Twelfth special session
AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE
TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION
Agenda items 9, 10 and 11

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

CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME OF DISARMAMENT

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION OF THE 1980s AS THE SECOND DISARMAMENT DECADE AND CONSIDERATION OF INITIATIVES AND PROPOSALS OF MEMBER STATES

Note verbale dated 5 July 1982 from the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to transmit herewith a working paper concerning the strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean and to request that it be distributed as a document of the twelfth special session of the General Assembly under agenda items 9, 10 and 11.
ANNEX

Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean

WORKING PAPER

I

1. The Government of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia attaches particular importance to the initiative to transform certain regions into zones of peace and co-operation, since it considers that such zones can play an important role in the strengthening of international peace and security and that they can render significant contribution to disarmament. In this context, Yugoslavia has particular interest in the transformation of the Mediterranean into a zone of peace and co-operation.

2. In his speech delivered at the twelfth special session (See A/S-12/PV.6), the President of the Presidency of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, H.E. Mr. Petar Stambolić, underlined the following:

"The situation and security in the Mediterranean are most directly related to security in Europe. We attach great importance to the efforts aimed at transforming that region into a zone of peace and co-operation. The development of that region has been followed by disturbing events which threaten peace. In order to overcome this situation, it is indispensable to create conditions for the elimination of the existing focal points of tension, to intensify co-operation and to build confidence among the States of the region. Prospects would thereby be opened up for achieving the goals of disarmament in this region as well. We believe that a positive development of this process could lead to the convening of an international conference on the Mediterranean as a zone of peace and co-operation under the auspices of the United Nations."

3. In its reply to the Secretary-General's note of 1 February 1982 relating to the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security, the Government of Yugoslavia expressed the following views concerning the transformation of the Mediterranean into a zone of peace and co-operation.

4. The Government of Yugoslavia approaches the issue of the strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean as an integral part of international security. It considers that the concurrence of efforts at global, regional and bilateral levels is the prerequisite for the successful outcome of the action by the international community aimed at the strengthening of international security in the Mediterranean. Yugoslavia approaches that problem from the standpoint of the consistent application of the principles and goals of the Charter of the United Nations to all regions of the world and by all member States.

5. In its support to the efforts to transform that region into a zone of peace and co-operation, the Government of Yugoslavia proceeds from the view that the...
security in the Mediterranean is closely connected and interdependent with the security in Europe. In such interrelationship the Government of Yugoslavia sees both the dependence and linkage of national security of every State with regional and wider world security. Thus, it considers that the promotion of security in the Mediterranean and in Europe is of substantial interest for the security of Yugoslavia. The Government of Yugoslavia is convinced that it shares with other Mediterranean countries the common interest for the promotion of mutual relations, strengthening of co-operation and peace in that region.

6. As a European and Mediterranean country, Yugoslavia is concerned over the very complex and dangerous situation in the Mediterranean, which is accompanied by the unparalleled concentration of all kinds of armed forces and armaments, as well as by an increase of confrontations. We note with concern that the bloc rivalry continues in this region and that the crisis in the Middle East and the unsolved issue of Cyprus particularly contribute to the increase of tension. Constant presence and strengthening of naval and air forces in the Mediterranean create additional negative consequences for relations among the States of the region. Beside the build-up of conventional forces of particularly offensive character, the Mediterranean is increasingly becoming an area of the ever higher concentration of nuclear weapons. Those facts are particularly alarming and frequently used to impose pressure upon independent countries.

7. Such a situation calls for the exertion of the widest international efforts aimed at the seeking of appropriate ways and means for its overcoming.

8. The Government of Yugoslavia would like to point out that, in its firm belief, the progress in the transformation of the Mediterranean into a zone of peace and co-operation implies a lasting and a just solution of the Middle East crisis, as well as of the problem of Cyprus. Regarding the Middle East crisis, Yugoslavia would like to reiterate that this crisis can be solved only on the basis of the withdrawal of Israel to the borders before 6 June 1967; the realization of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including the creation of its own State, as well as the right of all countries and peoples in the region to peace and security within the internationally recognized borders. As concerns the problem of Cyprus, Yugoslavia supports inter-communal talks and believes that the consideration of this issue should proceed from relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations, beginning with resolution 3213 (XXIX), and respect national independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and the non-aligned status of the Republic of Cyprus.

