Fifteenth special session
Item 10 of the provisional agenda

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

Summary of developments in the field of arms limitation and
disarmament since 1982, including the status of negotiations,
in bilateral and various multilateral forums, called for
under resolution 42/38 J

Report of the Secretary General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its forty-first session, the General Assembly decided to convene the third special session devoted to disarmament in 1988 and to establish an open-ended Preparatory Committee for that purpose (resolution 41/60 G of 3 December 1986). The Preparatory Committee held two sessions in 1986 and 1987 and submitted its report to the General Assembly at its forty-second session. 1/

2. By its resolution 42/40 of 30 November 1987, the General Assembly decided to hold the third special session devoted to disarmament from 31 May to 25 June 1988 and endorsed the report of the Preparatory Committee and the recommendations contained therein. It requested, inter alia, the Secretary-General to prepare necessary documentation, including background material, as might be requested by the Preparatory Committee for the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

3. At its third session, on 5 February 1988, the Preparatory Committee decided to request the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its third special session a summary of developments in the field of arms limitation and disarmament since 1982, including the status of negotiations in bilateral and various multilateral forums. 2/

4. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 36 of the report of the Preparatory Committee and covers developments between July 1982 and March 1988. It confines itself to a brief description of the developments in the various deliberative bodies of the United Nations or in the multilateral negotiating body linked to it, since a detailed account of the developments in those bodies is contained in their special reports to the third special session. 3/

5. In preparing the summary, information was drawn mainly from United Nations publications and documents related to disarmament issues as well as from other public documents and statements relevant to the report that were available to the Secretariat. The summary is therefore not exhaustive.

II. MULTILATERAL EFFORTS AND NEGOTIATIONS IN THE FIELD OF ARMS LIMITATION AND DISARMAMENT

A. Arms limitation and disarmament efforts and negotiations within the framework of the United Nations or linked to it

1. General Assembly

6. During the period from 1982 to 1987, the General Assembly adopted a large number of resolutions and decisions dealing with disarmament and related international security issues. The resolutions and decisions reflected the approaches of Member States to the various questions on the agenda and their efforts to bring about progress on those issues. Since 1982, there has been a slight increase in the annual portion of resolutions adopted without a vote,
marking a certain improvement in harmonizing the varying views of States on some disarmament issues.

7. The number of agenda items allocated to the First Committee at each of its regular sessions has been more or less constant during the period under review, ranging from 29 main agenda items in 1983 to 26 in 1987, including a large number of sub-items. Questions relating to various aspects of nuclear disarmament have continued to comprise much of the First Committee's deliberations and a considerable number of proposals has been submitted by Member States. The General Assembly has adopted resolutions dealing with the cessation of the nuclear-arms race and nuclear disarmament, the prevention of nuclear war, the non-use of nuclear weapons, a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons, a freeze on nuclear weapons, the prohibition of the nuclear neutron weapon, the non-stationing of nuclear weapons in the territory of other States, the prohibition of the production of fissionable materials for weapons purposes, international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, nuclear disarmament, the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and South Asia, unilateral nuclear disarmament measures, South Africa's nuclear capability, and Israeli nuclear disarmament. The positions of the Member States are reflected in statements and documents regarding specific measures for the issues on the agenda.

8. Measures towards the achievement of a nuclear-test ban have remained among the important issues in the deliberations. This has been reflected in many proposals put forward and in various resolutions adopted during the period under review. Although differing in approach with regard to the mandate, those resolutions, inter alia, urged the Conference on Disarmament to consider the question of a nuclear-test ban. There have also been proposals to convert the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water (partial-test-ban Treaty) into a comprehensive one.

9. Particular attention was given to the question of bilateral nuclear-arms negotiations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America and a number of resolutions dealing with the subject were adopted. In 1987, the General Assembly adopted two resolutions and one decision on the issue. By its decision 42/407, which was adopted on 21 October 1987 without a vote, the General Assembly urged the Governments of the Soviet Union and the United States to spare no efforts in concluding a treaty on the elimination of their intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles and to make a similarly intensive effort to achieve a treaty on 50 per cent reductions in their strategic offensive arms within the framework of the Geneva nuclear and space talks.

10. Efforts towards the comprehensive prohibition of chemical weapons have increased steadily over the past years. In its various resolutions on chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons, which were adopted without a vote, the General Assembly has, for a number of years, urged the Conference on Disarmament, as a matter of high priority, to intensify the negotiations on a convention on the complete and effective prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of all chemical weapons and on their destruction, with a view to finalizing the elaboration of the convention at the earliest possible date. There have also been
proposals condemning the use of chemical weapons and a number of resolutions has been adopted on that issue. Regional measures to facilitate the prohibition of chemical weapons were also noted in some resolutions. Measures to uphold the authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol 4/ were discussed in resolution 37/98 D of 13 December 1982, which resulted in a report submitted to the General Assembly by the Secretary-General in 1984 (A/39/488). By General Assembly resolution 42/37 C of 30 November 1987, the Secretary-General was requested, with the assistance of qualified experts, to develop further technical guidelines and procedures available to him for the timely and efficient investigation of such reports of the possible use of chemical and bacteriological (biological) or toxin weapons.

11. The questions of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons, as well as the prohibition, production, stockpiling and use of radiological weapons, have also been the subject of resolutions adopted each year. Regarding the question of radiological weapons, in 1987, the General Assembly again adopted a resolution, without a vote, requesting the Conference on Disarmament to continue its negotiations on the subject with a view to a prompt conclusion of its work (General Assembly resolution 42/38 B of 30 November 1987).

12. The subject of the prevention of an arms race in outer space has received further attention in the period under review and each year resolutions have been submitted by several groups of States or individual Member States. Since 1983, the General Assembly has been able to merge the ideas presented in the various resolutions and has adopted one resolution annually on the subject. In its resolution 42/33 of 30 November 1987, the Assembly again requested the Conference on Disarmament to establish an ad hoc committee with an adequate mandate, with a view to undertaking negotiations for the conclusion of an agreement or agreements, as appropriate, to prevent an arms race in outer space in all its aspects.

13. In recent years, measures towards conventional disarmament, including at the regional level, have gained wider attention. In 1987, three resolutions on the subject were adopted, by which the General Assembly, inter alia, expressed its support for all regional or subregional endeavours, taking into account the characteristics of each region and when the regional situation so permits, as well as unilateral measures; reaffirmed the importance of efforts aimed at resolutely pursuing the limitation and gradual reduction of armed forces and conventional weapons within the framework of progress towards general and complete disarmament; urged the countries with the largest military arsenals and the two military alliances to continue negotiations through various forums on conventional disarmament; and requested the Disarmament Commission to continue the consideration of the question of conventional disarmament.

