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

Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Declaration
of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

[Original: Russian]

[23 September 1987]

1. The position of principle held by the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic in regard to the Second Disarmament Decade is set out in a letter dated 24 September 1986 from the Permanent Mission of the Byelorussian SSR to the Secretary-General (A/41/687 and Corr.1).
2. The Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic defines its approach to the problems of disarmament and the goals of the Second Disarmament Decade on the basis of its firm conviction that international security cannot be procured with military technology, either by accumulating stocks of weaponry or by making weapons more sophisticated. The road to true security lies through disarmament and the adoption by the world community of agreed measures in the military, political, economic, humanitarian and ecological fields. Guided by this conviction, the Byelorussian SSR became a co-sponsor of the joint initiative by the socialist States at the forty-first session of the General Assembly, entitled "Establishment of a comprehensive system of international peace and security".
3. In their search for reliable security, States must show foresight: they need, on the one hand, to view the course of the community of nations in perspective, and on the other, to see beyond their own narrow interests. The Byelorussian SSR considers that the creation of a nuclear-free, non-violent world should become States' collective goal.
4. This goal is entirely realistic if the new political thinking is made a central feature of its realization.
5. Practical indications of such thinking can be found in the combined programme for the eradication of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction by the year 2000 and the new, specific proposals by the USSR and other States of the socialist fraternity on disarmament and promoting the goals of the Second Disarmament Decade.
6. As a result of bold moves by the USSR, a first step towards genuine nuclear disarmament could be the world-wide eradication of two categories of nuclear weapons - medium-range missiles and tactical and theatre weapons - at one stroke. This could open the door to further moves to reduce nuclear arsenals.
7. The implementation of the Reykjavik understanding between the USSR and the United States on a 50 per cent reduction in strategic strike weapons followed by negotiations on further cuts, subject to the maintenance and strengthening of the 1972 ABM Treaty régime, could become a matter of exceptional importance. At the Soviet-American talks in Geneva, the USSR is proposing clear and logical ways to arrive at appropriate agreements, which would both reduce the nuclear danger and ward off threats to the security of mankind from space.

8. Preventing an arms race in space has become a task on whose vital importance virtually all States agree. The United Nations and the Conference on Disarmament must act especially soberly to resolve this question and put forward peaceful alternatives - co-operation in the investigation and conquest of space for scientific and economic ends, and the creation of a world space organization operating in the interests of all States. The Byelorussian SSR has transmitted proposals to this effect to the Secretary-General (A/41/470 and Add.1).

9. Serious efforts to ban nuclear-weapon tests are continuing. Major steps have been taken here by the USSR and other socialist countries. Particular reference is made to the unilateral moratorium by the USSR on nuclear explosions, which held for more than 18 months between 1985 and 1987 and could readily be reinstated on a reciprocal basis with the United States, the document entitled "Basic provisions of a treaty on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear weapon tests" submitted by the socialist countries at the 1987 summer session of the Conference on Disarmament, other initiatives by those countries, and the USSR's invitation to the United States to start full-scale negotiations leading to a complete ban on nuclear testing. The efforts of the "Group of Six" in this direction are an entirely positive contribution. The view of the Byelorussian SSR on this group of issues has been set out in more detail in a letter to the Secretary-General (A/C.1/42/2).

10. The real progress made at the Conference on Disarmament towards the prohibition of chemical weapons is a cause for certain satisfaction. The USSR and the other socialist countries that are members of the Conference have taken a number of steps to make it easier to disentangle the key problems to be covered by an eventual convention. The USSR is also fostering conditions conducive to the conclusion of such a convention by such steps as halting its manufacture of chemical weapons and building a plant to destroy them, and confidence-building measures in this area.

11. There is every reason to assume that, given the requisite political will on the part of States, a convention to ban chemical weapons can be completed in the very near future.

12. The development in 1987 of a system for the exchange of information on compliance with the Convention on the prohibition of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons is another positive sign.

13. A major feature of efforts to enhance security through disarmament is the drive to prevent the creation of new categories or systems of weapons of mass destruction. The Byelorussian SSR, following up on many years of work in this direction, sponsored the adoption at the forty-first session of the General Assembly of resolution 41/56, setting forth specific means of dealing with this problem.

14. In 1987, the Disarmament Commission made a start on the essential effort to reduce conventional weapons and armed forces, due allowance being made for the specifics of individual regions. The Byelorussian SSR, which took an active part in these efforts, would like to see them go further. Regarding the European continent, the States parties to the Warsaw Treaty Organization in 1986 advanced a

concrete programme of measures to reduce armed forces, conventional and tactical nuclear weapons.

