Fortieth session
Agenda item 65 (1)

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND
DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH
SPECIAL SESSION

Disarmament Week

Report of the Secretary-General

Corrigendum

1. Page 1, CONTENTS, Section II
   Before CUBA insert BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

2. Page 6
   Before CUBA insert
   BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC
   [Original: Russian]
   [7 December 1984]

1. United Nations Day and Disarmament Week were widely observed in the
   Byelorussian SSR in 1984. Many meetings of representatives of the public, rallies
   and demonstrations in observance of these occasions were held throughout the
   Republic by the inhabitants of Byelorussia.

2. This year's observances were held on the eve of the fortieth anniversary of
   the Great Victory over Hitlerite fascism and Japanese militarism, a victory to
   which the Soviet people and its Armed Forces under the leadership of the Communist
   Party made a decisive contribution.
3. A meeting of representatives of the public held at the hero-city of Minsk, capital of the Byelorussian SSR, was opened by V. A. Pechennikov, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Minsk Municipal Soviet of People's Deputies. A speech was delivered by A. S. Makhnach, Member and Vice-President of the Academy of Sciences of the Byelorussian SSR. A message from J. Pérez de Cuéllar, Secretary-General of the United Nations, on the occasion of United Nations Day, was also read out at the meeting.

4. In a letter to Secretary-General J. Pérez de Cuéllar which was unanimously adopted by the participants in the meeting, they expressed their deep concern at the present serious worsening of the international situation, which is a direct result of the aggressive policy and actions of the United States and its closest allies.

5. The letter draws attention to the fact that Washington's implementation of its unprecedented programmes for increasing armaments, especially nuclear armaments, the spread of armaments to outer space and the continuing deployment of new United States first-strike nuclear-armed missiles in a number of Western European countries are pushing the world to the brink of nuclear catastrophe.

6. The letter emphasizes that under these circumstances the foreign-policy initiatives of the USSR, including those taken at the current thirty-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly, have become especially important and evoked a notable response on the international scene.

7. It was noted at the meeting that the foreign-policy activities of the USSR, aimed at averting nuclear war, preserving and strengthening peace, curbing the arms race, promoting disarmament and expanding co-operation on an equal footing between States are fully approved and supported by the Soviet people and all of progressive mankind.

8. The participants in the meeting observed that the United Nations, in whose creation and in the consistent defence of whose purposes and principles an important role has been played by the Soviet Union, should make its influential voice heard in this noble cause.

9. The letter stresses that today, as never before, the progressive community of States Members of the United Nations and all people of good will must intensify their efforts in the struggle to remove the nuclear threat, to end the arms race, particularly the race in nuclear weapons, to prevent the militarization of outer space and to clean up the hotbeds of tension and international conflict.

10. The representatives of the Byelorussian public emphasized their dedication to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and their support for the actions taken by the United Nations in accordance with its Charter; they expressed their determination to continue their efforts aimed at removing the threat of war and achieving universal and lasting peace and social progress on our planet.

11. The workers and the general population of the Byelorussian SSR also took an active part in events staged in observance of Disarmament Week at Minsk, Vitebsk,
Mogilev, Gomel, Brest, Grodno, Bobruysk, Baranovichi, Novopolotsk and other cities and villages of the Republic. Throughout the Byelorussian SSR there were about 8,000 large-scale anti-war rallies and demonstrations, in which more than 2 million people participated. Cinema festivals, thematic evenings, peace vigils and peace marches were also held everywhere. The participants in these anti-war events vigorously protested against the continuing deployment by the United States of its new first-strike nuclear-armed missiles in a number of Western European countries, and they condemned Washington's policy of engaging in an unbridled arms race and trying to expand that race to outer space and of attempting to assert United States claims to world domination. They endorsed in its entirety the consistent and peace-loving foreign policy of the Soviet Union, and in particular the Soviet initiatives at the current thirty-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly, they called upon all people of good will to join forces and intensify their efforts in the struggle to preserve and strengthen peace and to eliminate the threat of nuclear catastrophe.

12. A profound concern for peace and for the future of the planet brought more than 50,000 representatives of the Byelorussian capital's student youth and emissaries of the four-thousand-strong contingent of foreign students from almost 100 countries who are studying at Minsk to the city-wide anti-war rally. They called for the elimination of the real threat to peace and to the very existence of human civilization that has been posed through the fault of reactionary Western circles.

13. The people of the Republic, like all Soviet citizens, spoke out in favour of the fully and totally realistic concrete programme proposed by K. U. Chernenko, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, a programme which can restore the entire international climate to normality.

14. The events connected with the observance of United Nations Day and Disarmament Week in the Byelorussian SSR received concentrated attention from the mass information media. Special attention was given to the relevant portions of the statements, speeches and replies of Comrade K. U. Chernenko and to the new peace initiatives of the Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist community.

15. The events held in the Byelorussian SSR have facilitated the universal mobilization of public opinion in the Republic in the struggle to avert the threat of war, to safeguard peace and international security and to promote disarmament.
ANNEX

Letter addressed by the meeting of representatives of the public at the hero-city of Minsk, capital of the Byelorussian SSR, to Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, Secretary-General of the United Nations

Minsk, 24 October 1984

We, representatives of the public, meeting today at the hero-city of Minsk, capital of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, in order to mark United Nations Day and the beginning of Disarmament Week, express our deep concern at the serious worsening of the international situation, which is a direct result of the aggressive policy and actions of the United States and its closest allies.

Washington's implementation of its unprecedented programmes for increasing armaments, especially nuclear armaments, the spread of armaments to outer space and the continuing deployment of United States first-strike nuclear-armed missiles in a number of Western European countries are all pushing the world to the brink of nuclear catastrophe.

Under these circumstances, the foreign-policy initiatives of the USSR, including those taken at the current thirty-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly, have become especially important and evoked a notable response on the international scene. The foreign-policy activities of the USSR are fully approved and supported by the Soviet people and all of progressive mankind. They are aimed at averting nuclear war, preserving and strengthening peace, curbing the arms race, promoting disarmament and expanding co-operation on an equal footing between States.

The United Nations, in whose creation and in the consistent defence of whose purposes and principles an important role has been played by the Soviet Union, should make its influential voice heard in this noble cause.

This year's United Nations Day and Disarmament Week observances are being held on the eve of the fortieth anniversary of the Great Victory over Hitlerite fascism and Japanese militarism. That victory, to which the entire Soviet people made a decisive contribution, was won in the name of peace and life on earth.

Today, as never before, the progressive community of States Members of the United Nations and all people of good will must intensify their efforts in the struggle to remove the nuclear threat, to end the arms race, particularly the race in nuclear weapons, to prevent the militarization of outer space and to clean up the hotbeds of tension and international conflict.

On this memorable day, we, the representatives of the Byelorussian public, reaffirm our dedication to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and our support for the actions taken by the United Nations in accordance with its Charter. We are determined to continue our efforts aimed at removing the threat of war and achieving universal and lasting peace and social progress on our planet.