**AGENDA ITEM 40: Conversion to peaceful needs of the resources released by disarmament: report of the Secretary-General**

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*For the discussion of this item, see Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Session, Second Committee, 1191st, 1192nd, 1198th, 1205th, 1206th and 1219th meetings; and *ibid.*, Plenary Meetings, 1723rd meeting.

**Since 1962, this question has been discussed by the General Assembly at the following sessions: seventeenth session (agenda items 33 and 94), eighteenth session (agenda item 34), twentieth session (agenda item 44) and twenty-first session (agenda item 44).

**DOCUMENT A/7247**

**Note by the Secretary-General**

[Original text: English]  
[27 September 1968]

1. At its twentieth session, the General Assembly, in resolution 2092 (XX) of 20 December 1965, expressed the hope that Governments of Member States, particularly of those countries significantly involved, would make a serious effort to develop national studies of the economic and social aspects of disarmament. It requested the Secretary-General to continue to inform the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council of the national studies submitted to him concerning the economic and social consequences of disarmament, of the international studies carried out as part of a co-ordinated programme of the Inter-Agency Committee set up by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, and of such studies undertaken by non-governmental organizations as he deemed appropriate.

2. From 1962 to 1966, the Secretary-General reported annually to the Economic and Social Council and to the General Assembly on the status of national and international activity in this field. The Council, at its forty-first session, in resolution 1154 (XLI) of 4 August 1966 on documentation, endorsed the Secretary-General’s proposal that, in future, reports concerning the economic and social consequences of disarmament might be presented on a biennial basis, “unless developments call for greater frequency”.

3. At its forty-fifth session, the Economic and Social Council had before it the report, prepared by the Secretary-General in pursuance of the Council’s resolution 1087 (XXXIX), entitled “Economic and social consequences of disarmament: conversion to peaceful uses of the resources released by disarmament” (E/4494 and Add.1) containing the replies of Governments to a note verbale of 17 November 1967 and the questionnaire sent out by the Secretary-General. The Council also had before it a letter dated 2 July 1968 from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General.1 The Council, in its discussions (see A/7203, chap. XIII, sect. D), stressed the importance of diverting resources from military purposes so as to improve world economic and social conditions and noted that the discussions in the United Nations had helped to dispel any fears about any economic dislocation resulting from disarmament. The Council also welcomed the recent agreement on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

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**DOCUMENT A/7325**

**Report of the Second Committee**

[Original text: English]  
[12 November 1968]

1. At its 1676th plenary meeting, on 27 September 1968, the General Assembly allocated to the Second Committee agenda item 40 entitled “Conversion to peaceful needs of the resources released by disarmament: report of the Secretary-General”.

2. The Committee considered this item at its 1191st, 1192nd, 1198th, 1205th and 1206th meetings, held between 15 and 29 October 1968.

3. The Committee had before it a note by the Secretary-General (A/7247), a further note by the