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

Disarmament Week

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its thirty-third session, the General Assembly, under the item entitled "Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session", adopted resolution 33/71 D of 14 December 1978, the operative part of which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

...
"1. Invites all States to carry out, through the dissemination of information and organization of symposiums, meetings, conferences and other national and international forums, effective measures to expose the danger of the arms race, propagate the need for its cessation and increase public understanding of the urgent tasks in the field of disarmament and in particular of the provisions of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a model programme which may assist States that so desire in developing their local programmes for Disarmament Week;

"3. Invites governmental as well as non-governmental organizations to undertake annual activities to promote the objectives of Disarmament Week and invites Governments to inform the Secretary-General of such activities not later than 30 April of each subsequent year;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth and subsequent sessions on the information obtained by him in accordance with paragraph 3 above."

2. Pursuant to paragraph 4 of the resolution, the Secretary-General submits herewith the report on the information received from Member States concerning the activities undertaken to promote the objectives of Disarmament Week.

II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

[Original: Russian]

[17 December 1981]

1. As in previous years, United Nations Day and Disarmament Week were widely observed in the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic in 1981. A meeting of representatives of the public in the capital of the Republic, the hero-city of Minsk, was opened by I. P. Shamyakin, Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Byelorussian SSR. Professor E. M. Babosov, Director of the Institute of Philosophy and Law of the Academy of Sciences of the Byelorussian SSR, addressed the meeting.

/...

2. Those present at the meeting unanimously adopted a letter to Kurt Waldheim, Secretary-General of the United Nations, emphasizing that during the 36 years since the founding of the United Nations the Soviet Union and the other countries of the socialist community had done everything in their power to increase and strengthen the contribution of that important international organization to the struggle to consolidate peace, curb the arms race, remove dangerous hotbeds of international tension, eliminate conclusively the vestiges of colonialism, racism and apartheid, and promote international co-operation in every possible way.
3. The meeting noted the historic importance of the Programme for Peace in the 1980s put forward by the Twenty-sixth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, which envisages far-reaching steps to limit armaments, eliminate hotbeds of tension and strengthen trust among States. It also pointed out the importance of the Appeal of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR with its call to the parliaments and peoples of the world to speak out resolutely for negotiations so as to prevent a new round in the nuclear-missile arms race.
4. It was emphasized at the meeting that at the thirty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly the Soviet Union had advocated new peace initiatives, proposing the adoption by the General Assembly of a declaration on "Prevention of Nuclear Catastrophe" and the conclusion of a Treaty prohibiting the stationing of weapons of any kind in outer space.
5. Those taking part in the meeting warmly supported and approved the Programme for Peace in the 1980s put forward by the Twenty-sixth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the new Soviet initiatives in the United Nations aimed at removing the threat of nuclear conflict, curbing the arms race, strengthening peace and international security and settling international disputes through negotiations.
6. At meetings of representatives of the public and mass meetings held throughout the Byelorussian SSR, the Republic's workers are angrily condemning the course pursued by imperialist circles in the United States of America and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization towards a stepping up of international tension, the arms race, and the undermining of the present parity in the strategic military field. They are resolute by saying "No!" to neutron weapons and the arms race. They are united in their determination not to allow neutron madness and the unleashing of a thermo-nuclear catastrophe. They are calling on the peace-loving forces of all countries to join forces in the struggle for an end to the arms race and for peace.
7. The mass media thoroughly publicized measures connected with the observance of United Nations Day and Disarmament Week in the Byelorussian SSR. Large masses of the public were informed of the message of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the occasion of United Nations Day.
8. The attention of all the mass media was centred on the proposals of the USSR and the other countries of the socialist community aimed at ensuring and preserving peace, averting the threat of nuclear war, halting the arms race and settling international disputes through negotiations.

9. The measures taken in the Byelorussian SSR in connection with the celebration of United Nations Day and the observance of Disarmament Week facilitated the comprehensive mobilization of the people of the Republic in the struggle to strengthen peace, preserve détente, avert the threat of nuclear war and curb the arms race.

Annex

Letter dated 26 October 1981 adopted at a meeting of representatives of the public of the capital of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Hero-city of Minsk, addressed to Mr. Kurt Waldheim, Secretary-General of the United Nations

We, representatives of the public of the capital of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the hero-city of Minsk, meeting today to observe United Nations Day and the opening of Disarmament Week, join with all the peace-loving people of the world in demanding that efforts should be intensified in the sacred struggle for the greatest right of all, the right to life, that the road to nuclear catastrophe should be barred and that the arms race should be halted.

