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

Strengthening of security and co-operation
in the region of the Mediterranean

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/37/150.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 91st plenary meeting, on 12 December 1981, the General Assembly adopted resolution 36/102, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security", the operative part of which, inter alia, reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"14. Considers that further efforts are necessary for the transformation of the Mediterranean into a zone of peace and co-operation on the basis of the principles of equal security, sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, non-intervention and non-interference, non-violation of international frontiers, non-use of force, peaceful settlement of disputes and just and viable solutions of the existing problems and crises in the area on the basis of the Charter and relevant resolutions of the United Nations, respect for sovereignty over natural resources and the right of peoples to make their own decisions independently and without any outside pressure or intimidation;

"15. Calls upon all Governments to submit to this effect, before the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly, their views on the question of the strengthening of security and co-operation in the region of the Mediterranean and requests the Secretary-General to submit the report on this question to the Assembly at its thirty-seventh session;

"16. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-seventh session the item entitled "Review of the Implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security."

2. Pursuant to that resolution, the Secretary-General, on 1 February 1982, addressed a note to the Governments of States Members of the United Nations, requesting their views on the strengthening of security and co-operation in the region of the Mediterranean.

3. As at 24 August 1982, replies containing such views had been received from nine States. The substantive parts of these replies are reproduced in section II below. Replies which may be received later will be published as addenda to the present report.

II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

FRANCE

[Original: French]

[1 March 1982]

The Government of the French Republic, attaching great importance to peace and security in the Mediterranean, desiring to lend its support to any action likely to contribute to that objective and to the strengthening of co-operation in the Mediterranean:

- (a) Emphasizes the importance in this connexion of the declaration whereby the Maltese Government proclaimed, on 15 May 1981, the neutrality of the Republic of Malta;
- (b) Extends, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, its full support for the independence of the Republic of Malta and its neutral status, based on the principles of non-alignment;
- (c) Undertakes to respect that neutrality;
- (d) Calls upon all other States to recognize and respect the neutral status chosen by the Republic of Malta and to abstain from any action incompatible with such recognition and respect.

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

[Original: English]

[1 July 1982]

1. In considering problems of regional security, the German Democratic Republic is always guided by the fundamental requirements of the strengthening of international security. Fundamental to this is and remains respect for and the application of the principles embodied in the United Nations Charter. The essential thing is to adhere to the policy of peaceful coexistence as the only way to ensure the peaceful coexistence of States having different social systems.
2. For some time now, tensions have increased and the entire international situation has become enormously exacerbated as a result of the imperialist superarmament and confrontation policies, the policy of open interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States, the expansion of military bases on foreign territories and intensified manoeuvres by imperialist armed forces in all regions of the world. The attendant dangers to world peace are evident in view of the fact that waging a nuclear war as a means of attaining imperialist aims is included in the reckoning and that everything is being done to provide the necessary material prerequisites.

3. These policies, by which the most aggressive imperialist circles expose the peoples to the danger of a nuclear world war, make greater all-round efforts for the strengthening of international security the most urgent requirement of our time. This means, in the view of the German Democratic Republic, that it is imperative today to exert maximum efforts to halt the arms race. The German Democratic Republic considers the stabilization of peace through arms limitation and disarmament pursuant to the principle of equality and equal security to be a task of top priority. In pursuing this objective it undertakes constructive activities, co-ordinating its approach with the other socialist States. The German Democratic Republic values the Declaration on the Prevention of Nuclear Catastrophe (resolution 36/100) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session on the proposal of the USSR as an outstanding document.
4. The German Democratic Republic starts from the need to ease the international situation. It demands that the arms race be halted, political détente deepened and supplemented by détente in the military field. There is no lack of proposals on how to pave the way for a policy of co-operation among States having different social systems and to strengthen peace and security. Unpredictability and adventurism with all their potentially disastrous consequences for mankind must give way to a sense of realism, good will and the readiness to negotiate.
5. The German Democratic Republic attaches particular importance to developments on the European continent. Considering the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) dangerous plans, which provide for the stationing of new nuclear medium-range weapons, of neutron and other mass destruction weapons in Western Europe, the need for military détente arises with greater urgency than ever before.
6. The German Democratic Republic is firmly convinced that the moratorium unilaterally announced by the USSR with regard to the deployment of medium-range nuclear weapons in the European part of the Soviet Union as well as the unilateral reduction of these weapons systems, which is already under way, are serious steps apt to facilitate an agreement on a reduction of the medium-range nuclear weapons destined for Europe. If an understanding on such an agreement were reached, this would necessarily have a favourable impact also on developments in the Mediterranean, a region which, on account of its geographic and strategic situation at the crossroads between Europe, Asia and Africa, is of particular importance to the strengthening of international peace and security.
7. NATO's decision to station 572 new United States medium-range weapons in Western Europe - including in one Mediterranean country - is not only a menace to the security of the Eastern European States, but it also implies that in this way all of Europe and adjacent areas, too, are to be prepared for serving as a nuclear-war theatre.
8. The presence of the sixth United States fleet in the Mediterranean, the continuously increasing extent and intensity of NATO manoeuvres there, including aggressive acts against States bordering on the Mediterranean Sea, the widely ramified network of military bases and the so-called military strategic alliances are direct threats to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Mediterranean States and to the safety of international navigation and civil aviation.

