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THE TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLYWorld Disarmament CampaignReport of the Secretary-General

## CONTENTS

	Paragraphs	Page
I. INTRODUCTION .....	1 - 5	2
II. BACKGROUND .....	6 - 7	3
III. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES OF THE CAMPAIGN .....	8 - 35	3
A. United Nations information materials .....	8 - 14	3
B. Interpersonal communication, conferences, seminars and training .....	15 - 21	5
C. Special events .....	22 - 26	6
D. Publicity programme .....	27 - 33	7
E. United Nations field officer .....	34 - 35	8
XV. FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF THE WORLD DISARMAMENT CAMPAIGN .....	36 - 40	9

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. By resolution 42/39 G of 30 November 1987, entitled "World Disarmament Campaign", the General Assembly reiterated its commendation of the manner in which the Campaign had been geared by the Secretary-General in order to guarantee "the widest possible dissemination of information and unimpeded access for all sectors of the public to a broad range of information and opinions on questions of arms limitation and disarmament and the dangers relating to all aspects of the arms race and war, in particular nuclear war".

2. In paragraph 8 of that resolution, the Secretary-General was requested, in carrying out the activities of the Campaign contemplated for 1988, to give particular attention to the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

3. In paragraph 9 of the resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its forty-third session a report covering both the implementation of the programme of activities of the Campaign by the United Nations system during 1988 and the programme of activities contemplated by the system for 1989. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request,

4. It should be noted that in response to the request of the Preparatory Committee to the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament contained in its report, 1/ the Secretary-General submitted in May 1988 a report on the implementation of the World Disarmament Campaign, outlining the Campaign's programme of activities carried out since the Campaign was launched and providing some general observations on the implementation of the Campaign (A/S-15/9, annex). In view of this and bearing in mind the financial constraints of the Organisation, the present report does not seek to reproduce the information already contained in document A/S-15/9, but provides additional information on the implementation of the Campaign, with particular regard to activities carried out in connection with the third special session, as requested in resolution 42/39 G. It also contains information on disarmament activities submitted by the Department of Public Information. Activities envisaged for 1989 are listed where appropriate.

5. It should be further noted that the views of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies on the implementation of the Campaign are reflected in the report of the Secretary-General on the work of that body. Also relevant is the report of the Secretary-General on Disarmament Week (A/43/508 and Add.1), which reflects the activities undertaken by Member States and the United Nations, as well as the reports of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia (A/43/568) and on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America (A/43/614). Activities aimed at

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1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifteenth Special Session, Supplement No. 1 (A/S-15/1), sect. VI, para. 36.

promoting the cause of arms limitation and disarmament carried out by the specialised agencies and other organisations and programmes of the United Nations system are reflected in the report of the Secretary-General on the subject (A/43/650).

## II, BACKGROUND

6. Launched on 7 June 1982 by a unanimous decision of the General Assembly, the World Disarmament Campaign under the auspices of the United Nations has three primary purposes: to inform, to educate and to generate public understanding and support for the objectives of the United Nations in the field of arms limitation and disarmament. The United Nations system, Member States with respect for their sovereign rights, and other bodies, in particular non-governmental organisations, all have their role to play in achieving the objectives of the Campaign. The Campaign focuses primarily on five major constituencies, namely, elected representatives, media, non-governmental organisations, educational communities and research institutes. It is carried out on a universal basis, in a balanced, factual and objective manner.

7. Since the launching of the Campaign, the Secretary-General has submitted several reports on the activities of the United Nations system regarding the World Disarmament Campaign. They are contained in the following documents: A/37/5461 A/38/349; A/39/492; A/40/443 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1; A/41/554; A/S-13/9 and A/42/543. The General Assembly has adopted the following resolutions on the World Disarmament Campaign: 37/100 II, I and J of 13 December 1982; 38/73 D and F of 15 December 1983; 39/63 A, D and J of 12 December 1984; 40/151 B and D of 16 December 1985; 41/60 A and B of 3 December 1986; and 42/39 G of 30 November 1987.

