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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Conventional disarmament on a regional scale

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 15 December 1989, the General Assembly adopted resolution **44/116 S** entitled "Conventional disarmament on a regional scale", **in** which it welcomed the initiatives towards arms limitation and disarmament undertaken jointly or unilaterally by **some** countries at the regional and subregional levels, as well as the **systematic** implementation of confidence-building measures, limitations of the acquisition of conventional weapons and the reduction of military spending, with a view to **achieving** equal and undiminished security at a lower level of armaments, as well as to allocating the **resources** thus released to the social and economic development of the people **of** all countries, particularly the developing countries; expressed its firm support for **the** United Nations system, and for the Secretary-General in particular, in the efforts to find solutions to **conflict** situations, thereby reaffirming a fundamental role of the United Nations in promoting peace and disarmament, and for the strict observance of the principles and norms embodied in the Charter of the United Nations; urged all States, in particular the nuclear-weapon States and militarily significant States, to intensify their efforts in the negotiation and implementation, in appropriate forums, of regional and subregional disarmament and arms limitation measures, taking **int** account their particular responsibility in that matter and the principle **of** equal and undiminished security for all parties, aimed at enhancing international peace and **security**; appealed to all States to facilitate the progress **of** regional disarmament, refraining from any **action**, including the use or threat **of** use of force against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and intervention or interference in internal affairs of States, that might hinder the achievement of this objective; invited all **Member** States to convey **to** the Secretary-General their views on ways and means aimed at strengthening regional and subregional disarmament and arms limitation efforts, taking into account recent **developments** that had taken place in this sphere; and requested the **Secretary-General** to submit a report to it at its forty-fifth session on the implementation of the resolution, taking into consideration the views expressed by **Member States**.

2. Pursuant to paragraphs 6 and 7 **of** the resolution, the **Secretary-General**, in a note **verbale** dated 16 February 1990, requested all Member States to submit by **July** 1990 their views on ways and means aimed at strengthening regional and subregional **disarmament** and arms limitation efforts, taking into account recent developments that have taken place in this sphere. To date, **the** Secretary-General has received **replies** from the **Byelorussian** Soviet Socialist Republic, Chile, Mexico, Pakistan, Qatar and Senegal. Other replies will be published as addenda to the present report.

II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

[Original: Russian]

[14 August 1990]

1. The **Byelorussian** SSR supported **General** Assembly resolution **44/116 S**, entitled "Conventional disarmament on a regional **scale**", in which the Assembly, *inter alia*, welcomed the initiatives towards arms limitation and **disarmament** undertaken at the regional and subregional levels, as well as the implementation of confidence-building measures, limitations of **the** acquisition of conventional weapons **and the** reduction *of* military spending.
2. The **Byelorussian** SSR is convinced that the most effective **progress towards the** goal of disarmament can be achieved **by** combining global and regional approaches and by making **use of the complementary opportunities** offered **at both** levels.
3. In this regard, the Byelorussian *SSR* believes that the potential *for a* **regional** approach to conventional disarmament should **not** be diminished but, on the contrary, should be actively **utilized**. At present, the new **and positive trends** **which** are emerging *and* becoming consolidated at the global level, and the progress which has been and is currently being made in **the** settlement *of a number of* regional *conflicts*, favour the transition to regional disarmament **and arms** limitation *measures* on a significant scale.
4. In our **view**, **the range** of **measures** which could be successfully carried out at the regional and subregional levels is correctly outlined in paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution **44/116 S**. Immediate progress towards the implementation of such measures in **regions** which **are** hotbeds of tension, would be particularly important. The timely adoption of **some of those measures** in regions **where** conflicts could **flare** up would be in keeping with the emergence of the new preventive role **of** diplomacy.
5. The development and implementation of disarmament measures **on a regional** scale should, undoubtedly, take account of **the specific features** of **each region and also** the opinions of all interested parties. It is also **important that** all States, including States situated outside a specific region, should help to **create** favourable conditions **for the** implementation of regional disarmament measures.
6. Notwithstanding **the specific features** of individual regions, we believe that the possibilities for serious disarmament, arms limitation and confidence-building measures will **be** significantly improved if regions take account of the experience which has been and is being acquired **by other** regions, in the development **and** implementation of such measures. In particular, substantial and positive experience in that **area** has been accumulated by the Conference on Security and Co-operation in **Europe**; confidence-building measures in the military sphere **have** been carried out in Europe **for a number of years** and, at present, talks **are** being held on a new generation of such measures, **and** on the reduction *of* armed forces and arms in Europe.

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7. The Byelorussian SSR considers the provision of General Assembly resolution 44/116 S on the provision of assistance by the United Nations to States that might request it, with a view to establishing disarmament measures at the regional and subregional levels, to be of vital importance. That provision is in keeping with our conviction of the need to enhance the specific role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament, including disarmament on a regional scale.