14. There have also been resolutions dealing with the question of the reduction of military budgets calling, inter alia, for the identification and elaboration of principles that should govern further actions of States in the field of freezing and reducing military budgets; for agreements to freeze, reduce or otherwise restrain military expenditures; the carrying out of studies on the reduction of military budgets; as well as the introduction and use of the international system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures.
15. As the General Assembly was unable to finalize the Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament in 1982, the issue continued to be the subject of various resolutions and decisions.

16. Since its launching in 1982, the question of the World Disarmament Campaign and activities for its implementation have also been the subject of several resolutions. In that context, proposals were made that led to the establishment of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia. Further attention was also given to the observance of Disarmament Week and to the United Nations Programme of Fellowships on Disarmament.

17. By putting forward further proposals, Member States have also drawn the attention of the General Assembly to such questions as the relationship between disarmament and development; confidence-building measures; objective information on military matters, regional disarmament; disarmament and international security; the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament, naval armaments and disarmament, United Nations disarmament studies; compliance with arms limitation and disarmament agreements; and verification in all its aspects.

18. While in some of its resolutions on the various issues in the field of arms limitation and disarmament, the General Assembly has requested the Secretary-General to carry out, with the assistance of a group of experts appointed by him, studies on specific items (see paras. 19 to 21, below), in others, it has requested him to submit annual reports on such issues as the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East; the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia, South Africa's nuclear capability; Disarmament Week; the World Disarmament Campaign; the United Nations Programme of Fellowships on Disarmament; the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies; and the status of multilateral disarmament agreements. Furthermore, the Secretary-General has submitted reports regarding measures to provide objective information on military capabilities; military expenditures in a standardized form, as reported by States; regional disarmament; the climatic effects of nuclear war, including nuclear winter; the prevention of nuclear war; the contribution of specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to the cause of arms limitation and disarmament; the prevention of an arms race in outer space; United Nations disarmament studies; verification in all its aspects; the declaration of the 1980s as the second disarmament decade; conventional disarmament on a regional scale; and on notification of nuclear tests.

19. Since 1982, the Secretary-General has been requested by the General Assembly in a number of resolutions to undertake, with the assistance of qualified governmental or consultant experts, studies on various aspects in the field of arms limitation and disarmament. Following is a list of studies that have been published: (a) Economic and Social Consequences of the Arms Race and of Military Expenditures; 5/ (b) Unilateral Nuclear Disarmament Measures; 6/ (c) Study on All Aspects of the Conventional Arms Race and on Disarmament relating to Conventional Weapons and Armed Forces; 7/ (d) Reduction of Military Budgets: Construction of military price indexes and purchasing-power parities for comparison of military
expenditures; 8/ (e) Concepts of Security; 9/ (f) The Naval Arms Race; 10/ (g) Study on Deterrence: its implications for disarmament and the arms race, negotiated arms reductions and international security and other related matters. 11/ Two further studies, (h) Climatic and other global effects of nuclear war (A/43/351); and (i) Economic and social consequences of the arms race and military expenditures (A/43/368), have been completed and will be presented for consideration at the forty-third session of the General Assembly. They will also be made available to the third special session.

20. Two studies, on nuclear-weapon-free zones and on the military use of research and development, ended without agreed texts in 1985 (see A/40/379 and A/40/533).

21. Furthermore, at the request of the General Assembly, in 1984, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), in co-operation with the Department for Disarmament Affairs and in consultation with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) submitted a report regarding South Africa's nuclear capability (A/39/470). At the request of the Assembly, in 1985, UNIDIR submitted a report regarding Israeli nuclear armament, which was prepared in co-operation with the Department for Disarmament Affairs and in consultation with the League of Arab States and OAU (A/40/520, annex).

22. Established in 1980, UNIDIR is an autonomous institution within the framework of the United Nations that works in close relationship with the Department for Disarmament Affairs. The Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies serves as the Board of Trustees of UNIDIR. Each year, the Secretary-General transmits the report of the Director of UNIDIR on the activities of the Institute to the General Assembly.

23. The Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies was first established in 1978 to make recommendations to the Secretary-General on various aspects of studies carried out under the auspices of the United Nations in the field of arms limitation and disarmament. In discharging its functions, the Board, which meets twice a year, has mainly dealt with disarmament studies in general, the statute and the activities of UNIDIR, the implementation of the World Disarmament Campaign and the situation in the area of disarmament. Since 1983, the Secretary-General has submitted an annual report on the activities of the Board to the General Assembly. In 1987, the Advisory Board presented a report regarding United Nations disarmament studies, as requested by the General Assembly in resolution 40/152 K of 16 December 1985 (A/42/300, annex).

24. During the period under review, the General Assembly continued its deliberations on various issues related to international security and adopted several resolutions each year. Among them were those regarding the review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security; the strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region; the implementation of the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace; and a comprehensive system of international peace and security. In addition, the question of Antarctica was the subject of various proposals.
2. Disarmament Commission

25. Since 1982, three items have been successively included in the agenda of the substantive sessions of the Disarmament Commission, namely, the consideration of various aspects of the arms race, in particular, the nuclear-arms race and nuclear disarmament, and the elaboration of a general approach to negotiations on nuclear and conventional disarmament; the overall question of the reduction of military budgets; and the question of South Africa's nuclear capability.

26. In addition to those items, the Commission considered several other issues in the period from 1983 to 1987, such as the report of the Independent Commission on Disarmament and Security Issues in 1983 and the question of the relationship between disarmament and development in 1984; in 1985 it conducted a preliminary review and assessment of the implementation of the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade. In 1983, 1984 and again in 1986, the Commission considered the question of the elaboration of guidelines for appropriate types of confidence-building measures and for their implementation on a global or regional level. Since 1985, the Disarmament Commission has been extensively discussing the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament. The questions of curbing the arms race, limitation and reduction of naval armaments and extension of confidence-building measures to seas and oceans were included in the agenda in 1985, and in 1986 and 1987, the Commission considered the question of naval armaments and disarmament. Two new items were included in the agenda of the session in 1987, namely, the questions of conventional disarmament and of verification in all its aspects.

27. A summary of the deliberations in the Disarmament Commission on the substantive items that have been on its agenda since 1982 is contained in the report of the Disarmament Commission to the fifteenth special session of the General Assembly. 12/

3. Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean

28. The Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean, which is at present composed of 49 Member States, continued its work, in order to make, inter alia, the necessary preparations for the convening of a Conference on the Indian Ocean, which would consider the effective implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace. The Ad Hoc Committee has held regular sessions each year and submitted its reports to the General Assembly.

