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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT: MILITARY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Comprehensive study on the military use of research and development

Report of the Secretary-General

1. By its resolution 37/99 J of 13 December 1982, the General Assembly decided that a comprehensive study should be carried out on the scope, role and direction of the military use of research and development, the mechanisms involved, its role in the overall arms race, in particular the nuclear arms race, and its impact on arms limitation and disarmament, particularly in relation to major weapons systems, such as nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, with a view to preventing a qualitative arms race and to ensuring that scientific and technological achievements may ultimately be used solely for peaceful purposes. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to carry out the study, with the assistance of qualified governmental experts, bearing in mind the savings that might be made from the existing budgetary appropriations, and to report on this subject to the Assembly at its thirty-ninth session.
2. Pursuant to that resolution, the Secretary-General appointed the Group of Governmental Experts on Military Research and Development in early 1983. Beginning its work on 21 March 1983, the Group held five substantive sessions, two in 1983 and three in 1984.
3. By resolution 39/151 F of 17 December 1984, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary-General (A/39/525), to which was annexed a letter from the Chairman of the Group of Governmental Experts informing the Secretary-General that, although substantial progress had been made in the preparation of the report,

* A/40/150.

certain issues remained to be resolved which could be done through an extension of the time period of the study. In its resolution 39/151 F, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue the study and to submit the report to the Assembly at its fortieth session.

4. By a letter dated 10 May 1985, the text of which is annexed to the present report, the Chairman of the Group of Governmental Experts, inter alia, informed the Secretary-General that the Group had continued efforts to reach agreement on its draft report during its session from 22 April to 3 May 1985. The Chairman reported that the area of disagreement was narrow but of a basic nature and therefore it had not been possible to reach agreement on the draft as a whole.

5. After receipt by the Secretary-General of the Chairman's letter, further ways have been explored to reach a possible solution, but these have not led to results that would find general acceptance.

ANNEX

Letter dated 10 May 1985 from the Chairman of the Group of
Governmental Experts on the Military Use of Research and
Development addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that the Group of Governmental Experts appointed by you pursuant to General Assembly resolution 37/99 J of 13 December 1982 in order to carry out a comprehensive study of the military use of research and development has, on the basis of resolution 39/151 F of 17 December 1984, continued the efforts to reach agreement on its draft report during its session from 22 April to 4 May 1985. Agreement was reached on the text of the outstanding paragraphs with the exception of one sentence. Even the text of that sentence had been accepted in another part of the draft report. However, the consensus could not be confirmed in the last days of the Group's work. It was, therefore, not possible to reach agreement on the draft report as a whole.

During its work the Group of Governmental Experts has had to face the basic problem of an imbalance in the availability of official information and data concerning military use of research and development. This problem arises from existing differences of opinion regarding the need to provide such official information and data. In the end this basic difficulty proved to be insurmountable.

As it was not possible to reach consensus in the Expert Group, I announced my intention at the last meeting of the Group to inform you about the situation and the status of the draft report. I have the honour to transmit herewith the draft text of the study as it stood at the closure of the final session of the Group. The sentence of disagreement is indicated in brackets.

(Signed) Rolf BJÖNERSTEDT
Chairman of the Group
of Governmental Experts on the
Military Use of Research and
Development
