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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

International arms transfersReport of the Secretary-GeneralAddendum

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
II. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS	
Czechoslovakia	2
New Zealand	3

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

[Original: English]

[29 September 1989]

1. Taking into **consideration** the priority of preservation of all human values as well as of the **realities** of the nuclear-space epoch, the **Czechoslovak** Socialist Republic does its utmost for the safeguarding of **peace**, for the strengthening of international security and for a broadening of co-operation. It proposes that all military-political problems **be** resolved exclusively by peaceful means, by negotiation and on the basis of reasonable compromise. In the framework of this policy it consequently **works** for the **implementation** of radical disarmament steps under **effective** international supervision, including a step-by-step elimination of the weapons of **mass** destruction by the year 2000, accompanied by a substantial reduction of conventional forces and **armaments** down to a level of **reasonable** defence sufficiency.
2. **Proceeding** from that philosophy of a new political thinking and behaviour, Czechoslovakia is of the opinion that the selling and supplying of weapons do **not** contribute to a **relaxation** of international tension and even lead in many cases to the **emergence** of conflict, **crisis-laden** and barely controllable situations.
3. Czechoslovakia stands for a business-like consideration of this subject by the United Nations. At the same time, it appreciates the **readiness** of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to continue the Soviet Union-United States talks on this **matter** and **welcomes** the offer for other **States** to join them.
4. In accordance with the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session of the Assembly devoted to disarmament, held in 1978, Czechoslovakia supports the idea that consultations be held under United Nations **auspices** between the principal supplier countries and the main recipients on a limitation of all kinds of international transfers of conventional **armaments**. However, this **must** happen with account being taken of the need of all States to protect their security, of the inalienable right of nations to **self-determination** and independence and of the commitments of **States** to observe this right in harmony with the Charter of the United Nations and with the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations (General Assembly resolution 2625 (XXV)).
5. Czechoslovakia is ready to consider the preparation and **introduction** of an **international** United Nations register of sales and supplies of conventional armaments, including control of **arms transfers**.
6. **Czechoslovakia** supports **the** elaboration, with **the** assistance of governmental **experts**, of a study of the Secretary-General on ways and means of promoting transparency of international transfers of conventional **arms**,

NEW ZEALAND

[Original: English]

[6 September 1989]

1. The Government of New Zealand is deeply concerned at the high level of **armaments** - nuclear, conventional and chemical - and believes that **arms control** in all **fields** will assist in the pursuit of international **peace and security**. In supporting General Assembly resolution **43/75 I**, New Zealand **recognized** that **arms transfers are an important factor in present security problems** and should be the subject of **serious consideration** by all States and the United Nations. While it is legitimate for States to acquire a minimum amount of weaponry for the purposes of self-defence, **it** is clear that, as **it now** operates, the **arms trade** has contributed to the erosion of this standard and has helped to foster a climate of insecurity in some regions,
2. Excessive transfers of **arms** are a key link in the proliferation of weaponry, feeding the **arms race** and contributing to the risk of **war**. In recent years New Zealand has witnessed with great *concern* the provision of large quantities of increasingly sophisticated **arms** to States in conflict. **Almost invariably the result has been to increase the scale of destruction and the horrors which accompany it.** Since **arms** are *sometimes* supplied by States with an interest in the dispute and with even larger **armouries** at their disposal, the risk that conflict may escalate is a serious one. The transfer of conventional *systems* compatible with weapons of mass destruction is **particularly** disturbing in cases where the recipient could have the capability to produce such weapons,
3. The scale of illicit transfers of **arms** is difficult to assess but the effects of such trade are undoubtedly negative. Illicit transfers increase the proliferation of **arms**, particularly among terrorist groups. The elimination of this kind of activity has *been* accorded **high** international priority.
4. The value of **arms** transfers, put by **some sources** as at least \$US 30 billion annually, is evidence of the scale of the problem. The burden of **arms transfers** tends to be borne by States where development has a strong claim on resources. **New Zealand** believes that there **is** a direct relationship between disarmament and socio-economic development and, conversely, between conflict and economic deprivation. If **arms** purchases were restricted to levels commensurate with genuine security interests, the economic prospects of many States would receive a welcome boost.
5. For the sake of international peace and security, **arms transfers** - both by Governments and non-governmental entities - cannot be considered in isolation from their economic and military consequences. New Zealand **believes** that suppliers and recipients of **arms** should ensure that transfers are legitimately and responsibly carried out. Each State should, as a matter of urgency, develop transparent and effective **systems** to control the supply of and demand for **arms**,

6. An important **element** in this process is each State's assessment of its security requirements. In formulating its defence policy, New Zealand has taken close account of the unique character of the South Pacific region. **As a** result, New Zealand's **arms** purchases are the minimum necessary for maintaining its national security and meeting its obligations, and are low by world standards.

7. A second element involves each State devising controls over the trade in arms. New Zealand does not have an arms export industry, but it has **recognized** the need to monitor and control the trade in "strategic" goods. New Zealand law allows the Government to prohibit or attach conditions to any export **of arms**, explosives or military stores, and any goods used in the manufacture of these items or for any purpose of war. Special care is taken where such goods are destined for **areas** of the world where they would contribute to or increase the risk of conflict. With regard to imports, the New Zealand Government is prepared to issue certificates guaranteeing the end use of certain goods. New Zealand's exports and imports of arms are recorded in publicly available statistics.

8. **As a** third step New Zealand supports **moves** to improve the transparency of **arms** transfers. This would be an important step in enabling the international community to monitor arms levels, thereby helping to increase confidence among States and reduce insecurity. The modalities for improving transparency require careful and detailed consideration. It will be necessary, for instance, to define the various goods the trading of which constitute **arms** transfers and to find the **most** effective and practicable way of monitoring flows. **As** the United Nations is ideally placed to collate arms transfer data, consideration should be given to the role it can **play**.

9. While the question of **arms** transfers has to **be thoroughly** examined, it must be accepted that the efficacy of **moves to** control arms transfer, is closely linked to other disarmament processes. In this regard, the resolution of regional and global disputes and the removal of the causes of conflict must continue to be high priorities on the international agenda.
