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Agenda item 61

REDUCTION OF MILITARY BUDGETS

Report of the First Committee**Rapporteur:** Mr, Dimitris PLATIS (Greece)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Reduction of military budgets" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-fourth session in accordance with General Assembly resolution **43/73** of 7 December 1968.
2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 22 September 1989, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.
3. At **its** 2nd meeting, on 13 October, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on the disarmament items allocated to it, namely, items 49 to 69 and 151. The deliberations on those items took place between the 3rd and the 25th meetings, from 16 October to 1 November (see **A/C.1/44/PV.3-25**). Consideration of and action on draft resolutions on those items took place between 2 and 17 November (see **A/C.1/44/PV.26-41**).
4. In connection with item 61, the First Committee had before it the following documents:

- (a) Report of the Disarmament Commission; **1/**

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/44/42).

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on military expenditures in **standardized form reported** by States (A/44/422 and **Add.1**);

(c) **Letter** dated 25 January 1989 from the Permanent Representative of the German Democratic Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/44/96);

(d) Letter dated 6 February 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United **Nations** addressed to the Secretary-General (A/44/113);

(e) Letter dated 6 February 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the texts of a statement by the Committee of the Ministers of **Defence** of the Warsaw Treaty member States entitled "On the relative strength of the armed forces and armaments of the Warsaw Treaty **Organization** and the North Atlantic Treaty **Organization** in Europe and adjacent water areas" and of another statement entitled "Correlation of the armed forces and basic types of armaments of the Warsaw Treaty Organization and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in Europe and adjacent water areas", released on **30** January 1989 (A/44/114)1

(f) Letter dated 3 March 1989 from the Permanent Representative of **Czechoslovakia** to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/44/163);

(g) Letter **dated 3 March** 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (**A/44/164**);

(h) Letter dated 3 March 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Poland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (**A/44/155**);

(i) Letter dated 13 April 1989 from the Permanent Representative of the German Democratic Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the texts of the **communiqué**, the declaration and **the** appeal issued by the Committee of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty at its session held at Berlin on 11 and 12 April 1989 (**A/44/223**);

(j) Letter dated 24 May 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of **the** appeal of the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty to the member States of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (A/44/295);

(k) Letter dated 11 July 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the **communiqué** of the meeting of the Political Consultative Committee of the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty, held at Bucharest on 7 and 8 July 1989 (**A/44/386**);

(l) Letter dated 19 July 1989 from the **Chargé d'affaires a.i.** of the Permanent Mission of Zimbabwe to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of **the** final documents of the **Ministerial** Meeting of the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at **Harare** from 17 to 19 May 1989 (A/44/409-S/20743 and **Corr.1** and **2**);

(m) Letter dated 22 **September** 1989 from the Permanent **Representative of** Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the texts of ~~the~~ final document of the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Belgrade from 4 to 7 September 1989 (A/44/551-S/20870);

(n) Letter dated 8 November 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Poland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the ~~text~~ of the **communiqué** of the meeting of the Committee of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of ~~the~~ States Parties to the **Warsaw Treaty**, held at **Warsaw** on 26 and 27 October 1989 (A/C.1/44/7).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A . Draft resolution A/C.1/44/L.36

5. On 30 October, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, the German Democratic Republic, Indonesia, Nigeria, Peru, Romania and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics submitted a draft resolution entitled "Reduction of military budgets" (A/C.1/44/L.36), which was later also sponsored by Angola, Benin, the Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Gambia, Lesotho, the Philippines and Suriname. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Romania at the 27th meeting, on 6 November,

6. At its 38th meeting, on 16 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/44/L.36 by a recorded vote of 94 to 10, with 18 abstentions (see para. 10, draft resolution A). The voting was as follows: 2/

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, **Australia, Austria**, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brunei **Darussalam**, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, **Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire**, Cuba, Cyprus, **Czechoslovakia**, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, **Indonesia**, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Jamaica, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet **Nam**, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

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2) Subsequently, the delegation of Algeria indicated that it had intended to abstain on the draft resolution.