9. The notorious acts perpetrated by United States forces against Libya, like the stationing of a multinational rapid-development force on Sinai, reveal the intention of abusing the Mediterranean region for schemes to establish domination over countries of Africa and the Middle East. This development is spurred by NATO's expansion of its scope of action. Such activities also have a negative impact on the settlement of the Middle East conflict and of the Cyprus problem. The continued existence of these hotbeds of conflict has led to increased tensions and greater instability in the Mediterranean. The German Democratic Republic stands up resolutely for the elimination of these sources of conflicts on the basis of the United Nations Charter and the relevant United Nations resolutions. It supports, as a decisive measure for strengthening security and co-operation, the demand of the Mediterranean peoples that all foreign military bases in the region be dismantled.

10. In the awareness that there is an indissoluble link between the strengthening of security and co-operation in Europe on the one hand and in the Mediterranean on the other, which was reaffirmed in the Final Act of the Helsinki Conference, the States parties to the Warsaw Treaty have submitted timely and practical proposals designed to ensure a stable peace and the development of mutually advantageous co-operation in the Mediterranean.

11. The German Democratic Republic, like the other States of the Warsaw Treaty, advocates the conclusion of agreements on the following questions:

(a) The extension to the Mediterranean of the confidence-building measures which have proved valuable in international practice;

(b) The co-ordinated reduction of arms forces in that region;

(c) The withdrawal from the Mediterranean of the vessels that carry nuclear weapons;

(d) The renunciation of the deployment of nuclear weapons in the Mediterranean non-nuclear-weapon States;

(e) A commitment by the nuclear powers not to use nuclear weapons against those Mediterranean countries which do not permit the stationing of such weapons on their territory.

12. The German Democratic Republic is ready to participate without delay, within the framework of the United Nations, in the discussion of these and of further proposals by other States on the strengthening of security in the Mediterranean. As a signatory State of the Final Act of Helsinki, it was involved in preparing and it attended the Valetta meeting of experts on questions of economic, scientific, technical and cultural co-operation in the Mediterranean. At the Madrid meeting, the German Democratic Republic supported the proposal to hold another meeting of experts on co-operation in that region.

13. The German Democratic Republic welcomes the fact that the Government of Malta, on 14 May 1981, declared the Republic of Malta a neutral State pursuing a policy of non-alignment. It respects this status as a contribution to the strengthening of peace and security in the Mediterranean.

14. The German Democratic Republic supports all efforts designed to strengthen security and co-operation. Together with the other socialist States, it advocates that regions marked by military and political confrontation and tensions be made into zones of peace and good-neighbourliness. It favours the implementation of the proposals submitted by the USSR on the mutual limitation of the operational area of naval fleets and the extension of confidence-building measures to the seas and oceans.

LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA

[Original: Arabic]

[23 August 1982]

1. With regard to the issue referred to in paragraph 14 of General Assembly resolution 36/102 of 9 December 1981, namely, the strengthening of peace and security in the Mediterranean region, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya takes this opportunity to express its support for the contents of this resolution, because it is in conformity with the aspirations of the peoples of the Mediterranean States to live in peace and co-operation. The clear and constant position of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya is one of support for all efforts to strengthen international peace and security, whether at the world or the regional level. The establishment of zones of peace in the various regions of the world in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and on the basis of mutual respect, non-imposition of outside domination, non-intervention in the internal affairs of States and the right of States to choose their political, economic and social systems would contribute to the strengthening of the security of the States lying within these regions and, consequently, to the strengthening of international security.