29. The work of the Ad Hoc Committee during the past years revealed that the positions of States regarding the convening of the Conference remained unchanged. The members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Eastern European countries were in favour of convening the Conference at Colombo not later than 1988, and maintained that progress had been made in some areas of the preparatory work. The Western States continued to hold the view that an amelioration of the prevailing political and security climate in the Indian Ocean region was essential for the success of the Conference. Nevertheless, the Committee was able to identify and discuss both substantive and procedural issues. In 1987, the Working
Group of the Committee, which was established in 1986, continued the discussion of substantive issues. In its resolution 42/43 of 30 November 1987, the General Assembly, inter alia, requested the Ad Hoc Committee, should the preparatory work not be completed to enable the convening of the Conference in 1988, to complete the remaining work in order to enable the convening of the Conference at an early date, but not later than 1990, and noted that the Ad Hoc Committee will, during its preparatory sessions in 1988, give serious consideration to ways and means of more effectively organizing work in the Ad Hoc Committee to enable it to fulfil its mandate.

30. A summary of the work of the Ad Hoc Committee since 1982 is contained in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean to the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. 13/

4. Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference

31. The Ad Hoc Committee continued its work during the period under review. Until 1987, the Committee met on a regular basis and reported annually to the General Assembly, which each year adopted a resolution, inter alia, renewing the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee. At its sessions, the Ad Hoc Committee reiterated that the idea of a world disarmament conference had received wide support by the membership of the United Nations; however, there were varying degrees of emphasis on, and differences concerning, the conditions and certain aspects related to the question of the convening of such a conference, including aspects related to the deteriorating international situation. With respect to the convening of a world disarmament conference, no consensus has yet been reached among the nuclear-weapon States, whose participation in such a conference is deemed essential by most States Members of the Organization. In 1987, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 41/61 of 3 December 1986, the Secretary-General reported to the General Assembly on the positions of all nuclear-weapon States, as well as of other States, regarding the convening of such a conference.

32. A summary of the deliberations of the Ad Hoc Committee is contained in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference to the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. 14/

5. Conference on Disarmament

33. The agenda of the Conference includes the following substantive items:

1. Nuclear-test ban;

2. Cessation of the nuclear-arms race and nuclear disarmament;

3. Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters;

4. Chemical weapons;

5. Prevention of an arms race in outer space;
6. Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;

7. New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons; and


The item entitled "Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters" was first inscribed on the agenda in 1983 as part of item 2, relating to the cessation of the nuclear-arms race and nuclear disarmament. It became a separate agenda item at the opening of the 1984 session of the Conference.

34. While all agenda items have been considered at plenary meetings of the multilateral negotiating forum and, in the case of items 2 and 3 and the first part of item 7, also at informal meetings, subsidiary bodies were established on the following items at the annual sessions indicated below: nuclear-test ban (1982 and 1983); chemical weapons (1982 and 1988); prevention of an arms race in outer space (1985 to 1988); effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons (1982 to 1985 and 1987 to 1988); radiological weapons (1982 to 1988); and comprehensive programme of disarmament (1982 to 1988).

35. The consideration by the multilateral negotiating forum of the substantive items on its agenda since 1982 and the status of those negotiations being conducted by the Conference on Disarmament is contained in its report to the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. 15/

B. Review conferences on various arms limitation and disarmament agreements


36. The Second Review Conference on the sea-bed Treaty, which entered into force on 18 May 1972, was held at Geneva from 12 to 23 September 1983, in order to permit the exchange of views on the implementation of the Treaty's provisions. In adopting the Final Declaration by consensus, the States parties reaffirmed their common interest in avoiding an arms race involving nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction on the sea-bed; their strong support for the Treaty; their continued dedication to its principles and objectives; and their commitment to implement effectively its provisions. They also recognized the necessity of keeping major technological developments relevant to the Treaty under continuous review. The decision was made to hold a third Review Conference at Geneva, not earlier than 1988 and, in any case, not later than 1990. By resolution 38/188 B of 20 December 1983, the General Assembly, inter alia, welcomed the positive assessments of the Review Conference of the effectiveness of the Treaty as

/...
reflected in its Final Declaration. In accordance with a request contained in the same resolution, the Conference on Disarmament, in 1985, considered the question of additional measures in the field of disarmament for the prevention of an arms race on the sea-bed, the ocean and in the subsoil thereof.

2. First Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques

37. The First Review Conference on the ENMOD Convention, which entered into force on 5 October 1978, was held at Geneva from 10 to 20 September 1984 in order to review the operation of the Convention with a view to ensuring that its purposes and provisions were being realized and, in particular, to examine the effectiveness of the provisions in eliminating the dangers of military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques. In the Final Declaration, adopted by consensus, the States parties reaffirmed their strong common interest in preventing the use of environmental modification techniques for military or any other hostile purposes, their support for the Convention, their continued dedication to its principles and objectives and their commitment to implement effectively its provisions. The Conference also expressed its conviction that, taking into account the relevant understandings and the present state of technology, the provisions of the Convention remained effective in preventing the dangers of military and other hostile use of environmental modification techniques. At the same time, the Conference recognized the necessity of keeping the provisions of article I dealing with the scope of the Convention and the nature of environmental modification techniques under review and examination. The States parties were called upon to provide information on the research on, and the development of, such techniques. It was decided to hold a second Review Conference at Geneva, not earlier than 1989 and if no review conference was held before 1994, the depositary was requested to solicit the views of all States parties concerning the convening of such a conference.

3. Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

38. The Third Review Conference on the non-proliferation Treaty, which entered into force on 5 March 1970, was held at Geneva from 27 August to 21 September 1985. It ended with the adoption of a Final Declaration by consensus, by which the States parties declared, inter alia, their conviction that the Treaty was essential to international peace and security and expressed their continued support for its objectives, including the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, the cessation of the nuclear-arms race, nuclear disarmament and a treaty on general and complete disarmament, as well as the promotion of co-operation between States parties in the field of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. They also reaffirmed their strong commitment to the purposes of the preamble and the provisions of the Treaty and their determination to further broaden and enhance its implementation and strengthen its authority. Although critical of the implementation of the Treaty in
some areas and recommending further strengthening of the international system for non-proliferation in others, the Final Declaration confirmed the continuing validity of the fundamental aims of the Treaty. Many States expressed the view that any further proliferation of nuclear weapons would make the attainment of nuclear disarmament a more remote goal and that it was therefore important to avoid the erosion of the Treaty's strength and credibility. It was proposed that a fourth Review Conference be convened in 1990. In a separate declaration, which immediately follows the Final Declaration as part of the Final Document, the members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and neutral States participating in the Conference clarified their views regarding the questions of a comprehensive nuclear-test ban, a moratorium on nuclear-weapons testing and a quantitative and qualitative freeze of nuclear weapons.

