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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Objective information on military matters

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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* A/44/150.

BULGARIA

[Original: Russian]

[6 September 1989]

1. The Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria is convinced that the reciprocal provision of objective information on military matters is an important factor in building trust and eliminating sources of suspicion. Greater openness and glasnost in defence policy, especially on the part of the two major military-cum-political alliances and their members, would help to bring about a climate of confidence and increased predictability in this area of vital importance for both Europe and the world. It would reduce and ultimately eliminate the probability of misinterpreting States' actions and intentions, boost security and stability based on the principle of reasonable sufficiency for defence, both regionally and globally, and promote progress in the main areas of disarmament.
2. The People's Republic of Bulgaria has accepted and complies unfailingly with the commitments set forth in the final document of the Stockholm Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe. These include prior notification of major military exercises, the invitation of observers and verification of compliance with agreements by, inter alia, on-site inspections. In keeping with its obligations, Bulgaria routinely provides annual calendars of military activities at the appointed times.
3. Within the framework of a Balkans-wide process of confidence- and security-building and the expansion of Balkan co-operation in every area, Bulgaria has put forward a series of proposals for joint regional activities to promote greater glasnost and openness in peacetime military activities.
4. Together with other members of the Warsaw Treaty Organization, Bulgaria has taken a number of steps to increase openness on each and every aspect of its military potential, as called for by resolution 43/75 G. So, for example, it has disclosed detailed information on the strength of its armed forces and on its weapon systems, and is making significant unilateral cuts in this area. It is prepared to take part, within the framework of the Vienna talks, in exchanges of such information relating to Europe between the Warsaw Treaty Organization and NATO. Bulgaria favours substantial cuts in armed forces and conventional weapons, with corresponding reductions in military expenditure. The talks should lead to the identification and reciprocal elimination of current asymmetries and imbalances across Europe and in individual regions. Within Europe, priority should be given to the consolidation of military structures capable of serving only defensive ends.
5. Bulgaria is working intensively in order to be able to disclose its defence expenditure in the near future. The Bulgarian Government expresses its willingness to continue its efforts to arrive at criteria for the comparison of military budgets in accordance with the international standardized reporting system adopted by the United Nations. The United Nations Disarmament Commission is now completing the necessary preliminaries to agreement on the principles governing cuts in military budgets. There is a sound body of points of convergence among States' positions on these matters, which should be used and built upon.

6. The Bulgarian Government attaches exceptional importance to the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament, and is convinced that the Organization could make a real contribution to greater openness and objectivity in military information. Bulgaria will continue to support all moves, both within and outside the United Nations, to halt the arms race and to freeze and reduce military expenditure as an inseparable part of the disarmament process. It is precisely from this standpoint that it approaches the need for objective information on military matters, and will continue to promote a businesslike and constructive discussion of the question.
