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REVIEW **AND** IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF
THE TWELFTH SPECIAL **SESSION** OF **THE** GENERAL **ASSEMBLY**:
WORLD DISARMAMENT CAMPAIGN

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

Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies

United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

Report of the Secretary-General

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I, INTRODUCTION

1. Pursuant to section III of General Assembly resolution 37/99 K of 13 December 1982, the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies has the following functions:

(a) To advise the Secretary-General on various aspects of studies and research in the area of arms limitation and disarmament carried out under the auspices of the United Nations or institutions within the United Nations system, in particular on the integration of a programme of such studies with a comprehensive programme of disarmament, once this has been established;

(b) To serve as the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR);

(c) To advise the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Disarmament Campaign;

(d) At the specific invitation of the Secretary-General, to provide him with advice on other matters within the area of disarmament and arms limitation,

In its resolution 38/183 D of 20 December 1983, the General Assembly, *inter alia*, requested the Secretary-General to report annually to the General Assembly on the work of the Advisory Board.

2. The Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies held its eighteenth and nineteenth sessions from 26 to 29 April 1988 and from 26 to 30 September 1988 in New York, under the chairmanship of Ambassador Alfonso Garcia Robles of Mexico. The annex lists the present members of the Advisory Board.

II, ACTIVITIES OF THE ADVISORY BOARD ON DISARMAMENT STUDIES

A. Situation in the area of disarmament

3. Following its usual practice, the Board reviewed the situation in the area of disarmament at both sessions.

4. At the eighteenth session, the item was introduced by a statement by Mr. Yasushi Akashi, Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs. After describing positive developments in the relationship between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and United States of America, he noted that those developments created potential for multilateral progress in arms limitation and disarmament but that there was, at that time, no clear picture of the way forward. With a view to the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, the Under-Secretary-General invited the independent views of the Board on what should be the relationship between bilateral and multilateral negotiations, and methods by which multilateral progress could be reinforced.

5. A comprehensive discussion took place. There was wide recognition that there had been significant improvements in the international climate in certain major respects. The positive review in 1985 of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (General Assembly resolution 2373 (XXII), annex), the successful outcome of the Stockholm Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe in September 1986 and the entry into force of the Treaty of Rarotonga in December 1986 were given as examples of specific improvements in the multilateral arena. The development of new attitudes in bilateral relations and the development of progress towards real nuclear disarmament, as illustrated by the conclusion in December 1907 of the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles (INF Treaty) were regarded as radical development in improving the prospects for further disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, between the Soviet Union and the United States.

6. At the same time, however, it was noted that armed conflict and dangerous situations persisted in certain parts of the world where circumstances of regional insecurity existed that did not permit the establishment of conditions conducive to disarmament. The reported use of chemical weapons on several occasions had underlined the urgent need to achieve a complete ban on such weapons, and there were unsettling developments in the proliferation of certain missiles and transfrontiers of conventional arms.

7. The view was expressed that in the past 10 years there had been a marked shift from multilateralism to bilateralism. Furthermore, multilateralism was in crisis in the social and economic fields as well as in disarmament. Many developing countries were faced with difficulties that were beyond their capacity to resolve, and multilateral mechanisms needed to be made more effective.

8. There was general agreement that bilateral and multilateral approaches to disarmament were not in contradiction - on the contrary, they were mutually complementary. It was observed that perhaps a transition was beginning from which the international community would move into a period of promising developments, also in the field of multilateral disarmament. In this respect, multilateral approaches could promote nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, achieve an effective chemical weapons ban, in due course address outer space issues, and also achieve effective limitations on conventional arms and the transfrontiers of such weapons.

9. At the nineteenth session a wider range of views was expressed on the outcome of the fifteenth special session of the General Assembly, the third special session devoted to disarmament. Opening the discussion, the Under-Secretary-General stated that, although disappointed that no final document had been adopted, he was not discouraged. He noted that the special session had been free from polemics and had been very pragmatic despite differences of views on a number of issues. He also reported that numerous proposals and suggestions had been put forward, several of which might be raised at the forty-third session of the General Assembly.

10. Some members hold similar views, while others maintained that the absence of an agreed final document was a serious setback to the cause of multilateral

disarmament. Several members observed that the twelfth special session of the Assembly, the second special session devoted to disarmament, had been held in 1982 in a difficult international climate, whereas the fifteenth special session had taken place at a time of significant bilateral progress, thus leading to the conclusion that bilateral advances between the super-Powers did not automatically lead to progress in the sphere of multilateral disarmament.