9. As a non-aligned and Mediterranean country, Yugoslavia, together with other non-aligned countries, endeavours to transform the Mediterranean into a region free from crises and conflicts, weapons and pressures on independent countries, into a sea of peace, co-operation, good neighbourliness and progress of all countries, irrespective of their social system, degree of development or size.

10. Yugoslavia perceives the efforts to transform the Mediterranean into a zone of peace and co-operation as a common endeavour of all countries of the region towards an over-all development of bilateral co-operation and good-neighbourly relations, for the relaxation of tensions and confrontation, reduction of armaments, for the
peaceful settlement of all open disputes, for the promotion of regional co-operation in the field of economy, science, culture, sports, ecology, transportation, etc.

II

11. Certain recommendations aimed at the implementation of the aspirations to transform the Mediterranean into a sea of peace and security were adopted by the non-aligned countries, the United Nations and Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. The common denominator of all of these is the promotion of peace, security and co-operation in the Mediterranean, based on the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

12. The political framework and principles for establishing peace and co-operation in the Mediterranean were formulated at the conferences of heads of State or Government of non-aligned countries, as well as their ministerial conferences, and constitute the basis for the action by the Government of Yugoslavia. They, inter alia, point to the relation between the security in Europe, the Mediterranean and the Middle East; to the fact that the Mediterranean is becoming an area for manoeuvres of rival military forces; to the need to support legitimate rights of non-aligned countries in the region to participate in the adoption of decisions which concern their security. They also call upon the non-aligned countries to contribute to the elimination of underlying causes of tensions in that region, above all to the just solution of the Palestinian question, the Middle East crisis and the problems of Cyprus. The non-aligned countries have particularly underlined the need for the strengthening of common endeavours of Mediterranean non-aligned countries towards the transformation of the region into a zone of peace and co-operation. Yugoslavia will continue to contribute actively to the realization of those goals within the movement of non-aligned countries.

13. Countries participating in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe have formulated the principles of their mutual relations regarding security and co-operation in Europe, as well as their relations with littoral Mediterranean countries, non-participants in the Conference. They have expressed their intention to contribute to peace, security and co-operation in the Mediterranean together with the States not participating in the Conference. Although the idea of the transformation of the Mediterranean into a zone of peace and co-operation is not formulated in the Final Act of the Conference, it did inspire the participants in their negotiations and influenced their awareness of the interrelationship between security in Europe and security in the Mediterranean. This is reflected in the key provision of the Final Act on the Mediterranean and it instigated endeavours necessary for the strengthening of the process of relaxation of tension in that part of the world.

14. Neutral and non-aligned countries participants of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe including Yugoslavia submitted at the Madrid Meeting the draft Final Document, a part of which relates to the Mediterranean. The draft includes the settlement of the existing problems and crises by peaceful means, restraint from interventions and use of force in the region, undertaking of
confidence-building measures and those aimed at the strengthening of security, promotion of good-neighbourly relations on the basis of the Declaration on Principles Guiding Relations between Participating States, from the Final Act, strengthening of trade, industrial, maritime, transportation and other co-operation in the Mediterranean.

15. Having in mind the danger of deeper and broader crises in the Mediterranean, the General Assembly of the United Nations has included the issue of the transformation of the Mediterranean into a zone of peace and co-operation into a system of efforts undertaken by the world Organization in the implementation of the goals set by the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security. Yugoslavia considers this exceptionally important and actively endeavours with other countries to make the issue of the establishment of peace and security in the Mediterranean a permanent concern of the United Nations, as an integral part of the world security. Yugoslavia believes that it is a step in the right direction and that it should be elaborated further.

III

16. The Government of Yugoslavia is aware that the process of transformation of the Mediterranean into a zone of peace is both an urgent and a long-term process. The accumulated contradictions in the region can be overcome only through the common action by all concerned countries aimed at the solving of crises and the eliminating of causes of tension and conflicts. The Government of Yugoslavia considers that such process should be realized gradually.