Against: Belgium, ~~Canada, France~~, Germany, Federal Republic of, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Brazil, Denmark, Egypt, Iceland, India, Iraq, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Norway, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

B. Draft resolution A/C.1/44/L.44 and Rev.1

7. On 30 October, the ~~Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Denmark, Germany, Federal Republic of, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics~~ submitted a draft resolution entitled "Military budgets" (A/C.1/44/L.44), which was later also sponsored by ~~Gabon, Luxembourg, Nigeria and Turkey~~. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany at the 31st meeting, on 8 November.

8. On 14 November, the sponsors submitted a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/44/L.44/Rev.1), containing the following changes:

(a) In the first preambular paragraph, the phrase "arms control" was replaced by "arms limitations";

(b) In operative paragraph 1, the word "~~Stresses~~" was replaced by "**Considers**", and the phrase "require the elaboration of agreed methods" was revised to read "requires also agreed methods".

9. At its 38th meeting, on 16 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/44/L.44/Rev.1 by a recorded vote of 105 to none, with 16 abstentions (see para. 10, draft resolution B). The voting was as follows: 3/

In favour: Afghanistan, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, **Australia, Austria**, Bahamas, Bahrain, **Bangladesh, Barbados**, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, **Bolivia, Brazil**, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, **Burkina Faso**, Burundi, **Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic**, Cameroon, **Canada**, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, **Czechoslovakia**, Denmark, Dominican Republic, **Ecuador**, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, **Ghana**, Greece, **Guatemala, Guinea**, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, **Indonesia**, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, **Lesotho**, Liberia, Luxembourg, **Madagascar**, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, **Myanmar**, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, **Norway**, Pakistan, Panama,

3/ Subsequently, the delegation of Bahrain indicated that it had intended to abstain on the draft resolution.

Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaailand, **Sweden**, Thailand, Togo, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet **Socialist** Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, **United** States of America, Uruguay, Veneauela, Viet Nam, **Yugoslavia**, Zaire, Zimbabwe.

Against: *None.*

Abstaining: Algeria, Angola, Cuba, Egypt, India. Iraq, Jordan, **Libyan** Arab Jamahiriya, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian **Arab** Republic, **Tunisia**, **United** Arab **Emirates**, Yemen, **Zambia**.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

10. The **First** Committee recommend8 to the General **Assembly** the adoption of the following draft resolutionsa

A

Reduction of military budgets

The General Assembly,

Desirous of reversing the **arms race** and military expenditures, which constitute a heavy burden for *the* economies of all nations and **have** harmful effects on world peace and **security**,

Convinced that the reduction of **military** expenditure8 as a result of the progress in **disarmament** negotiations will **have** favourable **consequences** on the world economic and financial situation,

Reaffirming that the resources **released** through the reduction of military expenditure8 could be reallocated to the economic sad social development of all States, particularly **for** the benefit of the developing countries,

Firmly convinced that the reduction of military expenditure8 will have a positive impact on the process of strengthening confidence and improving international security and co-operation among States,

Desirous of bringing its **contribution** to the achievement of these goals,

1. **Welcomes** the work of the **Disarmament** Commission **4/** on the identification and elaboration **of** a set of principles that should **govern**

4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/44/42).

further action of States in the **field** of the freezing and reduction of military budgets!

2. **Takes note** of these principles, **as annexed**, and decides to bring them to the attention **of** Member States and of the Conference on Disarmament as useful guidelines **for** further action in the **field** of the freezing and reduction of military budgets;

3. **Requests** the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session **a** progress **report** on the implementation of the present **resolution**;

4. **Decides** to include in the provisional **agenda** of its forty-sixth session the item entitled "Reduction of military budgets",

ANNEX

Principles that should govern further actions of States in the field of the freezing and reduction of military budgets

1. Concerted efforts **should** be made by all States, in particular by those States with the largest military arsenals and by the appropriate negotiating **forums**, with the **objective** of concluding international agreements to freeze and reduce military budgets, including adequate verification measures acceptable to all parties. Such agreements should contribute to genuine reductions of armed **forces** and **armaments** of States parties, with the aim of strengthening international peace and security at lower levels of armed forces and armaments. **Definite** agreements on the **freezing** and reduction of military expenditures are assuming special importance and should be reached within the shortest period of **time** in order to contribute to the curbing of the arms race, alleviate international tensions and increase the possibilities of reallocation of resources **now** being used for military purposes to economic and social development, particularly for the benefit of the developing countries.