## III, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES OF THE CAMPAIGN

### A. United Nations information materials

8. The importance of and the need for the dissemination of printed and audio-visual materials relating to armaments and armed forces on the one hand and to disarmament efforts and negotiations on specific disarmament measures on the other was explicitly recognized by the General Assembly in 1978, at its first special session devoted to disarmament. With the launching of the World Disarmament Campaign in 1982, the mandate of the United Nations system regarding dissemination of disarmament information materials was further formalized. Currently, approximately 200,230 copies of disarmament information materials are disseminated in one year to addresses on the mailing list maintained by the Department for Disarmament Affairs. Publications are also distributed through the Regional Centres at Lomé, Lima and Kathmandu, and the network of United Nations information centres. In addition, publications are sent in response to individual requests, at times in bulk quantities.

9. In connection with the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, the following information materials were produced and distributed by the Department for Disarmament Affairs.

10. A Disarmament Information Kit for the third special session was compiled and distributed world-wide to constituencies of the World Disarmament Campaign. Included in the kit were Fact Sheets Nos. 54, 55 and 56; the new edition of *the Information Paper on Armament and Disarmament: Questions and Answers*; a reprint of the 1978 Final Document; and a list of information materials published by the Department for Disarmament Affairs. The kit was distributed in envelopes specially printed in English and French to draw attention to the session.

11. Two issues of the World Disarmament Campaign Newsletter were published during the period under review: Volume 6, No. 3 (June 1988) - published as a pre-session special issue - provided publicity and urged support for the third special session; and Volume 6, No. 4 (August 1988), focused on the special session itself and contained a detailed chronicle of its work as well as information on various NGO-related activities in support of the session. The Newsletter continues to be printed in English, French, Russian, Sinhalese, Spanish and Tamil with a total print run of 94,000.

12. The booklet The United Nations and Disarmament: A Short History was published in all six official languages with a total print run of 50,250. It was distributed world-wide to Member States, United Nations information centres, research institutes, as well as non-governmental organisations and individuals. The printing of the booklet in English and French was done in the German Democratic Republic and financed from the contribution of the German Democratic Republic to the World Disarmament Campaign Trust Fund.

13. Publications to be issued during the coming year will include further issues of the Fact Sheets and Newsletter. Currently planned are six issues in the Fact Sheet series, while the Newsletter continues to be published bi-monthly. Presently under preparation is the 1987 edition of the General Assembly and Disarmament, as well as a publication containing the oral presentations made by non-governmental organisations and peace and disarmament research institutes at the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. Within the framework of the World Disarmament Campaign, the Department will publish in early 1989 an information booklet on "The United Nations and Disarmament", to be written in the question-and-answer format.

14. As regards the Department of Public Information, information on disarmament continued to be disseminated in the UN Chronicle, which highlighted the special session in two of its 1988 issues. In addition, reference materials such as Basic Facts about the United Nations and the Yearbook of the United Nations included material on disarmament issues and the World Disarmament Campaign. Publications on disarmament were distributed to non-governmental organisations through the NGO Resource Centre at Headquarters.

**B. Interpersonal communication, conferences, seminars and training**

15. As provided for within the general framework of the World Disarmament Campaign, "the Campaign should provide an opportunity for discussion and debate in all countries on all points of view relating to disarmament issues, objectives and conditions" and "[its] universality . . . should be guaranteed by the co-operation and participation of all States and by the widest possible dissemination of information and unimpeded access for all sectors of the Public to a broad range of information and opinions on questions of arms limitation and disarmament and the dangers relating to all aspects of the arms race and war, in particular nuclear war" (A/37/548, sect. II).

16. To this end, the Department for Disarmament Affairs has endeavoured to carry out an extensive programme of regional conferences, meetings and seminars, speaking engagements, lectures, internships and consultations, both at United Nations Headquarters and elsewhere.

