United Nations
General Assembly

Thirty-fourth session
First Committee
Agenda item 42 (e)

Review of the Implementation of the Recommendations and Decisions Adopted by the General Assembly at its Tenth Special Session
Disarmament Week

Letter dated 1 November 1979 from the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In pursuance of the decision adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session proclaiming a week starting 24 October as a week devoted to fostering the objectives of disarmament, I have the honour to transmit herewith the full text of the message from the Organizing Committee for the Observance of the United Nations Disarmament Week in Ethiopia, addressed to Your Excellency.

I should like to request you to have this message circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 42 (e).

(Signed) Mohamed Hamid Ibrahim
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
ANNEX

Text of message addressed to H.E. Dr. Kurt Waldheim, Secretary-General of the United Nations, from the Organizing Committee for the Observance of the United Nations Disarmament week in Ethiopia

We, the representatives of the All Ethiopia Trade Union, the All Ethiopia Peasants Association, the Ethiopian Peace, Friendship and Solidarity Committee, Ethiopian Women's Associations, Youth Organizations, the Ethiopian Association of Veteran Heroes and Resistance-Fighters and other mass organizations, assembled in a symposium at Addis Ababa to observe the United Nations Disarmament Week, reaffirm our solidarity with all governments and peoples, progressive, democratic and peace-loving forces committed to the goal of world disarmament.

The broad masses of the Ethiopian people who have gone through manifold trials and tribulations as victims of interventionist and aggressive wars which have entailed enormous sacrifices in life and destruction of property, fervently yearn for a world in which freedom, justice, equality and peace prevail. At this historic juncture of their revolution, they are stronger than ever before in their determination to exert every effort towards the achievement of the noble objective of disarmament. They are more than ever convinced that the security of nations and peoples can be best assured, not by a balance of terror but rather by everyone’s abiding commitment to uphold peace and stability.

The armaments race is the very antithesis of mankind's aspirations for genuine peace and creative life. With the ever-increasing stockpile of weapons of mass destruction, their sophistication and perfection, the very survival of mankind becomes at stake with each passing day. The prospects for establishing a new and just social and economic world become illusive, for this massive build-up of arms devours the diminishing natural resources brought to fruition by the sweat and labour of oppressed peoples and diverts staggering amounts of financial resources to destructive purposes that negate human life.

We are very well aware of the difficulty and complexity involved in any process of disarmament. But the major stumbling block resides not in the technical problems that human ingenuity can overcome once the necessary political will is generated and becomes the determining factor. The major obstacle to disarmament is the policy of diiktat adopted by those who pursue policies designed to stem the ever-rising tide of the forces of liberation struggling for freedom, equality, justice, democracy and socialism. Hence, the process of disarmament is inextricably linked with the struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism, apartheid, hegemonism and expansionism.

Reviewing at this symposium the record of past disarmament discussions and recent initiatives, we do note that the socialist community, as the bulwark for the forces of peace, has been consistent in its advocacy for measures of disarmament and other steps aimed at preserving peace and security in opposition to the forces of domination and oppression. The stockpiles of weapons at the disposal of the imperialists invite and abet aggression, militarism, expansionism, colonialism and racism.

...
We, the representatives of the broad masses of Ethiopia, take this opportunity to reaffirm our militant solidarity with progressive humanity which is struggling for the realization of genuine disarmament and the attainment of peace, justice, prosperity and progress for all mankind.

We strongly condemn all those forces which continuously pose obstacles in the way of the achievement of these noble objectives, and we demand in the name of humanity that these forces cease forthwith their aggressive and destructive designs and provocative acts which can only lead to the annihilation of mankind and its heritage.

We would like to take this opportunity to express to you our sincere appreciation for the efforts you have so far exerted towards the achievement of the aims and purposes of the United Nations, and also to assure you of our unflagging support in your endeavours to promote the cause of disarmament and thereby avert an impending disaster for all mankind. Highest consideration.

1 November 1979