2. Accordingly, in view of the desire of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for the strengthening of peace in the Mediterranean region and for the promotion of co-operation among its peoples, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has proceeded to a settlement of the dispute on the continental shelf with its sister State, the Republic of Tunisia, through the International Court of Justice and has also agreed with the Republic of Malta regarding referral of the dispute on the continental shelf between the two countries to the International Court of Justice. At the same time, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya expresses its extreme concern at the existence of some foci of tension and foreign fleets and bases in the Mediterranean region, whose presence constitutes a constant threat to peace and security in the region and a perpetuation of the state of tension there.

3. The barbarous Zionist aggression against Lebanon constitutes a flagrant violation of international law and the most elementary principles of humanity, a breach of all international agreements and an attack on the sovereignty and

territorial integrity of a Member of the United Nations. It also constitutes a threat to peace and security in the region and in the world.

4. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has, on many occasions, called for the transformation of the Mediterranean region into a zone of peace, believing that the achievement of peace and co-operation in this sensitive region of the world will contribute to the achievement of world peace. It considers that the achievement of this goal requires the following:

(a) Achievement of a just solution to the question of the Palestinian people, their return to their homeland and the establishment of their own independent State;

(b) Withdrawal of foreign fleets and removal of foreign colonial military bases, whose presence represents a source of disturbance and threats to the security and independence of the States of the region and a kind of political economic and military domination and hegemony and of control over the resources of their peoples;

(c) Abstention from the stockpiling of nuclear weapons in this region;

(d) Achievement of a solution to the Cyprus question which will safeguard the rights of the two communities and ensure the unity, territorial integrity, independence and non-alignment of Cyprus.

MALTA

[Original: English]

[21 May 1982]

1. For some time now many countries have supported the idea of zones of peace in various regions of the world. This is a political and not a legal concept, and the absence of any precise definition should not inhibit regional initiatives.

2. A zone of peace may be seen as a region or subregion whose component States aim jointly at promoting a better future through planned co-operation. These joint efforts take into account the specific characteristics of the region and the universal norms for reducing tension and for promoting stability, thus enhancing the prospects and spreading the contagion of peace.

3. Leaders of the majority of littoral States of the Mediterranean have publicly stated their desire to create a zone of peace and co-operation in this region. The initiative is theirs alone to take. While it is preferable that all States in the Mediterranean should eventually be involved, there is room for unilateral and subregional action. The complete elimination of military bases in Malta in 1979, and our subsequent ratification of a neutrality agreement with Italy, are cases in point. Malta has now unilaterally fulfilled its political vocation and made its contribution to Mediterranean security in a most tangible way. Italy and other countries recognize and encourage this role.

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4. The zone of peace concept is a regional and political response which goes far beyond the objectives of disarmament and arms control. The States involved would be able to tackle their own problems in a framework which represents the positive side of co-operation. They could offer their good offices in reducing regional tension, resolving existing conflicts and preventing new ones from arising.

5. The establishment of a zone of peace in the Mediterranean could eventually entail the creation of a political forum for periodic discussion. It would be necessary to review progress from time to time, to embark on new projects and to seek recognition of the zone of peace by outside Powers, especially nuclear ones. Above all, component States would be tackling their own problems, free from interference by the super-Powers, whose interests have proved so often to be diametrically opposed.

6. The non-aligned movement has long recognized that the super-Powers bear a special responsibility for the promotion of peace. Malta's position of neutrality is now formally recognized by parties in both major military alliances. The agreement with Italy was registered, in accordance with Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations, on 25 July 1981 and that with the Soviet Union on 24 November 1981. Recognition of the Mediterranean as a zone of peace would represent a flowering and a logical extension of this policy.

MAURITIUS

[Original: English]

[8 July 1982]

1. The Government of Mauritius fully endorses the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its 1932nd plenary meeting on 16 December 1970 (resolution 2734 (XXV)).
2. The Government of Mauritius has, in its relations with the other States of the international community, always been guided by the principles and spirit of the Declaration.

MEXICO

[Original: Spanish]

[5 March 1982]

1. Mexico deems the establishment of a zone of peace in the Mediterranean appropriate, because it is a region of vital importance from the strategic and commercial viewpoints.
2. The Government of Mexico considers, however, that it is the interested countries of the region which should propose and implement concrete measures of co-operation for the achievement of the above-mentioned objective, which would be received by the international community with great satisfaction.