4. Second Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

39. The Second Review Conference on the biological weapons Convention, which entered into force on 26 March 1975, was held at Geneva from 8 to 25 September 1986, in order to ensure that the provisions of the Convention were being realized and to enable consideration of relevant new scientific developments. Despite various differences, including the questions of compliance and verification procedures, a Final Declaration was adopted by consensus. By adopting the Final Document, the States parties recognized the continuing importance of the Convention and its objectives; affirmed their belief that universal adherence to the Convention would, inter alia, facilitate the wider exchange of information for the use of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins for peaceful purposes; and reaffirmed their strong support and continued dedication to the principles and objectives of the Convention. It was decided to hold a third Review Conference at Geneva not later than 1991. It was also decided to convene an ad hoc meeting of scientific and technical experts from States parties to the Convention to finalize the modalities for the exchange of information and data. In accordance with that decision, an ad hoc meeting of scientific and technical experts from States parties to the Convention was held at Geneva from 31 March to 15 April 1987, at which a report finalizing the modalities for the exchange of information and data agreed to in the Final Declaration was adopted by consensus, thus enabling States parties to follow a standardized procedure. In their report, the experts agreed that information should be provided annually through the Department for Disarmament Affairs, which will be responsible for forwarding the information to all States parties to the Convention.

C. International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development

40. By resolution 39/160 of 17 December 1984, the General Assembly decided to hold an International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development and to establish a Preparatory Committee. Originally scheduled to be held in Paris
in 1986, the Conference was postponed until 1987. In 1986, a panel of eminent personalities in the field of Disarmament and Development was convened, which unanimously adopted a Joint Declaration.

41. As decided by the General Assembly in its decision 41/422 of 4 December 1986, the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development was held from 24 August to 11 September 1987 in New York. It considered three agenda items: (a) the relationship between disarmament and development in all its aspects and dimensions with a view to reaching appropriate conclusions; (b) the implications of the level and magnitude of military expenditures, in particular those of nuclear-weapon States and other militarily important States, for the world economy and the international economic and social situation, particularly for the developing countries and formulation of appropriate recommendations for remedial measures; and (c) ways and means of releasing additional resources through disarmament measures for development purposes, in particular for the benefit of developing countries.

42. In the Final Document of the Conference (A/CONF.130/39), which was adopted by consensus, the participating States recognized that, while disarmament and development were distinct processes that should each be pursued vigorously, regardless of the pace of progress in the other, they had a close and multidimensional relationship, which was in part derived from the fact that the continuing global arms race and development compete for the same finite resources. In the Final Document, it was further stated that, in the relationship between disarmament and development, security played a crucial role. It was pointed out that progress in any of the three areas would have a positive effect on the others. According to the Final Document, security consisted of not only military, but also political, economic, social, humanitarian and human rights, and ecological aspects. The Final Document of the Conference included an Action Programme intended to foster an interrelated perspective on disarmament, development and security; to promote multilateralism as the international framework for shaping the relationship between disarmament, development and security; and to strengthen the central role of the United Nations in the interrelated fields of disarmament and development. The United Nations system was requested to monitor trends in military spending; to promote collective knowledge of non-military threats to security; and to facilitate exchanges of experience in the field of conversion.

43. The United States of America did not participate in the preparations for the Conference or in the Conference itself, on the grounds that it saw no inherent relationship between disarmament and development. The United States subsequently explained that the decision not to participate was not to be seen as a sign of a decrease in that country's support for arms control and disarmament or for international economic development. The United States was of the view that it was doubtful that resource transfers from the developed to the developing world constituted the basic engine of development; disarmament should, therefore, be pursued for its own merits, not for its possible contribution to development.

44. In resolution 42/45 of 30 November 1987, the General Assembly welcomed the adoption of the Final Document of the International Conference, as contained in its report to the Assembly. By the same resolution, it also called for the
relationship between disarmament and development to be placed on the agenda of the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. Furthermore, it requested the Secretary-General to take action through the appropriate organs, within available resources, for the implementation of the action programme as adopted at the International Conference.

D. United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy

45. By resolution 35/112 of 5 December 1980, the General Assembly decided to hold the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy in 1983, and established a Preparatory Committee. At its meetings, substantial differences emerged between the developed and developing States with regard to the purposes of the Conference and the way in which it should be conducted. Therefore, the Conference was not held until 1987, at Geneva from 23 March to 10 April. It provided for a comprehensive exchange of views on the question of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. While the participants recognized that the economic and social development and prosperity of all States could benefit from the peaceful use of nuclear energy, the discussions revealed marked differences of opinion. The Conference was thus unable to reach agreement on principles universally acceptable for international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and appropriate ways to such co-operation. Nevertheless, the Conference considered that the technical reports presented and the discussion that took place on the role of nuclear power and of other peaceful applications of nuclear energy for economic and social development could be used in planning national programmes for the development, use and safety of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

E. Activities undertaken within the framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency relevant to the subject of the report

46. Following the announcement by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics at the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament that it would place part of its peaceful nuclear installations under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards, the Soviet Union entered into negotiations on such an agreement with IAEA. The relevant agreement entered into force on 10 June 1985 and the first inspections were carried out in August 1985. At the IAEA General Conference in September 1985, China announced its readiness to place some of its civilian nuclear installations under IAEA safeguards. The negotiations for such an agreement are still under way. IAEA safeguards have been applied to some of the peaceful nuclear facilities of France since 1981, the United Kingdom since 1978 and the United States since 1980.

47. The questions of the nuclear capability of South Africa and of Israel have continued to be the subject of discussion and of resolutions at the General Conferences of IAEA. The General Conference in 1987 considered the question of South Africa's nuclear capability and in particular, the suspension of South
Africa's membership in IAEA. In its resolution GC(XXXI)/Res/485, the General Conference, inter alia, resolved to consider and take a decision on the recommendation of the Board of Governors to suspend South Africa from the exercise of the privileges and rights of membership, in accordance with article XIX.B of the Statute, at its thirty-second regular session in 1988. At the session, a statement issued by the South African State President, announcing South Africa's readiness to commence negotiations with each of the nuclear-weapon States on the possibility of signing the non-proliferation Treaty and to consider including in these negotiations safeguards on its installations subject to non-proliferation Treaty conditions, was circulated as an official document of the General Conference (A/42/649). To date, there are no reports on the commencement of those negotiations. On 25 September 1987, the General Conference of IAEA also adopted resolution GC(XXXI)/Res/470 on Israel's nuclear capabilities and threat, by which it, inter alia, demanded that Israel place all its nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards in compliance with Security Council resolution 487 (1981); and requested the Director General to report to the Board of Governors of IAEA, and to the next session of the General Conference, on Israeli nuclear capabilities and threat.

