ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE ARMS RACE AND
ITS EXTREMELY HARMFUL EFFECTS ON WORLD PEACE AND SECURITY

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Ronald Listeri KENSHIL (Suriname)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Economic and social consequences of the arms race and its
extremely harmful effects on world peace and security" was included in the
provisional agenda of the thirty-fifth session in accordance with General Assembly
resolution 32/75 of 12 December 1977.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 19 September 1980, the General Assembly, on the
recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda
and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 3rd meeting, on 9 October, the First Committee decided to hold a
combined general debate on the items allocated to it relating to disarmament,
namely, items 31 to 49 and item 121. The general debate on these items took place
at the 4th to 28th meetings, from 15 October to 4 November (see A/C.1/35/PV.4-28).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/35/L.16

4. On 11 November, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, India, Ireland, Mexico, Nigeria,
Peru, Romania, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Venezuela and Yugoslavia submitted a
draft resolution (A/C.1/35/L.16), which was subsequently sponsored also by the
Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bolivia, the Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, Madagascar,
Mali, the Niger, Sierra Leone and Zaire. The draft resolution was introduced by
the representative of Romania at the 31st meeting, on 13 November.

5. In connexion with item 31, the First Committee had before it a note verbale
dated 14 October 1980 from the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué of the
Extraordinary Meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegations of the non-aligned countries to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session, held at United Nations Headquarters on 2 and 3 October 1980 (A/35/542).


7. At its 42nd meeting, on 25 November, the Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote (see para. 8).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

8. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

   Economic and social consequences of the arms race and its extremely harmful effects on world peace and security

   The General Assembly,

   Having considered the item entitled "Economic and social consequences of the arms race and its extremely harmful effects on world peace and security",

   Deeply concerned that the arms race, particularly nuclear armaments and military expenditures, has continued to increase at an alarming speed, absorbing enormous material and human resources, which represents a heavy burden for the peoples of all countries and constitutes a grave danger for world peace and security,

   Convinced that, disarmament being a matter of universal concern, there is a pressing need for all Governments and peoples to be informed about and be aware of the problems created by the arms race and of the need for disarmament, and that the United Nations has a central role in this connexion,

   Noting that, since the preparation of the updated report of the Secretary-General entitled Economic and Social Consequences of the Arms Race and of Military Expenditures, new developments have taken place in the fields covered by the reports that are of particular relevance in the present economic and political conditions of the world,

   Recalling its decision, as reaffirmed in its resolution 32/75 of 12 December 1977, to keep the item under constant review,

   1/ A/32/88/Rev.1 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.IX.1).
Recalling further paragraph 93 (c) of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly 2/ which provides that the Secretary-General shall periodically submit reports to the Assembly on the economic and social consequences of the arms race and its extremely harmful effects on world peace and security,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to bring up to date, with the assistance of qualified consultant experts appointed by him, the report entitled Economic and Social Consequences of the Arms Race and of Military Expenditures, covering the basic topics of that report, and to transmit it to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session;

2. Invites all Governments to extend to the Secretary-General their support and full co-operation to ensure that the study will be carried out in the most effective way;

3. Calls upon non-governmental organizations and international institutions and organizations to co-operate with the Secretary-General in the preparation of the report;

4. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fortieth session the item entitled "Economic and social consequences of the arms race and its extremely harmful effects on world peace and security".

2/ Resolution S-10/2.