The States which founded the United Nations, among them the Byelorussian SSR, declared their determination "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war" in its Charter 36 years ago. Throughout those years, the Soviet Union and the other countries of the socialist community have done all in their power to enable the United Nations to measure up to the great and noble task confronting it and to increase and strengthen its contribution to the struggle to reinforce peace, halt the arms race, promote disarmament, remove dangerous hotbeds of international tension, eliminate conclusively the vestiges of colonialism, racism and apartheid and develop international co-operation in every possible way.

At the same time, we note with profound concern and alarm that the international situation has recently deteriorated and the threat to peace has grown considerably. The imperialist Powers, especially the United States of America, are deliberately inflaming the international situation and trying to undermine the present parity in the strategic military field by striving for military superiority over the USSR and the Warsaw Pact. A decision has been taken for the full-scale production of neutron weapons, and preparations for deploying new United States medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe are being made. The blatant interference, of the United States of America in the internal affairs of sovereign States is being intensified.

In these circumstances, the sweeping proposals on key problems of international life advanced by the twenty-sixth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in its Programme for Peace in the 1980s take on truly historic significance.

The Appeal of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, with its call to the world's parliaments and peoples to speak out resolutely for negotiations in order to prevent a new round in the nuclear-missile arms race has resounded throughout the world.

At the thirty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly, the Soviet Union put forward new peace initiatives. In particular, it proposed the adoption by the General Assembly of a Declaration on "Prevention of Nuclear Catastrophe", which would be a serious warning to all those who are nurturing dangerous plans to unleash nuclear war, and it also put forward a proposal to conclude a treaty prohibiting the stationing of weapons of any kind in outer space.

We, like all Soviet citizens, fully support and approve the Programme for Peace in the 1980s advanced by the Twenty-sixth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the new Soviet initiatives at the United Nations. All these proposals are aimed at removing the threat of nuclear conflict, curbing the arms race, strengthening peace and international security and settling international disputes through negotiations. We attach great importance to the further mobilization of the public throughout the world in the struggle for these aims and call upon all States Members of the United Nations to facilitate the constructive examination of these problems and the adoption of effective solutions.

We express our conviction that the United Nations will do all in its power to achieve its main purpose of maintaining international peace and security, averting a new war and curbing the arms race. That is what the peace-loving peoples of the entire world expect of the United Nations.

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

[Original: English]

[14 July 1982]

1. Heeding the appeal issued in 1978 at the first special session of the United Nations General Assembly on disarmament, a Week devoted to fostering the objectives of disarmament was observed in the German Democratic Republic also in 1981 (24-30 October 1981). In preparing the Week and defining its content, account was taken of the elements of the model programme for Disarmament Week (A/34/436) and of the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade (Resolution 35/46).
2. To prevent a nuclear catastrophe, to secure peace and to achieve agreement on concrete and comprehensive disarmament measures are primary objectives of the German Democratic Republic's foreign policy. At the third plenary session of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED), which was held shortly after Disarmament Week, the General Secretary of the SED Central Committee and Chairman of the Council of State of the German Democratic Republic, Erich Honecker, stated, inter alia:

"On account of the existing international balance of forces it is definitely possible to prevent war, especially one involving the use of nuclear, chemical and bacteriological weapons of mass destruction. This goal is attainable if all controversial international issues are resolved by negotiation rather than by force, if political realism prevails over adventurism, and if all peoples of the world make a stand against the schemes and activities of the most aggressive imperialist forces and fight for curbing the arms race and safeguarding peace."

3. On the occasion of United Nations Day and the opening of the Week devoted to fostering the objectives of disarmament, the German Democratic Republic League for the United Nations, on 23 October 1981, organized a ceremony which marked the beginning of a wide range of activities in connection with Disarmament Week in the German Democratic Republic. The function was attended by diplomats accredited to the German Democratic Republic and public figures of this country. The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic, Bernhard Neugebauer, stressed in his speech:

"It is the purpose of Disarmament Week, which has come to be observed on a world-wide scale, to draw the attention of the people around the globe to:

- the dangers inherent in the arms race,
- the disarmament efforts undertaken by many States, and
- the obstacles that time and again are placed in the way of disarmament ...

Having this in mind, we welcome the multifarious activities that have been launched again this year in observance of Disarmament Week by social forces and mass organizations of this country, such as the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions, the Democratic Women's League, the Free German Youth, the Ernst Thaelmann Pioneer Organization, the Peace Council and many other organizations and institutions, not least by the League for the United Nations."

4. On 25 October 1981, 50,000 inhabitants of the city of Potsdam gathered for a mass rally on the occasion of the Week devoted to fostering the objectives of disarmament. The motto of the rally was "For a secure peace, against NATO's all-out armament effort". Addressing the peace rally, the Secretary-General of the German Democratic Republic Peace Council, Werner Ruempel, stated, inter alia:

"This manifestation and powerful rally are part of the world-wide anti-war movement which these days has demonstrated through impressive actions the determination of the peoples of many countries to take the cause of peace into their own hands We have faith in the energy and the desire for peace of the peoples, we hope that on a mounting scale responsible politicians in the West too will display realism and the requisite courage. It is not too late, but it is high time to act in a sovereign manner in the interest of the own peoples, not to allow the deployment of new nuclear weapons, to stop the arms race through trustful and constructive negotiations and to avert the threat of a nuclear catastrophe."

