EXISTING STRUCTURES AND MACHINERY FOR
DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS

Background paper prepared by the Secretariat

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INTRODUCTION

1. By resolution 31/189 B, of 21 December 1976, the General Assembly decided to convene a special session devoted to disarmament, to be held in New York in May/June 1978. It further decided to establish a Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament, composed of 54 Member States appointed by the President of the Assembly on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, with the mandate of examining all relevant questions relating to the special session, including its agenda, and to submit to the Assembly at its thirty-second session appropriate recommendations thereon.

2. The General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General, inter alia, to render the Preparatory Committee all necessary assistance, including the provision of essential background information, relevant documents and summary records.

3. At its second meeting on 31 March 1977, the Preparatory Committee requested the Secretariat to begin the preliminary work on certain factual background papers. Included among them was a description of existing structures and machinery for disarmament negotiations.

4. In response to this request of the Preparatory Committee, the Secretariat has prepared this paper intended to set forth factual background information on existing structures and machinery in the field of disarmament, within and outside the United Nations system. It essentially describes the composition and mandate of the relevant bodies and does not present the substantive issues that are discussed and negotiated in such bodies. 1/

5. This paper draws on material included in the background paper entitled "Role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament: 1945-1975" (A/AC.181/3, Annex A), which the Secretariat prepared for the Ad Hoc Committee on the Review of the Role of the United Nations in the Field of Disarmament. Revisions have been made in order to update the material and adapt it to the purposes of the Preparatory Committee. Thus, in the preparation of this paper account was taken of developments that have occurred since 1975, in particular the measures recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee on the Review of the Role of the United Nations in the Field of Disarmament (A/31/36), which were endorsed by General Assembly resolution 31/90, of 14 December 1976. This has required extensive revision in some cases and the inclusion of additional material under most headings. Unlike the paper prepared for the Ad Hoc Committee, this one only includes existing structures and machinery, as requested by the Preparatory Committee. However, in the presentation of such structures and machinery reference has been made to the past whenever it seemed that it would provide a better understanding of the body under discussion.

1/ For a more comprehensive presentation, reference should be made to the publication The United Nations and Disarmament 1945-1970 and the supplement The United Nations and Disarmament 1970-1975 (United Nations publications, Sales Nos. E.70.IX.1 and E.76.IX.1).
I. THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM FOR DISARMAMENT

1. The General Assembly

1. Article 11 of the Charter defines the powers of the General Assembly with regard to disarmament matters, as follows:

"The General Assembly may consider the general principles of co-operation in the maintenance of international peace and security, including the principles governing disarmament and the regulation of armaments, and may make recommendations with regard to such principles to the Members or to the Security Council or to both ...".

(a) Plenary

2. The General Assembly regularly devotes attention to disarmament questions in its general debate and in connexion with the adoption of draft resolutions recommended to it by the First Committee and, occasionally, by other Main Committees.

3. Disarmament items have, in several instances, been discussed in plenary, without reference to the First Committee. This was, for example, the practice followed for the items "World Disarmament Conference" (twenty-sixth session), "Non-use of force in international relations and permanent prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons" (twenty-seventh session), and "Reduction of the military budgets of States permanent members of the Security Council by 10 per cent and utilization of part of the funds thus saved to provide assistance to developing countries" (twenty-eighth session).

(b) Special session of the General Assembly

4. At the thirty-first session, the General Assembly by resolution 31/189 B, of 21 December 1976, decided to convene a special session devoted to disarmament, to be held in New York in May/June 1978. The General Assembly further decided to establish a Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament, composed of 54 Member States appointed by the President of the Assembly on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, with the mandate of examining all relevant questions relating to the special session, including its agenda, and to submit to the Assembly at its thirty-second session appropriate recommendations thereon. It also requested the Secretary-General to render the Preparatory Committee all necessary assistance, including the provision of essential background information, relevant documents and summary records.

5. The Preparatory Committee is composed of the following States: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Cyprus, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Guyana, Hungary, India, Iran, Iraq, Italy,
Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, Soviet Union, United Kingdom, United States, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire and Zambia.

6. The Preparatory Committee held an organizational session from 28 to 30 March 1977. Substantive sessions are scheduled for 9–20 May 1977 and 31 August–9 September 1977.

(c) **First Committee**

7. Disarmament items on the agenda of the General Assembly are usually allocated to the First Committee. The number of disarmament items on the agenda of the First Committee has increased over the years and this is also true of the number of committee meetings devoted to disarmament, as illustrated by the following figures:

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<td>No. of items</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<td>18</td>
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<td>No. of meetings</td>
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<td>32</td>
<td>37</td>
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8. The number of resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the First Committee has also increased through the years. Twenty-five disarmament resolutions were adopted at the thirty-seventh session, a record number, and 22 were adopted at the thirty-first session.

9. In recent years the First Committee has followed the practice of holding a combined general debate on all the disarmament items before it and examining subsequently the draft resolutions one by one before bringing them to a vote. The agreed proposals submitted by the Ad Hoc Committee on the Review of the Role of the United Nations in the Field of Disarmament (A/31/36), which were unanimously endorsed by the General Assembly at its thirty-first session (resolution 31/90), contained, inter alia, the following suggestions aimed at making the work of the First Committee more constructive and efficient:

"(a) At the beginning of the First Committee's consideration of disarmament items, the Chairman should consider the carrying out of consultations with the members of the Committee in order to examine the advisability of submitting for consideration by the First Committee a schedule setting out a specific duration for the general debate and the debate on the draft resolutions presented under each agenda item, together with tentative dates for the voting on those draft resolutions. To the extent possible, this schedule should provide for the grouping together of matters that are closely related, provided that the State or States which brought the items in question to the attention of the General Assembly do not oppose such grouping;

"(b) It would be useful for the work of the First Committee if delegations made all efforts to arrange for informal circulation of draft
resolutions by the time the Committee starts its work during each session of the General Assembly. This could also help to promote the amalgamation, whenever possible, of draft resolutions with similar aims and content:

"(c) The members of the First Committee could hold informal consultations to determine whether any delegation intended to request the adoption of any measure with regard to a given item. If those consultations showed clearly that no delegation would request any action by the General Assembly, the Committee could decide to include the item concerned in the provisional agenda for a subsequent session of the General Assembly;

"(d) The First Committee should keep in mind the possibility of taking decisions instead of adopting formal resolutions on procedural questions with a view to reducing the number of draft resolutions presented to the General Assembly;

"(e) The Chairman of the First Committee should consult with the members of the Committee at the beginning of each session of the General Assembly on further measures that would make the Committee's deliberations more efficient and simplified;

"(f) The Chairman of the First Committee should consult with members of the Committee in order to explore the possibility of amalgamating draft resolutions on the same item, with the consent of their respective sponsors, whether they had been circulated informally or submitted formally to the Committee."

(d) **Other Main Committees**

10. Disarmament related issues are occasionally discussed by other Main Committees of the General Assembly in addition to the First Committee. For instance, the Special Political Committee examines reports submitted to it by the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, established by General Assembly resolution 913 (X). The Second Committee has considered at several sessions the question of the economic and social consequences of disarmament and the link between disarmament and development. The Third Committee has repeatedly dealt with questions of human rights in armed conflicts. The Sixth Committee is currently considering some aspects of that same question.

(e) **The Disarmament Commission**

11. On 11 January 1952, the General Assembly adopted resolution 502 (VI) by which it created the Disarmament Commission and laid down its tasks for negotiations, as follows:

"The General Assembly, ...

"1. Establishes under the Security Council a Disarmament Commission. This Commission shall have the same membership as the Atomic Energy Commission /..."
and the Commission for Conventional Armaments, and shall function under the rules of procedure of the Atomic Energy Commission with such modifications as the Commission shall deem necessary;

"2. Dissolves the Atomic Energy Commission and recommends to the Security Council that it dissolve the Commission for Conventional Armaments,

"3. Directs the Disarmament Commission to prepare proposals to be embodied in a draft treaty (or treaties) for the regulation, limitation and balanced reduction of all armed forces and all armaments, for the elimination of all major weapons adaptable to mass destruction, and for effective international control of atomic energy to ensure the prohibition of atomic weapons and the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes only;

... 