2. All efforts **in** the field of the freezing and reduction of military expenditures should take into account the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and the **relevant** paragraphs of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, **5/**

3. Pending the **conclusion of** agreements to freeze and reduce military expenditures, all States, in particular the **most** heavily armed States, should exercise **self-restraint in their** military expenditures.

4. The reduction of military expenditures **on** a mutually agreed basis should be implemented gradually and **in** a balanced manner, either on a percentage or on an absolute basis, so as to ensure that no individual State or group of

States may obtain advantages over others at any stage, and without prejudice to the right of all States to undiminished security and sovereignty and to undertake the necessary measures of self-defence.

5. While the freezing ~~and~~ reduction of military budgets is the responsibility of all States, to be implemented in stages in accordance with the principles of greatest responsibility, the process should begin with those nuclear-weapon States with the largest military arsenals and the biggest military expenditures, to be followed immediately by other nuclear-weapon States and militarily significant States. This should not prevent other States from initiating negotiations and reaching **agreements** on the balanced reduction of their respective military budgets at any time during this process,

6. Human and material resources released through the reduction of military expenditures should be devoted to economic and social development, particularly for the benefit of the developing countries.

7. Meaningful negotiations ~~on the~~ freezing and reduction of military budgets would require that all parties to such negotiations have accepted and implemented transparency and comparability. The elaboration of agreed methods of measuring and comparing military expenditures between specified periods of time and between countries with different budgeting systems would be required. To this end States should **utilize** the reporting system adopted by the General Assembly in 1980. 6/

a. Armaments and military activities that would be the subject ~~of~~ physical reductions within the limits provided for in any agreement to reduce military expenditures will be identified by every State party to such agreements.

9. The agreements to freeze and reduce military expenditures should contain adequate and efficient measures of verification, satisfactory to all parties, in order to ensure that their provisions are strictly applied and fulfilled by all States parties. The specific methods of verification or other compliance procedure should be agreed upon in the **prccess** of negotiation depending upon the purposes, scope and nature of the agreement.

10. Unilateral measures undertaken by States concerning the freezing and reduction of military expenditures, especially when they are followed by similar measures adopted by other States on the basis of mutual example, could contribute to favourable conditions for the negotiation and conclusion of international agreements to freeze and reduce military expenditures.

11. Confidence-building measures could help to create a political climate conducive to the freezing and reduction of military expenditures. Conversely, the freezing and reduction of military expenditure **could** contribute to the increase of confidence among States.

6/ See A/35/479.

12. The United Nations should play a central role in orienting, stimulating and initiating negotiations on freezing and reducing military expenditures, and all Member States should co-operate with the Organization and among themselves, with a view to solving the problems implied by this process.

13. The freezing and reduction of military expenditures may be achieved, as appropriate, on a global, regional or subregional level, with the agreement of all States concerned.

14. The agreements on the freezing and reduction of military budgets should be viewed in a broader perspective, including respect for and implementation of the security system of the United Nations, and be interrelated with other measures of disarmament, within the context of progress towards general and complete disarmament under effective international control. The reduction of military budgets should therefore be complementary to agreements on the limitation of armaments and disarmament and should not be considered as a substitute for such agreements.

15. The adoption of the above principles should be regarded as a means of facilitating meaningful negotiations on concrete agreements on the freezing and reduction of military budgets,

B

Military budgets

The General Assembly,

Welcoming the encouraging progress achieved in arms limitations and disarmament,

Noting that further progress in disarmament negotiations could also lead to reductions in military expenditures,

Stressing that increased information on military matters is an important prerequisite for achieving agreements on the reduction of armed forces,

Recalling that an international system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures has been introduced in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 351142 B of 12 December 1980, and that national reports on military expenditures have been received from a number of Member States belonging to different geographic regions and having different budgeting and accounting systems,

Convinced that more transparency and comparability could be reached through broader participation in the standardized system of the United Nations for reporting military expenditures,

1. **Considers** that transparency requires also agreed methods of measuring and comparing military expenditures between specified periods of time and between countries with different budgeting **systems**;
2. **Accordingly calls upon all States** to make use of the reporting system adopted by the General Assembly;
3. **Decides** to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session an item entitled "Transparency and reduction of military budgets".
