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II, REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

BULGARIA

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[5 September 1988]

1. In accordance with its **positive** approach of principle to **regional measures for strengthening** confidence and security and promoting **disarmament**, and to **the** establishment of **nuclear-free zone8 and zones of peace and** co-operation in all **parts** of the **world**, Bulgaria **welcomes** and supports **Brazil's proposal on the** declaration of the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic,

2. On the eve of the third millennium, the world has come to a threshold which it cannot cross without *risking the* destruction of all life on earth, That is why the overwhelming majority of the world's population welcomes the process of nuclear disarmament begun by the Soviet Union and the United States.

3. The conclusion of the Treaty between the USSR and the United States on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles is unprecedented in world history. If they conclude an agreement on a 50-per-cent reduction of their strategic offensive weapons while complying with the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems in the form in which it was signed in 1972 and without withdrawing from it for an agreed period, the way to the elimination of all systems of mass destruction will, for practical purposes, be open. There are good prospects for strengthening peace and good-neighbourliness throughout the world,

Of course, much remains to be **done** before the first steps become a continuous, steadily growing and deepening **process**.

4. The proposal **on** the declaration of the **zone** of **peace and** co-operation of the South Atlantic is **an important** step **towardr** decreasing tension **and** strengthening peace and stability in that region. The declaration is also **designed to thwart** efforts to make the South Atlantic a **region for the** activities of military alliances. The implementation of the proposal is **inseparably** linked with the elimination of hotbeds of conflict and **tension** in the region, and in particular the elimination of the **apartheid régime** in South Africa **and the granting of** independence to Namibia,

5. Bulgaria supports the constructive foreign **policy** displayed by the Movimento Popular de **Libertação** of Angola in the **quadripartite** negotiations, which reflect the vital interests of the **Angolan people** and is a **significant contribution** to the solution of the problems of southern Africa,

6. Bulgaria considers the above-mentioned proposal as, first of all, an expression of the desire of the countries of the **region for a safer world** in which States could **devote** their efforts to economic and social development. The region is crossed by vital sea-lanes and trade routes, and various kinds of international co-operation take place there. The majority of the States of the South Atlantic make an important contribution to the implementation of the ideals of peace and security **and to** the development of mutual understanding among peoples,

7. Bulgaria shares the view that the restriction and reduction of naval weapons is an important present-day goal whose implementation could begin with measures to promote confidence and mutual understanding which are current in international practice,

8. The problem of ensuring international security on the oceans and seas is an essential aspect of the overall problem of ensuring peace. In modern times, the oceans and seas are an important sphere of States' activities. Their use for military purposes inevitably creates tension in various parts of the world, hampers international co-operation and poses a threat to peace,

9. In that regard, measures for strengthening confidence and ensuring the safety of sea-lanes are of particular importance.

10. Bulgaria consistently and actively promotes the reduction of international tension and the deepening of the **process of détente**, which extends to the oceans and seas,

11. The proposal on the establishment of peace and co-operation in the South Atlantic is further evidence that a new political thinking consistent with present-day realities is gaining ground in international affairs. That initiative is proof of the desire of the States of that vast region to base their security on co-operation in order to acquire, through multilateral guarantees, dependable safeguards of their own security, as well as regional and international security. Bulgaria supports that approach to solving problems of security, as may be seen

from the proposals made by the States parties to the Warsaw Treaty regarding the strengthening of peace and a radical reduction of arms and, in particular, the proposal on the establishment of a comprehensive system of international peace and security. In • *mwaaor* such a system would shift the weight of the problem of guaranteeing security from military methods to political methods, which offer all members of the international community the broadest opportunities for co-operation and interaction in diverse fields. This approach, naturally, presupposes a close interrelationship between the regional and global aspects of promoting peace and security. Bulgaria also actively and constructively supports the strengthening of all-round co-operation and security in the Balkans, in Europe and throughout the world.

12. The creation of the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic could be an important step towards including the various regions of our planet in the establishment of a system of universal security which would be equal for all States and which would cover all aspects of contemporary international relations. It could serve as an additional stimulus for mobilising the efforts of the States of that vast region as well as States of other regions. The implementation of that idea could help prevent the emergence of hotbeds of tension in the region, and would contribute to making the South Atlantic a region devoted exclusively to peace and co-operation,