"6. Declares that a conference of all States should be convened to consider the proposals for a draft treaty (or treaties) prepared by the Commission as soon as the work of the Commission shall have progressed to a point where in the judgement of the Commission any part of its programme is ready for submission to governments;

"9. Requests the Secretary-General to convene such a conference when so advised by the Commission;

"10. Requests the Secretary-General to furnish such experts, staff and facilities as the Commission may consider necessary for the effective accomplishment of the purposes of the present resolution."

12. On 19 April 1954, the Disarmament Commission created a sub-committee consisting of Canada, France, the USSR, the United Kingdom and the United States, with the task of searching for an agreement on a comprehensive and co-ordinated plan of disarmament. The Sub-Committee convened in London in May 1954 and held 157 meetings up to September 1957.

13. At its twelfth session, in 1957, the General Assembly, by resolution 1148 (XII), requested the Disarmament Commission to reconvene its Sub-Committee as soon as feasible and also requested the Commission to invite its Sub-Committee to establish as one of its first tasks, a group or groups of technical experts to study inspection systems for disarmament measures. It also recommended that any

2/ The 11 members of the Security Council and Canada, when that State was not a member of the Security Council.

3/ A USSR proposal to add the People's Republic of China, Czechoslovakia and India was rejected.
such technical group or groups be composed of one expert from each of the States
members of the Sub-Committee and one from each of three other States Members of
the United Nations which should be designated by the Secretary-General in
consultation with the Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee was, however, never
reconvened.

14. At the same session of the General Assembly, India submitted an item entitled
"Expansion of the membership of the Disarmament Commission and of its
Sub-Committee". The Soviet Union, stressing the necessity of inviting a larger
number of States to participate in disarmament talks, proposed the establishment
of a permanent disarmament commission consisting of all Members of the United
Nations. The Soviet draft resolution was not adopted.

15. On the other hand, by resolution 1150 (XII), the General Assembly increased
the membership of the Disarmament Commission by adding the following 14 States:
Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Burma, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, India, Italy,
Mexico, Norway, Poland, Tunisia and Yugoslavia. The Soviet Union, however,
declared that its objections had not been removed and that it would therefore no
longer participate in the work of the enlarged commission or its sub-committee.
Efforts in 1958 to reconvene the new Disarmament Commission were unsuccessful.

16. In view of this interruption of disarmament negotiations, the Secretary-
General proposed the inclusion of the item "Question of disarmament" in the agenda
of the thirteenth session of the General Assembly, so as to maintain continuity of
consideration of that question by the General Assembly. At that session, the
General Assembly adopted resolution 1252 D (XIII) which reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Having regard to the universal desire for the establishment of
genuinely peaceful conditions in the world and therefore for taking steps to
avoid the destruction that would result from a major armed conflict,

"Reaffirming the responsibility of the United Nations for seeking a
solution of the disarmament problem,

"Expressing its determination that all Members of the United Nations
should be in a position to contribute to a solution of this problem on a
continuing basis,

"1. Decides that the Disarmament Commission shall, for 1959 and on
an ad hoc basis, be composed of all the Members of the United Nations;

"2. Transmits to the Disarmament Commission all the documents, proposals
and records of discussions relating to disarmament at the thirteenth session
of the General Assembly;

"2. Requests the Disarmament Commission to convene as appropriate and to
submit to the Security Council and to the General Assembly, at a special
session if necessary, constructive proposals and recommendations in the
field of disarmament;

"4. Decides that the first meeting of the Disarmament Commission shall
be convened by the Secretary-General after consultation with the Member States
and that the Commission, having begun its activities under rule 162 of the
rules of procedure of the General Assembly and taking that rule into account,
shall adopt its own rules of procedure."

17. In 1959, the Disarmament Commission held only one meeting, to consider the
communiqué of the Foreign Ministers of France, the USSR, the United Kingdom and
the United States which announced the creation of a new Ten-Nation Disarmament
Committee with equal representation of NATO and Warsaw Treaty member States.

18. At its fourteenth session in 1959, the General Assembly decided in
resolution 1403 (XIV) that the Disarmament Commission should continue to be
composed of all Members of the United Nations. Following the breakdown of the
Ten-Nation Committee talks, the Commission convened at the request of the
United States to review the situation. It adopted unanimously, on 18 August 1960,
a resolution calling for the earliest possible resumption of negotiations.

19. The Disarmament Commission met again from 21 April to 16 June 1965, at the
request of the USSR. It undertook a review of the negotiations in the
Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee and adopted one resolution on a world
disarmament conference, and one on cessation of nuclear-weapon tests.

20. Since then, the Disarmament Commission has not been convened.

21. The agreed proposals of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Review of the Role of
the United Nations in the Field of Disarmament (A/31/36), which were endorsed by
General Assembly resolution 31/90, contained a recommendation that:

"The General Assembly, at an appropriate time, consider the future
role of the United Nations Disarmament Commission."

(f) Conference of the Committee on Disarmament

22. In 1959, on the eve of the General Assembly session, the Foreign Ministers
of France, the USSR, the United Kingdom and the United States decided to create a
new Ten-Nation Disarmament Committee outside of, but linked to, the United Nations.
The 10 participating countries were: Canada, France, Italy, United Kingdom,
United States, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Romania and the USSR. The
Ten-Nation Committee met in Geneva in March 1960; the meeting ended on
27 June 1960 with the withdrawal of the five Eastern Europe delegations.

4/ See below under "Conference of the Committee on Disarmament".

/...
23. Following the failure of the Ten-Nation Committee, the USSR and the United States, in the course of 1961, exchanged views on the resumption of disarmament negotiations. On 20 September 1961, the two Powers issued a joint statement of agreed principles for disarmament negotiations, for circulation to all members of the United Nations (A/4879).

24. The General Assembly, by resolution 1660 (XVI) of 20 November 1961, urged the Soviet Union and the United States to reach agreement on the composition of a negotiating body which both they and the rest of the world could regard as satisfactory; expressed the hope that their negotiations would lead to an agreed recommendation to the Assembly; and requested the two Governments to report to the Assembly on the results of such negotiations before the end of the sixteenth session.

25. In response to this request, the Soviet Union and the United States jointly submitted on 13 December 1961 a draft resolution in the First Committee, which was unanimously approved by the Assembly on 20 December as resolution 1722 (XVI). It read, in part, as follows:

"The General Assembly,

1. Endorses the agreement that has been reached on the composition of a Disarmament Committee, whose membership will be: Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, France, India, Italy, Mexico, Nigeria, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America,

2. Recommends that the Committee, as a matter of the utmost urgency, should undertake negotiations with a view to reaching, on the basis of the joint statement of agreed principles and taking into account paragraph 8 of those principles, agreement on general and complete disarmament under effective international control;

3. Requests that the Committee submit to the General Assembly a report on such agreement as soon as it has been reached, and in any case submit to the Disarmament Commission, not later than 1 June 1962, a report on the progress achieved ..."

26. The Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament (ENDC) opened in Geneva on 15 March 1962 at the Foreign Ministers' level in the presence of a Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. One member of the Committee (France) decided not to participate, explaining that it hoped it might be possible later for the disarmament problem to be discussed among the Powers that could contribute effectively to its solution. At the outset, the Foreign Ministers decided to organize the Conference so as to permit simultaneous work on general and complete disarmament, confidence-building (collateral) measures, and the discontinuance of nuclear-weapon tests.
27. At the first meeting of the ENDC on 14 March 1962, procedural arrangements for the conduct of business were adopted, including the following. All meetings would be private except when otherwise agreed by the participating States. Publicity by or on behalf of the Committee would be limited to the agreed communiqué following its meeting. The draft communiqué would be prepared by the Chairman of the meeting and approved by the participating States; normally, it would refer to the chairmanship of the meeting, the title of any new documents tabled, agreements reached, the time of the next meeting and, when required, the release of the Committee's verbatim records and documents. The Chair would be rotated daily in English alphabetical order among all members of the Committee. The permanent Co-Chairmen of the Committee would be the representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America. The Co-Chairmen would consult with each other and with other delegations, as desirable, with the aim of facilitating both the formal and informal work of the Conference.