15. The same States have invited a comparison of the military doctrines of the Warsaw Treaty Organization and NATO. Of course, the nature of the military and political aims of States and alliances directly affects the status of international security. The thorough-going defensive nature of the approach taken by the countries of the Socialist fraternity is described in a paper they published on 29 May 1987, entitled "On the Military Doctrine of the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty" (A/42/313-S/18888).

16. The Byelorussian SSR continues to favour the establishment of nuclear- and chemical-weapon-free zones, zones of reduced weapon concentrations and zones of peace and co-operation, and calls for action to implement the specific proposals in this regard that have been put forward in the respective regions and enhance the status of zones already in existence.

17. Confidence-building measures adopted in an appropriate context can assist in progress towards the goals of disarmament. In this connection, the positive experience of confidence-building and security measures in Europe and the new agreements reached in Stockholm in 1986 may encourage such a process in other regions - with due regard, naturally, for their special characteristics. A complete set of serious measures of this kind has been proposed for the Asian and Pacific Ocean region by the Soviet Union. The introduction of planet-wide systems of confidence-building measures and the development of openness and glasnost in the military sphere might become an organic part of the disarmament process.

18. Disarmament measures and moves to limit weapons must be accompanied by appropriate controls, whose significance, as events continue in this course, will increase. Serious work on this subject was begun in 1987 in the Disarmament Commission. The Byelorussian SSR is a direct participant in these efforts and has submitted working papers to the Commission, both on its own account and in co-sponsorship with some socialist States.

19. The positive outcome of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, which was held from 24 August to 11 September 1987, is giving an important boost to the development of these processes in an interrelational perspective. The concrete proposals of the socialist countries, which would help to make the interrelationship a fact, are set out in a joint memorandum to the Conference to which the Byelorussian SSR was one of the contributors (A/CONF.130/6).

20. Broadly speaking, the Byelorussian SSR is a firm advocate of a heightened role for the United Nations in disarmament. The forthcoming Third Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament should do a significant amount to enhance that role. The Byelorussian SSR is taking preparations for the special session extremely seriously. In the final analysis, it is the United Nations that must act as the guarantor for any system of all-encompassing peace and security.

21. The Second Disarmament Decade is drawing to a close. There are now serious reasons to expect a determined advance down the road to disarmament.

22. The agreement in principle on the conclusion of a Soviet-American treaty on intermediate and shorter-range missiles, reached a few days ago as a result of Soviet-American talks, is telling evidence that such opportunities exist. Realizing the potential for advance towards security through disarmament is the common mission of all States, without exception. The Byelorussian SSR believes that the proclamation of the 1990s as the Decade for the construction of a nuclear-weapon-free, non-violent world would help States to concentrate their efforts purposefully in this direction.

UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

[Original: Russian]

[18 September 1987]

1. The Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic actively supports the goals of the Second Disarmament Decade, the attainment of which would be a major contribution to the establishment of the comprehensive system of international security proposed by the socialist countries. The concept of security through disarmament defines the basis for an up-to-date political Weltanschauung in which preserving mankind's existence on earth is the primary concern.

2. The broad-ranging yet concrete proposals by the Soviet Union on various aspects of disarmament - the reduction and eventual total abolition of nuclear weapons, the non-militarization of outer space, the reduction and limitation of conventional weapons and armed forces, the abolition of chemical weapons, enhanced confidence-building measures, the establishment of nuclear-free zones and zones of peace and co-operation in various parts of the world, and the radical reorganization of the system of international relations in general so that State's security is guaranteed by political means, not military force - have an important part to play in this regard.

3. The prompt conclusion of a Soviet-American agreement to abolish medium-range and tactical and theatre missiles, an event eagerly awaited by peace-loving forces throughout the world, would be of particular importance at this stage as a means of hastening progress in the field of disarmament.

4. There are also good prospects for advance in other directions, in particular towards reductions in strategic weapons and the strengthening of the ABM Treaty, the prohibition of nuclear-weapon testing, an easing of the military confrontation in Europe, and the abolition of chemical weapons.

5. Preventing an arms race in outer space and ensuring the purely peaceful, mutually advantageous exploitation of space technology for the good of all mankind, not to further its destruction, is a task of growing importance.

6. The problem of the relationship between disarmament and development has become prominent during the second half of the Decade. The principle of "disarmament for development" needs to be transformed into concrete steps to hasten socio-economic development, improve living conditions and tackle the universal economic, social, scientific, ecological and humanitarian problems that confront mankind. The recently concluded International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development constituted a significant step in this direction.

7. As regards the attainment of the goals of the Second Disarmament Decade, the Ukrainian SSR pins great hopes on the forthcoming Third Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament, which may be able to point the way towards a world free from the nuclear threat. The Ukrainian SSR whole-heartedly supports the proposal by the Soviet Union to proclaim the 1990s the decade for the construction of a nuclear-weapon-free, non-violent world.
