Twelfth special session
AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE
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

Note verbale dated 25 June 1982 from the Permanent Representative
of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations presents his
compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to
transmit herewith a working paper concerning the strengthening and expansion of
United Nations peace-keeping functions for the promotion of disarmament and to
request that it be distributed as a document of the twelfth special session of the
General Assembly under agenda item 9.
ANNEX

Strengthening and expansion of United Nations peace-keeping functions for the promotion of disarmament

WORKING PAPER

1. The Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly states, in paragraph 110, that "progress in disarmament should be accompanied by measures to strengthen institutions for maintaining peace and the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means". It thus makes it clear that the promotion of disarmament requires the enhancement of peace-keeping mechanisms. At that session a group of Member States jointly submitted a memorandum entitled "Strengthening of the security role of the United Nations in the peaceful settlement of disputes and peace-keeping" (A/S-10/AC.1/26 and Corr.1 and 2), proposing that the United Nations undertake studies on how to enhance its peace-keeping functions in order to promote a climate of international confidence conducive to disarmament. No substantial consideration, however, was given to this matter during the tenth special session or any subsequent sessions of the General Assembly.

2. In order to attain concrete progress in disarmament, it is essential to eliminate the deeply-rooted mistrust that exists between States and form international relationships based on mutual confidence. For this purpose it is necessary to create an international environment that would ensure the maintenance of world peace and security on the basis of the principles of the peaceful settlement of disputes and the non-use of force, as laid down in the Charter of the United Nations.

3. Through many years of effort and experience, the United Nations has developed peace-keeping operations in order to prevent regional conflicts from recurring and expanding. Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki of Japan stated, on 9 June 1982, at the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament that the further expansion and enhancement of these operations as well as the strengthening of United Nations peace-keeping functions would contribute to preventing international conflicts and fostering trust among States, opening the way to progress in disarmament, and requested that the United Nations speedily carry forward its studies on how to strengthen its peace-keeping functions.

4. In the light of the above considerations, Japan proposes that a group of experts be established under the Secretary-General to undertake technical studies regarding the strengthening and expansion of United Nations peace-keeping functions with a view to promoting disarmament and to submit recommendations regarding ways and means of enhancing those functions in order to realize concrete progress in disarmament. More specifically, the group of experts should study the role the Organization could play in the prevention and peaceful solution of international conflicts as well as in the field of peace-keeping. Such a study could cover, for example, the following questions:

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A/S-12/AC.1/45
English
Annex
Page 2

(a) The possibility of establishing a mechanism whereby both global and regional military situations could be monitored and made public as deemed proper;

(b) Ways and means of strengthening the fact-finding functions of the United Nations;

(c) Modalities of co-operation by Member States in peace-keeping operations which would enable the United Nations to act in international conflicts according to the requirements of the situation;

(d) The setting up of a United Nations training programme on peace-keeping operations.

In undertaking these studies, it would be useful to take into account the reports of the Secretary-General on confidence-building measures (A/36/474) and on the relationship between disarmament and international security (A/36/597).

5. The subject of the future role of United Nations peace-keeping operations has been given comprehensive consideration by the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations as well as by the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization. The Government of Japan considers it worth while to examine particularly in the context of promoting disarmament the question of enhancing peace-keeping functions in their broad sense. Such an examination could also have a positive bearing on the work of the two Committees.