28. By 1964, it became evident that the Committee was unable to reach agreement on general and complete disarmament. As a result, the Committee increasingly devoted its attention to collateral measures of disarmament.

29. On 15 August 1968, the Committee adopted a provisional agenda for its future work, reading as follows:

"Further effective measures relating to the cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament.

"Under this heading members may wish to discuss measures dealing with the cessation of testing, the non-use of nuclear weapons, the cessation of production of fissionable materials for weapons use, the cessation of manufacture of weapons, and reduction and subsequent elimination of nuclear stockpiles, nuclear-free zones, etc.

"Non-nuclear measures.

"Under this heading, members may wish to discuss chemical and bacteriological warfare, regional arms limitations, etc.

"Other collateral measures.

"Under this heading, members may wish to discuss prevention of an arms race on the sea-bed, etc.

"General and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control."

30. In its report to the General Assembly, for 1968, the Committee noted that the agenda had been recommended and adopted "in recognition of the views expressed by the members of the Committee and in response to recommendations of the General Assembly, taking into account the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and also the agreement announced on 1 July 1968 for bilateral discussions between the United States and the Soviet Union on the limitations of strategic nuclear arms". The Committee also noted the recognized right of any delegation to raise and discuss any disarmament subject at any time.
31. At the 1969 session of the ENDC, the two Co-chairmen, the Soviet Union and the United States, consulted with other members of the Committee regarding the possibility of a limited enlargement of the Committee's membership in view of the desire expressed by many countries to participate in the Committee's work. In carrying out the expansion, the declared objective of the Co-Chairmen was to ensure that geographic and political balance were maintained and, at the same time, to preserve the Committee as an effective negotiating body. As a result of the consultations, Japan and Mongolia joined the Committee on 3 July 1969, and they were followed on 7 August by Argentina, Hungary, Morocco, Netherlands, Pakistan and Yugoslavia. The membership was thus increased from 18 to 26. After the enlargement of the Committee, it was decided to change its name to "Conference of the Committee on Disarmament" (CCD).

32. On 16 December 1969, the General Assembly adopted resolution 2602 B (XXIV) endorsing the agreement which had been reached on the title and composition of the Conference, but expressing the Assembly's conviction that in effecting future changes in the composition of the Committee, the procedure followed at the sixteenth session of the General Assembly should be observed.

33. In 1974, the CCD agreed to invite the Federal Republic of Germany, the German Democratic Republic, Iran, Peru and Zaire to become members beginning 1 January 1975. Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 2602 B (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, the Committee reported this agreement to the Assembly for its endorsement. The General Assembly adopted resolution 3161 B (XXIX) by which it endorsed the agreement that had been reached to the effect that the composition of the CCD would be increased as from 1 January 1975. It also expressed the conviction that, to effect any future change in the composition of the CCD, the procedure followed on that occasion should be observed.

34. The question of the review of the organization and procedures of the CCD has been raised on several occasions and, more extensively, at the CCD sessions in 1972, 1975, 1976 and 1977. In 1975 the CCD agreed that, unless otherwise decided, it should convene each year on the third Tuesday in February; that it should discuss the organization of its work at the beginning of the first session and thereafter, as the need arose; and that its report to the United Nations General Assembly should be transmitted on the last Thursday in August, unless otherwise decided (A/10027). In 1976, the CCD took further decisions concerning certain procedural aspects of its work during the session, inter alia, the preparation of the report and the communiqué of plenary meetings (A/31/2T).

35. On 21 April 1977, the CCD adopted decisions concerning the organization of its work, the preparation of its annual report to the General Assembly, the distribution of provisional verbatim records of plenary meetings and working documents and the communiqué of plenary meetings (CCD/532).

36. With respect to the organization of work, provision was made for the establishment of ad hoc working groups to facilitate the negotiations of text of agreements (or any other document) and guidelines were laid down for that purpose, with the understanding that such guidelines were intended to reduce the necessity for lengthy procedural debate in the future but were not to be considered inflexible rules. It was agreed that: /.../
1. When it appeared that there was a basis to negotiate a draft treaty or other draft texts, the CCD should establish an ad hoc working group for this purpose open to all members of the CCD.

2. The CCD should define the mandate for each working group including a target date for submitting its final report to the CCD and should provide the group with such working documents as may form an appropriate starting point for the group's work.

3. In accordance with the CCD's established procedure, the working groups shall work on the basis of consensus. The chairmanship of the working groups should rotate in the same manner as in the CCD. The meetings of the working groups should be on an informal basis and should be so scheduled as to avoid conflicting or otherwise interfering with the regular or informal meetings of the CCD. The level of representation in the working groups should be determined by each delegation. The working groups, on a periodic basis, should issue whatever reports to the CCD are deemed necessary. The Committee requests that the Secretariat provide assistance to the working groups as necessary, including the preparation of unofficial summaries of the working groups' proceedings.

4. The CCD will take any other decisions that may be necessary regarding the organization and the procedures of the working groups.

37. The decision concerning the preparation of the report made permanent the procedures introduced in 1976. It was decided that:

1. The draft report should be prepared by the Secretariat.

2. The draft should be made available to all members of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament at least two weeks before the scheduled date for the closure of the summer session. (It should be brought up to date at the end of the succeeding week.)

3. The draft should contain:

(a) The provisional agenda as adopted on 15 August 1968;

(b) A summary of specific requests addressed to the Conference by the United Nations General Assembly at its preceding regular session;

(c) Sectional headings in accordance with the items comprising subparagraphs (a) and (b) above and other matters raised in the Committee during the year;

(d) Significant views expressed by delegations under each item including their analysis, if any, of the issues discussed (if more than one delegation has made the same point the fact should be clearly stated);
(e) Conclusions and decisions, if any, adopted by consensus;

(f) The same kind of index as appeared in the 1975 report (the subject headings may need to be changed from time to time);

(g) Working papers and proposals submitted during the year;

(h) Verbatim records of the meetings held during the year should be available in New York to delegations of States Members of the United Nations as a separate annex to the report.

4. The Committee will consider the draft report during the final week of its summer session. Delegations wishing to make statements on matters of substance during that week, and wishing reference to the statements to be included in the report, should provide very brief summaries for this purpose.

5. The report should be circulated in New York to all delegations of States Members of the United Nations by 1 October.

38. With respect to the provisional verbatim records of plenary meetings and working documents, the CCD decided that they should be distributed in New York to delegations of States Members of the United Nations as soon as received from Geneva, thus adopting in substance the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Review of the Role of the United Nations in the Field of Disarmament, which was endorsed by General Assembly resolution 31/90.

39. With respect to the communique issued after each plenary meeting it was decided that it should be drawn up in such a way as to reflect the substance of the proceedings of the meeting. It should contain information with respect to the consecutive number of the plenary meeting held and the chairmanship of the day; it should enumerate the names of the representatives of the countries who made statements, with a brief indication of the topics covered by them, which normally should be limited to no more than a short paragraph, and should also cite the subject heading of proposals or working papers submitted to the Committee; and it should contain information with respect to the Committee's decisions concerning its schedule of work, convening of formal, informal, or other meetings.

(g) Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean

40. The General Assembly, by resolution 2832 (XXVI) of 16 December 1971, solemnly declared that the Indian Ocean, within limits to be determined, together with the airspace above and the ocean floor subject thereto, was designated for all time as a zone of peace. By the same resolution the Assembly called upon the great Powers to enter into immediate consultations with the littoral States of the Indian Ocean with a view to implementing the Declaration and further called upon the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, the permanent members of the Security Council and other major maritime users of the Indian Ocean to pursue the objective of establishing in the Indian Ocean area a system of collective security without military alliances and strengthening international security through regional and other co-operation.
41. At the following session of the General Assembly, in resolution 2992 (XXVII), the Assembly decided to establish an ad hoc committee of not more than 15 members to study the implications of the Indian Ocean Peace Zone proposal, with special reference to the practical measures that might be taken in furtherance of the objectives of the 1971 Declaration, having due regard for the security interests of the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean and the interests of any other State consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter. The Assembly also decided that the Ad Hoc Committee be composed of the following countries: Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen and Zambia.

