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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Comprehensive study on confidence-building measures

Report of the Secretary-General

1. By resolution 34/87 B of 11 December 1979, the General Assembly decided to undertake a comprehensive study on confidence-building measures and requested the Secretary-General to carry out the study with the assistance of a group of qualified governmental experts, appointed by him on an equitable geographical basis. The Assembly further requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its thirty-fifth session a progress report on the work of the group and a final report at the thirty-sixth session.
2. Pursuant to resolution 34/87 B, the Secretary-General appointed a Group of Governmental Experts on Confidence-building Measures, which held its first session from 8 to 11 April 1980 and its second session from 29 July to 1 August 1980. By a letter dated 1 August 1980 addressed to the Secretary-General, the Chairman of the Group submitted a progress report which is annexed to the present document.

ANNEX

Report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Confidence-building Measures

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

1 August 1980

Sir,

I have the honour to submit herewith a progress report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Confidence-building Measures which was appointed by you in pursuance of resolution 34/87 B, adopted on 11 December 1979 by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session.

The experts appointed were the following:

Mr. Leopoldo Benites
Ambassador, Ecuador

Mr. Frank Boaten
Ambassador, Ghana

Mrs. Busba Bunnag
Second Secretary, Thailand

Mr. O. N. Bykov
Deputy Director of the Institute of
World Economy and International Relations,
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

Mr. Franz Ceska
Director, Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Austria

Mr. Charles C. Flowerree
Ambassador, United States of America

Mr. Kamanda Wa Kamanda
Ambassador, Zaire

Mr. Ion Nicolae
Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Romania

Mr. Nobumasa Ohta
Senior Official, Defence Agency, Japan

Mr. Hugo Palma
Ambassador, Peru

His Excellency
Mr. Kurt Waldheim
Secretary-General of the
United Nations
New York

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Mr. Gerhard Pfeiffer
Ambassador, Federal Republic of Germany

Mr. Esko Rajakoski
Ambassador, Finland

Mr. P. M. Roberts
Ambassador, Canada

Colonel Milan Stembera
Federal Ministry of National Defence, Czechoslovakia

The Group held its first session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 8 to 11 April 1980 and its second session from 29 July to 1 August 1980 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. At the first session all experts participated with the exception of Ambassador Leopoldo Benites, who was unable to attend.

At the second session, and following the nomination by the Government of Thailand and appointment by you, Ambassador Pracha Gunakasem replaced Mrs. Bunnag as the expert of the Government of Thailand. Ambassador Frank Boaten of Ghana and Ambassador Charles C. Flowerree of the United States were represented by Mr. Nelson Dumevi and Mr. David Clinard, respectively.

The Group asked Ambassador Gerhard Pfeiffer, Federal Republic of Germany, to serve as its Chairman.

The Group held 14 formal meetings as well as informal consultations during which it discussed the scope of the study, its main contents and the programme and methodology of its work.

The Group asked experts to submit their views on particular experiences and conditions for confidence-building measures in their particular regions.

The Group agreed on a provisional outline for the study, attached hereto.

The Group decided to hold two sessions in 1981, each of two weeks duration, tentatively scheduled in May in New York and in August in Geneva.

The Group was assisted in its work by Miss Amada Segarra, Secretary of the Group, and Mr. Mats Marling of Sweden, Consultant.

I have been requested by the Group, as its Chairman, to submit this progress report to you on its behalf.

(Signed) Gerhard PFEIFFER
Ambassador
Chairman of the Group
of Governmental Experts on
Confidence-building Measures

Outline of the study on confidence-building measures

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Terms of reference (General Assembly resolution 34/87 B).
2. Composition of the group and organization of work.

II. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Analysis of the actual international situation.

Necessity, in order to facilitate the process of arms control and disarmament, to take measures and to pursue policies to strengthen international peace and security and to build confidence among States in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

III. THE CONCEPT OF CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES

1. Objectives of confidence-building measures:

- To improve conditions for peace and stability,
- To reduce distrust and fear,
- To enhance possibilities for communication and co-operation,
- To diminish the danger of armed conflicts resulting from misunderstandings or misinterpretations and the risk of surprise attacks,
- To contribute to eliminate the sources of tensions and conflict,
- To facilitate progress in arms control and disarmament.

2. Characteristics of confidence-building measures.

Concrete measures within the framework of appropriate policies and international agreements, whose applications conduce to reaching the objectives of the confidence-building process, thus strengthening the security of States. Measures, which are complementary to but cannot substitute for agreements on disarmament as well as for the fulfilment of other international obligations.

3. Opportunities for confidence-building measures:

- Arrangements for reducing tensions,
- Arrangements on the cessation of armed conflicts, inter alia, the introduction of peace-keeping forces,

- In connexion with the promotion of the peaceful settlement of international disputes,
- In conjunction with arms control and disarmament negotiations and agreements conducive to their introduction and implementation,
- In the context of other security-related agreements of international co-operation conducive to consolidating lasting peace,
- Others.

IV. EVOLUTION OF CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES

- Confidence-building measures included in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,
- Confidence-building measures and certain aspects of security and disarmament included in the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE-process and related proposals),
- Vienna Talks on Mutual Reduction of Forces, Armaments and Associated Measures in Central Europe,
- Confidence-building measures envisaged or in practice in various continents,
- Confidence-building measures included in bilateral agreements.

V. PRINCIPLES

- Principles of international law and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,
- Principles included in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly pertinent to the maintenance of international peace and security of States,
- Specific considerations concerning confidence-building measures.

VI. APPROACH

1. Regional, interregional, international, global.

Security situations peculiar to specific regions have a bearing on the nature of confidence-building measures; States in a region, therefore, ought to analyse elements and aspects which determine the particular conditions and requirements; from regional to international and global arrangements.

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2. Methods of implementation.

From less restraining to more restraining measures; from voluntary or discretionary commitments to politically or legally binding instruments; from unilateral self-restraint to multilaterally agreed, reciprocal restraints.

VII. TYPES OF CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES

Illustrative, non-exhaustive list of possible confidence-building measures States may take into consideration while deciding and negotiating on particular measures to develop and strengthen confidence in their respective regions and in the world.

VIII. ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations should play an active role in the process of identifying, encouraging and promoting confidence-building measures. The second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament should evaluate the impact of confidence-building measures on disarmament and take further steps in fostering the process of confidence building.

IX. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