OMAN

[Original: Arabic]

[24 March 1982]

1. The foreign policy of the Sultanate of Oman is based on firm principles deriving from the Charter of the United Nations, the Pact of the League of Arab States and the Charter of the organization of the Islamic Conference and on the principles of the non-aligned movement. All these principles call for respect for the independence and sovereignty of States, non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, good-neighbourliness, peaceful settlement of disputes, the right of peoples to self-determination and non-use of force.
2. Proceeding from the above, in its concern to avoid any aggravation of the situation in the Middle East and, consequently, in the Mediterranean resulting from regional disputes and outside attempts to achieve hegemony and desiring to avoid affording some of the major Powers a pretext for intervening in the internal affairs of the States of this region, the Sultanate of Oman considers that efforts should be intensified, with a view to strengthening peace and security in the Mediterranean and making the region a zone of peace free from nuclear weapons and from conflict over spheres of influence.
3. In order to achieve the desired objective in this region of the world, a serious effort should be made to achieve the cessation of all outside intervention in the affairs of countries and the just and peaceful settlement of disputes in the region on the basis of the principles contained in the Charter and resolutions of the United Nations, the norms of international law - in particular, the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force and non-expansion. The sultanate of Oman believes that the solution of the Palestinian question, the core of the Middle East conflict, is an essential condition for the establishment of peace in the Mediterranean.
4. Oman believes that the international community should direct its attention to the question of Cyprus, with a view to arrival at a satisfactory solution by the parties to the dispute, particularly since the achievement of stability on the island would defuse a focal point of tension in the Eastern Mediterranean.
5. The denuclearization of the Middle East region is urgently needed, in view of the fact that it is an important part of the Mediterranean and in the light of the deteriorating and extremely dangerous situation in the region.
6. Oman considers that the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East is essential for the establishment of firm foundations for stability.

UGANDA

[Original: English]

[17 August 1982]

With respect to the strengthening of security and co-operation in the region of the Mediterranean, Uganda subscribes to the principle of nuclear-weapon-free zones as a supplement towards disarmament. Uganda welcomes the desire of the countries of the Mediterranean region to live in peace and their efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone within their region through mutually agreed procedures.

YUGOSLAVIA

[Original: English]

[28 June 1982]

I.

1. The Government of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia approaches the issue of the strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean as an integral part of international security. It considers that the concurrence of efforts at global, regional and bilateral levels is the prerequisite for the successful outcome of the action by the international community aimed at the strengthening of international security in the Mediterranean. Yugoslavia approaches that problem from the standpoint of the consistent application of the principles and goals of the Charter of the United Nations to all regions of the world and by all Member States.

2. In its support for the efforts to transform that region into a zone of peace and co-operation, the Government of Yugoslavia proceeds from the view that the security in the Mediterranean is closely connected and interdependent with the security in Europe. In such interrelationship the Government of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia sees both the dependence and linkage of national security of every State with regional and wider world security. Thus, it considers that the promotion of security in the Mediterranean and in Europe, is of substantial interest for the security of Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The Government of Yugoslavia is convinced that it shares with other Mediterranean countries the common interest for the promotion of mutual relations, strengthening of co-operation and peace in that region.

3. As a European and Mediterranean country, Yugoslavia is concerned over the very complex and dangerous situation in the Mediterranean, which is accompanied by the unparalleled concentration of all kinds of armed forces and armaments, as well as by an increase of confrontations. We note with concern that the bloc rivalry continues in this region and that the crisis in the Middle East and the unsolved issue of Cyprus particularly contribute to the increase of tension. The constant presence and strengthening of naval and air forces in the Mediterranean create

additional negative consequences for relations among the States of the region. Besides being the theatre for the build-up of conventional forces of particularly offensive character, the Mediterranean is increasingly becoming an area of the ever higher concentration of nuclear weapons. Those facts are particularly alarming and frequently used to impose pressure upon independent countries.

4. Such a situation calls for the exertion of the widest international efforts aimed at seeking appropriate ways and means of overcoming it.