8. We believe that, with the agreement of the States Of a region, the United Nations could also perform a useful function in the course of the implementation of agreements, for instance by monitoring their implementation and carrying out verification measures.

9. The new role of the United Nations in regional disarmament could be carried out successfully in conjunction with United Nations peace-keeping operations in a specific region.

10. In the opinion of the Byelorussian SSR, the objective of disarmament at the regional and subregional levels could be furthered by the holding at United Nations regional centres of a series of seminars devoted to that issue. Examples of successful activities in that area already exist.

11. A major impetus to the practical start of arms limitation and disarmament on a regional scale and an important independent factor in the strengthening of security and stability, would be the transition to purely defensive military concepts and structures for the armed forces, and to the principle of reasonable defence efficiency. Naturally, the specific nature of that kind of transformation will be determined by the characteristic features of each region.

CHILE

[Original : Spanish]

[11 September 1990]

Aware of the importance of the issue, the Government of Chile has promoted mechanisms to facilitate a dialogue and achieve a better balance between Latin American armed forces, especially those of neighbouring countries, since it believes that such activities constitute a preliminary and necessary stage in the achievement of conventional disarmament on a regional scale. In April 1990, the fifteenth Inter-American Naval Conference was held at Viña del Mar. Likewise, meetings are periodically held with the chiefs of staff of the armed forces of Argentina and Peru with a view to fostering co-operation and understanding in their specific areas of competence. The inclusion of Chile in the international COSPAS-SARSAT programme and the annual holding of the International Air Show in Chile are further measures which should contribute to the process of conventional disarmament on a regional scale.

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MEXICO

[Original: Spanish]

[12 July 1990]

1. While the priority *of* nuclear disarmament and ~~the~~ primary responsibility of nuclear-weapon and militarily significant States **in** the context of the final objective of general and complete disarmament under effective international control must not be overlooked, conventional disarmament measures **on** a regional scale could prove to be definite steps towards achieving that objective.
2. In this context, conventional disarmament measures in regions where large quantities of **weapons** are concentrated are particularly important.
3. In Latin America, conventional disarmament measures would complement the nuclear-weapon-free **zone**, thereby enhancing **the security** of all States **in the region**.
4. In **order** to strengthen peace and security in different regions *of* the world through conventional arms limitation and reduction, States in the various geographical areas **must make** every effort to reach bilateral or multilateral agreements which pursue that objective.
5. The different aspects of conventional disarmament **on** a regional scale **must** be considered in both bilateral and multilateral consultations and conferences *among* countries **in** the various areas who are interested in achieving that goal.

PAKISTAN

[Original: English]

[25 June 1990]

1. The efforts of the international community to move towards the ideal of general and complete disarmament are guided by the **inherent** human desire for genuine peace and security, elimination of the dangers of **war** and the release *of* economic, intellectual and other *resources for* peaceful pursuits.
2. The essential guidelines for progress towards general and complete disarmament **were adopted** at the first special **session** of the **General** Assembly devoted to disarmament. Unfortunately the goals and objectives **accepted** at the session are nowhere near **achievement**.
3. While some hope for meaningful progress in the field of disarmament at the global level **has been** engendered in recent years through the negotiations on some disarmament issues between the two **super-Powers**, it is the view of Pakistan that sustained *efforts* **are needed** within the framework *of* the **Conference** on Disarmament

and under the umbrella of the United Nations to make progress on the entire range of disarmament issues.

4. An important dimension of the global security environment that demands attention and redress is the danger posed to the security of smaller States by the militarization and aggressive postures of larger States aimed at exercising regional domination and hegemony.

5. Pakistan has for a number of years advocated a regional approach to nuclear and conventional disarmament. Pakistan believes that it is only through such an approach that the diverse situations and perspectives of particular regions, which may not be applicable globally, can be given appropriate attention and consideration with a view to the evolution of remedial measures. Such an approach can also take into account the relationships among the regional countries as well as the interaction between them and external powers so that the legitimate security concerns of all can be addressed.

6. In the South Asian context, Pakistan looks forward to promoting a regional and bilateral framework of disarmament, security and confidence-building measures. Pakistan's proposals for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia, mutual inspection of nuclear facilities, simultaneous accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, joint declaration regarding non-acquisition or manufacture of nuclear weapons, mutual acceptance of international safeguards, a bilateral or regional nuclear-test-ban treaty, mutually acceptable, equitable and balanced reduction of armed forces ensuring equal and undiminished security for all States, restraint over military expenditures, etc. are all designed to promote disarmament, confidence-building and regional security. Pakistan is encouraged by its agreement with India not to attack each other's nuclear facilities as an important first step towards achieving those objectives.

