Fortieth session
Item 72 of the provisional agenda*

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, at its thirty-ninth session, adopted resolution 39/155 entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security". In that resolution, the General Assembly, inter alia, reaffirmed the validity of the Declaration and called upon all States to contribute effectively to its implementation; urged all States to abide strictly, in their international relations, by their commitment to the Charter of the United Nations; called upon them all, in particular the nuclear-weapon States and other militarily significant States, to take immediate steps aimed at promoting the system of collective security envisaged in the Charter and at halting effectively the arms race and achieving general and complete disarmament under effective international control; and invited all States to refrain from actions, including military activities and manoeuvres, used as a means of pressure on or threat to other States. The Assembly also urged all States, in particular the permanent members of the Security Council, to take all necessary measures to prevent the further deterioration of the international situation, to seek through more effective utilization of the means provided in the Charter, the peaceful settlement of disputes; to consider the restructuring of international economic relations with a view to establishing the new international economic order; to accelerate the economic development of developing countries; and to implement urgently measures to ameliorate the critical economic situation in Africa. It called upon all States, in particular the members of the Security Council, to take measures to promote the fulfilment of the objective of the denuclearization of Africa.

* A/40/150.
2. In resolution 39/155, the General Assembly also reiterated that the deterioration of the international situation required an effective Security Council and emphasized the need for examining mechanisms and working methods in order to enhance the authority and enforcement capacity of the Council. It further emphasized that the Security Council should consider holding periodic meetings so as to be able to play a more active role in preventing conflicts. The Assembly reiterated the need for the Council, in particular its permanent members, to ensure the effective implementation of its decisions. It considered that the promotion of human rights and the strengthening of international peace and security were mutually reinforcing; it reaffirmed the legitimacy of the struggle of people under colonial domination, foreign occupation or racist régimes and their inalienable right to self-determination and independence; and it expressed the hope that the Stockholm Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe would achieve significant results. The Assembly reiterated its call upon the great Powers to abandon policies of confrontation and to engage in constructive negotiations. It finally reaffirmed that the democratization of international relations was imperative and stressed its belief that the United Nations offered the best framework for the promotion of the full development and independence of all States and of genuine security, peace and co-operation in the world.

3. The General Assembly invited Member States to submit their views on the question of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Assembly at its fortieth session on the basis of the replies received. It accordingly decided to include the item in the provisional agenda of its fortieth session.

4. The Secretary-General, in a note dated 5 February 1985 (S/16936), drew the attention of the Security Council to paragraphs 8 to 10 of resolution 39/155. Pursuant to the request of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General, on 14 February 1985, addressed a note verbale to the Governments of Member States inviting them to submit their views on the question in accordance with paragraph 16 of the resolution. As at 31 July 1985, five substantive replies to the note verbale had been received from Member States. The texts of these replies are reproduced in the annex hereto. Additional replies which may be received will be issued as addenda to the present report.
ANNEX

AUSTRALIA

[Original: English]

1. Australia's views on the strengthening of international security and in particular the role of the United Nations Security Council, as referred to in General Assembly resolution 39/155, were set out in a statement of 4 January 1985 on the occasion of Australia's commencement of its current two-year term on the Security Council as follows:

"Australia, during its two-year term on the United Nations Security Council, which began on 1 January, will pursue initiatives aimed at making the Council more effective in containing and preventing international conflict.


"The difficulties involved in achieving these reforms must be recognized.

"The reforms will need the agreement, for example, of the five permanent members of the Security Council: the United States, the Soviet Union, China, France and Britain.

"But - as a conscientious member of the Security Council - Australia is prepared to do whatever is possible to facilitate the work of the principal organ of the United Nations charged with maintaining international peace and security.

"Role of the Secretary-General"

"Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar has played a most constructive part in dealing with major disputes on the basis of a mandate from the Security Council.

"He has also used powers assigned him in Article 99 of the United Nations Charter to bring disputes himself before the Council.

"Acting on this basis, he sent a mission in 1984 to investigate allegations that Iraq had used chemical weapons in the war with Iran and, in 1983, undertook a peace initiative in the Falklands War.