5. The Government of Yugoslavia would like to point out that, in its firm belief, progress in the transformation of the Mediterranean into a zone of peace and co-operation implies a lasting and just solution of the Middle East crisis, as well as of the problem of Cyprus. Regarding the Middle East crisis, Yugoslavia would like to reiterate that this crisis can be solved only on the basis of the withdrawal of Israel to the borders it had before 6 June 1967; the realization of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including the creation of its own State, as well as the right of all countries and peoples in the region to peace and security within internationally recognized borders. As concerns the problem of Cyprus, Yugoslavia supports inter-communal talks and believes that the consideration of this issue should proceed from relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations, beginning with resolution 3212 (XXIX), and respect for the national independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and the non-aligned status of the Republic of Cyprus.

6. As a non-aligned and Mediterranean country Yugoslavia, together with other non-aligned countries, endeavours to transform the Mediterranean into a region free from crisis and conflicts, weapons and pressures on independent countries, into a sea of peace, co-operation, good-neighbourliness and progress among all countries, irrespective of their social system, degree of development or size.

7. Yugoslavia perceives the efforts to transform the Mediterranean into a zone of peace and co-operation as a common endeavour of all the countries of the region towards an over-all development of bilateral co-operation and good-neighbourly relations, for the relaxation of tensions and confrontation, reduction of armaments, for the peaceful settlement of all open disputes, for the promotion of regional co-operation in the field of the economy, science, culture, sports, ecology, transportation, etc.

II.

8. Certain recommendations aimed at the implementation of the aspirations to transform the Mediterranean into a sea of peace and security have been adopted by the non-aligned countries, the United Nations and the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. The common denominator of all of these is the promotion of peace, security and co-operation in the Mediterranean, based on the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

9. The political framework and principles for establishing peace and co-operation in the Mediterranean were formulated at the conference of Heads of State or

Government of non-aligned countries, as well as at their ministerial conferences, and they constitute the basis for the action by the Government of Yugoslavia. They point, inter alia, to the relation between the security of Europe, the Mediterranean and the Middle East; to the fact that the Mediterranean is becoming an area for manoeuvres of competing military forces; to the need to support the legitimate rights of non-aligned countries in the region to participate in the adoption of decisions which concern their security. These principles also call for the non-aligned countries to contribute to the elimination of the underlying causes of tension in that region, above all, to the just solution of the Palestinian question, the Middle East crisis and the problem of Cyprus. The non-aligned countries have particularly underlined the need for the strengthening of the common endeavours of the Mediterranean non-aligned countries toward the transformation of the region into a zone of peace and co-operation. Yugoslavia will continue to contribute actively to the realization of those goals within the movement of non-aligned countries.

10. The countries participating in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe have formulated the principles governing their mutual relations regarding security and co-operation in Europe, and as their relations with littoral Mediterranean countries which were not participants in the Conference. They have expressed their intention to contribute to peace, security and co-operation in the Mediterranean together with the States not participating in the Conference. Although the idea of the transformation of the Mediterranean into a zone of peace and co-operation is not formulated in the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, it did inspire the participants in their negotiations and influenced their awareness of the interrelationship between security in Europe and security in the Mediterranean. This is reflected in the key provision of the Final Act on the Mediterranean and it initiated the endeavours necessary for the strengthening of the relaxation of tension in that part of the world.

11. Neutral and non-aligned countries which were participants in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, including Yugoslavia, submitted at the Madrid meeting the draft Final Document, a part of which relates to the Mediterranean. The draft includes provision for the settlement of the existing problems and crises by peaceful means, refraining from intervention and use of force in the region, undertaking of confidence-building measures and those aimed at the strengthening of security, promotion of good-neighbourly relations on the basis of the Declaration on Principles Guiding Relations between Participating States, laid down in the Final Act, and the strengthening of trade, industrial, maritime, transportation and other co-operation in the Mediterranean.

12. Having in mind the danger of deeper and broader crises in the Mediterranean, the General Assembly of the United Nations has included the issue of the transformation of the Mediterranean into a zone of peace and co-operation in a system of measures undertaken by the world Organization to implement the goals set by the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security. Yugoslavia considers this exceptionally important and actively endeavours, with other countries, to make the issue of the establishment of peace and security in the Mediterranean a permanent concern of the United Nations, as an integral part of world security. Yugoslavia believes that this is a step in the right direction and that it should be elaborated further.

III.

