General Assembly

Fifteenth special session
Agenda items 9, 10 and 12

REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE PRESENT INTERNATIONAL SITUATION, 
especially in the light of the vital objective of terminating 
the arms race and the pressing need to achieve substantial 
progress in the field of disarmament

ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISIONS AND 
RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS 
TENTH AND TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSIONS

ASSESSMENT OF DEVELOPMENTS AND TRENDS, INCLUDING QUALITATIVE AND 
QUANTITATIVE ASPECTS, RELEVANT TO THE DISARMAMENT PROCESS, WITH 
a view to the elaboration of appropriate concrete and practical 
measures and, if necessary, additional principles, taking duly 
into account the principles and priorities established in the 
final document of the tenth special session of the general 
assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament

Letter dated 7 June 1988 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of 
the Permanent Mission of the German Democratic Republic to 
the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a working paper on 
nuclear-weapon-free zones (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could have this working paper distributed as a 
document of the fifteenth special session of the General Assembly, the third 
special session devoted to disarmament, under agenda items 9, 10 and 12.

(Signed) Dietmar HUCKE 
Ambassador Extraordinary 
and Plenipotentiary 
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
ANNEX

Working paper submitted by the German Democratic Republic on nuclear-weapon-free zones

1. The prevention of a nuclear war and effective measures of nuclear disarmament are urgent tasks. The conclusion of the Treaty between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America on the elimination of their intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles and the progress made by the two countries at their recent Moscow summit towards a 50 per cent reduction of their strategic offensive weapons while observing the ABM Treaty prove that nuclear disarmament can actually be achieved. This is a source of encouragement and motivation for further steps. Necessary are dynamic and resolute actions by all States, both nuclear and non-nuclear, members of politico-military alliances as well as neutral and non-aligned ones.

The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones would contribute substantially to ridding the world of nuclear weapons. This was borne out in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly (resolution S-10/2), where participating States emphasized that "the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned constitutes an important disarmament measure" and that "the process of establishing such zones in different parts of the world should be encouraged with the ultimate objective of achieving a world entirely free of nuclear weapons".

2. Nuclear-weapon-free zones would be an important contribution by non-nuclear-weapon States to the process of nuclear disarmament. Such zones could promote the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and facilitate international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. They would strengthen the security of the States of the region concerned as well as enhance international security as a whole. Furthermore, the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones could be conducive to the promotion of regional co-operation, to the settlement of international conflicts and to agreements on disarmament steps in other areas, e.g. the reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments.

3. Nuclear-weapon-free zones have already become a political reality. The Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Tlatelolco) and the South Pacific Nuclear-Free-Zone Treaty (Treaty of Rarotonga) are banning nuclear weapons from the territories of quite a number of countries and have led to the collection of important practical experience concerning the creation of such zones. Vast areas of the Earth are excluded from the nuclear-arms race by the Antarctic Treaty and the Sea-Bed Treaty.

4. Many proposals have been made to create nuclear-weapon-free zones on the African and Asian continents and other regions. The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in Europe is now more topical than ever before. It is precisely that continent where the concentration of nuclear weapons as well as armed forces and conventional armaments has reached a particularly dangerous level. Many European States advocate and work for the establishment of
nuclear-weapon-free zones in the Balkans and in central and northern Europe. A multilateral dialogue on such zones in the Balkans and northern Europe has been started. Concrete proposals have been put forward by the German Democratic Republic and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic on a nuclear-weapon-free corridor in central Europe.

As a follow-up to the elimination of Soviet and American intermediate-range and shorter-range nuclear missiles, the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free corridor in central Europe - in the process of which the remaining nuclear systems have to be eliminated - would constitute a timely and logical step towards the ultimate goal of ridding the whole continent of nuclear weapons. Closely connected with that idea is the proposal to create a nuclear-weapon-free corridor and a zone of confidence and reduced level of armaments along the line of contact between the Warsaw Treaty and NATO member States.

5. The creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones in different regions presupposes the requisite political will and arrangements freely arrived at by the States of the region concerned, taking into account the characteristics of the region. Agreements on the establishment of such zones must be in harmony with the generally recognized norms of international law, as reiterated at the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. The nuclear-weapon-free status of such zones would be ensured by:

(a) A commitment by non-nuclear-weapon States to renounce the development, manufacture and acquisition of nuclear weapons, as well as direct or indirect control over such weapons;

(b) The prohibition of the stockpiling or stationing of nuclear weapons in the nuclear-weapon-free zones as well as of the transit of such weapons through such zones, including port calls by vessels carrying nuclear weapons;

(c) Undertakings by the nuclear-weapon States strictly to respect the status of the nuclear-weapon-free zone and to refrain from the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons against the States of the zone;

(d) Strict measures of verification of compliance with the agreement on the nuclear-weapon-free zone.

6. It is high time for a comprehensive consideration of the whole question of nuclear-weapon-free zones. To this end, an International Meeting for Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones will be held in Berlin from 20 to 22 June 1988. This should be an international forum for leading representatives of States, Governments and parliaments, political parties, trade unions, youth movements, sporting associations, women's organizations, peace movements, associations of scientists and of artists, churches and religious communities and other interested groups and individuals. The purpose of the International Meeting is to further the dialogue and interaction concerning the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones as a way of ridding the world of nuclear weapons.

7. The third special session ought to attach due attention to the issue of nuclear-weapon-free zones. It should provide a fresh impetus to projects...
concerning the establishment of such zones in different world regions. Hence, the special session could:

(a) Stress the importance of nuclear-free zones for international security and for efforts to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world;

(b) Point to the validity of the principles set out in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session for such zones;

(c) Take note of existing proposals and ongoing regional efforts towards the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones in different regions of the world;

(d) Call upon nuclear-weapon States to co-operate with the respective non-nuclear-weapon States in the establishment of such zones.