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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Implementation of General Assembly resolutions
in the field of disarmament

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/44/150.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 7 December 1988, the General Assembly adopted resolution **43/75 H** entitled "**Implementation of General Assembly resolutions in the field of disarmament**", the operative part of which reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"1. Deems it important that all Member States **make every effort** to facilitate the consistent implementation of General Assembly resolutions in the field of disarmament, and thus show their resolve to arrive at mutually acceptable, comprehensively verifiable and **effective disarmament measures;**

"2. Invites all Member States that have **not** yet done so to make available to the Secretary-General their views and suggestions on ways and means to improve the **situation** with regard to the implementation of General Assembly resolutions in the field of **disarmament;**

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to **submit to** the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session, in accordance with resolution **42/38 J**, a report that includes **information** provided by Member States concerning the implementation of General Assembly resolutions in the **field of** disarmament, as well as their views on possible avenues to improve the situation in this respect;

"4. Calls upon all Member States to **render** every assistance to the Secretary-General so that he **may** fulfil the request contained in paragraph 3 above;

"5. Decides to continue its consideration of the issue of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions in the field of disarmament at its forty-fourth session."

2. Pursuant to paragraphs 2 and 3 of the resolution, the Secretary-General, in a **not.8 verbale** dated 6 February 1989, requested all Member States to submit their views and suggestions on this matter by 1 July 1989. To date the Secretary-General has **received** replies from the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Oman and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The replies are reproduced in section II of the present report.

II. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

[Original: Russian]

[7 August 1989]

1. The Byelorussian SSR is a consistent and active advocate of an all-round increase in the part played by the United Nations in comprehensive international security generally and in that highly important aspect of security, disarmament. The role of the United Nations as a centre for harmonising the actions of nations is wholly in keeping with the requirements of today's interrelated world, united by a common human interest in coping with vital global problems. The Byelorussian SSR strives to support this policy in its actions.

2. An important way of boosting and expanding the role of the United Nations is to improve the record of compliance with General Assembly resolutions on disarmament, making them more effective. In this connection, the Byelorussian SSR reaffirms the opinion and comments on methods of enhancing the effectiveness of resolutions on disarmament given in its reply to the Secretary-General's inquiries concerning resolution 42/38 J (A/43/492/Add.3): namely, that when the resolutions are drafted there needs to be a constructive, serious search for mutually acceptable formulas based on a balance of interests, and that draft resolutions on a single subject need to be amalgamated, thus allowing the international community an opportunity to concentrate seriously on putting its decisions into effect. One important means is by increasing the number and prominence of consensus decisions and extending consensus from procedural and peripheral issues more and more to substantive matters and crucially important questions - making consensus a matter of substance rather than form.

3. A yearly report by the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolutions adopted, including the status of current disarmament talks (in consultation, naturally, with the participants), could help to make decisions more effective, as could the attribution to the United Nations of monitoring functions over the observance of decisions and agreements reached in the field of disarmament.

4. The Byelorussian SSR plans its contributions to the activities of the international community in the field of disarmament strictly in accordance with General Assembly resolutions, the spirit and letter of the Final Document of the first special session devoted to disarmament, and the decisions of the second. It tries to use its participation in special and regular sessions of the General Assembly, other United Nations bodies, and international conferences concerned with disarmament to press for action to be taken under these resolutions, and for their provisions to be incorporated into and enlarged upon in the texts drawn up by international bodies.

5. The Byelorussian SSR supported the resolutions and approaches adopted by the international community in the field of disarmament at the forty-third session of the General Assembly.

6. The Byelorussian **SSR** takes special care to co-operate constructively with the international community **in** all areas of disarmament which are identified by the relevant resolutions as **being of** high priority. In **particular**, its delegations **sponsor** resolutions **on** virtually the **entire range of** disarmament priorities.

7. In the first place, the utmost attention is devoted to the problem of nuclear disarmament. **For many years the Byelorussian SSR has been a sponsor of General Assembly resolutions on the programme of nuclear disarmament, the prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests and the strengthening of security guarantees for non-nuclear-weapon States. A representative of the Byelorussian SSR had the honour of chairing the discussions on nuclear disarmament in the United Nations Disarmament Commission in 1988 and 1989, and every effort was made, in co-operation with the delegations of all States, to make progress on this complicated array of problems.**

8. The Byelorussian **SSR** has sponsored a series of draft resolutions on the prevention of an arms **race in** space. In 1988, as in earlier years, it presented the Secretary-General **with** specific suggestions for measures to ensure that **outer space** is used exclusively for peaceful purposes.

9. **In** accordance with General Assembly resolutions, the Byelorussian SSR supplies information with a view to stricter **enforcement** of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and **on** Their Destruction.

10. **For a number of years the Byelorussian SSR has been working within the international community to make progress on the question of preventing the emergence of new types of weapons of mass destruction, and has initiated resolutions on this question. Serious progress was made at the forty-third session of the General Assembly towards constructive co-operation by all groups of States in drafting a resolution on the subject, creating an opportunity to come to the brink of consensus on its adoption.**

11. **Byelorussian** delegations have made **active** contributions to the formulation of **such recent** international texts **as** the action programme adopted at the International Conference on the **Relationship** between Disarmament and Development, the guidelines for confidence-building measures, the general principles of verification, and the draft concluding document of the fifteenth special session of the General Assembly.