11. Several members commented on the fact that the fifteenth special session had taken place during a period of adjustment to a new phase in international relations which had started with the bilateral INF Treaty. This situation had perhaps been accentuated by the positive developments in several regional situations that had occurred in the months immediately following the fifteenth special session. With the benefit of hindsight, therefore, it might be seen that the outcome of the fifteenth special session was out of step with the broader course of international events.

12. Observing that the pursuit of such a large number of participating States of convening a session on a wide range of difficult issues was unlikely to meet with success except at a low common denominator level, several members expressed doubts at the value of holding similar special sessions in the future. It was for consideration that it would be better to seek alternatives, such as, perhaps, sessions devoted to specific issues appropriately prepared within the framework of the United Nations.

13. There had been many proposals and suggestions arising from the fifteenth special session that had found consensus and that must not be lost. They could provide launching points for action by the General Assembly at its forty-third session.

B. Role of the Board

14. At its September session an extensive discussion took place on the role of the Board. There was wide support for the view that new developments in the international situation provided an appropriate opportunity to consider again the functioning of the Board.

15. The primary aim of the Board is to provide knowledgeable, experienced and independent views to the Secretary-General for him to use as he sees fit. There was general agreement that the Board should continue and strengthen its assistance to the Secretary-General, and thereby to the United Nations, in his efforts to enhance progress in disarmament.

16. After a careful consideration of the subject, the Board recalled that by the terms of the present mandate the Secretary-General was already in a position to invite the Board to provide him with advice on matters within the area of disarmament and arms limitation. The Board noted that, recognising the new developments in that area, it was at the disposal of the Secretary-General, should he desire to avail himself of its advice. The Board believes that in order to reflect this task, in particular in the field of multilateral disarmament within

the framework of the United Nations, it would be desirable to amend the title of the Board as suggested by many delegations during the fifteenth special session so as to correspond more accurately to the functions set out in the disarming mandate.

17. The Board expressed its intention to pursue issues in greater depth and to that end to make adjustments in its working methods. It would be valuable to focus discussion on a number of specific substantive issues that should be determined in advance after due consultation. Advance preparation and circulation of substantive papers would do much to promote an informed, organized and thoughtful debate. From time to time, on specific topics, it could be useful to seek contributions from, and the attendance of, outside persons and other sources.

18. The Board requested the Chairman to bring its deliberations on matters concerning the role of the Board to the attention of the Secretary-General for his consideration.

C. United Nations studies on disarmament

19. At its eighteenth and nineteenth sessions, the Board continued its consideration of the matter of United Nations studies on disarmament.

20. At its nineteenth session, the Board was informed of the conclusion of two studies, namely the study on the climatic and other global effects of nuclear war (A/43/351, annex) and the study on the economic and social consequences of the arms race and military expenditures (A/43/368, annex). Regarding the latter, the Board received an account from Ambassador Constantin Ene of Romania who was the Chairman of the Group of Consultant Experts that prepared the study. The members of the Board noted the action-oriented manner of the study and its conclusions (*ibid.*, sect. V), in particular the recommendation by the Group of Experts to consider further the question of conversion (*ibid.*, para. 182). The Board expressed the hope that the General Assembly at its forty-third session would request the Secretary-General to give the study the widest possible dissemination.

21. Regarding the study on the climatic and other global effects of nuclear war, the Board noted the fact that the issue had been dealt with by the Board in a comprehensive manner, setting out the scientific evidence of the likely global effects of a major nuclear war. The Board expressed the hope that the General Assembly at its forty-third session would request the Secretary-General to give the study (A/43/351, annex) the widest possible dissemination.

22. Following a suggestion made at the eighteenth session in April, Dr. Mark Harwell of the Global Environment Program, Center for Environmental Research, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, United States, was invited to make a presentation at the nineteenth session on the most recent research and respond to questions from the Board. Dr. Harwell gave his presentation in the context of the study on the climatic and other global effects of nuclear war, a subject in which the Board has taken a keen interest since 1984,

23. Dr. Harwell reported that scientific research continued to indicate that a major nuclear exchange in the northern hemisphere could lead to dramatic effects, especially on agriculture and food supply throughout the world, including countries far from the areas of conflict. It emphasized the impossibility of storing in advance food stocks large enough to compensate by more than a minor fraction for the loss of a single growing season. Even conservative calculations indicated that in such circumstances there would be many more casualties from these indirect effects of nuclear war than from the direct effects experienced by the combatants themselves.