42. The Committee has held meetings every year since its creation and has reported annually to the General Assembly. In 1974, by resolution 3259 (XXIX), the General Assembly requested the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean to enter as soon as possible into consultations with a view to convening a conference on the Indian Ocean and invited all States, and in particular the great Powers, to co-operate in a practical manner with the Ad Hoc Committee in the discharge of its functions. In the same year, in pursuance of resolution 3259 B (XXIX), the Committee was enlarged by the addition of Bangladesh, Kenya and Somalia.

43. In 1976, the Ad Hoc Committee considered the general approach to the question of the convening of a conference on the Indian Ocean.

44. Pursuant to operative paragraphs 2 and 3 of General Assembly resolution 31/88, of 14 December 1976, the Acting Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee renewed the Committee's invitation to the great Powers and major maritime users of the Indian Ocean to participate in the consultations to be held regarding the convening of a conference on the Indian Ocean. Greece and Panama accepted the Ad Hoc Committee's invitation. During the first part of its 1977 session, held in April, the Ad Hoc Committee decided to invite those States that had accepted the Committee's invitation to participate in its deliberations without the right to make formal proposals or to vote. In addition, the Ad Hoc Committee endorsed the Acting Chairman's proposal that he send a letter to all the members of the Ad Hoc Committee, to those major maritime users of the Indian Ocean that have accepted the invitation of the Ad Hoc Committee to participate in its work and to all the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, requesting their Governments' views on the programme of action leading to the convening of a conference on the Indian Ocean. The second part of the session is scheduled for September 1977.

(h) Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference

45. The proposal to convene a world disarmament conference has been advanced by the non-aligned countries in the 1960s, notably in the Declaration of the Heads of State and Government issued at the 1961 Belgrade Summit and in the Programme for Peace and International Co-operation issued at the 1964 Cairo Summit. The proposal was supported by the General Assembly in 1965, by the adoption of resolution 2030 (XX), but it failed to materialize. The proposal was revived by
the USSR at the twenty-sixth session of the General Assembly in 1971, and since then it has been given active consideration by the Assembly.

46. At its twenty-eighth session, the General Assembly unanimously adopted resolution 3182 (XXVIII) which, *inter alia*, reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"1. **Decides to establish an Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference to examine all the views and suggestions expressed by Governments on the convening of a world disarmament conference and related problems, including conditions for the realization of such a conference, and to submit, on the basis of consensus, a report to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session;**

"2. **Decides further that the Ad Hoc Committee shall consist of the following forty non-nuclear-weapon Member States appointed by the President of the General Assembly after consultation with all regional groups: Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Liberia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire and Zambia;**

"3. **Invites the States possessing nuclear weapons to co-operate or maintain contact with the Ad Hoc Committee, it being understood that they will enjoy the same rights as the appointed members of the Committee;"**

47. Since its establishment, the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference has met regularly. The Committee has also set up a working group to assist in the preparation of draft reports of the Ad Hoc Committee to the General Assembly. In addition to States appointed to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee as members, France, the United Kingdom and the USSR have participated in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee by virtue of paragraph 3 of resolution 3183 (XXVIII). Under the same paragraph, China and the United States have maintained contact with the Ad Hoc Committee through its Chairman.

48. The Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference has been mainly concerned with the examination of all views and suggestions expressed by Governments on the convening of a world disarmament conference and related problems, including conditions for the realization of such a conference.

49. In 1974, the Committee provided a comprehensive presentation (A/9628) of those views and suggestions, covering the following aspects:

(a) **General views and suggestions on the convening of a world disarmament conference and related problems; conditions for the realization of the conference;**

(b) **Main objectives of the conference;**
(c) Adequate preparations of the conference, including such questions as agenda structure and organization of the conference.

The Committee has also analysed those views and suggestions expressed by Governments and in its report to the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly it provided a general description of the approaches discernible, as well as a summary of those views and suggestions.

50. At its twenty-ninth session, the General Assembly requested all States to communicate their comments on the main objectives of a world disarmament conference and requested the Ad Hoc Committee to prepare an analytical report of the views thus received. The Committee's report (A/10028) included extensive comments received from States and the analysis requested by the General Assembly. The report included also sections containing conclusions and one recommendation in accordance with the said resolution.

51. At its thirty-first session, by resolution 31/190, of 21 December 1976, the General Assembly requested the Ad Hoc Committee to meet briefly, and submit a report to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session.

(i) Ad Hoc Committee on the Review of the Role of the United Nations in Disarmament

52. In the introduction to his annual report on the work of the Organization for 1974-1975, the Secretary-General proposed that the General Assembly consider a basic review of the role of the United Nations in disarmament.

53. By resolution 34/84 B (XXX), the General Assembly, noting the Secretary-General's proposal, decided to establish "an Ad Hoc Committee of the General Assembly open to the participation of all Member States to carry out a basic review of the role of the United Nations in the disarmament field".

54. In 1976, the Ad Hoc Committee submitted a report (A/31/36), containing a set of agreed proposals with regard to the following subjects: (a) improved methods of work of the First Committee in disarmament matters, (b) relationship between the General Assembly and other United Nations bodies in the field of disarmament, (c) role of the United Nations Disarmament Commission, (d) role of the United Nations in providing assistance on request in multilateral and regional disarmament negotiations, (e) relationship between the General Assembly and the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, (f) increased use of in-depth studies of the arms race, disarmament and related matters, (g) improvement of existing United Nations facilities for the collection, compilation and dissemination of information on disarmament issues, in order to keep all Governments, as well as world public opinion, properly informed on progress achieved in the field of disarmament, (h) assistance by the Secretariat, on request, to States parties to multilateral disarmament agreements in their duty to ensure the effective functioning of such agreements, including appropriate reviews, and (i) strengthening of the resources of the Secretariat. By resolution 31/90, of 14 December 1976, the General Assembly endorsed the agreed
proposals made by the Ad Hoc Committee on the Review of the Role of the United Nations in the field of Disarmament as a step towards the strengthening of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament.

55. Having completed the task entrusted to it, the Ad Hoc Committee has ceased to function. In this connexion it may be noted that the General Assembly, pursuant to resolution 31/90, will keep the question of the strengthening of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament under continued review.

(j) Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation

56. At the tenth session of the General Assembly, India proposed the consideration of the question of "dissemination of information on the effects of atomic radiation and on the effects of experimental explosions of thermonuclear bombs", a question closely related to the cessation of nuclear-weapon tests. The General Assembly adopted resolution 913 (X) by which a scientific committee on the effects of atomic radiation was established, consisting of Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, France, India, Japan, Mexico, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The Committee was entrusted with the task of assembling, studying and disseminating information on observed levels of ionizing radiation and radio-activity in the environment and on the effects of such radiation upon man and his environment.

57. At its twenty-eighth session, the General Assembly decided to increase the membership of the Scientific Committee with up to five additional members (resolution 3154 C (XXVIII)). The President of the General Assembly appointed the following additional members: Germany, Federal Republic of, Indonesia, Peru, Poland and Sudan. As a result, the Committee is now composed of 20 Member States.

58. Since 1955, the Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation has met regularly and has submitted periodic reports to the General Assembly. Technical reports reviewing, in detail, levels and effects of ionizing radiation were submitted to the General Assembly at its thirteenth, seventeenth, nineteenth, twenty-first, twenty-fourth and twenty-seventh sessions and progress reports at the intervening sessions.

59. As of 28 March 1977, the secretariat of the Committee, which was transferred to the United Nations Environment Programme from the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs on 1 September 1976, will function as a unit in the Office of the Executive Director. The Committee secretariat will continue to be located in Vienna.

