Secretary-General, should be accorded special attention by the General Assembly. The Ukrainian SSR believes that the current session of the General Assembly should do everything possible to contribute to the intensification of joint efforts in this field. In order to co-ordinate the efforts of States at a qualitatively new stage of co-operation in the exploration of outer space, a world space organization must be established.

16. The Ukrainian SSR attaches great importance to the Soviet-American negotiations on nuclear and space-based weapons and hopes that effective agreements will soon be reached at these negotiations. Agreements of this nature on a range

of questions affecting the interests of all mankind would be a major step towards realizing the goals of the Second Disarmament Decade. The United States Administration must respond positively to the concrete constructive proposals the USSR has submitted at the negotiations and demonstrate, not in words but in deeds, its adherence to the spirit and letter of the Soviet-American summit agreements.

17. The Ukrainian SSR advocates a comprehensive approach to the problem of disarmament and believes that the elimination of weapons of mass destruction should be reinforced by a significant reduction in armed forces and conventional armaments. The methods of solving these questions are set forth in the wide-ranging programme for the reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe, from the Atlantic to the Urals, submitted by the States members of the Warsaw Treaty.

18. The creation of a safe world is impossible without chemical disarmament. The Ukrainian SSR commends the efforts which are being made at the Conference on Disarmament to draw up an international convention on the subject. A method of solving this question in the near future is set forth in the detailed proposals of the USSR of 22 April 1986.

19. The General Assembly must once again call upon all States to refrain from any actions that might jeopardize the negotiations and, in particular, to refrain from the production and deployment of binary chemical weapons.

20. Every measure for arms limitation and reduction and every step towards freedom from nuclear weapons opens up for mankind real prospects of solving global socio-economic problems. The Ukrainian SSR believes that there should be an immediate review of the question of ways of freeing additional resources for the purposes of development by means of practical arms limitation measures. In this connection, the Ukrainian SSR is in favour of an unconditional decision to hold an international Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development in 1987.

21. An inseparable component of the agreements at all spheres and at all stages of the process of arms limitation and disarmament is verification. The Ukrainian SSR believes that disarmament is impossible without verification, but that verification without disarmament is meaningless. Verification must be effective, and it must depend on the goals, scope and nature of the specific agreement and be determined by that agreement. Where advisable, a combination of various inspection methods and other verification procedures, including international and on-site inspection, should be used.

22. Regional measures could be very useful in strengthening international peace and security. The proposals of the socialist countries aimed at solving the problems of European security are well known. In this connection, the agreements reached at the Stockholm Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe are a particular source of satisfaction. What is most significant is that an important step has been taken to achieve a change for the better in European affairs and in international life in general. It is now

absolutely essential that the forthcoming meeting at Vienna should in turn become yet another landmark in Europe's movement towards reliable security and improved co-operation.

23. Under current conditions the inclusion of the Asian and Pacific region in the overall process of creating a comprehensive system of international peace and security would be of great significance. The Soviet Union has proposed for this purpose a comprehensive programme of action covering five themes. The realization of this programme and the conversion of Asia into a continent of good-neighbourliness and co-operation would multiply the overall human potential for peace, reason and goodwill.

24. A special role in improving the current complex international situation should be played by the United Nations as the universal instrument for achieving the goal proclaimed in its Charter: "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war".

25. The Ukrainian SSR believes that the disarmament machinery that has developed within the framework of the United Nations, including the relevant divisions of the Secretariat, and also the negotiating procedure, are in general, adequate for the goals facing the Organization. Now, in the face of the general danger, it is more vital than ever before to unite the efforts and capabilities of States and undertake concrete and truly tangible action in order to eliminate the threat of nuclear war and ban nuclear weapons completely and universally. This, of course, does not exclude the need to identify and make fuller use of the possibilities for further enhancing the effectiveness of United Nations activities in the field of disarmament.