III. REGIONAL ARMS LIMITATION AND DISARMAMENT EFFORTS AND NEGOTIATIONS

48. In recent years, several proposals and initiatives have been submitted regarding various regional measures in the fields of arms limitation and disarmament, such as the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, zones of peace and co-operation, confidence-building and conventional disarmament, some of which have already led to tangible results.

A. Africa

49. In August 1985, an OAU regional Conference on Security, Disarmament and Development was held at the ministerial level at Lomé. In the Lomé Declaration and Programme of Action (A/40/761-S/17573), which were adopted at the Conference, the participating States, inter alia, emphasized the importance of measures to ensure peace, security, disarmament and development, through regional co-operation in Africa. They also called upon the Secretary-General to create as soon as possible a United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa. Subsequently, the General Assembly, in 1985, adopted resolution 40/151 G, by which it decided to establish the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa. The Regional Centre was inaugurated in October 1986 at Lomé.

50. The questions related to the implementation of the Declaration of the Denuclearization of Africa and to South Africa's nuclear capability have been on the OAU agenda for a considerable number of years. In addition, the General Assembly has continued to adopt each year resolutions initiated by members of the African Group dealing with the implementation of the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa and with South Africa's nuclear capability. By resolution 42/34 A of 30 November 1987, the General Assembly, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to provide all necessary assistance that OAU may seek
regarding the modalities and elements for the preparation and implementation of the relevant convention or treaty on the denuclearization of Africa. By its resolution 42/34 B, regarding South Africa's nuclear capability, the General Assembly, *inter alia*, reaffirmed that the acquisition of nuclear-weapon capability by the racist régime constitutes a very grave danger to international peace and security and, in particular, jeopardizes the security of African States and increases the danger of the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The Secretary-General was requested to follow closely South Africa's evolution in the nuclear field and to report his findings to the General Assembly. The latest of those reports of the Secretary-General, which as in previous years was based on material provided by IAEA containing information on recent developments regarding that issue, was submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-second session in 1987 (A/42/649).

B. *Asia and the Pacific*

**South Pacific Nuclear-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Rarotonga)**

51. On 11 December 1986, the South Pacific Nuclear-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Rarotonga) entered into force with nine members of the South Pacific Forum having ratified it as of 31 December 1987. The Treaty established a large nuclear-free zone in the South Pacific. The established zone stretches from the west of Australia to the boundary of the Latin American nuclear-weapon-free zone to the east, and from the equator to the boundary of the Antarctica demilitarized zone to the south. The authors of the Treaty recognized, however, that parties to it could be responsible only for actions regarding their own ships and aircraft; consequently, nothing in the Treaty affects the exercise of the rights of any States under international law with regard to freedom of the seas. The Treaty provides, *inter alia*, that each State party to the Treaty undertakes not to manufacture, acquire, possess or have control over any nuclear device inside or outside the zone. Moreover, each party undertakes to conduct any nuclear activities in cooperation with other States in accordance with strict non-proliferation measures to provide assurance of exclusively peaceful non-explosive use, and to support the effectiveness of the international non-proliferation system based on the non-proliferation Treaty and the safeguards system of IAEA. While exercising its sovereign right to decide for itself whether to allow foreign ships (which may be nuclear-powered or nuclear-armed) to visit its ports or to navigate its territorial seas, or foreign aircraft to visit its airfields or fly over its airspace, each party undertakes to prevent any nuclear explosive device from being stationed in its territory, and also undertakes not to test any such device or to assist others to do so. It further undertakes not to dump radioactive waste anywhere at sea within the zone and to prevent such dumping by anyone in its territorial sea.

52. Three protocols are integral parts of the Treaty. Under Protocol 1, those States outside the zone which have jurisdiction over territories within the zone (France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States) upon becoming parties to the Protocol, would undertake to apply the Treaty's key provisions to those territories. Under Protocol 2, all five nuclear-weapon States, upon becoming parties to it, would undertake not to use or threaten to use nuclear
53. The proposal for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia has regularly been included in the agenda of the General Assembly. In resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, initiated by Pakistan, the General Assembly, inter alia, has reaffirmed its endorsement, in principle, of the concept of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia, urged States of the region to continue to make all possible efforts to establish such a zone; and requested the Secretary-General to render such assistance as might be required to that end. However, as yet, there has been no concrete achievement as differing points of views regarding the issue still persist. One of the views held is that nuclear-weapon-free zones could be established exclusively on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region and taking into account the characteristics of the region. In South Asia, according to that view, nuclear weapons exist and continue to proliferate adjacent to the proposed zone, which makes the relevance and efficacy of the proposal rather unrealistic.

54. In recent years, Member States of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) have once again referred to the implementation of the Declaration issued by the ASEAN countries in 1971, describing a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality in South-East Asia (A/C.1/1019). In April 1983, at a plenary meeting of the Committee on Disarmament at Geneva, Indonesia suggested that the States in South-East Asia should establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in a region covering Indonesia, Kampuchea, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. At their summit meeting in December 1987, the ASEAN States, inter alia, emphasized that ASEAN should intensify its efforts towards the early establishment of a South-East Asia nuclear-weapon-free zone, including the continuation of the consideration of all aspects relating to the establishment of the zone and of an appropriate instrument to establish the zone.

55. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea expressed its support in 1986 and 1987 for the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in the peninsula, for converting the military demarcation line into a zone of peace and for measures of arms reduction to be carried out by 1992. It also announced the carrying out of reductions in its army by 100,000 men. The Republic of Korea expressed the view that talks on reduction of armed forces in the Korean peninsula can bear concrete results only when confidence is restored and peace consolidated through exchanges and co-operation between the south and the north on the basis of specific arrangements for maintaining peace and security.
56. Further to its 1985 announcement (A/40/411 and A/40/PV.14), China declared in March 1987 that measures for the reduction of its armed forces by one million personnel had been completed and that parts of military facilities were being converted into civilian services. Moreover, with respect to the question of nuclear testing, on 21 March 1986, China announced that it would not in the future conduct any more atmospheric nuclear tests (A/41/230).

57. In July 1986, the Soviet Union proposed measures for reducing naval activities as a substantive confidence-building measure in the Pacific region and announced the Soviet Union's willingness to discuss steps radically to reduce armed forces and conventional weapons in Asia (A/41/505). Some States of the region, however, were doubtful that the existing overall situation in the region would make the proposal feasible.