12. Attaching great importance to the roles played by the public and national diplomacy in disarmament **matters**, the Byelorussian SSR has sponsored resolutions on the subject by the **General** Assembly and encourages and works actively with its domestic anti-war movement. It has made a contribution to the Fund **for** the World Disarmament Campaign, **which** is being used to **finance** a series of seminars on disarmament issues, including, in 1989, an international conference in Dagomys (12-16 June 1989) attended by non-governmental organizations.

13. The Byelorussian **SSR** takes great care to transmit regularly to the **Secretary-General**, in connection with General Assembly resolutions, its views and **proposals** on current disarmament issues. **Besides** the comments referred to earlier,

on preventing an arms race in outer space and improving the record of compliance with resolutions on disarmament, in 1988 it submitted proposals on the subjects of increasing confidence and openness in the military sphere and verification in all its aspects, and information on the implementation of the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade and on the observance of Disarmament Week in the Byelorussian SSR. In 1989 it will again submit proposals and information on a number of subjects to the Secretary-General,

14. As recommended in General Assembly resolutions 43/78 D and J, the Byelorussian SSR has taken steps to distribute the United Nations study on the climatic and other global effects of nuclear war, and the report of the Secretary-General on economic and social consequences of the arms race and military expenditures, through the press and interested non-governmental organisations,

15. In conformity with General Assembly resolutions, the Byelorussian SSR abides strictly and unswervingly by the international disarmament agreements to which it is a party. In 1989 it will, inter alia, take part in the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and the Subsoil Thereof.

16. The Byelorussian SSR considers that the development of multilateral approaches to disarmament and efforts to improve the record of compliance with General Assembly resolutions will be mutually supportive and promote irreversible progress in this area of pivotal importance in the strengthening of international security.

OMAN

[Original: Arabic]

[21 August 1989]

The Sultanate of Oman believes that the United Nations is a fitting and appropriate forum for discussion and negotiation in the quest for solutions to the problems which touch upon international peace and security. Accordingly, it gives close attention to the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in the field of disarmament as one of the means that should be supported with a view to achieving a safer and more peaceful world.

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

[Original: Russian]

[3 August 1989]

1. The implementation of United Nations resolutions on disarmament is of immediate relevance to the extension of the role, effectiveness and authority of the Organisation. Today, when the United Nations is increasingly functioning as the unique centre for harmonising the efforts of States, by balancing the interests of all members of the international community and the school of co-creation and co-development that it is meant to be, improving its working style and methods in all areas, especially such a major area as disarmament, is becoming especially topical. It is important that qualitative indicators should be the main criterion here - to what extent questions needing to be discussed on a multilateral basis have been identified and couched in practical terms, and solutions which States would be prepared to back up with collective action have been arrived at. Attitudes to the resolutions adopted at the United Nations should, in the view of the USSR, be measured by the willingness of Member States to comply in good faith with the obligations they have assumed under the Charter to assist the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security.
2. One of the most effective means of striking a balance among States' interests is by drafting and adopting decisions at the United Nations on the basis of common consent. As the common denominator of the opinions of all Member States, consensus resolutions encourage businesslike, non-confrontational, subject-oriented dialogue and the formulation and adoption of effective measures. The time has come to increase the morally and politically binding force of documents and resolutions, including those on disarmament, adopted at the United Nations by common consent. These will include the Final Document of the first special session devoted to disarmament and other documents and resolutions seeking practical measures to turn back the arms race and create a moral and political climate facilitating the move to practical action to limit and reduce military capabilities.
3. It is of fundamental importance that consensus when a resolution is adopted should be matched by consensus when it is put into effect.
4. Improvements on the organizational side, notably making the First Committee more streamlined and efficient, also deserve attention. General Assembly recommendations on disarmament questions could be given substantially more authority and weight, by trimming the excessive number of resolutions, many of which are becoming routine, recurring year after year to no tangible effect.
5. As a contribution to disarmament efforts by the international community and the implementation of General Assembly resolutions, the USSR sponsors resolutions on a wide range of priority topics in this area, including, at the forty-third session of the General Assembly, strengthening security guarantees for non-nuclear-weapon States, prohibiting the development and manufacture of new types and systems of weapons of mass destruction, and supporting the conclusion of a convention on chemical weapons.

6. In response to calls by the General Assembly (resolutions 42/38 A, 42/38 D and 42/40), the USSR provided the Assembly at its forty-third session with information on the progress of the bilateral negotiations on nuclear weapons and the status of disarmament and arms limitation talks outside the United Nations system in which it was taking part,

7. Soviet experts are among the groups of qualified governmental experts preparing the updated comprehensive study on nuclear weapons and the in-depth study on the role of the United Nations in the field of verification, established under resolutions 43/75 N and 43/81 B.

8. By the time it has set, the Soviet Union will be ready to compare military expenditures using the United Nations standardized reporting system, as called for under resolution 43/75 G.

9. The Soviet Union attaches great importance to the report of the Secretary-General to be prepared pursuant to resolution 43/75 H. In order to draw up that report, the Secretary-General should have all the information he can, and Member States taking part in disarmament talks should keep him regularly informed on all aspects of those talks - without prejudice, naturally, to their confidential character.

10. The consistent implementation of United Nations resolutions on disarmament implies more activity by the World Disarmament Campaign and improvements in the ways and methods by which it pursues its goals - to inform, enlighten and foster public understanding and support for United Nations activities in the field of disarmament.

11. The public needs to be kept extensively informed of disarmament resolutions adopted by the General Assembly. The texts of the most important resolutions are published every year in the Soviet press.

12. The Soviet Union is ready for a constructive exchange of views on practical ways of increasing the effectiveness with which United Nations resolutions on disarmament are put into practice.