26. In the view of the Ukrainian SSR, the implementation of these measures and other steps to curb the arms race and achieve disarmament would lead to the realization of the goals and objectives of the Second Disarmament Decade proclaimed by the United Nations in the hope of reversing the arms race, promoting dialogue between States and reducing international tension. Every effort must be made to ensure that, during the second half of the Decade, major steps are taken towards limiting arms, and above all nuclear arms, preventing an arms race in outer space, and strengthening strategic stability. The Ukrainian SSR, for its part, will actively promote these goals.

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

[Original: Russian]

[12 September 1986]

1. The Soviet Union, as has been repeatedly stated, supports the Second Disarmament Decade proclaimed by the United Nations. The USSR considers the principal purpose of the Decade to consist in striving for the application of practical measures to eliminate the nuclear threat, curb the arms race and maintain and strengthen universal peace.

2. In the Soviet Union it is noted with profound concern that no success has yet been achieved in advancing towards the attainment of the goals of the Second Disarmament Decade proclaimed in 1980. Indeed, the world situation is becoming increasingly dangerous and intolerable. The arms race is not slackening but accelerating, and threatening to spill over into outer space. The world situation is in danger of reaching a point beyond which it will no longer depend on the reason and will of political leaders but will be the prisoner of technology, of military-technocratic logic.

3. The realities of the nuclear and space age call for the recognition that the nature of present-day weapons does not leave any State with the hope of protecting itself by military force alone. Today it is simply suicidal to build relations between States upon the illusion of achieving superiority in weapons of destruction. Yet the world is still witnessing attempts to resolve new problems by obsolete means. Outdated ideas of war as a means of achieving political ends still form the basis of the doctrine of containment through deterrence, the "star wars" programme.

4. This explains the stubborn unwillingness to join the moratorium on nuclear explosions unilaterally introduced by the USSR, in force now for over a year, and the non-acceptance of other peace-loving initiatives by the socialist and non-aligned countries and of appeals by the "Delhi Six", supported by world public opinion, aimed at achieving the goals of the Second Disarmament Decade.

5. Objective and honest analysis of the realities of the age calls for new approaches to world politics. The essentially innovative conclusions of principle reached recently by the Twenty-seventh Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, by our country, are based on such new approaches. Soviet foreign policy, including that regarding disarmament issues, is built upon an understanding of the profound changes which have taken place in the world.

6. Jointly with our allies and friends and hand in hand with all those who have adopted positions of realism and responsibility, we are championing the restructuring of international relations on a sound basis, advocating a safe, non-nuclear world free from the ruinous burden of lethal weapons.

7. The initiative concerning the establishment of a comprehensive system of international security submitted by the socialist countries for consideration by the General Assembly at its forty-first session is based precisely on such new approaches. Covering not only the military and political but also the economic and humanitarian fields, this initiative, if implemented, will help to ensure that peaceful coexistence becomes the supreme universal principle of relations between States.

8. This joint initiative is based on the recognition that international security can only be comprehensive - that it is guaranteed, not by the highest possible, but by the lowest possible level of strategic balance, from which nuclear and other types of weapons of mass destruction must be completely eliminated.

9. Together with other countries of the socialist community, the Soviet Union proposed a large-scale programme for the achievement of security through disarmament - the task set before the international community by the first special session of the General Assembly on disarmament. This programme represents, in essence, a combination of a philosophy for establishing a safe world in the nuclear space age with a platform of specific actions. The underlying idea is to approach disarmament problems en bloc, because in matters of security everything is connected with everything else. Today it is important as never before to preserve existing treaties, to take major practical steps capable of speeding up negotiations in progress with a view to the elaboration of new agreements. The fact that the pace of the arms race continues to be faster than that of efforts to curb it must not be accepted.

10. The Soviet Union has proposed that 1986, proclaimed the International Year of Peace by the United Nations, should mark the start of the implementation of a programme to rid mankind from the fear of nuclear catastrophe.

