Twelfth special session
Agenda item 9

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

Relationship between disarmament and development

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

[Original: English]

[23 June 1982]

1. The study prepared by the Group of Government Experts on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development (A/36/356) contains a number of positive elements deserving commendation. For example, the recognition of the importance of a triangular relationship which includes international security as one pole, as well as disarmament and development, is a useful contribution. The recognition of the unavailability of data from some major Powers, the conclusion that excessive secrecy contributes to the arms race, and the recommendation that Governments more fully make available data on spending and resource use for military purposes, based on their own willingness to inform both their own people and the world, are points that have long deserved universal recognition. Much useful discussion and analysis has also been presented on such matters as the present state of resource use for military purposes and the relative success of past conversions from military to civilian use.

2. However, some aspects of the report are less than satisfactory. A number of reservations, contained in the report itself, were taken by the United States participant in the study and other members of the Group. Of particular concern is the tendency of the study, in some portions, to be selective in its use of data and arguments, since a fully objective approach could more persuasively show the many interconnections between disarmament and development. Also, the discussion of the triangular relationship, including security, fails to assess adequately the role that the behaviour of some Governments, contrary to accepted rules of international conduct, has in disturbing security and thus in contributing to the arms race. This results in fewer resources being available for development and other purposes.

3. The recommendation for further study, immediately after the present three-year effort, of the concept of an international disarmament fund for development is difficult to understand, particularly since the study so clearly reveals the lack of willingness on the part of some countries to make available the data necessary to implement a meaningful fund.

4. The United States considers that the study, while there is much in it with which we do not agree, has made a positive contribution to our understanding of this complex subject. We do not, on the other hand, believe that it should be treated as the definitive basis for consideration of the subject.