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2. The Security Council and the Military Staff Committee

(a) Security Council

60. Article 26 of the Charter entrusted the Security Council with specific responsibilities in the field of disarmament. In its first decision on the question, on 9 January 1947, the Council formally accepted General Assembly resolution 41 (I) on the principles governing the general regulation and reduction of armaments, which contained the following recommendation concerning the implementation of Article 26: "The plans formulated by the Security Council shall be submitted by the Secretary-General to the Members of the United Nations for consideration at a special session of the General Assembly. The treaties or conventions approved by the General Assembly shall be submitted to the signatory States for ratification in accordance with Article 26 of the Charter."

61. On 13 February 1947, the Council adopted resolution 18 (1947) by which it recognized that the implementation of General Assembly resolution 41 (I) was "one of the most urgent and important tasks before the Security Council" and resolved to take appropriate measures in that connexion. In particular, the Council resolved to work out practical measures for giving effect to General Assembly resolutions 41 (I) and 42 (I) of 14 December 1946 concerning, on the one hand, the general regulation and reduction of armaments and armed forces and the establishment of international control to bring about the reduction of armaments and armed forces and, on the other hand, information on armed forces to be supplied by Members of the United Nations; to set up the Commission for Conventional Armaments and to request the Military Staff Committee to submit to it recommendations with regard to the basic principles which should govern the organization of the United Nations armed forces.

62. Because of the close relationship between the security of States and disarmament, as well as the functions of the Security Council with regard to the maintenance of international peace and security, several disarmament agreements concluded in recent years envisage a role for the Security Council. Some examples are mentioned in the following.

63. During more than four years of negotiations in the ENSC on the Non-Proliferation Treaty, many non-nuclear-weapon States expressed a desire to receive certain additional assurances with regard to their security against nuclear attack, assurances which were not provided by the Treaty itself. The Governments of the USSR, the United Kingdom and the United States took note of this desire of the non-nuclear-weapon countries and came to the conclusion that, in addition to the security benefits provided by the Treaty itself, further assurances of security could most appropriately be granted in the context of the United Nations Charter, under which every Member of the Organization had assumed a solemn obligation to co-operate in the maintenance of peace. Therefore, they agreed to sponsor a resolution on security assurances in the Security Council, which bears the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.
64. The resolution adopted by the Security Council on 19 June 1968, proceeded from the generally recognised fact that "any aggression accompanied by the use of nuclear weapons would endanger the peace and security of all States". In this connexion, the resolution provided that "aggression with nuclear weapons or the threat of such aggression against a non-nuclear-weapon State would create a situation in which the Security Council, and above all its nuclear-weapon States permanent members, would have to act immediately in accordance with their obligations under the United Nations Charter".

65. Mention should also be made of the fact that article X of the Non-Proliferation Treaty provides that whenever a Party exercises its right of withdrawal from the Treaty, notice of such withdrawal should be given to the Security Council, in addition to all the Parties to the Treaty three months in advance.

66. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-bed and Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof, which entered into force on 18 May 1972, stipulates in article III (4) that, in case doubts concerning the fulfilment of the obligations assumed under the Treaty are not removed, a State Party may, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, refer the matter to the Security Council which may take action in accordance with the Charter. Article VIII provides that a State Party withdrawing from the Treaty should give notice of such withdrawal to all other States Parties to the Treaty and to the Security Council three months in advance.

67. The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and of their Destruction which entered into force on 26 March 1975 provides in article VI:

"(1) Any State Party to this Convention which finds that any other State Party is acting in breach of obligations deriving from the provisions of the Convention may lodge a complaint with the Security Council of the United Nations. Such a complaint should include all possible evidence confirming its validity, as well as a request for its consideration by the Security Council.

"(2) Each State Party to this Convention undertakes to co-operate in carrying out any investigation which the Security Council may initiate, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, on the basis of the complaint received by the Council. The Security Council shall inform the States Parties to the Convention of the results of the investigation."

68. The withdrawal clause contained in this Convention is identical to the ones referred to above.

69. The Security Council has not been seized, so far, with any case related to the above-mentioned treaties.
(b) **The Military Staff Committee**

70. It was contemplated in Article 26 of the Charter that the Council would be assisted by the Military Staff Committee in formulating its plans for the establishment of a system for the regulation of armaments, but no assistance from the latter has been called for or rendered.

71. In its resolution 18 (1947) of 13 February 1947, creating the Commission for Conventional Armaments, the Security Council instructed the Commission to "make such proposals as it may deem advisable concerning the studies which the Military Staff Committee ... might be asked to undertake". No proposals, however, were made.

3. **The Economic and Social Council**

72. Some economic and social questions related to disarmament have been considered by the Economic and Social Council.

73. On 15 December 1960, by resolution 1516 (XV), the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to examine, with the assistance of consultants appointed by him, the economic and social consequences of disarmament in countries with different economic systems and at different stages of economic development. The report of the Secretary-General was submitted to the Economic and Social Council on 28 February 1962.

74. Having considered the report, the Economic and Social Council, on 26 July 1962 adopted resolution 891 (XXXIV) which requested the Secretary-General to make the report available to the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee and also to give the report wide publicity and dissemination. The General Assembly, by resolution 1837 (XVII) entitled "Declaration on the Conversion to Peaceful Needs of the Resources Released by Disarmament" endorsed the conclusion of the report.

75. These questions have continued to hold the attention of the Economic and Social Council periodically.

4. **The Secretary-General and the Secretariat**

76. The activities carried out by the Secretary-General and his staff with respect to disarmament matters are derived from the general functions of the Secretary-General as defined in the Charter and developed over the years.

(a) **Annual report on the work of the organization**

77. Pursuant to Article 98 of the Charter, the Secretary-General submits to the General Assembly, at each regular session, a report on the work of the organization which is included in the provisional agenda of the General Assembly, together with the reports of the Security Council and of the Economic and Social
Council. Each of these annual reports contains, under the general heading "Political and security questions", a section on "Disarmament and related matters". The Introduction to the report has often been used by the Secretary-General as a means for submitting suggestions on matters relating to disarmament for consideration by the General Assembly.

(b) **Initiatives and statements by the Secretary-General**

78. On occasion, the Secretary-General in putting forth his views on disarmament matters has made recommendations or suggestions for consideration by the General Assembly and other bodies concerned with such matters. Various resolutions adopted by the General Assembly take note of these recommendations or suggestions. 5/

(c) **Servicing United Nations disarmament organs**

79. Article 97 of the Charter states that the Secretary-General "shall be the chief administrative officer of the Organization" and Article 98 states that "the Secretary-General shall act in that capacity in all meetings of the General Assembly, of the Security Council ... and shall perform such other functions as are entrusted to him by these organs". The functions of the Secretariat are defined by the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and the Councils in some detail.

80. Secretariat services in the field of disarmament are currently provided for the First Committee of the General Assembly, the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference, the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean, the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament, an Expert Group on the Reduction of Military Budgets, and an Expert Group on the Economic and Social Consequences of the Arms Race.

(d) **Implementation of General Assembly resolutions**

81. The Secretary-General is frequently requested to perform functions relating to the implementation of disarmament resolutions. Such functions have included ascertaining the views of Governments, circulating replies received from Governments, presenting them in a systematized manner, communicating decisions of United Nations bodies to Governments or other parties concerned, convening meetings, reporting on disarmament related conferences outside the United Nations, etc. 6/

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5/ Further details are provided in document A/AC.181/3, annex A, paras. 79-84.

6/ Examples may be found in document A/AC.181/3, annex A, para. 77.
(e) Collection, compilation and dissemination of information

82. Mention can be made here of the publication entitled *The United Nations and Disarmament*, prepared by the Secretariat and providing a comprehensive account of the deliberations and negotiations in the field of disarmament within the United Nations system. A first volume, covering the period 1945-1965, was issued in 1967, at the initiative of the Secretary-General. Before the end of 1970, a new volume entitled *The United Nations and Disarmament, 1945-1970* was prepared by the Secretariat, at the request of the General Assembly. A supplement covering the period 1970-1975 has also been prepared at the request of the Assembly.

