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REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF
THE TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and
Disarmament in Asia

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, at its forty-third session, adopted resolution 43/76 G of 7 December 1988, entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia". The text of that resolution reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 42/39 D of 30 November 1987, by which it decided to establish the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia with headquarters at Kathmandu,

"Taking into account its decision that the Centre should provide, on request, substantive support for the initiatives and other activities mutually agreed upon by Member States of the Asian region for the implementation of measures for peace and disarmament through appropriate utilisation of available resources, and should co-ordinate the implementation of regional activities in Asia under the World Disarmament Campaign,

"1. Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General of 19 October 1988;

"2. Welcomes the signing of an agreement and a memorandum of understanding between the Government of Nepal and the United Nations regarding the establishing of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia;

"3. Commends the administrative measures taken by the Secretary-General to ensure the establishment and functioning of the Centre and requests him to continue lending all possible support;

"4. Invites Member States and interested organisations to make voluntary contributions for the effective functioning of the Centre;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution."

2. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 5 of that resolution.

II. FUNCTIONING OF THE CENTRE

3. As the Secretary-General informed the General Assembly at its forty-third session in his report on the Centre (A/43/568), on 8 June 1988, the Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations and the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs signed an agreement and memorandum of understanding that established the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia. The Centre was inaugurated at Kathmandu on 30 January 1989, in the presence of the Prime Minister of Nepal and the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, and has become operational.

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4. The Centre functions under the auspices of the Department for Disarmament Affairs, which acts as a focal point for co-ordinating inputs to the activities of the Centre by pertinent organs, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system. The resident representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is entrusted, on an interim basis, with the functions of the Director of the Centre. The Centre is temporarily housed in the UNDP building at Kathmandu,

B. Objectives and activities of the Centre

5. The General Assembly, in its resolution 42/39 D, decided that the Centre should provide, on request, substantive support for the initiatives and other activities mutually agreed upon by the Member States of the Asian region for the implementation of measures for peace and disarmament, through appropriate utilization of available resources, and should co-ordinate the implementation of regional activities in Asia under the World Disarmament Campaign. The initial activities of the Centre focused on the dissemination of information on activities of the United Nations in the field of arms limitation and disarmament, and on responding to written and oral queries received from the public. In addition, following the inauguration of the Centre, an informal meeting on its future work and priorities was held at Kathmandu on 30 to 31 January 1989 in which representatives from the diplomatic community, research institutes, the media and a number of non-governmental organisations from various Member States of the region participated. The view was expressed at the meeting that the region to be covered by the Regional Centre should include not only the Asian continent but also Australia, New Zealand and the adjacent Pacific areas, and that the Centre might be renamed to reflect this geographical scope.

C. Finance

6. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 42/39 D, the Centre was established on the basis of existing resources and of voluntary contributions that Member States and interested organizations may make to that end. The Secretary-General wishes to emphasize that, in view of the financial crisis facing the United Nations, no resources from the regular budget of the Organization can be made available for the Centre and voluntary contributions are thus needed to ensure the viability and effective functioning of the Centre. The costs of the informal meeting at Kathmandu earlier this year were met largely from extrabudgetary contributions.

7. As at 31 August 1989, voluntary contributions to the Centre have been received from Indonesia, Nepal, New Zealand, Norway and the Japanese non-governmental organisation, Rissho Kosei-Kai, totalling \$45,500, of which \$38,057 has been deposited. The Secretary-General wishes to express his gratitude to the above-mentioned Member States and non-governmental organisation for their contributions to the Regional Centre.
