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DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH
SPECIAL SESSIONReview and appraisal of the implementation of the Declaration
of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament DecadeReport of the Secretary-GeneralAddendum

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BULGARIA

[Original: English]

[5 September 1988]

1. The People's Republic of Bulgaria reaffirms its unreserved support for the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade, as well as its commitment to the attainment of the ultimate objective of general and complete disarmament under effective international control.
2. The Bulgarian Government notes with satisfaction that in recent years there has been a reversal of the unfavourable trends in international relations that characterised the first half of the 1980s. Present-day developments bear witness to a process of improvement of the international climate. The intensive and, as a whole, positive dialogue between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America, between East and West, has begun to yield its long-expected fruits. The first treaty for the elimination of nuclear weapons has seen the day, and the stage has been set for peaceful settlement of regional sources of tension.
3. The People's Republic of Bulgaria welcomes the fact that the new political thinking is being accepted by an ever increasing number of political and public figures, by large sections of the international community. There can be no doubt that realism in foreign policy, the comprehensive approach to security issues, the consideration of the interests of all participants in international relations and the guaranteeing of the right to free social and political choice for each nation ought to be the sole possible guiding principles for conduct on the international arena. In the nuclear-missile age they have no sensible alternative.
4. The People's Republic of Bulgaria is doing its best to assist in the adoption and implementation of practical multilateral and bilateral measures in the field of disarmament, both on a global and a regional scale.
5. It attributes high priority to the problems of verification and control and is actively supporting the proposals for the creation of an international verification mechanism under the auspices of the United Nations.
6. Bulgaria attaches major importance to the achievement of measures to enhance confidence and security in the naval sphere.
7. As a non-nuclear-weapon State, and having no such weapons on its territory, it strives for the achievement of progress in the elaboration of effective international arrangements to guarantee non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.
8. A co-sponsor of the General Assembly resolution on the World Disarmament Campaign, Bulgaria steadily promotes it. It exerts purposeful efforts for materialising the idea of establishing a nuclear and chemical weapons-free zone in the Balkans.

9. Bulgaria considers the current period in the development of mankind a decisive one; on the one hand real prerequisites have been laid down for large-scale disarmament and transition from confrontation to mutually beneficial co-operation and partnership in all spheres; on the other hand, however, the peoples of the world still do not have any guarantees that the initiated process is an irreversible one.

10. Today it is of utmost importance to make disarmament an uninterrupted, constantly deepening and expanding process, one that should bring about, on the one hand, the destruction of military arsenals, and, on the other, the enhancement of confidence and security. This process is to embrace all spheres of military activity, be they potential or actual ones, and to involve all members of the international community. Indeed only a comprehensive and universal disarmament will furnish the necessary military, political, legal and material guarantees for irreversibility of the initiated process of improvement of the international climate.

11. The People's Republic of Bulgaria holds the view that all actions of States in the field of security should be based on the principles of reasonable military sufficiency and on non-offensive or defensive strategy. The acceptance of these principles and the building up of confidence among partners is going to be a protracted and arduous process, one that will encounter significant ideological and psychological barriers. This is so because such an acceptance requires a sweeping restructuring of the whole military set-up and of military thinking itself. Bulgaria, however, is deeply convinced that no other road exists towards the creation of a more harmonious and secure world for each individual and nation alike. It is fully committed to ultimately pursuing this lofty goal.

BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

[Original: Russian]

[19 October 1988]

1. The year which has passed since the previous reply of the Byelorussian SSR on this question (A/42/436/Add.1) has been marked by a substantial acceleration of developments with respect to the implementation of the goals of the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade. The shift towards non-confrontational, realistic approaches to the problems of disarmament, based on a balance of interests and awareness of mutual concerns, has begun to take root.

2. The conclusion and entry into force of the Treaty between the USSR and the United States on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles was a breakthrough of historic proportions, for it marked the first step towards genuine nuclear disarmament.