83. The Ad Hoc Committee on the Review of the Role of the United Nations in the Field of Disarmament included in its agreed proposals, which were endorsed by General Assembly resolution 31/90, recommendations on ways and means of improving existing United Nations facilities for collection, compilation and dissemination of information on disarmament issues, in order to keep all Governments, as well as world public opinion, properly informed on progress achieved in the field of disarmament. The Ad Hoc Committee recommended that the United Nations publish annually before the regular session of the General Assembly in all the working languages of the Assembly a United Nations Disarmament Yearbook. This Yearbook should contain a descriptive review of the main developments and ongoing negotiations in the field of disarmament, including a summary of the Assembly resolutions adopted and of the proposals made in this connexion. It should further contain:

(a) Texts of new treaties and agreements in the field of disarmament as well as drafts of such texts submitted to the United Nations or the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament;

(b) A report on the status of the existing disarmament agreements;

(c) Decisions and conclusions on these matters reached by, inter alia, the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, IAEA and possible review conferences;

(d) Factual information, as communicated by Governments or appearing in their official publications, on such topics as military expenditures, armed forces and armaments, military production, arms trade and foreign aid in the military field, with full citation of the sources. Such information should be contained in the Yearbook in a useful and standardized format once appropriate and generally applicable criteria for the measurement, reporting and evaluation of relevant internationally comparable data are developed and agreed upon by the United Nations.

The first volume of the Yearbook is under preparation.

84. The Ad Hoc Committee further recommended that the Secretary-General report to the General Assembly on the publication of the Yearbook and, on the basis of that report, the United Nations consider publishing a disarmament periodical in all the working languages of the General Assembly. The periodical would present in highly readable form current facts and developments in the field of disarmament,
such as summaries of new proposals and of important relevant statements and
communiqués. It would also contain summaries of in-depth studies undertaken by
the United Nations or the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament. It should
further provide annotated bibliographies and brief summaries of important books
and articles on disarmament questions and related matters.

85. As requested by the General Assembly in resolution 31/90, the Secretary-
General will report to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session on the
implementation of the measures recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee falling within
his area of responsibilities.

(f) Preparation of reports and studies

86. One aspect of the functions of the Secretary-General is the preparation,
usually at the request of the General Assembly, of reports and studies with regard
to disarmament questions dealt with by United Nations organs.

87. In entrusting the Secretary-General with the task of preparing studies
dealing with highly complex disarmament questions, the General Assembly has often
provided for the appointment of experts by the Secretary-General to assist him in
this task. In the past, usually the experts have been appointed to act in their
personal capacity, but there have been instances when, at the request of the
General Assembly, reports have been prepared by governmental experts.

88. The studies provide an analytical treatment of the subject-matter and contain
certain conclusions and recommendations. The following list of studies prepared
with the assistance of experts appointed by the Secretary-General provides an
indication of the nature and scope of the studies, as well as their frequency:

"The Economic and Social Consequences of Disarmament", 1962 (resolution
1516 (XV));

"Effects of the Possible Use of Nuclear Weapons and the Security and Economic
Implications for States of the Acquisition and Further Development of the
Weapons", 1967 (2162 A (XXI));

"Chemical and Bacteriological (Biological) Weapons and the Effects of Their
Possible Use", 1969 (2454 A (XXIII));

"Economic and Social Consequences of the Arms Race and of Military
Expenditures", 1971 (2667 (XXV));

"Disarmament and Development", 1972 (2685 (XXV));

"Factual statement on the great Powers' military presence in the Indian
Ocean", 1974 (3080 (XXVIII));

"Reduction of the military budgets of States permanent members of the
Security Council by 10 per cent and utilization of part of the funds thus
saved to provide assistance to developing countries", 1974 (3093 B (XXVIII));

"Reduction of military budgets: Measurement and international reporting of military expenditures", 1976 (3463 XXX)).

89. At its thirtieth session, the General Assembly, by resolution 3462 (XXX), requested 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 taking into account any new developments which he would consider necessary. This report will be issued in August 1977.

90. The following two reports were prepared with the assistance of governmental experts:

"Napalm and other incendiary weapons and all aspects of their possible use", 1972 (2852 (XXVI));

"Comprehensive study of the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all its aspects", 1975 (3261 F (XXIX)). (Prepared under the auspices of the CCD.)

91. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 31/87, a report is being prepared, with the assistance of an intergovernmental group of budgetary experts appointed by the Secretary-General, containing an analysis of the comments provided by States with regard to matters covered in the report "Reduction of military budgets: Measurement and international reporting of military expenditures", in the light of the suggestions contained in that report, as well as any further conclusions and recommendations. As requested by the General Assembly, this report will be distributed not later than 31 August 1977.

92. The General Assembly, by resolution 2825 C (XXVI), expressed its support for the practice of requesting the Secretary-General to prepare, with the assistance of consultant experts, authoritative reports on concrete questions relating to the arms race and disarmament.

93. By resolution 31/90, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Review of the Role of the United Nations in the Field of Disarmament that the General Assembly consider making increased use of in-depth studies of the arms race, disarmament and related matters on an ad hoc basis conducted by the Secretary-General with the assistance of qualified experts nominated by Governments and with the assistance, whenever appropriate, from other sources.

(g) Representation at international disarmament conferences

94. The Secretary-General has represented the Organization at various international conferences related to disarmament. He was also present at ceremonies for the signing of international agreements in the disarmament field.
He has been represented by a personal or special representative at international conferences. A special representative of the Secretary-General is present at the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament. United Nations delegations have attended such international conferences as the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts.

(h) Functions with regard to disarmament agreements

95. The agreed proposals of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Review of the Role of the United Nations in the Field of Disarmament, which were endorsed by General Assembly resolution 31/90, included recommendations on the role of the Secretariat with respect to multilateral disarmament agreements.

96. The Ad Hoc Committee recommended that as a general rule States may request the Secretary-General to assume the depositary role for multilateral disarmament conventions and treaties.

97. It may be noted here that article IX of the Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques provides that the Convention shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. This is the first multilateral treaty in the field of disarmament that entrusts depositary functions to the Secretary-General. The General Assembly by resolution 31/72, of 10 December 1976, requested the Secretary-General, as Depositary of the Convention, to open it for signature and ratification at the earliest possible date. The Convention will be opened for signature and ratification on 18 May 1977, in Geneva, and 31 May, in New York.

98. The Ad Hoc Committee also recommended that States participating in multilateral and regional negotiations of disarmament agreements give serious consideration to the inclusion of a Review Conference provision and that, in making the necessary preparations for Review Conferences, the States parties consider requesting the United Nations to provide facilities, conference services and other assistance in connexion with such conferences. /7/

99. The Secretariat also performs functions regarding disarmament treaties in conformity with Article 102 of the Charter. Disarmament agreements concluded during the last 30 years have been registered with, and published by, the United Nations.

(i) Public information on disarmament

100. Public information activities relating to disarmament are carried out on a regular basis by the United Nations Centre for Disarmament, the Office of Public

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Information, the Centre for Economic and Social Information and, occasionally, by other branches of the Secretariat.

101. In addition, pursuant to specific requests by the General Assembly and other organs, the Secretary-General and the Secretariat have carried out activities regarding public information on disarmament. 8/

102. At the thirty-first session, the General Assembly, by resolution 31/90, endorsed the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Review of the Role of the United Nations in the Field of Disarmament that the United Nations Secretariat, through the appropriate channels, continue to disseminate to the general public information on disarmament questions and related matters, including information contained in the periodical and the Yearbook.

(j) Relations with non-governmental organizations

103. There are a number of non-governmental organizations active in the field of disarmament. A group of non-governmental organizations at the Geneva Office of the United Nations has established a Special Non-Governmental Organization Committee on Disarmament. Similarly, in New York, a group of non-governmental organizations has established a Non-Governmental Organization Committee on Disarmament.