17. In addition to personal visits and consultations, one of the mechanisms available to the non-governmental organisation community to present their views on the Campaign is the opportunity given by the Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies. The Board has invited representatives of the NGO Committee on Disarmament at United Nations Headquarters and the Special Committee on Disarmament at Geneva to its meeting held in September of each year.

18. With regard to regional conferences, a United Nations Meeting of Experts on Verification, held within the framework of the World Disarmament Campaign, took place at Dagomyr, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, from 12 to 16 April 1988. Some 35 high-level experts from more than 20 countries met to discuss the conceptual issues and the technical aspects of verification. The meeting, which was financed from the contribution of the USSR to the World Disarmament Campaign Trust Fund, was organized by the Department for Disarmament Affairs in co-operation with the Soviet Peace Committee. Papers were presented at the Meeting by: Ambassador Robert Barker (Assistant to the Secretary of Defense of the USA); Mr. F. Ronald Cleminson (Head, Verification Research Unit, Department of External Affairs, Canada); Dr. Ola Dahlman (Director, Swedish National Defence Research Institute, Sweden); Colonel General Oleg A. Grinevsky (Ambassador-at-Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, USSR); Ambassador Lynn M. Hansen (Assistant Director, Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, USA); Ambassador Victor L. Issraelyan (Professor, Diplomatic Academy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, USSR); Professor Jorma K. Miettinen (Director, Finnish Research Project on the Verification of Chemical Disarmament, Finland); Mr. Benjamin Sander (Head, Programme for Promoting Nuclear Non-Proliferation, USA); Dr. Hubert Thielicke (Head of Section, Division for United Nations Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, German Democratic Republic); and Mr. Franklin E. Walkerr (Senior Scientist, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, USA). A selection of the papers was published in the periodical Disarmament, Volume XI, No. 2 (summer 1988). A separate publication by a commercial printing house is in preparation,

19. The Department for Disarmament Affairs will organize, in co-operation with the Soviet Peace Committee, an NGO meeting to take place in the Soviet Union in June 1989. The meeting, to be organized in the context of the World Disarmament Campaign, will bring together representatives of international and national non-governmental organizations and focus on NGO concerns in the field of disarmament,

20. The objectives of the World Disarmament Campaign are also furthered by the disarmament internship programme sponsored by the Department for Disarmament Affairs in co-operation, respectively, with the United Nations Ad Hoc Internship Programme and the Department of Public Information Graduate Student Intern Programme. The programmes are aimed at introducing graduate students to the work of the United Nations in the field of arms limitation and disarmament through on-the-job training and participation in discussion sessions on various disarmament issues. During the period covered by this report, the Department organized internships at Headquarters involving 12 graduate students from different geographical regions, 4 of whom were assigned to assist in the special session.

21. The United Nations Programme of Fellowships on Disarmament, which was established by the General Assembly to promote exports in disarmament particularly in developing countries, also contributes to the achievement of the goals of the Campaign. Since its inception in 1979, the programme has trained 216 public officials from 93 countries.

### C. Special events

22. Within the framework of the World Disarmament Campaign, special events, including Disarmament Week, offer additional opportunities to focus on the objectives of the United Nations in the field of arms limitations and disarmament.

23. Disarmament Week, which starts each year on 24 October, the day of the founding of the United Nations, was celebrated with events at both Headquarters and the Office at Geneva. On 26 October 1987, the First Committee of the General Assembly devoted its 20th meeting to the observance of Disarmament Week. Statements were made by the Chairman of the Committee, the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General and representatives of the five regional groups. Later that day, the Fifth Pledging Conference for the World Disarmament Campaign was convened.