3. The next item on the agenda is an agreement on a 50 per cent reduction in the strategic strike weapons of the USSR and the United States, which must be achieved

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in strict compliance with the ABM Treaty in the form in which it was signed in 1972, and including non-withdrawal from it for an agreed period of time.

4. It is essential to make substantial progress towards the goals of the complete and general prohibition of nuclear weapon tests, with due attention given to the possibility of a step-by-step approach, and towards the goals of complete and general nuclear disarmament. The Byelorussian SSR has consistently advocated the involvement at a given stage in this process of all nuclear States without exception.

5. The world's increasing interdependence and the military and strategic realities of the end of the twentieth century point to the need for the strengthening and development of a multilateral approach in addition to a bilateral one. In this connection, it is a matter of urgency to begin practical negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament in the areas of prevention of nuclear war, nuclear disarmament, curtailment of nuclear tests, and guarantees of the security of non-nuclear States. The Byelorussian SSR supported or was a sponsor of a number of resolutions adopted at the forty-second session of the General Assembly which set these very goals. Progress must also be made in the drafting of recommendations on a number of nuclear issues in the United Nations Disarmament Commission. The delegation of the Byelorussian SSR made vigorous efforts to achieve this purpose at the Commission's 1988 session.

6. As progress is made towards the goal of a nuclear-free world, the question of guarantees of the non-resurgence of nuclear weapons and prevention of the development and production of new types of weapons of mass destruction will become increasingly urgent. The Byelorussian SSR proposes that research should be carried out for this purpose by UNIDIR.

7. The Byelorussian SSR intends, in co-operation with other States, to continue its policy of working for a substantial strengthening of the role of the United Nations on questions relating to the conquest of outer space for exclusively peaceful ends and, in particular, the initiation of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament concerning the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

8. As a consistent sponsor of a number of General Assembly resolutions on the prohibition of chemical weapons, the Byelorussian SSR advocates the immediate completion of the drafting of a universal convention on the complete prohibition of chemical weapons, the elimination of stockpiles of such weapons, and the effective termination of their spread and use.

9. In the recent years the Byelorussian SSR has been an initiator of the adoption of General Assembly resolutions prohibiting the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons. These resolutions are designed to furnish effective tools to prevent this kind of restocking of military arsenals. At the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament the Byelorussian SSR made a number of proposals to this effect and it takes a positive attitude to the proposals made at that session by a number of States concerning the prohibition of the use of new technologies for military purposes.

10. The limitation and reduction of conventional armed forces and armaments is a problem which is becoming increasingly urgent, not only in the European region but throughout the world. The international community must take co-ordinated action to solve this problem.

11. The Byelorussian SSR is in favour of the active use of the possibilities provided by a regional approach to the reduction of military confrontation, and the building of confidence and security. In this connection, it is essential to implement the well-known proposals on nuclear- and chemical-weapon-free zones, zones of low concentrations of armaments and enhanced confidence, stricter observance of the status of existing nuclear-free zones, and speedy completion of the work on the establishment of zones of peace and co-operation in the Mediterranean, the Indian Ocean and the South Atlantic.

12. One factor of considerable importance is the shift towards strictly defensive military policies and armed-forces structures. The Byelorussian SSR has made concrete proposals on this subject in the relevant forums.

13. The effective implementation of the action programme adopted at the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development remains an important task.

14. The abandonment of the stereotypes of the old military and political thinking, the need for which is dictated by the realities of the age, calls for serious progress towards the establishment of a comprehensive system for confidence-building, openness, predictability and verification, both in the area of direct disarmament and in the broad context of guaranteeing comprehensive security. The positions and the proposals of the Byelorussian SSR on this topic are contained in documents A/S-15/7 and A/CN.10/106 of 26 May and 19 April 1988, respectively.

15. The Byelorussian SSR reaffirms its support for the proposal to declare the 1990s as a decade for the building of a nuclear-free world.

16. The Byelorussian SSR believes that the forty-third session of the General Assembly, enriched by the experience of the third special session devoted to disarmament, will mark an important stage in the consolidation of new purposeful approaches in the efforts of the international community to ensure security through disarmament.