"Such initiatives have encouraged proposals for more extensive involvement of the Secretary-General in monitoring and settling disputes.

"Accordingly, an Australian objective will be the Secretary-General's greater involvement in disputes, whether or not they have been brought formally to the attention of the Security Council."
"Australia will discourage resolutions in the Council which are intended only to score political points and with no expectation of implementation.

"Such resolutions, in effect, tend to undermine the position of the Secretary-General and the Council itself.

"Collective Security

"Australia will press in the Security Council for realistic actions designed to implement in some form the collective security provisions of the United Nations Charter.

"The Secretary-General has focused attention on the weaknesses of the Council in this context in his reports for 1982 and 1983.

"The issue has been considered by the Commonwealth Consultative Group on small States.

"In addition, Australia proposes to join a committee of the United Nations General Assembly (known as the Koroma Committee) to be established on Sierra Leone's initiative to take a fresh look at the matter.

"Australia will propose - as a step towards the collective security goals proposed in the United Nations Charter - that the Council authorize the appointment of military advisers to help the Secretary-General deal with international conflict.

"These officers could come from a representative range of countries to act as advisers and assistants to the Secretary-General on an as-required basis.

"They could serve on the Secretary-General's behalf in potentially dangerous situations, thereby enhancing the United Nations's capacity to monitor and even prevent hostilities.

"They would certainly improve the present situation in which the Secretary-General has to draw on the limited military staff of existing United Nations Peace-keeping Forces.

"Procedural Reform

"Australia will support proposals to change the way the Security Council is conducted in order to create a more conducive climate for the effective negotiations of disputes.

"These include the idea of more informal, private sessions of the Council which would permit it and the Secretary-General the opportunity to engage in quiet diplomacy and to conduct informal and confidential contact with parties to disputes.

"Another proposal is for periodic sessions of the Council at which it can conduct a general review of the international situation.

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"Australia will also support greater and more co-ordinated use of the United Nations Secretariat in gathering information and providing good offices, observers or peace-keeping facilities.

"I stressed, in addressing the United Nations General Assembly last October, that Australia would work to make the Security Council a stronger instrument for the containment and prevention of world conflict.

"In making this undertaking, Australia is motivated by commitment to the United Nations and its ideals and objectives.

"The initiatives to be pursued by Australia in the Security Council, in co-operation with other active members of the United Nations, are aimed at revitalizing the authority of the world Organization."

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

[Original: English]

The Government of Brunei Darussalam fully supports resolution 39/155 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security and as a peace-loving State and holding to the principles of peaceful coexistence with all other States will abide to all the contents of the resolution.

CUBA

[Original: Spanish]

1. The Government of the Republic of Cuba considers that, on the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security, the principles and objectives set forth in it are particularly valid and relevant given the current complex international situation which is characterized, inter alia, by the aggressive stance of the North American imperialists, the intensification of the arms race, which is threatening to move into outer space, the proliferation of areas and centres of conflict and the worsening of the world economic crisis.

2. Observance of these principles, which relate to non-interference in the domestic affairs of States, non-recourse to the threat or use of force in international relations, independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, is indispensable for the promotion of international peace and security.

3. Reaffirmation of the principles which serve to maintain international security is, in the view of the Government of Cuba, an essential prerequisite for saving the world from a nuclear disaster; accordingly, current efforts must be redoubled and all ways and means must be explored in order to consolidate trends favourable to peace and to make them irreversible. At the same time, we believe that new initiatives must be developed to promote a climate of understanding and co-operation among nations based on the policy of peaceful coexistence among States.

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4. Colonialism, racism, racial discrimination and apartheid are sources of conflict and tension that must be eradicated in accordance with the decisions adopted by the relevant organs.

5. Security Council resolution 435 (1978), which offers an overall solution to the problem of the independence of Namibia, is the only internationally accepted basis for a solution to this extremely urgent matter.

6. The complex situation in the Middle East and the painful experience of Lebanon can and must be resolved on the basis of the various resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly. In this context, Cuba supports the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of all parties concerned.