24. Responding to questions from members of the Board, Dr. Harwell acknowledged the persistence of many scientific uncertainties but said that they did not undermine the validity of the conclusions. Cases studied in China, India, Venezuela and western Africa were also proving useful in identifying the effects of other types of stress on the environment such as global warming. He emphasized that the scientific community had in general been careful to refrain from drawing policy implications from their studies.

25. At its April session, the Board discussed the question of verification. For that purpose the Board was provided with a background paper prepared by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and was informed by a representative of the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the symposium of experts held in April at Dagomys, USSR, on the topic of multilateral aspects of verification,

26. In the course of their discussion, members of the Board emphasized the significance of the verification issue as well as the difficulties involved. In stressing the complexity of the problem, members of the Board particularly underlined the relationship between verification, security and confidence-building. The views were expressed that it was necessary to define specific verification methods for each agreement. The establishment of a multilateral mechanism and the possible role of the United Nations in that context was considered by several members as an important issue that should be the subject of a study. The operation of the safeguards system of the International Atomic Energy Agency was referred to as an example of such a mechanism.

27. At its September session, the Board was informed of a number of proposals at the fifteenth special session of the General Assembly, the third devoted to disarmament, that might lead to subjects for United Nations study, viz., multilateral verification, developments in nuclear weapons, and certain aspects of conventional arms transfers.

D. Implementation of the World Disarmament Campaign

28. The Board's discussion at its eighteenth session focused mainly on the special report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its third special session devoted to disarmament on the implementation of the World Disarmament Campaign since its launching in 1982 (A/S-15/9). In the ensuing exchange of views, members of the Board expressed their satisfaction with the activities carried out.

The value of regional conferences, seminars and meetings of experts on various issues in the field of arms limitation and disarmament was stressed. Further, the importance of closer contact and co-operation with regional organisations was also advocated.

29. Among many other comments, members of the General Assembly emphasised the need for greater involvement in World Disarmament Campaign activities of such constituencies as rural communities and local representatives. A view was also held that the role of the mass media should be increased in order to make the media more receptive towards campaign activities. The importance of disseminating information in national languages was reiterated.

30. In his report to the General Assembly, the Secretary-General noted the guiding role of the Board in the implementation of the Campaign and the value of the Board's involvement.

31. At its nineteenth session, the Board took note of the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the programme of activities of the Campaign in 1988 (A/43/642). In reviewing the work of the Director, Publications and World Disarmament Campaign Branch, Department for Disarmament Affairs, the Board emphasised that the publication of information materials in several languages and their world-wide dissemination continued to be an important aspect of Campaign activities. He drew attention to the various materials that were published as well as to activities carried out in preparation for the fifteenth special session, such as an international competition for a United Nations disarmament poster. Regarding the financial situation of the Campaign, the Board was informed that financial resources had been noticeably reduced, which had already led to necessary adjustments in various projects. These constraints would also affect the programme of activities envisaged for 1989.

32. Noting that the level of contributions from Member States to the World Disarmament Campaign Trust Fund had declined markedly starting in 1985, the Board expressed concern that the shortage of funds would have serious implications for further activities. The Board emphasised the need for the continuation of support by Member States in order to ensure the continued viability of the Campaign, and in particular the need for voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund so that the objectives of the Campaign could be successfully carried out on a world-wide basis. The importance of contributions by non-governmental organisations, foundations and trusts, and from other private sources was emphasised.

33. At both sessions members of the Board expressed interest in the work of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, established in Lomé, Togo, and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America, in Lima, Peru, as well as in the progress made in setting up the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia in Kathmandu, Nepal. The Board was informed of the developments and activities of the three Centres. In that context, the Board recommended that the Department for Disarmament Affairs with the assistance of Member States should, in particular, enhance the role and promote the work of these Centres in accordance with their mandate.