104. The non-governmental organizations have transmitted to the Secretary-General documents containing their viewpoint on various disarmament issues, declarations and appeals for disarmament, as well as technical studies on disarmament questions. These organizations have invited representatives of the United Nations to attend and address gatherings organized or sponsored by them. The Secretariat has, within the limits of its ability and resources, tried to respond to such requests.

105. The Secretary-General has noticed on several occasions that the United Nations has received much support and encouragement from non-governmental organizations. In the introduction to his annual report on the work of the organization for 1975-1976 (A/31/1/Add.1), he stated:

"It is essential that public opinion in the world should be actively aware of the dangers of present developments in the armaments field and should not adopt a defeatist or fatalistic attitude in the face of the appalling reality of the arms race. Mobilized public opinion has shown itself increasingly effective on a number of important issues in recent years. It seems to me that it is time that world public opinion became far more actively involved in the struggle for disarmament, which may well be a struggle for nothing less than human survival.

"I would therefore suggest that the General Assembly might discuss

8/ For details, see document A/AC.181/3, annex A, para. 90.
various ways in which public concern about disarmament could be stimulated and channelled in constructive ways. In the light of its universal character and its recent experience of focusing world public opinion on important global subjects, the United Nations may well be able to play a major role in generating a new approach to this most dangerous of all problems. One such approach lies in the proposal endorsed by the non-aligned countries to convene a special session of the General Assembly on disarmament."

106. Pursuant to resolution 1739 (LIV) of 4 May 1973, of the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General prepared a report on ways of strengthening co-operation between non-governmental organizations and the United Nations (E/C.2/768), which has been under discussion in the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations since 1975. In the Introduction to his report, the Secretary-General states that recent developments indicate that the consultative relationship with non-governmental organizations can and should be improved, and that the United Nations is dealing with many new and growing global problems and the co-operation between non-governmental organizations and the United Nations is even more vital for the Organization to meet its increased responsibilities and challenges. The report contains a number of proposals designed "to ensure a more clearly defined policy and more adequate machinery for liaison with non-governmental organizations that will create a mutually productive relationship which better reflects the evolving and expanding roles of both the United Nations and non-governmental organizations". Among them is a proposal that the Secretariat undertake, in consultation with the non-governmental community, a study to determine what provisions might be proposed for non-governmental organization participation in conferences and meetings called by the General Assembly.

5. The International Atomic Energy Agency and other organizations of the United Nations system

107. Article III of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons provides that "each non-nuclear-weapon State Party to the Treaty undertakes to accept safeguards, as set forth in an agreement to be negotiated and concluded with the International Atomic Energy Agency in accordance with the Statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Agency's safeguards system, for the exclusive purpose of verification of the fulfilment of its obligations assumed under this Treaty with a view to preventing diversion of nuclear energy from peaceful uses to nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices ...".

108. Under the agreement governing the relationship between the United Nations and the IAEA, the Agency shall keep the United Nations informed of its activities. The Agency shall also consider any resolutions referred to the Agency by the General Assembly or by a Council of the United Nations.

109. The IAEA submits annual reports to the General Assembly of the United Nations. The General Assembly, for its part, has adopted every year a resolution under the IAEA item. Moreover, in several disarmament resolutions, the General Assembly has addressed itself to the IAEA in connexion with such questions as the
Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the question of peaceful nuclear explosions, the implementation of the results of the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States, new techniques for uranium enrichment, etc.

110. Other international organizations of the United Nations family have been occasionally involved in disarmament questions. The World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization provided assistance in the preparation of the 1969 report of the Secretary-General on chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons and the effects of their possible use. The World Meteorological Organization has occasionally dealt with disarmament related issues. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in its publications, has given coverage to disarmament problems.

6. Review Conferences on Multilateral Treaties in the Field of Disarmament

(a) Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

111. Article VIII of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons provided for the holding of a Review Conference five years after its entry into force. Accordingly, a Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty met in Geneva from 5 to 30 May 1975 and was attended by 58 States parties to the Treaty, in addition to seven signatory States participating in the Conference without taking part in its decisions, and seven observer States.

112. The Secretary-General, who has been asked by the General Assembly in resolution 3184 B (XXVIII) "to render the necessary assistance ... as may be required for the Review Conference and its preparation", submitted at the invitation of the Preparatory Committee working papers summarizing basic facts which had taken place within the framework of the United Nations in connexion with the realization of the purposes of the Preamble and of the provisions of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The Preparatory Committee also invited the Secretary-General of the United Nations to nominate, in consultation with the members of the Preparatory Committee, an official to act on behalf of the Committee as provisional Secretary-General of the Review Conference, the nominee to be confirmed by the Review Conference itself. United Nations Secretariat staff was seconded to serve the Review Conference and the Preparatory Committee. The documents of the Conference are in the custody of the archives of the United Nations.

113. The Final Declaration of the Review Conference states the following with respect to article VIII of the Treaty:

"The States Party to the Treaty participating in the Conference propose to the Depositary Governments that a second Conference to review the operation of the Treaty be convened in 1980.

"The Conference accordingly invites States Party to the Treaty which are..."
Members of the United Nations to request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to include the following item in the provisional agenda of the thirty-third session of the General Assembly: "Implementation of the conclusions of the first Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and establishment of a preparatory committee for the second Conference." 

(b) Review Conference of the Parties to the Sea-Bed Treaty

114. The Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof provides, in article VII, for a Conference of the Parties to the Treaty to review its operation five years after its entry into force.

115. Pursuant to article VII of the Treaty, a Review Conference of States Parties to the Treaty will be held in Geneva from 20 June to 1 July 1977.

116. At its thirtieth session, in 1975, the General Assembly adopted resolution 3484 E (XXX) by which the General Assembly noted that after appropriate consultation a preparatory committee of the Parties to the Treaty was to be arranged and requested the Secretary-General to render the necessary assistance and services to the Preparatory Committee and the Review Conference.

117. The Preparatory Committee, which met in Geneva from 7 to 11 February 1977, decided to request the Secretary-General to prepare information papers for the Review Conference.

118. The Preparatory Committee also invited the Secretary-General of the United Nations to nominate, in consultation with the members of the Preparatory Committee, an official to act on behalf of the Committee as provisional Secretary-General of the Review Conference, the nominee to be confirmed by the Review Conference itself. United Nations Secretariat staff will be seconded to serve the Review Conference, as was done in the case of the Preparatory Committee.

(c) Review Conference of the Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention

119. The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction provides in article VII: "Five years after entry into force of this Convention, or earlier if it is requested by a majority of Parties to the Convention by submitting a proposal to this effect to the Depositary Governments, a conference of States parties to the Convention shall be held at Geneva, Switzerland, to review the operation of the Convention, with a view to assuring that the purposes of the preamble and the provisions of the Convention, including the provisions concerning negotiations on chemical weapons, are being realized. Such review shall take into account any new scientific and technological developments relevant to the Convention."
II. OTHER MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL STRUCTURES
IN THE FIELD OF DISARMAMENT

1. Conference of non-aligned countries

120. At every summit conference of non-aligned countries, disarmament questions were discussed and reference to them was made in conference resolutions and declarations.

121. In some instances, the non-aligned countries submitted to the General Assembly disarmament proposals that had been adopted at summit conferences. The Assembly then adopted resolutions on them. For example, at the Second Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Countries, which met in Cairo in October 1964, a world disarmament conference with the participation of all States was proposed. That Conference also endorsed the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa issued by African Heads of State and Governments held in July 1964. At the initiative of the Non-Aligned Countries, the General Assembly adopted resolutions 2030 (XX) and 2033 (XX) dealing with the world disarmament conference and the denuclearization of Africa respectively.

122. The Fifth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Colombo from 16 to 19 August 1976, called for a special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament and made specific suggestions in this regard in its declaration and resolution on disarmament. The General Assembly in its resolution on the convening of a special session of the General Assembly made reference to the recommendation of the Colombo Conference (resolution 31/189 B).

2. Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (OPANAL)

123. The Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Treaty of Tlatelolco), which was opened for signature on 14 February 1967, provided for the establishment of an international organization known as the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (OPANAL) and a control system, including IAEA safeguards, to ensure compliance with the Treaty's obligations.