24. The annual Disarmament Week NGO Forum was held on 29 October 1987. The Forum, organized by the Department for Disarmament Affairs in conjunction with the NGO Committee on Disarmament at Headquarters, featured a panel discussion on the topic "The Chemical Weapons Convention: Progress and Remaining Problems". Panelists included Ambassador Rolf Ekeus (Sweden), Ambassador Max Friedersdorf (USA), Ambassador Yuri Nazarkin (USSR) and Ambassador Paul Joachim von Stulpnagel (Federal Republic of Germany). Respondents on behalf of the NGO community were: Charles Floweres (former US Ambassador to the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva), John Barrett (Deputy Director, Canadian Centre for Arms Control and Disarmament) and Gordon Burok (Federation of American Scientists). The Forum was attended by

some 160 representatives of non-governmental organisations, members of the diplomatic community and United Nations staff members.

25. At Geneva, various activities within the framework of Disarmament Week were organised or sponsored by the Geneva Branch of the Department for Disarmament Affairs. These included a lecture organised in co-operation with the United Nations Information Service on the theme "Security and Disarmament - Not only a Question of Arms?" given by Ambassador Martin Huslid of Norway, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development; and an exhibit of recent United Nations publications and other information materials relating to disarmament.

26. Similar events and activities are envisaged for Disarmament Week 1988.

#### D. Publicity programme

27. As a joint project of the Department for Disarmament Affairs and the Department of Public Information, an international art work competition for a United Nations disarmament poster was launched by the United Nations in observance of Disarmament Week 1987 and in the context of the World Disarmament Campaign. The competition provided an opportunity for individuals all over the world to make a creative contribution to one of the most important issues before the global community - disarmament. Entries to the international competition were received from 65 countries via the network of United Nations information centres and services. The winning design by Tadahiko Ogawa of Japan became the central element of the United Nations disarmament poster, which was printed in all six official United Nations languages, as well as a blank version for overprinting in local languages, and was distributed world-wide. An exhibition of the winning designs and selected national entries, co-sponsored by the Department for Disarmament Affairs and the Department of Public Information, was on display from 31 May to 25 June 1988 at United Nations Headquarters to commemorate the third special session.

28. An important aspect of the third special session on disarmament was the organisation of activities relating to non-governmental organisations. Some 1,900 NGO representatives attended the session and their participation was co-ordinated by the Department for Disarmament Affairs, in co-operation with the Department of Public Information and other departments. Facilities included an NGO registration point, a liaison and information office, a United Nations documentation centre and distribution points for NGO publications and information materials. In addition, television monitors were set up showing the plenary debate, as the Public Gallery of the General Assembly Hall was unable to hold all those who wished to follow the proceedings. Daily briefings for NGOs were given by secretariat officials as well as high-ranking delegators, and a number of special events were organised, such as a ceremony during which NGOs presented petitions to the President of the General Assembly, Mr. Peter Florin, a reception hosted by the Secretary-General, a consultation on the World Disarmament Campaign, a presentation of the flame lit from the firo of the atomic blasts at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and disarmament film showings, to name just a few. Organisational support was also given to the NGO Committees on Disarmament to enable the holding of several forums at Headquarters.

29. The Department of Public Information, in line with its mandate within the framework of the World Disarmament Campaign, has continued to give wide publicity and coverage to the work of the United Nations in the field of disarmament. Prior to the special session, thanks to a generous contribution by the Government of Japan, the permanent disarmament exhibit at Headquarters, originally produced in 1963, was repaired, updated and opened for public viewing. The game "Give Peace a Chance", designed by an 11-year-old girl, Michelle Alexander, was enlarged and displayed to allow visitors to the United Nations to play it in the General Assembly Public Lobby during the third special session.

30. The United Nations activities in the field of disarmament were covered through press releases and on television, radio, film and photo. During the reporting period, a total of 102 press releases in English and 70 in French were issued at United Nations Headquarters alone on the work of intergovernmental United Nations bodies meeting on disarmament issues. United Nations activities in the field of disarmament were also publicized through the daily briefing for the press corps and delegation press officers.