34. At the invitation of the board, representatives of the Special Non-Governmental Organisation Committee on Disarmament at the United Nations Office at Geneva and of the Non-Governmental Organisation Committee on Disarmament in New York presented their views to the Board at its nineteenth session. In their remarks, the representatives stated that the outcome of the fifteenth special session had emphasized the need for broader public support for United Nations disarmament activities. They noted with appreciation the co-operation that had been extended to them before, during and after the special session by the Department for Disarmament Affairs. Satisfaction was expressed at Campaign publications in general, although they would favour the preparation of more visual materials and a more imaginative style of presentation of information. The representatives stressed the importance of greater involvement in planning and selection of participants in regional conferences and seminars, thereby making broader use of the expertise available among non-governmental organizations. They also expressed their desire for a greater participatory role in United Nations disarmament activities in general.

35. They observed that the World Disarmament Campaign had facilitated a communication network among the community of non-governmental organizations in the field of disarmament and, in that context, welcomed the establishment of United Nations regional centres, which would increase activities at the regional level. However, the representatives registered their concern at the fact that many Campaign activities had been restricted owing to insufficient financial resources.

36. During the exchange of views, members of the Board noted with satisfaction the improvement of Campaign activities in the pursuit of its 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 Board also noted that efforts were being made to carry out the Campaign in all regions of the world in a balanced, factual and objective manner. The Board expressed its appreciation to the representatives for the contributions and constructive efforts of the community of non-governmental organizations in the area of arms limitation and disarmament and to the Department for Disarmament Affairs for its part in the conduct of the Campaign.

III. ACTIVITIES OF THE ADVISORY BOARD IN ITS CAPACITY AS BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR DISARMAMENT RESEARCH

A. The post of the Director of UNIDIR

37. The Board noted that, since its previous report (A/42/611), the Institute's previous Director, Mr. Liviu Bota, had been able to return to Geneva and to report personally to the Secretary-General in New York on his stewardship of UNIDIR. The Board expressed its deep gratitude to all parties who had contributed to a solution to the problem and recorded its warm appreciation to Mr. Bota for his leadership of UNIDIR from its inception in 1980 to the conclusion of his service in the post of Director at the end of his tenure.

B. Report of the Director on the work of the Institute

38. In accordance with the provisions of Article IV, paragraph 2 (1), of the Institute's statute, the Director reported to the Board on the Institute's activities and the execution of the work programme.

39. The Director reported that during the period from September 1987 to September 1988 UNIDIR had continued to fulfil its mandate. However, the continuation of its work in a satisfactory manner was strongly dependent on more reliable and increased flow of financial resources and the strengthening of its small staff.

40. The Director stated that, responding to the wish of the Board, he had undertaken an energetic campaign to obtain new voluntary contributions for UNIDIR in order to fund its programme of research activities. Seventeen new donors had either made or pledged voluntary contributions during the period under review, resulting in the 1989 budget having an assured income that was 51.73 per cent above the assured income in the 1988 budget.

41. The Board was informed that a total of seven publications had been issued during the period. Furthermore, a UNIDIR "Newsletter" had been launched and two issues had been published. Relations with other research institutes were being developed and UNIDIR had organized, with the assistance of the Institute of World Economy and International Relations of the USSR, a conference of disarmament research institutes at Sochi, USSR, from 22 to 24 March 1988. A number of projects were in hand and were described in more detail in the Director's report.

42. At its nineteenth session, the Board approved the report of the Director on the activities of UNIDIR for submission to the General Assembly (A/43/687) and congratulated the Director and staff of the Institute on the progress reflected therein. The Board recognized the improved quality of the research papers published by UNIDIR and hoped that it would be maintained in the coming years.

43. The Board expressed its satisfaction at the growing abilities of UNIDIR to conduct independent research on disarmament-related problems and its belief that the potential of the Institute for carrying out research of a specialized or highly expert nature should be further encouraged. The Board emphasized the need for appropriate financial support in accordance with the Institute's statute in order to ensure the continued viability and development of the Institute.