58. Efforts to establish a regional and institutional arrangement for the implementation of the World Disarmament Campaign in Asia, taking into account the establishment of United Nations regional centres in other regions, were undertaken by States of that region. At the initiative of Nepal, the General Assembly adopted resolution 42/39 D, by which it decided to establish the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia with headquarters at Kathmandu.

C. Europe

Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe

59. The issue of confidence- and security-building measures and disarmament has been under discussion within the framework of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. Having adopted the Helsinki Final Act in 1975, the 35 participating States held major follow-up meetings at Belgrade from 1977 to 1978, and at Madrid from 1980 to 1983.

60. One of the major results of the Madrid follow-up meeting was the agreement by the participating States to convene a Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe. The aim of the Conference, which was to be seen as a substantial and integral part of the multilateral process initiated by the Helsinki Conference, was to undertake, in stages, new, effective and concrete actions designed to make progress in strengthening confidence and security and in achieving disarmament. The first stage of the Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe opened on 17 January 1984, at Stockholm. On 19 September 1986, the 35 participating States adopted the Document of the Stockholm Conference, which contained a set of concrete, militarily significant, politically binding and verifiable confidence- and security-building measures. The agreed measures included, for example, the prior notification and observation of certain military activities, exchange of annual calendars of military activities subject to prior notification, as well as compliance and verification provisions. In adopting the Stockholm Document, the participating States stressed that the confidence- and security-building measures were designed to reduce the dangers of armed conflict and of misunderstanding or...
miscalculation of military activities and emphasized that their implementation would contribute to those objectives. They reaffirmed their determination to continue building confidence, to lessen military confrontation and to enhance security for all. They also declared their determination to achieve progress in disarmament.

61. The third follow-up meeting of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe began in November 1986, at Vienna. In the course of that meeting, the participating States positively assessed the Stockholm Document as well as the measures undertaken for the implementation of its provisions. During the deliberations, a certain understanding has emerged that negotiations/talks on conventional reductions/stability should be held between the States concerned. Further negotiations on new confidence- and security-building measures among the 35 participating States will also be held. To date, no agreement has been reached on a number of questions related to the mandates of the bodies to negotiate those two different issues.

**Mutual reduction of forces and armaments and associated measures in Central Europe**

62. Negotiations on the mutual reduction of forces and armaments and associated measures in Central Europe first opened at Vienna in October 1973 and since then have constituted an important regional effort. The member States of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and the States Parties to the Treaty of Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Assistance (Warsaw Treaty) participating in the negotiations are Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States. Furthermore, Bulgaria, Denmark, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Romania, and Turkey participate with special status.

63. Notwithstanding some rapprochement of positions, no results have been achieved. Western participants have maintained that there is a considerable disparity of forces in terms of manpower and equipment, which, together with geography, favours the Eastern side. Any agreement on the reduction and limitation of forces designed to achieve a more stable relationship should therefore, in their view, provide for the elimination of the existing imbalance by implementing adequate reductions which should not necessarily be the same for both sides. Eastern participants, however, have maintained that there is approximate equality between the forces of the two sides and that, consequently, the reduction of armed forces, along with their combat equipment, by equal percentages or the reduction in numbers on the basis of an equitable mutually-agreed solution, would be the most appropriate way of preserving the existing equilibrium, but at a lower level of forces. Generally speaking, there is broad agreement on the ceiling of forces to be deployed (some 900,000 on each side in the areas of Belgium, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Poland). Although readiness has emerged to address questions of asymmetry, there have been differences between the two sides with respect to the numbers currently stationed in the area, as well as on procedures to verify the withdrawals.
Other proposals and measures

64. A number of proposals aimed at specific disarmament measures in Europe or its various sub-regions have been made at various times in the past few years. Those proposals have included:

(a) The recommendation by the Independent Commission on Disarmament and Security Issues in 1982 to establish a zone free of battlefield nuclear weapons in Central Europe (A/CN.10/38). This scheme was to be implemented in the context of an agreement on parity and mutual force reductions in Central Europe. No nuclear munitions would be permitted in the zone. The proposal implied the withdrawal of short-range nuclear missiles, mines and artillery from a corridor with a width of 150 kilometres on either side of the borderline between East and West;

(b) The establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free corridor in Central Europe, upon the initiative of Czechoslovakia and the German Democratic Republic, which at first would range approximately 150 kilometres on each side of the borderline dividing Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany, with a subsequent expansion to cover the entire area of Central Europe as defined for the purposes of the Vienna talks on mutual reductions of armed forces and armament in Central Europe (A/42/333 and A/42/343);

(c) The above-mentioned countries have also proposed the creation of a zone free of chemical weapons in Europe, in particular in Central Europe and, for that purpose, the initiation of negotiations between Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany on the establishment of such a zone, which, to begin with, would comprise the territories of those three States (A/C.1/40/2);

(d) A proposal by the member States of the Warsaw Treaty on freeing Europe from chemical weapons; 16/

(e) The gradual withdrawal and/or reduction of specified, mutually agreed kinds and quantities of conventional weapons in Central Europe, aimed at decreasing armaments and increasing confidence in that region (Jaruzelski-Plan) (A/42/413);

(f) The establishment of a zone of confidence, co-operation and good-neighbourly relations along the line of contact between the Warsaw Treaty States and the NATO States proposed by Czechoslovakia (A/43/214), comprising in equal measure the military, political, economic, ecological and humanitarian fields;

(g) The establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in northern Europe, as well as measures aimed at limiting naval activities in the sea areas adjacent to northern Europe, proposed by Finland;

(h) The establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone and zone of peace and co-operation in the Balkans, initially proposed by Bulgaria; the establishment of a chemical-weapon-free zone in the Balkans (A/41/37).
65. It should be noted that the above-mentioned proposals have been discussed both within and outside the United Nations, but to date have not found general acceptance.

66. During the past years, there has also been a number of statements, on behalf of both military alliances in Europe, elaborating on measures that relate, inter alia, to the reduction of armed forces and of conventional and nuclear weapons. There has also been a proposal by the Warsaw Treaty member States for consultations in order to compare the military doctrines of the two alliances (A/42/313-S/18888).

D. Latin America

Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Treaty of Tlatelolco)

67. As of 31 December 1987, the Treaty of Tlatelolco had been ratified by 25 eligible States and was in force for the 23 States which had waived the requirements for entry into force that all States in the zone be parties to the Treaty, that all States to which the Protocols apply adhere to them and that relevant safeguards agreements be concluded with IAEA.

