Fifteenth special session
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE
FIFTEENTH SPECIAL SESSION
Agenda items 10, 11, 12 and 13

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

CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME
OF DISARMAMENT

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

CONSIDERATION OF THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE
FIELD OF DISARMAMENT AND OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE
DISARMAMENT MACHINERY

Elimination of foreign military presence and military bases abroad

Working paper submitted by the delegation of the
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

1. The Soviet Union proposes that the year 2000 should be set as a target for the
elimination of foreign military presence and military bases abroad.

The USSR would be prepared for a radical solution of this issue even earlier,
but, taking into account world realities and the international agreements in force
concerning military bases and sites, as well as the concern of our prospective negotiating partners, it proposes a process of gradual, step-by-step advance. The end result should be the withdrawal of all armed forces (land-based troops, air and naval forces and others) from all military bases in foreign territory in all regions of the world.

2. In the various regions of the world, the solution to this problem should take into account the specific situation and the real security and defence requirements. Where Europe is concerned, the curtailment and elimination of foreign military presence should be viewed in the context of the proposals for the limitation of the armed forces and armaments of the States members of the Warsaw Treaty Organization and NATO, the simultaneous disbandment of military-political alliances, etc.

3. Starting points or intermediate steps towards eliminating foreign military presence in other regions could, subject to agreement, take the form of:

(a) Non-intensification of military presence and military activity beyond national boundaries, including an obligation not to set up new bases, especially in conflict regions, and not to extend the activity of existing military bases and troop contingents to territories and regions where there are no such bases;

(b) Prohibition of, or limitations on, the siting at military facilities abroad of the most dangerous types of weapons (nuclear and chemical weapons) and of specific forms of military activity (for example electronic surveillance, etc.);

(c) Reduction of military presence and military bases in the first instance in regions of actual or potential conflict, for example the Middle East, the Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean;

(d) Non-extension of the validity of agreements on bases, accompanied by a commitment not to transfer to third countries the troops withdrawn and the bases closed, or to take other "compensating" steps.

4. It would be useful for the States Members of the United Nations to submit to the Secretary-General, on a regular basis, data on their military presence abroad and on foreign military presence in their territory.

5. Measures to reduce and eliminate foreign military presence and military bases abroad presume the conduct of extremely strict verification by means of a combination of national and international means, including access to bases for inspection in order to ascertain that activity prohibited by a given agreement or actions to circumvent it are not being conducted there. The experience acquired in the course of drafting the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles shows that access to military bases for inspection is feasible in principle. It is also possible on a multilateral basis.

6. One extremely promising possibility is that of involving the United Nations, as necessary, in international verification of the reduction of foreign military presence and the stage-by-stage withdrawal of troops from foreign territory to
within national frontiers. This would be an important component of the international verification mechanism under United Nations auspices proposed by the Soviet Union. In the course of the implementation of these proposals, the USSR would be prepared to agree to any necessary forms of verification by the United Nations of the process of reduction and elimination of the Soviet military presence abroad, including the invitation of observers and on-site inspections.

7. In cases where there was a need for foreign troops to maintain peace, these functions would devolve upon the United Nations, whose peace-keeping forces, including their naval component, could occupy the vacated military bases and facilities, subject of course to the consent of the States in whose territory they are located.