C. Proposed annual budget for 1989

44. In its consideration at the nineteenth session of the proposed annual budget of the Institute for 1989, the Board had before it a draft programme of work and proposed budget document prepared by UNIDIR and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

45. The Board was informed that, as at 28 September 1988, the estimated assured income for 1989 was as follows:

Convertible currencies a/

<u>Donor</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Amount in local currency</u>	<u>Amount in \$US</u>
*Argentina	Pledged	-	3 000
Australia	Pledged	-	14 400
*Bahamas	Received	-	1 000
*Brazil	Pledged	-	2 000
Canada	Pledged	-	20 100
*Cyprus	Received	-	300
*Finland	Pledged	Fmk 200 000	47 100
*Ford Foundation	Pledged	-	50 000
France	Pledged	-	220 000
*Greece	Received	-	5 000
*Hungary	Received	-	1 000
*Indonesia	Received	-	5 000
*Netherlands	Pledged	f 10 000	4 900
*New Zealand	Received	-	5 300
Nzw Zealand	Pledged	-	10 000
Norway	Pledged	-	50 000
*Sri Lanka	Received	-	5 000
*Sweden	Pledged	-	25 000
Sweden	Received	-	25 000
Switzerland	Pledged	SwF 75 000	49 700
*Togo	Pledged	CFA F 500 000	1 600
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	Received	-	20 000
Total			<u>565 400</u>

Non-convertible currencies a/

<u>Donor</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Amount in local currency</u>	<u>Amount in \$US</u>
● Bulgaria	●	leva 40 000	30 500
*India	Pledged	Rs 100 000	7 300
*Mongolia	Pledged	Tug 50 000	18 100
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	Received	R 200 000	336 700
Total			<u>392 600</u>
Total assured income from voluntary sources for 1989			<u>958 000</u>

* Denotes new donors.

a/ Based on monthly operational ● xohange rate for July 1988.

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46. The Board noted that there had been a significant increase in the number of donors in response to the energetic fund-raising efforts of the Director. The broadened support was a reflection of the international community's growing recognition of the value of the Institute's work.

47. The net income that could be used for calculation of a possible subvention was \$565,400 and, according to the terms of the Institute's statute, that sum would permit a maximum subvention of \$282,700 to be requested. However, mindful that the purpose for which the subvention was envisaged in the statute was towards meeting the costs of the Director and the staff of the Institute, the Board supported the Director's request for a subvention limited to cover that specific purpose. Accordingly, the Board recommended a subvention from the regular budget of the United Nations in the sum of \$221,100 for 1989. In so doing, the Board took note of the comments of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the draft budget of the Institute.

48. Subject to the General Assembly's approval of the proposed subvention, the total income for 1989 would be \$1,179,100, including the contributions in non-convertible currencies amounting to the equivalent of \$392,600.

49. The estimated expenditure is summarised as follows:

Item	Trust Fund		Subvention	Total
	Convertible currency \$	Non-convertible currency \$		
Regular staff of the Institute	114 900	-	221 100	336 000
General temporary assistance	6 000	-	-	6 000
Travel of staff	30 000	41 200	-	71 200
Ad hoc expert group	107 000	329 800	-	436 800
Contractual services	198 800	19 300	-	218 100
Fellowship programme	29 700	4 300	-	34 000
Acquisition and maintenance of office equipment	14 000	-	-	14 000
Reimbursement of programme support costs	25 000	-	-	25 000
Contribution towards liquidation of the deficit	40 000	-	-	40 000
Total	565 400	392 600	221 100	1 179 100
Income balance	565 400	392 600	221 100	1 179 100

50. The estimated funding of the three-year project for the establishment of a data base on disarmament is provided from the Trust fund for interest on the United Nations Special Account, in accordance with a specific agreement with the Government of Japan. The expenditure in 1989 will amount to \$169,500 and the total over three years will amount to \$585,300.

D. Work programme for 1989

51. At its nineteenth session, the board adopted the following work programme:

(a) Subprogramme 1: Establishment of a data base on disarmament

The third year of a three-year project to establish a computerised data base from United Nations documents, governmental statements, parliamentary records and scientific literature on selected security and disarmament issues.

(b) Subprogramme 2: National security concepts

Continuation of the continuing series of monographs on national concepts of security, including national approaches to disarmament.

(c) Subprogramme 3: UNIDIR fellowship programme

Short-term fellowships for a small number of research scholars from developing countries to work at UNIDIR. For 1989 UNIDIR will offer four fellowships.

(d) Subprogramme 4: Conventional disarmament in Europe

A conference, originally planned for 1999, is now planned for January 1989. The conference, on the theme "Conventional disarmament in Europe: options and perspectives", will be attended, on a balanced basis, by diplomats, government officials, scholars and researchers representing various schools of thought. As the subject will be of interest to the international community at large, UNIDIR will also ensure substantial participation of experts from non-aligned countries and regions other than Europe.