7. The unconditional cessation of every kind of support provided by the United States and other Western countries to the racist and genocidal régimes of South Africa and Israel is an essential prerequisite for strengthening international security.

8. Particular attention should be given to the proliferation of areas of conflict and regional crises which pose new threats to international peace and security and affect the sovereignty of peoples. In Central America, the tense situations created by the United States Government characterized by the policy of aggression against the Nicaraguan people, the promotion of military manoeuvres in the area and the increase of the United States presence in Honduran waters and territory and also the recrudescence of hostilities against Cuba and the revitalization of measures aimed at destabilizing the Cuban revolution - such as the broadcasts of the ill-named "Radio Marti" - are eloquent examples of how the exacerbation of regional centres of tension affects international security. In addition, the United States Government is persisting in its destabilizing and illegal acts such as the recently-decreeed economic embargo against Nicaragua, which is contrary to the rules of international law and the principles which should govern coexistence among States.

9. The world economic crisis, whose effects are being felt particularly intensely in the developing countries, is having a direct impact on world stability. In particular, the developing countries' tremendous external debt burden, which today exceeds the astronomical figure of $860 billion, is curbing all economic activity in those countries, placing them on the brink of bankruptcy and creating the conditions for the outbreak of internal upheavals whose consequences are unpredictable. That is particularly true in countries which have agreed to implement the so-called adjustment measures proposed by the International Monetary Fund for, as mass poverty increases, these measures make the precarious situation of the peoples of the developing countries even more vulnerable.

10. Accordingly, finding a just and equitable solution to the economic problems facing the third world today, particularly those problems caused by the external debt and the servicing of that debt, is an inescapable prerequisite for strengthening international peace and security, for without peace there can be no development, yet, at the same time, without development there can be no peace.
11. International security can be strengthened only by taking concrete steps to promote security. On the eve of the fortieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations it is imperative to strengthen the main organs of the United Nations entrusted with the maintenance of peace. The role of the Security Council in that area is fundamental. In that important forum, the United States, taking advantage of the right of veto which it has as a permanent member, has systematically obstructed the adoption of agreements and measures which might contribute to the promotion of international security in various parts of the planet. That practice must be abandoned; if we wish to achieve a more effective management that is equal to present world circumstances, the security mechanisms provided for in the United Nations Charter must be revitalized.

SPAIN

[Original: Spanish]

1. It is apparent that, in the period between the adoption of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security and the adoption of the latest of the General Assembly resolutions reviewing its implementation, the recourse to the use or threat of use of force, military intervention and interference, aggression and foreign occupation, far from diminishing, have increased. This merely reflects the fact that the Declaration has ceased to have validity having been discredited, the obligations contracted under the United Nations Charter having remained unfulfilled and human rights and fundamental freedoms having been violated.

2. Consequently it would appear to be urgent and necessary to review the very basis of the Declaration. From a formal legal point of view, neither the Declaration nor the General Assembly resolutions calling for a review of its implementation adequately reflect the close relationship that must exist at all times between the principle of the non-use of force, the principle of the peaceful settlement of disputes and the system of collective security. Those principles form a whole and none of them can be set aside without the risk of changing the balance between the others. From a substantive legal point of view, both the Declaration and the resolutions paraphrase or simply reaffirm the purposes and principles of the Charter. This adds nothing new to either the former or the latter and could even detract from the original formulations.

3. With reference to the regional aspect of security among States, the Spanish Government reiterates its support for the proceedings of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe and expresses its hope that the negotiations currently in progress in the Stockholm Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe will conclude successfully. In Spain's view, the establishment of regional systems of security, particularly where Europe is concerned, must take into account the legitimate security rights and interests of the countries of that region in relation to other countries not of the region but close to it, so that the new arrangements do not cause imbalances between the two groups of States.