11. The beginning of movement along the path leading to a world without nuclear weapons is connected with the cessation of nuclear tests. This step, the most urgent at the present time and one which lends itself to independent solution and reliable verification, could truly stop the qualitative and quantitative growth of nuclear arsenals and condemn them to obsolescence and decay. That is why, guided by a sense of responsibility for the fate of mankind, the Soviet leadership on 6 August 1985 proclaimed a unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions which, after being in force for one year, has been extended once more until 1 January 1987. The Soviet Union's moratorium, being an action rather than a mere proposal, affords tangible proof of the seriousness and sincerity of the Soviet nuclear disarmament programme and of its calls for a new policy - a policy of realism, responsibility and co-operation.

12. The conversion of the moratorium into a bilateral Soviet-United States, and eventually a multilateral, one, the adoption of a treaty prohibiting nuclear-weapon tests everywhere and by all, would represent a decisive breakthrough towards the attainment of the goals of the Second Disarmament Decade.

13. A central aspect of the Soviet Union's foreign policy in the coming years will be the struggle for the implementation of the programme to eliminate weapons of mass destruction by the year 2000 and prevent the threat of war, proposed in the statement made by the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union on 15 January 1986. The implementation of this programme of historic scale and significance, of the meticulously scheduled plan for the gradual elimination of nuclear weapons by the year 2000 and the prohibition of space strike weapons which forms the programme's central link, would open up before mankind a fundamentally different era of development, a possibility of concentrating exclusively on construction. The fulfilment of the objectives of stage one of the programme would make it possible to achieve in the time remaining until the end of the Second Disarmament Decade a radical reduction - by about one half - of the Soviet Union's and the United States' nuclear weapons capable of reaching each other's territory. By the end of 1999 there would be no nuclear weapons left on earth and a universal accord would have been reached that no such weapons would ever again come into being.

14. We counter the plans for "star wars" with a fully detailed programme of "star peace" - of international co-operation, based on equality of rights, in the peaceful exploration of outer space. In advocating the outright prohibition of space strike weapons, the Soviet Union is also prepared for partial steps to strengthen the Soviet-United States ABM Treaty, prohibit and eliminate anti-satellite systems and prohibit "space-space" and "space-earth" weapons, which would lead towards this end.

15. The Soviet Union has placed on the table of the Soviet-United States negotiations on nuclear and space-based weapons a package of constructive proposals designed to speed up these talks, in accordance with the agreement reached at the Soviet-United States summit meeting in November 1985, so as to achieve positive results.

16. Along with nuclear weapons, conventional armaments and armed forces must also become the subject of agreed reductions. The Soviet Union, together with its Warsaw Treaty allies, has proposed a set of steps towards the reduction of such forces and weapons in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals, aimed at ensuring joint and successive advances towards lower and less dangerous levels of military confrontation. It attaches serious importance to the Vienna talks on mutual reduction of armed forces and armaments in Central Europe and is seeking to achieve tangible results at those talks.

17. The objective of completely eliminating, before the end of this century, such weapons of mass destruction as chemical weapons is also a completely realistic one. The Soviet Union has submitted new compromise proposals on the problem of prohibition of chemical weapons which make it possible to sign an international convention on the prohibition of such weapons and the elimination of their stocks as well as of the industrial basis for their manufacture at the Geneva talks before the end of 1986 or in 1987.

18. Much was done by the Soviet Union and other socialist countries to find solutions on key issues of the agenda of the Stockholm Conference, a forum which convincingly demonstrates that given goodwill and readiness for mutually acceptable agreements and compromise, given respect for the Europe-wide process, answers can be found to the most complex issues connected with reducing the military threat and strengthening confidence and security.

19. Today, the interests of security throughout the world make it essential that the military concepts and doctrines of States and military alliances should be based on defensive principles. The Budapest appeal of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty member States declared with full responsibility that those States will never, under any circumstances, start military operations against any State, be it in Europe or in another part of the world, if they themselves are not victims of aggression.

20. In the military sphere the Soviet Union will continue in future to act in such a way that no country may have grounds to fear for its security. It has entered into an undertaking not to be the first to use nuclear weapons. It is a staunch adversary of nuclear war in any form.