5. The "Ernst Thaelmann" Pioneer Organization collected 14,000 signatures in support of the objectives of Disarmament Week, which were handed over to the United Nations. Multifarious activities were undertaken, such as exhibitions of children's drawings and children's books, panel discussions and information shows dealing with matters of disarmament and peace. The highlight was a peace rally held in Berlin on 29 October 1981.

6. At the end of the Second European Days of Action of Youth and Students (31 October and 1 November) an international youth rally took place in Dresden involving 32 national and international organizations. It was sponsored by the Free German Youth, and among its prominent guests was the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Oskar Fischer.
7. In the town of Weimar, German Democratic Republic artists exhibited posters they had designed on the occasion of the second special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament. Among them was a poster by Prof. Voigt for which he was awarded the first prize in the international United Nations-sponsored posters competition in preparation for the second special session.
8. The mass media of the German Democratic Republic devoted special attention to the activities conducted by the United Nations for arms limitation and disarmament, e.g., the appeal for disarmament launched by the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the eve of Disarmament Week and the pertinent activities undertaken by the Centre for Disarmament. During the Week from 24 to 31 October, the three dailies with the highest circulations and the biggest weekly foreign policy magazine dealt with the subject matter of Disarmament Week in 103 contributions, while radio and television took up the subject 153 times. The purpose was to make people clearly aware that effective disarmament measures can be reached only if the principle of the equality and equal security of all States concerned is fully observed. The German Democratic Republic media gave extensive coverage to initiatives for disarmament launched during the thirty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly.
9. The large echo which the Week devoted to fostering the objectives of disarmament drew in the German Democratic Republic has shown that the people of the German Democratic Republic associates itself with the objectives of this important United Nations initiative.
10. The German Democratic Republic will continue to give active support to the holding of the Week devoted to fostering the objectives of disarmament.

MONGOLIA

[Original: Russian]

[5 May 1982]

1. In conformity with the provisions of paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 33/71 D, the Mongolian People's Republic submits the following account of the observance of International Disarmament Week during the period 24 to 31 October 1981.
2. As in previous years, the International Week was widely observed in the Mongolian People's Republic.

3. International Disarmament Week coincided this year with the commemoration by our people of the twentieth anniversary of their country's admission to membership in the United Nations. The participation of the Mongolian People's Republic in that prestigious international organization was a brilliant confirmation of its peace-loving foreign policy, which is directed towards strengthening peace among nations, limiting the arms race and disarmament, and of its deep devotion to the lofty purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to furthering the role of that organization as an instrument of international peace and security, mutual understanding and trust among States.

4. The observance of Disarmament Week and the twentieth anniversary of our country's admission to the United Nations was marked by a large-scale programme of measures in the Mongolian People's Republic to explain and make better known the purposes and functions of disarmament and the efforts being made to that end by the international community, and to provide information on the activities of the United Nations and the participation of our country in that body.

5. On 24 October, the opening day of the Week, a meeting attended by representatives of State and public organizations was conducted under the chairmanship of Academician N. Sodnom, Chairman of the Mongolian Committee for the Defence of Peace, in Ulan Bator, the capital of the Mongolian People's Republic. The meeting was addressed by N. Luvsanchultem, Chairman of the Executive Committee of Mongolian peace and friendship organizations, Professor Zhugder, General Secretary of the Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace, and other persons.

6. A mass meeting of workers of the capital was held under the auspices of the Central Council of Mongolian Trade Unions and was addressed by trade-union officials, workers and representatives of the intelligentsia. A note of deep concern in these addresses was apparent with regard to the continuing arms race, the manufacture of increasingly more refined weapons of mass destruction and the growing threat of a world nuclear catastrophe. The speakers angrily condemned the reckless policies being pursued by the administration of the United States of America with the aim of exacerbating international tension and of achieving military superiority in the world through the limitless expansion of nuclear arsenals and the stationing of new types of medium-range nuclear missiles in western Europe.

7. The speakers also stressed that the peaceful initiatives put forward by the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries were aimed primarily at improving the international atmosphere, limiting the arms race and promoting disarmament, and preventing nuclear war, and were in full accord with the vital interests of all peoples throughout the world.

8. The speakers expressed full support for the peace-loving foreign policy of the party and the Government of the Mongolian People's Republic and stressed the great importance and the relevance of the proposal by the Mongolian People's Republic for the conclusion of a Convention on non-aggression and mutual renunciation of the use of force in relations between Asian and Pacific Ocean States, which would serve to increase trust between the States of the region and create a political atmosphere favourable to disarmament.