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4. In the comments it submitted on 29 April 1970, contained in document A/7922, Spain had earlier expressed the view that "the maintenance of international peace and security, the primary objective of the United Nations, requires the strengthening of the institutional machinery of the United Nations"; and that this could be achieved "if we improve the structure and operations of certain of its organs and if we make full use of the possibilities offered by those same Charter provisions". Fifteen years after those comments, Spain can only reiterate them and add that it would be advisable for the United Nations to have procedures, instruments and machinery which would help to overcome shortcomings in the application of the prohibition of the use of force, the peaceful settlement of disputes and the system of collective security.

5. Concerning the procedures, instruments and machinery mentioned in the preceding paragraph, it should be pointed out that both the Declaration and resolution 39/155 deal with questions whose legal aspects are already being reviewed in the Sixth Committee. Consequently, thought should be given to establishing a joint committee of the First and Sixth Committees in accordance with the provisions of annex II of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, which would jointly study the proposals and suggestions contained in the Declaration as well as those contained in the working papers submitted to the Special Committee on the Charter. With regard to the latter, special mention should be made of the working paper submitted by Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Japan, New Zealand and Spain, entitled "Prevention and elimination by the United Nations of situations that might give rise to international friction or produce a dispute and questions which might threaten the maintenance of international peace and security" (A/AC.182/L.38/Rev.1).

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

[Original: English]

1. Fifteen years ago, the United Nations General Assembly, at its twenty-fifth session, expressing the unanimous position of all Member States, adopted the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security (resolution 2734 (XXV)), which had been initiated by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

2. The German Democratic Republic sees the Declaration's outstanding importance above all in its reaffirmation of the continuing relevance of the awareness so dearly paid for by the peoples in their joint struggle to crush nazism that future generations can be saved from the scourge of war only through collective efforts by all forces concerned for peace. Proceeding from the principles of peaceful coexistence embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration calls upon all States, across all differences existing between them, to make concerted efforts in the interest of maintaining world peace and strengthening international security.

3. Thus, the Declaration forms part of the world Organization's positive 40-year record in its stand for peace, security and the shaping of fruitful relations among States and peoples. The German Democratic Republic, which emerged, like the United Nations, in the wake of what has been the most devastating of wars unprecedented in
terms of casualties, has always been committed to the lofty goals and tasks of the Organization and has acted in accordance with the letter and spirit of the Charter. It will also in the future co-operate actively in the world Organization to help ensure that the decisions for the preservation of peace and the strengthening of international security adopted by this most comprehensive, universal forum of equal States will be translated into practice.

4. In the face of the aggravated international situation greater all-round efforts for the strengthening of peace have become the most pressing challenge of our time. The main responsibility for this situation rests with those imperialist quarters who in their aggressive striving for military-strategic superiority and world domination are bent on an unbridled arms race, especially in the nuclear field. Contrary to the will of the majority of States, they are anxious to give their quest for supremacy a cosmic dimension. The realization of those plans would give the threat to peace completely new proportions with incalculable consequences.

5. The crucial question is indeed whether the arms race will be pushed into a new and uncontrollable round or whether universal security and peace will be strengthened. Concerted action by States and peoples is more urgent than ever in order to halt the arms race on the Earth and to prevent it being carried into outer space. This is a responsibility of all States, large, medium-sized and small alike. In the present situation the spirit of a coalition of common sense and realism in the interest of peace born in the battles of the anti-Hitler coalition can and must become an insurmountable obstacle to all those who want to plunge the world into a nuclear inferno.

6. The German Democratic Republic has welcomed with satisfaction the new negotiations begun on the suggestion of the Soviet Union between the USSR and the United States of America on the whole complex of space and nuclear weapons of strategic and intermediate range.

7. The peoples attach justified expectations to these negotiations because they offer a real chance of achieving effective understanding on the whole complex of the problems being considered. Now as before this presupposes a constructive approach which takes account of the principle of equality and equal security.

8. The German Democratic Republic supports moratoria on offensive space and nuclear weapons as suggested by the USSR. These steps would be greatly instrumental in fully achieving the declared aim of the negotiations.

9. The Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security calls upon all States to make concerted efforts for the cessation of the arms race, especially the nuclear arms race, and for the ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction.