21. The defensive character of military doctrine must presuppose the maintenance of the balance of military forces at the lowest possible level, the reduction of military potentials to the limits of reasonable adequacy necessary for defence. So far as the Soviet Union is concerned, it lays no claim to greater security, but it will not settle for less. It is not doing and will not do anything beyond what corresponds to the minimum requirements of its defence and the protection of its friends and allies.

22. As a European-Asian Power, the Soviet Union naturally has an interest in strengthening security in Asia. The USSR has come forward with a broad platform for ensuring security and co-operation in the Asian-Pacific region, providing for a series of practical actions and initiatives.

23. In all areas and at all stages of arms reduction and disarmament there must be effective verification involving the use of both national technical means and of international procedures, including on-site inspections. The USSR is also prepared to reach agreement on any additional verification measures. There can be no disarmament without verification, but verification without disarmament makes no sense.

24. In the Soviet Union's view, practical steps towards arms reduction and disarmament, which would make it possible to release enormous material, financial and human resources, serve the interests of eliminating economic backwardness in many parts of the world. In this connection it attaches great importance to the holding of an international conference on disarmament and development as decided by the United Nations.

25. The Soviet platform of specific actions to rid the world of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and reduce conventional armaments and armed forces is calculated to ensure substantial progress in the attainment of the noble aims of the Second Disarmament Decade in the years before its conclusion. For all its complexity, this is a task within the power of the supporters of peace and disarmament if they act in concert and in an active and purposeful manner. The Soviet Union sees a source of optimism and an additional incentive for efforts to halt the arms race, achieve disarmament and guarantee security for all in the fact that its proposals are consonant with the declarations of the leaders of the six countries from four continents, the positions adopted by so influential a factor of the contemporary world as the non-aligned movement, the decisions of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Countries in Harare, and the demands of peace-loving public opinion throughout the world.

26. The United Nations can and must make a substantial contribution to progress towards attaining the goals of the Second Disarmament Decade. It is essential to multiply the Organization's actions in this most important area, to impart to them still greater dynamism and purposefulness. In this, the Organization and its Member States can continue to count on the Soviet Union's most active participation.

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

[Original: English]

[6 October 1986]

1. The twelve member States of the European Community share the purposes and objectives of the Second Disarmament Decade proclaimed by the General Assembly in resolution 35/46 of 3 December 1980. They attach the highest priority to progress on arms control and disarmament, which they believe is essential if the goals of enhanced security at the lowest possible levels of armaments, and increased confidence and trust are to be achieved. Six years after its adoption the Declaration remains a basis for action by Member States.
2. The twelve member States of the European Community remain committed to the ultimate goal of general and complete disarmament. They take the view that all States should take a similarly active and constructive approach towards these objectives. In the nuclear sphere, it is the two super-Powers that, because between them they possess the overwhelming majority of the world's nuclear weapons, must bear the greatest burden. For this reason, the Twelve welcome the heightened activity on arms control and disarmament during the past 12 months and were encouraged by the summit talks between President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev in 1985. The Twelve wish to see significant progress being made in the Geneva negotiations, which are intended to work out between the two countries effective agreements aimed at preventing an arms race in space and terminating it on earth, at limiting and reducing nuclear arms and at strengthening strategic stability. With this objective in mind, the Twelve attach importance to another productive summit meeting in 1986. They believe that all nations should give full and patient support to the efforts of the two super-Powers.
3. The Twelve underline the importance of existing arms-control agreements being strictly adhered to and being seen to be observed by all parties. Full compliance creates a climate of confidence in which further agreements may be concluded. Moreover, they believe that greater openness, transparency and an enhancement of mutual knowledge about military activities, and an expanded exchange of information and views on military matters would increase confidence and so help us towards the goal of prevention of war.
4. The positive attitude of the Twelve towards arms control and disarmament is reflected in the positions they have taken and in the views they have expressed in various arms control and disarmament forums, including special sessions of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, the First Committee and the Disarmament Commission.
5. The Twelve express their satisfaction at the support received for United Nations resolutions tabled by members of the Twelve on bilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations and chemical weapons, at the progress made in the drafting of guidelines for the implementation of confidence-building measures, and at the positive conclusion of the work on the study on conventional disarmament.

