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

Programme of research and studies on disarmament

Report of the Secretary-General

1. At its thirty-fourth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 34/83 M of 11 December 1979, entitled "Programme of research and studies on disarmament". In the resolution, the Assembly welcomed the recommendations concerning the United Nations institute for disarmament research submitted by the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies and set forth in the report of the Secretary-General (A/34/589), and noted that, under those recommendations, the United Nations institute for disarmament research would be set up within the framework of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) as an interim arrangement, for the period until the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, in 1982. Furthermore, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to hold consultations with UNITAR regarding the establishment of the institute, expressed the hope that appropriate steps would be taken as soon as possible with a view to implementing the recommendations set forth in the report of the Secretary-General and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its thirty-fifth session. The present report is made pursuant to that request.

2. The consultations between the Secretary-General and UNITAR, referred to in the resolution, were initiated at an early date and were pursued in the course of the year. The matter of the establishment of the United Nations institute for disarmament research was the subject of a special meeting of the Board of Trustees of UNITAR in February 1980. At that meeting, the Board of Trustees decided to establish the institute and took decisions on organizational aspects thereof. Subsequently, the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies discussed the matter, giving particular attention to the question of the mandate of the United Nations institute for disarmament research and to the appropriate composition of its advisory council. UNITAR was represented at the Board's deliberations on the subject.

3. The Secretary-General wishes to inform the General Assembly that, in consequence of the various deliberations and consultations, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research was established with effect from 1 October 1980, within the framework of UNITAR as an interim arrangement for the period until the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, at which time it will be reviewed. The Institute has a simple, pragmatic mandate to carry out research for the purpose of assisting in ongoing negotiations in the area of disarmament and arms limitation, stimulating initiatives for new negotiations and providing a general insight into the problems involved. It is understood that the Institute will carry out this mandate on the basis of the provisions of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly (resolution S-10/2) - the first special session of the Assembly devoted to disarmament - and in accordance with resolution 34/83 M.

4. A senior member of the Secretariat of the United Nations with long experience in the area of disarmament has been appointed as Director of the Institute. Moreover, a specialist in the field of disarmament has been made available by the Government of France, at its expense, to serve as the Deputy Director of the Institute. The Government of France has also made a grant of \$250,000 for 1979 and 1980 to help set up the Institute and finance its first project, an inventory of existing research relevant to disarmament negotiations. The Secretary-General has been informed that consultations are under way to ensure that the Advisory Council of the Institute will be so composed as to permit an adequate representation of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies, taking into account its specific responsibilities. The Council will also comprise representatives of the Board of Trustees of UNITAR, persons selected by the Executive Director of UNITAR in consultation with the Secretary-General, and a number of ex officio members, including the Chairmen of the Advisory Board and of the Board of Trustees; the Chairman of the Advisory Board will serve, ex officio, as Chairman of the Advisory Council. The selection of members of the Advisory Council, other than those serving ex officio, is at present the subject of consultations.
