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

Climatic effects of nuclear war, including nuclear winter

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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HUNGARY

[Original: English]

[11 October 1989]

1. The Government of the Hungarian People's Republic wishes to commend the Secretary-General for having prepared, with the assistance of a group of consultant experts, a study on the climatic and other global effects of nuclear war.
2. This fall the international community is going to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War. The consequences of this horrible global conflagration, the tens of millions of victims led to the solemn international manifestation contained in the Charter of the United Nations, "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war ...". The validity and timeliness of this noble task has not diminished over the years and acquired special relevance with the inception of the nuclear era. With the existence of some 50,000 nuclear warheads one cannot overlook the inherent danger of an outbreak of nuclear war, the possible consequences of which are beyond imagination.
3. In the view of the Hungarian Government the study on the climatic and other global effects of nuclear war is a significant attempt by the United Nations to analyse in an extensive and comprehensive manner the presumable consequences of nuclear war. The envisaged characteristics of nuclear war imply that not only the belligerents, but countries outside the area of conflict would suffer from its consequences as well. The conclusions reached by the international group of experts clearly suggest that a nuclear war would result in a global environmental and socio-economic disruption. In this way the findings of the study appear to be an international scientific argumentation against nuclear war and give special emphasis to the joint declaration of the leaders of the two major Powers: a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought.
4. The study depicts a rather grim picture of the effects of nuclear war on the atmosphere and climate, on natural ecosystems and agriculture. The socio-economic effects are not dealt with at such a length, yet enough is said to complement the horrifying prospects after a nuclear war. It is evident that in the world today, marked with increasing interdependence, the impact of nuclear war would be the collapse of the international economic system that would be felt world wide, in targeted and non-targeted areas alike.
5. The shortest yet the most interesting chapter of the study deals with the question of recovery. The scientists preparing the study were rather cautious in attempting to assess a possible recovery after a nuclear war. Despite the uncertainties, they maintain that such a conflict would produce unprecedented climatic and severe long-term socio-economic effects and if recovery occurred, it would be slow and difficult, and it is most unlikely that any new social order that emerges would either resemble, or be an improvement upon, that which preceded it. The international community must certainly avoid learning the hardships of recovery after a nuclear war if there is to be a recovery at all. Hungary is convinced that

concerted international efforts - also in the field of disarmament - will prevent mankind from suffering from a nuclear war.

6. The Hungarian Government believes that the findings of the study on the effects of nuclear war should be used to educate not only professionals engaged in politics and disarmament diplomacy but also the public opinion. It also shares the view that research in this field should continue.

SWEDEN

[Original: English]

[25 October 1989]

1. The United Nations study on the climatic and other global effects of nuclear war represents a valuable addition to the previous United Nations studies on disarmament and should become a standard source of reference. It summarizes the findings of many research groups, working in the various subfields related to climatic disturbances in the wake of nuclear warfare, in a concise and comprehensive fashion. Bearing in mind the large number of investigations which have been undertaken and the wide range of results presented in the scientific literature, this is a well-balanced and unambiguous account of current knowledge.
2. Chapter I provides a useful summary of the origins of the problem, the evolution of the scientific understanding of the problem, and the conclusions which can be drawn. In particular, section C (paras. 21-28) is recommended reading for all concerned, and is sufficiently informative for readers who are not specifically interested in the technical sub-problems associated with an understanding of the climatic effects of nuclear war.
3. Chapters II and III constitute a straightforward account of the efforts to resolve these sub-problems, the knowledge accumulated in the process and the residual uncertainties. In the view of the Swedish Government, this is a balanced and unbiased description. It should also be accessible for a readership without any particular scientific background.
4. As for the last part of the study, sections G and H of chapter IV affirm the consensus regarding the high risk of a global environmental disruption expressed earlier in section C of chapter I.
5. The Swedish Government notes the conclusion reached by the Group of Consultant Experts that a major nuclear war also poses grave dangers to regions and nations which are very remote from the zones of immediate destruction. This carefully crafted study should make it clear to all States concerned that no nation can escape the devastating effects of a war fought with nuclear weapons.

6. La Tchécoslovaquie participe activement aux efforts en ce sens. C'est sur son initiative que les Etats parties au Traité de Varsovie ont adopté, lors de la session du Comité politique consultatif tenue les 15 et 16 juillet 1988, un document important intitulé "Les incidences de la course aux armements sur l'environnement naturel et autres aspects de la sécurité écologique", qui contient une analyse de l'ensemble complexe des facteurs militaires ayant des effets néfastes sur l'environnement. Il confirme que la prévention de la guerre nucléaire était et reste l'objectif principal dans le combat pour la protection de l'environnement.

7. La Tchécoslovaquie a également pris en décembre 1988 l'initiative d'une proposition de convoquer aussi rapidement que possible une réunion des premiers ministres des pays avoisinant son territoire, en vue d'apporter d'urgence les solutions indispensables aux graves problèmes écologiques qui se posent au niveau régional, c'est-à-dire en Europe centrale.

8. La Tchécoslovaquie se félicite sincèrement des tendances positives qui se dessinent actuellement dans les relations internationales. Elle est convaincue de ce que l'arrêt de la course aux armements et l'adoption de mesures efficaces de désarmement contribueront au renforcement de la paix et de la stabilité et en feront un facteur décisif dans le développement d'une large coopération internationale, notamment dans le domaine de la protection de l'environnement.

Note

1/ Publication des Nations Unies, numéro de vente : F.89.IX.1.