31. The Department of Public Information provided 255 television news packages on disarmament and related issues to international syndicators. Fifty-nine requests ☒ ☐ video cassette ☐ xC@rpt8/dub8 Of speeches were prepared for members of delegations and 75 linefeeds and/or video cassette copies were provided to other clients/users. Coverage included the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, Disarmament Week, the Pledging Conference for the World Disarmament Campaign, the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, the Pugwash/Department for Disarmament Affairs Symposium on Scientific and Technological Aspects of Development of New Weapons, Verification Issues and Global Security, opening ceremonies of disarmament exhibits and press conferences/briefings given by members of delegations and non-governmental groups. Four "World Chronicle" television programmes and three "UN in Action" programmes featured disarmament issues.

32. Other disarmament coverage by the Department of Public Information included regular radio programmes (some 160 programmes in 12 different languages), the distribution of the animated film on disarmament "The Doomsday Clock" in Arabic and the preparation of a pamphlet in English and French listing United Nations films on disarmament.

33. Visitors to the United Nations in New York, Geneva and Vienna have been informed, in the course of the guided tours, of United Nations activities in the field of disarmament. During the reporting period, some 1,300 public inquiries on disarmament-related topics were answered by the Public Inquiries Unit of the Department of Public Information alone.

#### E. United Nations field offices

34. United Nations information centres and services continued to place emphasis in their programmes on United Nations activities in the field of disarmament. These have included public meetings, rallies, symposia, round tables, seminars, peace



weeks, days of prayer, film screenings, photographic and art exhibits, musical shows and other events stressing the role of the United Nations in disarmament. During the reporting period, some 93,000 copies of disarmament publications were distributed through the network of United Nations information centres and services, and information on United Nations activities in the field of disarmament was also cabled directly to the network for dissemination to the local media. In addition, the centres issued press releases, information bulletins and other background material on disarmament questions, which were distributed to governmental bodies, public groups, educational institutions and the media. Efforts were also made to highlight the special session on disarmament.

35. United Nations information centres also played a central role in the observance of Disarmament Week. A great variety of commemorative events and activities were organised throughout the world, highlighting the role of the United Nations in disarmament and the significance of the Disarmament Week objectives. A more detailed account of activities organised at Headquarters, Geneva and by the United Nations information centres in connection with Disarmament Week is contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the subject (A/43/508 and Add.1).

#### IV, FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF THE WORLD DISARMAMENT CAMPAIGN

36. Voluntary contributions remain the primary source of financing for the Campaign's activities. In order to give Member States an opportunity to contribute to the Trust Fund for the World Disarmament Campaign, the Secretary-General, pursuant to resolution 41/60 B of 3 December 1986, convened the Fifth Pledging Conference on 26 October 1987. It was attended by 57 delegations, of which 13 announced their pledges in convertible and non-convertible currencies (see A/CONF.142/2). The total pledges were as follows: the equivalent of \$US 123,109, of which the equivalent of \$US 23,787 was in non-convertible currency, was pledged to the World Disarmament Campaign; \$US 21,200 to the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa; \$US 47,500 to the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America; and the equivalent of \$US 375,640, of which the equivalent of \$US 316,957 was in non-convertible currency, to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR).

37. In addition to the pledges made at the Pledging Conference, the following contributions were made by Member States up to 31 August 1988: \$US 5,000 to the World Disarmament Campaign; \$US 94,638 to the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa; \$US 18,000 to the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America; and the equivalent of \$US 316,121 to UNIDIR.

38. Arrangements are being made to hold the Sixth Pledging Conference for the World Disarmament Campaign pursuant to resolution 42/39 G. It will be convened by the Secretary-General during Disarmament Week 1988.

39. The resources used for the implementation of the 1987-1988 programme of activities were as follows. The Trust Fund was charged \$US 136,100 in convertible currencies and the equivalent of \$US 686,500 in non-convertible currency. The

available balance (excluding unpaid pledges) that remains in the Trust Fund as at 31 August 1988 amounts to \$US 377,700 in convertible and \$US 166,600 in non-convertible currencies.

40. Remaining funds will be used for the implementation of the proposed 1989 programme of activities. Projects to be financed with non-convertible currencies remaining in the Trust Fund will be determined in consultation with donor countries at a later stage.

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