Basic provisions of the programme of action on disarmament

Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: working paper

I

Guided by the purposes and principles set forth in the Declaration on Disarmament, it is essential to seek appropriate international agreements in the following principal areas:

Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament. It is essential to halt the nuclear arms race, i.e. to stop manufacturing nuclear weapons, equipping the armed forces of States with them, and developing and constructing new models and types of such weapons; to begin reducing the stockpiles of nuclear weapons and subsequently to proceed with their complete elimination.

The limitation and reduction of the armed forces of States and of conventional weapons, which also pose a major threat to peoples, should be carried out parallel with nuclear disarmament.

Measures to avert the danger of nuclear war. Measures to avert the danger of nuclear war should be taken in the interests of achieving disarmament and providing reliable safeguards for the future of all mankind. Such measures can be bilateral and multilateral.

Complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests. This urgent measure, for the implementation of which all the necessary prerequisites exist, including the solution of the problem of effective verification of compliance, will make it possible to put an end to the qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons and to prevent the development of new types of such weapons.

Consolidation in every possible way of the régime of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons should be
made more effective and truly universal, the IAEA system of safeguards should be strengthened in every possible way. Broad international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, which plays an important role in the development of the national economies of States, should not be permitted to become a channel for the proliferation of nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices.

Prohibition and destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles. The elimination of this type of weapon of mass destruction is long overdue. Measures to ban the most dangerous types of chemical weapons can be taken as the initial step towards a radical resolution of the entire problem.

Prohibition of the development of new types and systems of weapons of mass destruction. The solution of this problem is very urgently needed as a means of curbing the most dangerous aspects of a continued arms race and preventing the use of scientific and technological achievements for the purpose of destroying human beings.

Establishment of nuclear-free zones and zones of peace. The establishment of nuclear-free zones and zones of peace in various parts of the world is an important measure of regional military détente; it should contribute to strengthening the security of States within such zones and international security as a whole. Specifically, it would be of great importance to establish a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean, to withdraw ships and submarines carrying nuclear weapons from the Mediterranean area and to establish nuclear-free zones in various parts of the world.

Limitation and reduction of armed forces and conventional weapons. Military conflicts involving the use of conventional weapons lead to the tragic and often mass destruction of human lives and of the material values created by man. Accordingly, practical steps should be taken to limit and reduce aircraft, artillery, tank forces and other modern types of conventional weapons as well as armed forces equipped with them. Foreign military bases in foreign territories should be dismantled; foreign troops should be withdrawn from such territories.

Reduction of military budgets. This measure is one of the most effective means of curbing the arms race. The resources thus released would be used to promote the economic and social progress of peoples and for assistance to developing countries. The question of reducing military appropriations should be made the subject of concrete, businesslike negotiations among States, and a start should be made on their systematic reduction.

Complete demilitarization of the sea-bed and the ocean floor. The exclusively peaceful use of the sea-bed and the ocean floor should be the ultimate goal of States in this field. It would be a major contribution to the achievement of this goal if all the parties to 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 strictly complied with their obligations, if the number of parties to this Treaty was enlarged and if a new agreement on complete demilitarization of the sea-bed was worked out at an early date.

/...
Regional measures for military détente and disarmament. Measures such as mutual reductions of armed forces together with the establishment of zones of peace and nuclear-free zones can make a substantial contribution to the limitation of the arms race and to disarmament — above all, in those areas where military confrontation is particularly grave.

II

Machinery for disarmament negotiations. All channels for the conduct of negotiations should be effectively used by States for the purpose of solving vital problems connected with ending the arms race and achieving disarmament.

On the whole, the existing system of negotiations — multilateral, bilateral and regional — is suited to the scope and nature of the varied problems of disarmament. The existing types of negotiation should be utilized further in order to reach the necessary international agreements.

A breakthrough in solving the problem of disarmament, which affects the interests of all countries without exception, requires that the problem should be considered in the broadest and most authoritative international forum — a World Disarmament Conference. Such a truly universal forum could consider with expertise and in sufficient depth the totality of disarmament questions. If properly organized and with working bodies available to ensure a thorough preparation and practical agreement in taking appropriate decisions with due regard for the interests of all States, a World Disarmament Conference could work out specific, effective measures aimed at curbing the arms race and achieving disarmament.

A World Disarmament Conference should be convened in ... A preparatory committee is being set up for its practical preparation.