10. The multifarious and far-reaching proposals of the socialist States for arms limitation and disarmament, for the strengthening of international security and of confidence in relations among States chart a practicable course towards this goal. The German Democratic Republic also supports the numerous proposals of non-aligned countries as well as the Declaration made at New Delhi by six heads of State or Government.
11. In the cosmic and nuclear age, international security cannot be assured in a national framework and particularly not at the expense of others. There is no alternative to the policy of peaceful coexistence — the condition where States live alongside each other and co-operate reasonably and on an equal footing for the benefit of all peoples.

12. Four post-war decades have made it irrefutably clear that States having different social systems can live together in peace. This holds especially true for the European continent.

13. Situated in the heart of Europe, at the dividing line between the two most powerful military coalitions, the socialist German State takes a particular interest in seeing the policy of détente continued and made lasting. True to its historic obligation to do everything to ensure that never again will a war start from German soil, the German Democratic Republic, together with its allies, put forward wide-ranging proposals in order to make Europe a haven of peace. It is only if the realities which came into existence as a result of the Second World War are taken into account, i.e. if, above all, the inviolability of the frontiers and the territorial integrity of States are respected that European security and co-operation can be placed on a solid foundation.

14. Peace would be done a real service if the deployment of United States first-strike weapons in Europe were stopped. The unilateral moratorium proclaimed by the USSR on the deployment of intermediate-range missiles in Europe and the suspension of further counter-measures should prompt the other side to follow suit.

15. The implementation of the peace proposals made by the USSR would markedly improve the international political climate, create confidence and favour constructive and substantive negotiations.

16. In this connection, growing significance attaches to the proposal submitted by the socialist States to conclude a treaty of the mutual non-use of military force and the maintenance of peaceful relations between NATO and the Warsaw Treaty.

17. Progress towards stabilizing European security and concrete agreements to this effect would at the same time have a positive effect on the situation in the Mediterranean region. Because of its geographical and strategic situation at the intersection of Europe, Asia and Africa that region is of great importance for the strengthening of international peace and security.

18. The German Democratic Republic supports the efforts of the majority of States in that region, as also expressed in the Valetta Declaration of non-aligned Mediterranean States of 11 September 1984, to eliminate existing tensions and create conditions of security and peaceful co-operation.

19. In the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security special importance attaches to the settlement of existing conflicts as well as the effective prevention of new ones.

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20. It is especially in view of the present international conditions that the crises and tensions fuelled by aggressive imperialist circles, be it in the Middle East, in southern Africa or in Central America, involve the danger of sparking a world conflagration. To eliminate these hotbeds by peaceful means is more imperative than ever.

21. The German Democratic Republic resolutely demands that the rights of the Namibian people represented by the South West Africa People's Organization be implemented without delay and that independence be granted to Namibia, in accordance with the relevant United Nations decisions, including Security Council resolution 435 (1978).

22. The unchanged aggressive course of intervention and boycott being pursued against Nicaragua is undermining the peace process in that region. It constitutes a serious threat to international peace and security. A comprehensive solution of the existing problems can only be accomplished by peaceful means and if the principles of the United Nations Charter, notably the right to self-determination, sovereignty and independence, are strictly observed. The German Democratic Republic supports the proposals submitted by Nicaragua, which take account of the legitimate interests of the peoples of that region, as well as the initiatives of the Contadora States.

23. Developments in the Middle East make it increasingly clear that a settlement on the basis of the relevant United Nations decisions can only be achieved by way of negotiations with the participation of all parties concerned. The German Democratic Republic considers the convening of an international Middle East conference, with the Palestine Liberation Organization as the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people participating on an equal footing, as the suitable means of achieving a comprehensive and just solution to this conflict.

24. The German Democratic Republic is firmly convinced that it is possible to halt the hazardous development of the international situation and to solve the burning problems of the present in the interests of peace and security in a common effort and through dialogue. The United Nations Organization can and must make a weighty contribution to this end. The German Democratic Republic will work to ensure that the United Nations, in the fortieth year of its existence, will make additional efforts for the solution of those problems that are of crucial importance for the peaceful future of nations.