7. A collective endeavour by countries at the regional level to promote disarmament and enhance security at the lowest possible levels of armaments is an indispensable corollary to their advocacy of global disarmament. Pakistan believes that a regional approach would effectively promote nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament and would strengthen the security of smaller countries, thus contributing to international peace and security. The regional approach to disarmament complements efforts for global disarmament and can, therefore, be pursued simultaneously with such efforts.

8. Pakistan believes that the following steps should be taken to promote the regional approach to disarmament;

(a) The United Nations should lend its support to the evolution of confidence-building measures at the regional level. Initiatives by regional States in this field as well as for disarmament, non-proliferation and security should be encouraged and supported;

(b) Outstanding differences or disputes among regional States should be resolved by peaceful means in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations in order to promote the process of regional disarmament;

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(c) Agreements should be concluded for mutual restraint in arms acquisition, non-proliferation and confidence-building measures. Policies of interference, intervention, domination, coercion or the use or threat of use of force in any form whatsoever should be renounced;

(d) The regional States should endeavour to establish a mutually acceptable military equilibrium among themselves. The measures to create regional balance could include creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones, renunciation of the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction, radiological weapons and certain types of advanced weapons, and agreed ceilings on armed forces, conventional weapons and military expenditures,

(e) Institutions and mechanisms should be created which can facilitate disarmament and security initiatives at the regional level;

(f) Once a degree of mutual confidence has been achieved, the regional States may evolve joint and co-ordinated positions regarding external threats to the region, including the presence of foreign forces in the vicinity;

(g) A study Should be conducted by the Secretary-General with the help of a group of governmental experts on the regional approach to disarmament, specifically analysing threats to the security of small States and suggesting remedial measures,

QATAR

[Original: Arabic]

[27 June 1990]

1. Qatar reiterates its hope for disarmament, the reduction of international tension, respect for free self-determination and national independence and the Settlement of conflicts on the basis of the Charter of the United Nations. Disarmament, development and the strengthening Of international peace and security are all interconnected.

2. Qatar notes with apprehension the qualitative and quantitative level of development reached by conventional weapons and feels that it has become necessary to consider taking steps to limit and gradually reduce the number of such weapons while working towards general and complete disarmament. In this regard, it considers that the nuclear Powers, States members of military alliances and those possessing large arsenals of conventional weapons all bear a special responsibility; these countries should carry out large-scale initial reductiona. Qatar reaffirms that disarmament measures must guarantee the right of all countries to security on the basis of stringent observation of the principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations. However, it should be clearly understood that the World Disarmament Campaign Should in no way be considered an instrument with which to challenge the security interests of Governments or to Call those interests into doubt. On the contrary, in a world of sovereign States, each State has an incontestable right to ensure its own security.

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3. **Qatar affirms that regional and/or subregional conventional disarmament measures that take into account the characteristics of each region or subregion and are agreed to by some or all countries should help to strengthen international peace and security.**

4. **Qatar condemns the utilization of scientific and technological advances in the manufacture of new weapons of mass destruction, both nuclear and non-nuclear, as well as of conventional weapons of great destructive capacity. It urges that a stop should be put to such practices and that scientific and technological progress should be used solely for the good of mankind.**

5. In the light of the foregoing, Qatar stresses the following pointst

(a) **Nuclear** co-operation should be halted between the United States and other members of NATO, on the one hand, and Israel and racist South Africa, on the other;

(b) Negotiations should be started to limit and reduce the number of conventional **weapons**; the principal role in such negotiations would fall to the nuclear Powers and to members of military alliances and parties to **defence treaties, since they possess** the largest arsenals of such **weapons**;

(c) There should be support for **disarmament** measures at the regional and subregional levels in furtherance of full and comprehensive disarmament, taking into account the particular characteristics of the regions and subregions and without detracting from the right of States to otganiae their own legitimate self **-defence**;

(d) All the Arab countries **are** faced with the possibility of nuclear annihilation by Israel, which **has** developed its own nuclear capability;

(e) **An agreement** or agreements should be concluded which tangibly reflect the principle contained in the Charter of the United Nations of refraining from the use of **force**;

(f) There must be full **and** comprehensive **disarmament, since that is the** broadest possible guarantee of world **peace**;

(g) Qatar is of the opinion that the current international political climate favours the achievement of positive and important results, especially in **the** light of recent **events**.

SENEGAL

[Original: French]

[27 August 1990]

- 1. The Government of Senegal remains convinced of the importance that should be attached to conventional disarmament at the regional level,**
- 2. In this connection, it firmly believes that one way of promoting the realization of this important objective could be by deciding, within the framework of the appropriate United Nations bodies, on precise indicators that would make it possible to determine the level of militarization of the countries concerned, while at the same time taking due account of their stage of development.**
- 3. Such indicators could be defined, for example, in terms of:**
 - (a) The ratio between the number of troops and the population;**
 - (b) The share of defence in the general budgets of States;**
 - (c) The percentage of a country's gross national product spent on the armed forces.**