13. The Government of Yugoslavia is aware that the transformation of the Mediterranean into a zone of peace is both an urgent and a long-term process. The accumulated contradictions in the region can be overcome only through the common action by all concerned countries aimed at solving the crises and eliminating the causes of tension and conflict. The Government of Yugoslavia considers that such process should be carried out gradually.

14. At the outset, all efforts should be focused on the strengthening and expanding of co-operation in the fields where it already exists: economy, arts, culture, ecology, telecommunications, information, tourism, sports, etc. This implies the widest possible interpretation and all-round application of the Helsinki Final Document to the Mediterranean in the field of security, economy and the humanities.

15. As concerns the so-called Mediterranean dimension of European security, the Government of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia considers that the implementation of confidence-building measures at this stage should also include the Mediterranean naval military component. The ever greater variety of such measures, as well as their strict application, would greatly contribute to the stabilization of the situation and to a greater feeling of security in all countries of the region and beyond it.

16. The Government of Yugoslavia considers that this should lead to the reduction of military forces and to military disengagement as a further step towards the realization of this concept and towards the transformation of the Mediterranean into a zone of peace and co-operation. Those measures would, as their ultimate goal, include the elimination of foreign military bases, the withdrawal of foreign fleets, military forces and armaments, as well as the denuclearization of the Mediterranean and its hinterland within the framework of the over-all efforts for general and complete disarmament.

17. The implementation of those measures also implies the promotion of confidence-building measures and their further extension.

18. In this context, Yugoslavia attaches particular importance to the attempts to transform the adjacent regions - the Middle East, Africa and the Balkans - into zones of peace and co-operation, free from nuclear weapons. The realization of this idea in the Balkans presupposes the establishment of relations between Balkan States on the basis of full respect for the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, non-interference and peaceful coexistence and a lasting orientation towards good-neighbourly relations. This also presupposes the inadmissibility of the threat or use of any type of weapons against any Balkan State. The denuclearization of the Balkans could also represent an important contribution to a wider process of the denuclearization of Europe.

IV.

19. In order to implement the above-mentioned concept, it is indispensable to exert additional efforts within the United Nations system, within the process of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe and within the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

20. The Government of Yugoslavia considers that the elaboration of a study on the Mediterranean as a zone of peace and co-operation on the basis of a decision of the General Assembly could constitute one of the steps in that direction. Such a study should by its content offer the basis for the elaboration of a concrete programme for the transformation of the Mediterranean into a zone of peace and co-operation and, particularly, it should offer the basis for the definition of specific measures of co-operation, confidence-building and military disengagement in the region.

21. Having in mind the experiences of the United Nations in similar fields so far, the Government of Yugoslavia is of the view that the setting up of a specific body of an ad hoc committee - for example - could considerably enhance the efforts to transform the Mediterranean into a zone of peace and co-operation. We consider that the first results in the implementation of that idea could create a favourable atmosphere and conditions for the convening, under the auspices of the United Nations, of an international conference on the Mediterranean, which would outline further ways and means for the promotion of peace in that region.

22. The international action for the transformation of the Mediterranean into a zone of peace, in the view of the Government of Yugoslavia, should be based on the full affirmation of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, the principles of equal security, sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, non-intervention, non-interference, inviolability of borders, non-use of force, peaceful settlement of disputes, respect of the right of States to sovereignty over their natural resources, the right of peoples under occupation to self-determination and independence, etc.

23. In the meantime, the current efforts by the Mediterranean countries to secure consistent implementation of accepted obligations resulting from the concluded contracts, conventions and other legally binding acts should be fully encouraged .

V.

24. The Government of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia would like to point out that the initiative for the transformation of the Mediterranean into a zone of peace and co-operation offers an opportunity for all countries of Europe to contribute through practical action to the closing of the economic gap dividing the developing from the developed countries. The undertaking of further efforts in that direction would contribute to the enhancement of the over-all stability of political relations in the world. Therefore Yugoslavia is a regular sponsor

of all General Assembly resolutions on international security which contain the Mediterranean component, and it will strive to ensure that that component is further expanded and elaborated.

25. Yugoslavia will continue, as it has done so far, to strengthen bilateral contacts and co-operation with the Mediterranean countries, with a view to undertaking common action for the transformation of the region into a zone of peace. It will also co-operate with all other peace-loving countries and forces in the world willing to engage in the strengthening of international peace and security, establishing zones of peace, and solving all open international problems on the basis of the Charter of the United Nations and its basic principles.