124. The principal organs of OPANAL are the General Conference, the Council and the Secretariat.

125. The Treaty of Tlatelolco contains provisions concerning relations between OPANAL and other international organizations. Article 16, paragraph 8, of the Treaty of Tlatelolco provides that "The General Conference, convened in special session under this article, may make recommendations to the Contracting Parties and submit reports to the Secretary-General of the United Nations to be transmitted to the Security Council and the General Assembly". Article 20, paragraph 2, of the Treaty provides that the General Conference of OPANAL shall report violations of the Treaty which might endanger peace and security to the Security Council and the General Assembly through the Secretary-General of the
United Nations. Article 30, paragraph 2, provides that notification of denunciation of the Treaty will be communicated by the General Secretary of the Agency, among others, to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the information of the Security Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations. Article 31 provides that "this Treaty, of which the Spanish, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese and Russian texts are equally authentic, shall be registered by the Depositary Government in accordance with Article 102 of the United Nations Charter. The Depositary Government shall notify the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the signatures, ratifications and amendments relating to this Treaty and shall communicate them to the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States for his information".

126. The General Assembly, which in resolution 2286 (XXII), of 5 December 1967, had welcomed with special satisfaction the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America as an event of historic significance in the efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, has adopted since then a number of resolutions on the question of the signature and ratification of Additional Protocols I and II of the Treaty which were opened for signature on 14 February 1967.

3. Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT)

127. In 1968, the USSR and the United States declared their intention to start bilateral discussions on the "limitation and reduction of both offensive and defensive strategic nuclear-weapon delivery systems and systems of defense against ballistic missiles".

128. The General Assembly has taken an active interest in the strategic arms limitation talks, and has adopted a number of resolutions on the subject.

129. By resolution 2456 D (XXIII), the General Assembly urged the two countries to enter at an early date into bilateral discussions on the limitation of offensive strategic nuclear-weapon delivery systems and systems of defence against ballistic missiles.

130. In 1969, the General Assembly adopted resolution 2602 (XXIV). After noting with satisfaction that, on 17 November 1969, the Governments of the USSR and the United States had initiated bilateral negotiations on the limitation of offensive and defensive strategic nuclear-weapon systems, the General Assembly appealed to the two Governments to agree, as an urgent preliminary measure, on a moratorium on further testing and deployment of new offensive and defensive strategic nuclear-weapon systems.

131. In 1970, the General Assembly adopted resolution 2661 A (XXV) by which, after noting with satisfaction the continuation of the SALT negotiations and expressing the belief that the chances for rapid success in these bilateral talks would increase if the nuclear-weapon Powers halted the development of new weapons, the Assembly urged the nuclear Powers to end the nuclear arms race and to cease all testing and development of nuclear weapon systems.
132. In 1972, the General Assembly adopted resolution 2932 B (XXVII) which, noting with satisfaction the results of SALT I, (a) appealed to the USSR and the United States to expedite further agreements including important qualitative limitations and substantial reductions of strategic weapon systems, and (b) invited the two Governments to keep the General Assembly informed on the progress of their negotiations.

133. In 1973, the General Assembly adopted resolution 3184 A (XXVIII) by which it appealed to the USSR and the United States to bear in mind the necessity and urgency of reaching agreement on important qualitative limitations and substantial reductions of strategic nuclear-weapon systems and invited the two Governments to keep the General Assembly informed in good time of the results of their bilateral talks.

134. In 1974, the General Assembly adopted resolution 3261 C (XXIX) by which the General Assembly shared the concern raised by the USSR and the United States over the gravity of the situation created by existing nuclear arsenals and the continued nuclear arms race; urged these two Powers to broaden the scope and accelerate the pace of their SALT negotiations; stressed once again the necessity and urgency of reaching agreement on important qualitative limitations and substantial reductions of their nuclear-weapon systems; and invited the two Governments to keep the General Assembly informed in good time of the results of their bilateral talks.

135. In 1975, the General Assembly adopted resolution 3404 C (XXX) by which it regretted the lack of positive results at the SALT negotiations during the last two years, expressed its concern over the high numerical ceilings and the absence of qualitative limitations in the Vladivostok Agreement, urged the two Powers concerned to accelerate the talks and reach agreement on important qualitative limitations and substantial reductions in their nuclear arms and again invited them to keep the General Assembly informed.

136. At its thirty-first session, in 1976, the General Assembly adopted resolution 31/189 A, by which it regretted the absence of positive results during the last three years of the SALT negotiations, expressed its concern over the very high numerical ceilings and the absence of qualitative limitations of nuclear arms, urged the Soviet Union and the United States to accelerate the talks and reach agreement on important qualitative limitations and substantial reductions of their nuclear weapons and again invited them to keep the General Assembly informed.

137. Agreements concluded within SALT have been circulated as documents of the United Nations.

h. Mutual reduction of forces and armaments and associated measures in Central Europe

139. Negotiations on the mutual reduction of forces and armaments and associated measures in Central Europe opened in Vienna on 30 October 1973. The following States participated in these negotiations: Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom, the United States, Bulgaria, Denmark, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Romania and Turkey, the last eight States participating with special status.

5. Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe


141. Representatives of the following States participated in the Conference: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, the Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Morocco, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Yugoslavia.

142. The Final Act of the Conference covered the following main topics: questions relating to security in Europe; co-operation in the field of economics, of science and technology and of the environment; questions relating to security and co-operation in the Mediterranean; and co-operation in humanitarian and other fields.

143. The chapter on questions relating to security in Europe includes a document on confidence building measures and certain aspects of security and disarmament, which contains sections on prior notification of major military manoeuvres, prior notification of other military manoeuvres, exchange of observers, prior notification of major military movements, other confidence-building measures, questions relating to disarmament and general considerations.

144. The Final Act envisaged as a follow-up to the Conference the organization of meetings to provide for exchanges of views on the implementation of the Final Act, the improvement of security and development of co-operation in Europe and the development of the process of détente in the future.

145. The first of these meetings will be held in Belgrade in June 1977.

6. Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts

146. The Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts held its first session in Geneva from 20 February to 29 March 1974. The Diplomatic Conference decided to establish, in addition to three main committees to deal with the
revision of the Draft Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, an ad hoc committee to examine the question of the prohibition or restriction of the use of certain categories of conventional weapons that may cause unnecessary suffering or have indiscriminate effects.

147. In 1973, 1974 and 1975, the General Assembly adopted resolutions on napalm and other incendiary weapons and all aspects of their possible use, by which it requested the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly on the work of the Diplomatic Conference relevant thereto (resolutions 3076 (XXVIII), 3255 (XXIX) and 3464 (XXX), respectively). Pursuant to these resolutions the Secretary-General submitted reports in 1974, 1975 and 1976.

148. The Conference is attended by a delegation of the United Nations representing the Secretary-General.

7. ICRC Conference of Government Experts

149. The first session of the ICRC Conference of Government Experts on Weapons That May Cause Unnecessary Suffering or Have Indiscriminate Effects, was convened at Lucerne from 24 September to 18 October 1974.

150. The Government experts reviewed, from the military, medical and legal points of view, incendiary weapons; small-calibre, high-velocity projectiles; blast and fragmentation weapons; time-delay weapons; treacherous weapons; and other currently used and new conventional weapons that might cause unnecessary suffering or have indiscriminate effects. In November 1974, copies of the experts' report were submitted by the International Committee of the Red Cross to the Governments which had participated in the Diplomatic Conference and to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. By resolutions 3255 A and B (XXIX), the General Assembly took note of the report of the Conference of Government Experts.

151. In its resolution 3464 (XXX), adopted at the thirtieth session, the General Assembly noted "with satisfaction" that the problem would again be discussed at the 1976 ICRC Conference of Government Experts, "with a view to focusing on such weapons as have been or might become the subject of proposed bans or restrictions and to studying the possibility, contents and form of such proposed bans or restrictions". In its resolution 31/64, of 10 December 1976, the General Assembly made reference to the discussions held by the ICRC Conference of Government Experts at Lugano from 28 January to 26 February 1976.