68. The question of the signature and ratification of Additional Protocol I of the Treaty of Tlatelolco has continued to be the subject of resolutions in recent years. By adopting resolution 42/25 in 1987, the General Assembly again deplored that the signature of Additional Protocol I by France, which took place on 2 March 1979, had not yet been followed by the corresponding ratification, notwithstanding the time already elapsed and the pressing invitations which the General Assembly had addressed to it, and once more urged France not to delay any further such ratification. During the deliberations in the First Committee in 1987, France stated that it would, in due course, take the necessary decision regarding the ratification of Additional Protocol I in the light of the state of ratification of the Treaty itself.

Other initiatives

69. Latin American and Caribbean countries have on many occasions expressed interest in establishing a United Nations regional centre for peace, disarmament and development in Latin America. At their initiative, the General Assembly adopted resolution 41/60 J of 3 December 1986, by which it decided to establish the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America. The Regional Centre was inaugurated in October 1987 at Lima.

E. The Mediterranean

70. The question of the strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region was given further consideration, inter alia, in several resolutions adopted by the General Assembly. In 1983, the Secretary-General...
submitted a report to the General Assembly (A/38/395), which summarized the various approaches of Member States on the question.

71. The issue has also been the subject of efforts by the non-aligned countries, in particular the non-aligned Mediterranean countries. At their summit conferences, held at New Delhi in 1983, and at Harare in 1986, as well as at the meetings of the non-aligned Mediterranean countries, held at Valletta, Malta, in 1984 and more recently in Brioni, Yugoslavia, in 1987, by the declarations that were adopted, those countries reaffirmed their interest in, inter alia, transforming the Mediterranean into a region of peace, security and co-operation, and the need for concerted action aimed at reducing tensions in the region.

72. Within the framework of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, the 35 participating States have also extensively discussed the issue. In the Concluding Document, adopted at the Madrid meeting, in September 1983, the participating States, inter alia, reaffirmed their intention to contribute to peace, security and justice in the Mediterranean region. In the Document of the Stockholm Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe, the participating States referred to the provisions contained in the Mediterranean chapter of the Helsinki Final Act and confirmed their intention to develop good-neighbourly relations with all States of the region.

73. Recently, there have been further initiatives regarding the strengthening of peace and security in the Mediterranean region. In March 1988, the Soviet Union put forward new proposals designed to limit the potential of naval forces in the Mediterranean, to reach agreement on confidence-building measures relating to that region and to ensure the safety of shipping lanes.

F. The Middle East

74. Annually, the General Assembly, at the initiative of Egypt, has adopted resolutions regarding the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. In those resolutions, the General Assembly, inter alia, has urged the parties concerned to consider taking steps for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and to adhere to the non-proliferation Treaty. The proposal has met with wide acceptance in the General Assembly, with Israel joining in the adoption, without a vote, of those resolutions. Israel has, however, expressed some reservations regarding the implementation of the measure, stating that the establishment of such a zone could take place only through direct and free negotiations among the sovereign States of the region.

75. In addition, every year, the Assembly has adopted related resolutions by which it, inter alia, has condemned Israel's refusal to renounce any possession of nuclear weapons; and requested the Secretary-General to closely follow Israeli nuclear activities. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 41/93, the Secretary-General in 1987 submitted a report to the General Assembly at its forty-second session, entitled "Israeli nuclear armament" (A/42/581) which updated the 1981 Study on Israeli Nuclear Armament. 17/ Separately, the questions of armed Israeli aggression in 1981 against the Iraqi nuclear installation at Osirak were

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continuously discussed by the General Assembly in the period from 1981 to 1986, resulting in the adoption of a resolution on the issue each year.

G. South Atlantic

76. On the initiative of Brazil, the General Assembly included a new item of its forty-first session, entitled "Zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic", and adopted resolution 41/11, sponsored by a group of mainly African and Latin American States, by which it declared the Atlantic Ocean, in the region situated between Africa and South America, a zone of peace and co-operation. In 1987, the Secretary-General submitted a report on the item to the General Assembly containing the views of Member States (A/42/557 and Corr.1 and 2).

IV. BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

77. Although bilateral in nature, negotiations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America have repeatedly been a main subject of debate and deliberations in United Nations forums. Both countries have informed the General Assembly, on various occasions, as to the status of their negotiations; the General Assembly has regularly adopted resolutions on the subject.

A. Negotiations on nuclear and space arms

78. After a 13-month break in the talks between the Soviet Union and the United States on both strategic and intermediate/medium-range nuclear weapons, the two sides, having met in January 1985 at Geneva at the Foreign-Minister level, agreed to hold new negotiations on a complex of questions concerning space and nuclear weapons, both strategic and intermediate/medium-range, with all those questions considered and resolved in their interrelationship. The stated objective of the negotiations was to work out effective agreements aimed at preventing an arms race in space and terminating it on earth, at limiting and reducing nuclear arms and at strengthening strategic stability. 18/ Following the commencement of the nuclear and space talks, in March 1985, numerous proposals and counterproposals were tabled by both parties, but important differences of opinion remained throughout 1985 and 1986. On 15 January 1986, the Soviet Union submitted a proposal aimed at the reduction of nuclear weapons and their complete elimination by the year 2000 through a stage-by-stage process (A/41/97). The United States responded that it found some aspects of the proposal interesting; however, it emphasized the need for carefully negotiated, verifiable reductions and remained sceptical about the practicability of sweeping proposals.

79. After the meeting of President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev in Reykjavik, in October 1986, both sides moved closer to an agreement on the issue of intermediate/medium-range nuclear missiles. The remaining problems were resolved in the course of 1987, and on 8 December, the Treaty on the elimination of their
intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles was signed (see sect. B, below).
Concerning strategic offensive arms, the two sides, having made significant
progress at their summit meeting in Washington, D.C., December 1987, toward the
conclusion of a treaty implementing the principle of 50 per cent reductions,
decided to instruct their negotiators at Geneva to work toward the completion of a
treaty at the earliest possible date. Among the issues that require further
attention in this regard are subceilings on certain types of strategic offensive
arms, effective verification procedures and the timetable for reductions.
Furthermore, the negotiations so far have indicated that the speedy conclusion of a
treaty may be dependent on progress on other issues, such as weapons deployed in
space and, in that context, the interpretation of the 1972 Treaty between the
United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the
Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems (ABM Treaty), over which the United
States and the Soviet Union remain divided.

B. Treaty between the United States of America and
the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the
Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and
Shorter-Range Missiles

80. On 8 December 1987, President Ronald Reagan and General Secretary
Mikhail Gorbachev signed the Treaty between the United States of America and the
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range
and Shorter-Range Missiles (INF Treaty). The Treaty was the result of long and
patient negotiations between the two States and its conclusion has been universally
welcomed.

