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Agenda item 31ZONE OF *PEACE* AND CO-OPERATION OF THE SOUTH ATLANTICReport of the Secretary-GeneralAddendum

II, REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

BULGARIA

[Original: Russian]

[5 September 1988]

1. In accordance with its **positive** approach of principle to **regional measures for strengthening** confidence and security and promoting **disarmament**, and to **the establishment of nuclear-free zones and zones of peace and co-operation** in all **parts** of the **world**, Bulgaria **welcomes** and supports **Brazil's proposal on the declaration of the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic**,

2. On **the** eve of the third millennium, the world has **come to a threshold** which it cannot **cross** without **risking the** destruction of **all** life on **earth**, That **is why** the overwhelming **majority** of the world's population welcomes **the** process of nuclear **disarmament** begun **by** the Soviet Union and the United States.

3. The **conclusion of the** Treaty between the USSR and the United States **on the** Elimination of **Their** Intermediate-Range and **Shorter-Range Missiles is** unprecedented in world **history**. If **they conclude an** agreement **on a 50-per-cent** reduction of **their strategic** offensive weapons while complying with **the** Treaty on the Limitation of **Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems in the form in which it was signed** in 1972 and without withdrawing from **it for an agreed period**, the way to **the** elimination of **all systems of mass** destruction will, for **practical purposes**, be **open**. **There are good prospects for strengthening** peace and good-neighbourliness **throughout the world**,

Of course, much remains to be **done** before the first steps become a continuous, steadily growing and deepening **process**.

4. The proposal **on** the declaration of the **zone of peace and** co-operation of the South Atlantic is **an important step towardr** decreasing tension **and** strengthening peace and stability in that region. The declaration is also **designed to thwart** efforts to make the South Atlantic a **region for the** activities of military alliances. The implementation of the proposal is **inseparably** linked with the elimination of hotbeds of conflict and **tension** in the region, and in particular the elimination of the **apartheid régime** in South Africa **and the granting of** independence to Namibia,

5. Bulgaria supports the constructive foreign **policy** displayed by the Movimento Popular de **Libertação** of Angola in the **quadripartite** negotiations, which reflect the vital interests of the **Angolan people** and is a **significant contribution** to the solution of the problems of southern Africa,

6. Bulgaria considers the above-mentioned proposal as, first of all, an expression of the desire of the countries of the **region for a safer world** in which States could *devote* their efforts to economic and social development. The region is crossed by vital sea-lanes and trade routes, and various kinds of international co-operation take place there. The majority of the States of the South Atlantic make an important contribution to the implementation of the ideals of peace and security **and to** the development of mutual understanding among peoples,

7. Bulgaria shares **the** view that *the* restriction and reduction of naval weapons is an important present-day goal whose implementation could begin with measures to promote confidence and mutual understanding which are current **in** international practice,

8. The problem of ensuring international security **on** the **oceans** and seas is an essential aspect of the overall problem of ensuring peace. **In modern times**, the oceans and seas **are** an important sphere of States' activities. Their use **for** military purposes inevitably creates tension in various parts of the world, hampers international co-operation and **poses** a threat to peace,

9. In that regard, measures for strengthening confidence and ensuring the safety of sea-lanes are of particular importance.

10. Bulgaria consistently and actively promotes the reduction of **international** tension and the deepening of the **process of détente**, which extends to the oceans and seas,

11. The proposal **on** the establishment of **peace and** co-operation in the South Atlantic is further evidence that a new political thinking consistent with present-day realities is gaining ground in international **affairs**. That initiative is **proof of** the desire of **the States** of that **vast region to base** their security **on co-operation in order** to acquire, through **multilateral guarantees, dependable** safeguards of their *own* security, as well as regional and international **security**. **Bulgaria supports** that approach to solving problems of security, as may be **seen**

from the proposals made by the States parties to the Warsaw Treaty regarding the strengthening of peace and a radical reduction of arms and, in particular, the proposal on the establishment of a comprehensive system of international peace and security. In • *mwaoor* such a system would shift the weight of the problem of guaranteeing security from military methods to political methods, which offer all members of the international community the broadest opportunities for co-operation and interaction in diverse fields. This approach, naturally, presupposes a close relationship between the regional and global aspects of promoting peace and security. Bulgaria also actively and constructively supports the strengthening of all-round co-operation and security in the Balkans, in Europe and throughout the world.

12. The creation of the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic could be an important step towards including the various regions of our planet in the establishment of a system of universal security which would be equal for all States and which would cover all aspects of contemporary international relations. It could serve as an additional stimulus for mobilising the efforts of the States of that *vart region* as well as States of other regions. The implementation of that idea could help prevent the emergence of hotbeds of tension in the region, and would contribute to making the South Atlantic a region devoted exclusively to peace and co-operation,