6. Member States of the European Community have been actively involved in the work of multilateral disarmament forums. They attach a high priority to the work of the Conference on Disarmament and in particular to efforts to reach agreement on the early conclusion of an effective and verifiable global ban on chemical weapons. A member of the Twelve has chaired this year's session of the negotiations on chemical weapons and has also made a proposal this year on a system of challenge inspection. Such a system of challenge inspection is generally regarded as being necessary, as a safety net, to provide the ultimate source of confidence in the convention. Another member of the Twelve organized a valuable workshop in June for delegations to the Conference on Disarmament on the verification of non-production of chemical weapons. The Twelve welcome progress made in important areas of the draft convention, and note with satisfaction that the area of common ground between the delegations of the Conference on Disarmament has been much enlarged. However, some main issues are still to be solved and need further work. The Twelve believe that this year's progress has laid the basis for resolution of the outstanding issue facing the convention on chemical weapons.

7. The Twelve also attach importance to the work currently being undertaken by the Ad Hoc Committee on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in the Conference on Disarmament. Members of the Twelve have played an active part in establishing the common ground that exists.

8. The Twelve consistently promote and support the pursuit of confidence- and security-building measures and on disarmament measures in regional forums. Europe has the largest concentration of weapons and forces in the world. The need to achieve balanced and verifiable reductions at the lowest possible levels of forces is greatest there. The Twelve therefore attach particular importance to the work of the Stockholm Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe and welcome the agreement reached there on 19 September. These confidence- and security-building measures are a step in the right direction towards strengthening and enhancing security and mutual trust. Those members of the Twelve who take part in the Vienna negotiations on mutual and balanced force reductions in Central Europe regret the slow pace of the talks and the limited progress so far achieved. None the less, they maintain their determination to continue to seek mutually acceptable solutions and have accordingly made major efforts to move the negotiations forward.

9. The Twelve also welcome efforts in other parts of the world to strengthen security at the regional level. The twelve member States of the European Community hope that negotiations now under way - whether bilateral or multilateral - will result in agreement on reduced levels of armaments and the strengthening of international security and increase mutual confidence, thus leading to a "virtuous circle" of further significant reductions.

10. The Twelve also participated fully in the Second Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, in September 1986, where they stressed the importance of the Convention as an international norm prohibiting the existence of an entire category of weapons.

11. The Twelve continue to attach the utmost importance to an effective international non-proliferation régime. Those members of the Twelve which are parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons recall that the successful outcome of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty, held in 1985, demonstrated the support of the overwhelming majority of States for the non-proliferation objectives enshrined in the Treaty and note with satisfaction the continuing increase in the number of parties to it. As regard the complete cessation of nuclear tests, the Twelve recall the relevant provisions of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly (resolution S-10/2), the first special session devoted to disarmament.

12. In the Twelve's view, informed public opinion on disarmament issues, and in particular their treatment within the framework of the United Nations and in other forums, is an important element in the pursuit of progress towards arms control and disarmament. The wider circulation in all Member countries of objective information on military affairs, arms control and disarmament would contribute towards a better understanding of these complex issues.

13. The Twelve are convinced that each Member of the United Nations can make its own contribution to the implementation of the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade; all members of the international community have an appropriate role to play. The international community should focus on the search for practical, balanced, effective and adequately verifiable ways to reduce armaments and strengthen international security and stability. The Twelve will continue to work actively in pursuit of these goals, and call upon all States to join them in this task.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/40/42), para. 32 and annex VII.

2/ Ibid., Supplement No. 27 (A/40/27 and Corr.1), appendix II (CD/642/Appendix II/Vol. II), documents CD/570 and CD/571.

3/ Ibid., Twelfth Special Session, Annexes, agenda items 9 to 13, document A/S-12/32, annex II.

4/ Ibid., Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/41/27).
