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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT: MEASURES TO PROVIDE OBJECTIVE  
INFORMATION ON MILITARY CAPABILITIES

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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FRANCE

[Original: French]

[19 September 1983]

1. France, which co-sponsored resolution 37/99 G, believes that the information each State provides on its military capabilities and the most objective possible assessment of such capabilities would be particularly useful for ensuring the success of the necessary efforts to achieve a balanced reduction of the world's arsenals.
2. France, for its part, devotes particular attention to informing public opinion, on a regular basis, of the details concerning the means it considers necessary in order to guarantee its security. France is also participating in the international comparison of military budgets.
3. Regrettably, however, there are still hazy areas, particularly in Europe, with regard to the military capabilities of certain Powers. In some cases, there is even a deliberate distortion of reality and a misrepresentation of the data, particularly budgetary data. Progress towards greater openness would obviously make it easier to initiate the process of arms limitation and reduction.
4. When France proposed the convening of a conference on disarmament in Europe, whose terms of reference were recently adopted at the Madrid Meeting on the follow-up to the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, it had specifically stressed the close connection between improving confidence among States - a prerequisite for achieving concrete results in negotiations on disarmament and arms control - and providing candid information about military capabilities.
5. Clearly, the first phase of the conference on disarmament in Europe, which will be devoted to the negotiation and adoption of confidence-building measures that are militarily significant, verifiable, politically binding and applicable to Europe as a whole, should help to improve the knowledge of participating States with regard to each other's capabilities. Therefore, the measures adopted in this context are likely to be consistent with the objectives and the spirit of resolution 37/99 G.

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