17. At the outset, all efforts should be focused on the strengthening and expanding of co-operation in the fields where it already exists: economy, arts, culture, ecology, telecommunications, information, tourism, sports, etc. This implies the widest possible interpretation and all-round application of the Helsinki Final Document to the Mediterranean in the field of security, economy and humanities.

18. As concerns the so-called Mediterranean dimension of European security, the Government of Yugoslavia considers that the implementation of confidence-building measures at this stage should also include the Mediterranean naval military component. The ever greater variety of such measures, as well as their strict application, would greatly contribute to the stabilizing of the situation and to the greater feeling of security of all countries of the region, and beyond it.

19. The Government of Yugoslavia considers that this should lead to the reduction of military forces and to the military disengagement as a step further towards the realization of this concept and towards the transformation of the Mediterranean into a zone of peace and co-operation. Those measures would, as their ultimate goal, include the elimination of foreign military bases, the withdrawal of foreign fleets, military forces and armaments, as well as the denuclearization of the Mediterranean and its hinterland within the over-all efforts for general and complete disarmament.
20. The implementation of those measures also implies the promotion of confidence-building measures and their further extension.

21. In this context, Yugoslavia attaches particular importance to the attempts to transform the adjacent regions: the Middle East, Africa and the Balkans into zones of peace and co-operation, free from nuclear weapons. The realization of this idea in the Balkans presupposes the establishment of relations between Balkan States on the basis of full respect for the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, non-interference, peaceful co-existence and a lasting orientation to good-neighbourly relations. This also presupposes the inadmissibility of threat or use of any type of weapons against any Balkan State. The denuclearization of the Balkans could also represent an important contribution to a wider process of denuclearization of Europe.

22. In order to implement the above-mentioned concept, it is indispensable to exert additional efforts within the United Nations system, within the process of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe and within the movement of non-aligned countries.

23. The Government of Yugoslavia considers that the elaboration of a study on the Mediterranean as a zone of peace and co-operation on the basis of a decision of the General Assembly could constitute one of the steps in that direction. Such a study should by its content offer the basis for the elaboration of a concrete programme for the transformation of the Mediterranean into a zone of peace and co-operation and, particularly, it should offer the basis for the definition of specific measures of co-operation, confidence-building and military disengagement in the region.

24. Having in mind the experiences of the United Nations in similar fields so far, the Government of Yugoslavia is of the view that the setting up of a specific body, for example of an ad hoc committee, could considerably enhance the efforts for the transformation of the Mediterranean into a zone of peace and co-operation. The Government of Yugoslavia considers that the first results in the implementation of that idea could create a favourable atmosphere and conditions for the convening under the auspices of the United Nations of an international conference on the Mediterranean, which would outline further ways and means for the promotion of peace in that region.

25. The international action for the transformation of the Mediterranean into a zone of peace, in the view of the Government of Yugoslavia, should be based on the full affirmation of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, the principles of equal security, sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, non-intervention, non-interference, inviolability of borders, non-use of force, peaceful settlement of disputes, respect of the right of States to sovereignty over natural resources, the right of peoples under occupation to self-determination and independence, etc.

26. In the meantime, current efforts by the Mediterranean countries consistently to implement accepted obligations resulting from the concluded contracts, conventions and other legally binding acts should be fully encouraged.
27. The Government of Yugoslavia would like to point out that the initiative for the transformation of the Mediterranean into a zone of peace and co-operation offers the possibility to all countries of Europe to contribute through practical action to the overcoming of the economic gap dividing the developing and developed countries. Undertaking of further efforts in that direction would contribute to the enhancement of over-all stability of political relations in the world. Therefore Yugoslavia regularly sponsors all General Assembly resolutions on international security which contain the Mediterranean component, and it will strive that it be further extended and elaborated.

28. Yugoslavia will continue, as it has done so far, to strengthen bilateral contacts and co-operation with the Mediterranean countries, with the aim of undertaking common action for the transformation of the region into a zone of peace. It will also co-operate with all other peace-loving countries and forces in the world ready to engage in the strengthening of international peace and security, establishing of zones of peace, and solving all open international problems on the basis of the Charter of the United Nations and its basic principles.