(e) Subprogramme 5: Research guide to the proceedings of the Conference on Disarmament

Research guides will be written on individual agenda items of the Conference on Disarmament, identifying the issues involved, tracing the evolution of the discussion, the principal proposals made and the positions of delegations. The guides are intended for the use of diplomats and the research community.

(f) Subprogramme 6: Maintenance and development of co-operation with and among research institutes

Continuation of the publication of the quarterly UNIDIR "Newsletter", begun in 1988, to enhance contacts with and among research institutes and individual experts in various parts of the world,

(g) Subprogramme 7: Verification in disarmament

This programme will involve two activities:

- (i) Completion of an existing research project to establish a comprehensive guide on the potential of airborne-systems remote-sensing techniques in the field of arms control verification;
- (ii) A research project to elaborate a repertory of methods, procedures and techniques concerning verification of the treaties and agreements currently in force.

(h) Subprogramme 8: Disarmament and development

This programme will involve three activities:

- (i) The preparation of a report defining the interrelationship between disarmament and development through an examination of the impact and implications of spending on military technology, and the use of financial and human resources, on the development process;
- (ii) The preparation of a report setting out possible strategies for conversion of resources from military to civilian uses;
- (iii) In co-operation with the Department for Disarmament Affairs, UNIDIR will undertake specific tasks in the monitoring of military expenditure throughout the world by an examination of existing publications.

(i) Subprogramme 9: Security of third world countries

A research project directed at a comprehensive analysis of security of third world countries and carried out by a group of scholars representative of the political and geographical diversity in the third world. The subject will be approached from a regional perspective as well as in its totality, examining the military-strategic aspects of security together with economic or non-military aspects.

(j) Subprogramme 10: Disarmament: problems related to outer space

Following the publication of the first report, in late 1987, the Board authorized UNIDIR in April 1988 to proceed with the second phase. This is being carried out over two years and will specifically analyse the problem of definition and demarcation in the prevention of an arms race in outer space. Some 15 experts from a wide range of regions and countries with space capabilities are engaged in this project.

(k) Subprogramme 11: Defensive strategies, defensive postures and disarmament

A symposium will be arranged by UNIDIR in New York in association with the United Nations Association of the United States and the Max Planck Society of the Federal Republic of Germany. The participants, including academics, diplomats and military specialists from diverse countries, will examine the concept of "non-provocative defence" with a view to investigating its feasibility as a disarmament measure enhancing security at lower levels of armaments and its impact on strategic concepts and approaches.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

52. The Board's attention was drawn to the consideration by the Committee on Conferences of the pattern of meetings of the Advisory Board. In the Committee's report (A/43/32, para. 41) the Committee "urged the Advisory Board to make greater efforts to avoid meeting during sessions of the Assembly in future".

53. Since 1986 the Advisory Board has been obliged to schedule the second of its annual sessions in late September, thereby contravening General Assembly resolution 34/401, paragraph 34, whereby the Assembly decided that no subsidiary organ of the Assembly should be permitted to meet at United Nations Headquarters during a regular session of the Assembly, unless explicitly authorized by the Assembly. On each occasion authorization was sought from, and granted by, the Assembly through the Committee on Conferences.

54. The problem had arisen from the fact that, at its September session, the Board, acting in its capacity as the Board of Trustees of UNIDIR, had to approve the programme of work and draft budget of UNIDIR for the forthcoming year and to recommend to the General Assembly an amount for subvention from the regular budget of the United Nations. The Board had to take into account the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and for this reason the Board's consideration could not take place until after the Advisory Committee had, in early September, reviewed the UNIDIR draft budget and made its comments.

55. In the discussion it was pointed out that should it be necessary to place the UNIDIR budget before the Advisory Committee at an earlier date, such action might have to be taken in late May or June in order to meet the schedule of the Advisory Committee. Such an arrangement, however, might make it difficult for the Director of UNIDIR to obtain a reliable assessment of assured income for the forthcoming year.

56. The Board directed the secretariat to investigate the matter further with a view to finding a solution and to report to the Board at its next session.

ANNEX

Members of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies

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Mr. Omran El-Shafai
Ambassador, former Assistant Foreign Minister
Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Cairo, Egypt

Mr. Constantin Ene
Ambassador
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Bucharest, Romania

Mr, Alfonso Garcia Robles
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Mexico to the Conference on Disarmament
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Mr. Ignac Golob
Ambassador
Embassy of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
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