81. Talks on intermediate-range/medium-range missiles began as part of the Geneva
negotiations on space and nuclear arms in March 1985, as discussed in paragraph 78
above. They led to the final conclusion of the Treaty in 1987. In the joint
statement, issued at the conclusion of their Washington, D.C. Summit meeting in
December 1987, the leaders of the United States and the Soviet Union stated that
"this Treaty is historic both for its objective - the complete elimination of an
entire class of United States and Soviet nuclear arms - and for the innovative
character and scope of its verification provisions. This mutual accomplishment
makes a vital contribution to greater stability" (A/43/58).

82. The Treaty covers ground-launched ballistic missiles (GLBM) and
ground-launched cruise missiles (GLCM) of "intermediate-range"
(1,000-5,500 kilometres) and of "shorter-range" (500-1,000 kilometres).
Intermediate-range missiles would be eliminated not later than three years, and all
shorter-range missiles not later than 18 months, after the Treaty's entry into
force. Integral parts of the Treaty, which consists of a preamble and 17 articles,
are a protocol on procedures governing the elimination of the missile systems and a
protocol regarding inspections, as well as a memorandum of understanding on data,
giving the locations, numbers and characteristics of each side's intermediate-range
and shorter-range missiles.
83. In the preamble, the parties express their conviction that the measures set forth in the Treaty will help to reduce the risk of outbreak of war. They recall their obligations under article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The basic obligation of the two parties consists of an undertaking to eliminate their intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles together with their launchers, all support structures and support equipment. The most notable aspect of the Treaty is found in its verification provisions. The Treaty builds upon verification arrangements previously agreed on between the two sides, but also adds important new forms, which together cover all known principles for a reasonably reliable verification system. Thus, the verification triad agreed to consists of the following: on-site inspection, inspection by challenge and national technical means of verification. The Treaty also establishes a special verification commission to resolve questions relating to compliance with the obligations assumed, and to agree on such measures as might be necessary to improve the viability and effectiveness of the Treaty.

C. Nuclear risk reduction centres

84. Following the agreement reached at the summit meeting in November 1985 at Geneva between President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev to study at the expert level the questions of the establishment of nuclear risk reduction centres, on 15 September 1987, the two sides signed the Agreement on the Establishment of Nuclear Risk Reduction Centres, which entered into force on the date of the signature. According to the Agreement, which also includes two protocols, each side agrees to establish, in its capital, a national Nuclear Risk Reduction Centre. Those centres would serve as confidence-building measures intended to reduce the risk that nuclear war might be initiated by miscalculation, accident, or misunderstanding. They would also transmit information exchanges and notifications, as required under current agreements between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, such as the Agreement on Measures to Reduce the Risk of Outbreak of Nuclear War, of 1971, and the Agreement on the Prevention of Incidents on and over the High Seas, of 1972. They are not intended to replace other arrangements undertaken between both sides, such as the Agreement on Measures to Improve the USA-USSR Direct Communications Link (Hot-line agreement) of 1963. The centres would also be used to exchange data and provide notifications as required by the relevant paragraphs of the Treaty on the elimination of intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles, and the protocol on elimination. It is understood that the centres began operation in April 1988.

D. Nuclear testing

85. After trilateral negotiations on a nuclear-test ban were suspended in 1980, no further talks were held until July 1986, when the Soviet Union and the United States agreed to begin preliminary discussions on issues related to nuclear testing and, following further consideration of those issues, convened in a second, more substantive session in September of the same year. Since then, further rounds of those talks have been held.
86. The Soviet Union publicly declared and implemented a unilateral moratorium on all nuclear tests as of 6 August 1985, which was extended four times and eventually lasted until 26 February 1987. Its aim was to enhance confidence and to facilitate the bridging of differences in the discussion on the issue between the two sides. However, the United States, among others, did not accept a moratorium as a substitute for a negotiated, binding treaty, and continued to regard agreed reduction of numbers of nuclear weapons as a more urgent issue. At the same time, it continued to emphasize the need for more precise means of verification and measurement of limitations on permitted tests.

87. In connection with the important question of verification of nuclear testing, the Six-Nation Initiative in its Mexico Declaration, adopted in August 1986, offered to assist in the monitoring of a moratorium or ban on nuclear weapon tests. They proposed, inter alia, the establishment and operation, together with the United States and the Soviet Union, of temporary, and later permanent, monitoring stations at existing test sites, and the "internationalization" of a number of selected stations in each of the two nuclear-weapon countries by placing observers there (A/41/518).

88. In September 1987, the Soviet Union and the United States announced their agreement to begin full scale stage-by-stage negotiations on nuclear testing, before 1 December 1987. In their joint statement on that issue, it was stated that, in those negotiations, both sides as the first step would agree upon effective verification measures, which would make it possible to ratify the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Limitation of Underground Nuclear Weapon Tests (threshold test-ban Treaty) of 1974, and the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on Underground Nuclear Explosions for Peaceful Purposes, of 1976, and to proceed to negotiating further intermediate limitations on nuclear testing leading to the ultimate objective of the complete cessation of nuclear testing as part of an effective disarmament process. Among other things, that process would pursue, as the first priority, the goal of the reduction of nuclear weapons and, ultimately, their elimination. For the purpose of the elaboration of improved verification measures of the above-mentioned United States-Union of Soviet Socialist Republics Treaties of 1974 and 1976, the sides announced their intention to design and conduct joint verification experiments at each other's test sites. Those verification measures will, to the extent appropriate, be used in further nuclear-test-limitation agreements that may subsequently be reached. The negotiations began on 9 November 1987.

89. At the December 1987 summit meeting held in Washington, D.C., President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev welcomed the opening of full scale stage-by-stage negotiations on nuclear testing. They also welcomed the prompt agreement by the sides to exchange expert visits to each other's nuclear testing site in January 1988 and to design and subsequently conduct a joint verification experiment at each other's test site. The terms of reference for the experiment were set forth in a separate statement issued on 9 December 1987. President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev also noted the value of these agreements for developing more effective measures to verify compliance with the provisions of the 1974 and 1976 Treaties (A/43/58). The first visits to each other's test sites were undertaken in January 1988.
Notes


2/ Ibid., Fifteenth Special Session, Supplement No. 1 (A/S-15/1), para. 36.


5/ A/37/386 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.IX.2).

6/ A/39/516 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IX.2).

7/ A/39/348 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IX.1).

8/ A/40/421 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.IX.2).

9/ A/40/553 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.IX.1).

10/ A/40/535 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.IX.3).

11/ A/41/432 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.87.IX.2).


13/ Ibid., Supplement No. 5 (A/S-15/5).

14/ Ibid., Supplement No. 4 (A/S-15/4).

15/ Ibid., Supplement No. 2 (A/S-15/2).

16/ CD/437.

17/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.IX.2.

18/ CD/570 and CD/571.