9. It was also pointed out in the addresses that this year's Disarmament Week took on special significance because it was being held at the very threshold of the Second Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly dealing with disarmament.

10. It was further pointed out in this connection that the work of the Second Special Session should include a review of the effect being given to the decision concerning the observance of a Disarmament Week taken at the previous Special Session and should also include decisions on the aims and functions of its continued observance.

11. Shortly before the beginning of the Week, a statement was made by the National Committee of Mongolian Scholars and Scientists, which was established for the purpose of fostering the establishment of an international committee of scholars and scientists whose function would be to put forth valuable ideas for the prevention of a nuclear catastrophe.

12. That statement, which was published by the country's central press and information organs and transmitted to the mass media of other countries, laid particular stress on the fact that the present complex international situation resulted from United States policies that intensified the arms race and created crisis situations and hotbeds of war in various regions of the world, as well as aggression, dictation and interference in the internal affairs of other States. Mongolian scholars and scientists fully appreciate the great importance of the Programme of Peace for the Eighties that was adopted by the Communist Party of the Soviet Union at its twenty-sixth session as a basis for the activities and efforts of scholars and scientists in all countries of the world for the defence of peace and the prevention of a nuclear catastrophe.

13. Many articles dealing with disarmament and United Nations activities were published in the central press and information organs.

14. Thus, the newspaper, Unen, the central organ of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party, published a prominent article entitled "Mongolian People's Republic in the United Nations" and other articles, including the following: "Mongolian People's Republic in the struggle for disarmament", "Role of scholars and scientists in the defence of peace", and "For peace and Socialism".

15. More than 10 articles were published in the press organs of the Central Council of Mongolian Trade Unions, of the Central Committee of the Mongolian Revolutionary Youth League and in other newspapers and periodicals.

16. The observance of the week both here and in other countries was given wide coverage in the press and other mass media.

17. A total of 25 dispatches relating to various activities carried out in other countries on the occasion of the Week appeared in the press and were also broadcast by radio and television.

18. In addition to the regular broadcasts dealing with Disarmament Week, there was also a special programme on the twentieth anniversary of the admission of the Mongolian People's Republic to the United Nations and on Disarmament Week, which featured D. Tsevegmid, Vice Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Mongolian People's Republic, and N. Luvsanchultem, Chairman of the Executive Committee of Mongolian peace and friendship organizations and a number of other persons. There was also an interview on Mongolian radio with N. Sodnom, Chairman of the Mongolian Committee for the Defence of Peace, who spoke about activities in the Mongolian People's Republic on the occasion of Disarmament Week and United Nations Day.

19. One day during the Week was set aside in industrial establishments and institutions for lectures and discussions on United Nations activities concerning matters related to limitation of the arms race and disarmament. Thousands of people participated in these events. Arrangements were also made for a special lecture on the participation of the Mongolian People's Republic in United Nations activities, and this was given broad coverage in all State and public organizations.

20. Among the many State and public organizations taking an active part in the observance of the Week were the Mongolian Committee for the Defence of Peace and the Mongolian Association for the United Nations.

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

[Original: English]

[29 September 1982]

1. The British Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with responsibility for arms control and disarmament matters, Mr. Douglas Hurd, addressed the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly on 20 October 1981, on behalf of the Ten Member States of the European Community. He made a strong plea for progress in the current disarmament negotiations. His address was distributed to non-governmental organizations in the United Kingdom during Disarmament Week, and later published in the quarterly newsletter, "Arms Control and Disarmament".
2. On 27 October the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, Lord Carrington, delivered the Churchill Memorial Lecture in Luxembourg. He took as his theme "The Foundations of Peace in Europe", and devoted particular attention to negotiations for the reduction of East/West armaments. His speech was widely publicized in several European countries.
3. To mark the end of Disarmament Week, Mr. Hurd held a meeting on 30 October with representatives of a number of non-governmental organizations which had expressed interest in preparations for the second special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament. This exchange of views produced some useful ideas for building upon the draft Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament which the United Kingdom and other countries had earlier put forward in Geneva.

4. The British Government have always taken the view that meetings and conferences can attract wider public support if they are arranged by non-governmental organizations with a special interest in arms control and disarmament. An announcement about Disarmament Week was therefore made in the quarterly newsletter published in August 1981. The various meetings held over the weekend 24/25 October generated widespread public interest in disarmament.

5. It was also arranged for the United Nations Association to hold a national competition to select a poster for the second special session. The winning British entry was sent to the United Nations for inclusion in the international judging, and a selection of commended poster designs was put on display at the Mermaid Theatre in London during Disarmament Week.
