1. At its seventeenth session the Commission adopted resolution 8(XVII) - The economic and social consequences of disarmament - as follows:

"The Economic Commission for Europe,

Recalling resolution 1516(XV) of the United Nations General Assembly and resolution 1(XVI) of the Economic Commission for Europe,

Noting the report by the Executive Secretary on the implementation of ECE resolution 1(XVI) and the direct participation of the ECE Secretariat in the preparation of the report of the Consultative Group on the Economic and Social Consequences of Disarmament (document E/3593),

Anticipating that the Secretariat of the ECE, in its normal work of economic research, will bear in mind the above-mentioned report and the results of its forthcoming consideration by the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations General Assembly,

Invites the Executive Secretary to continue to give to the competent bodies of the United Nations, in the spirit of resolution 1(XVI), any assistance which these bodies might ask of the Commission in any further work on this subject."

2. Upon the conclusion of the Commission's session, the Executive Secretary informed the Secretary-General of this decision.

3. At its thirty-fourth session the Council, in resolution 831(XIV) - Economic and social consequences of disarmament - expressed its appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General transmitting the study on the economic and social consequences of disarmament, prepared by a group of expert consultants. The Council inter alia invited the Secretary-General:

G2, 63-2843
"(a) To continue to keep under review, in co-operation with the regional economic commissions and with the related agencies concerned, the basic aspects of economic and social consequences of disarmament and the problems arising therefrom on the national and international plane;
(b) To inquire of member states as early as possible concerning the progress made in the studies referred to in paragraph 6;
(c) To report to the Council at its thirty-sixth session on these activities, and to suggest to the Council what further studies on the impact of disarmament on international economic relations, such as trade patterns, balance of payments, foreign investment, economic assistance, might be useful."

4. At its seventeenth session the General Assembly unanimously adopted resolution 1337(XVII) - Declaration on the conversion to peaceful needs of the resources released by disarmament. In it, the General Assembly, inter alia, expressed its appreciation for the report of the Secretary-General transmitting the study on the economic and social consequences of disarmament presented by the Consultative Group of Experts pursuant to General Assembly resolution 1516(XV) and concurred in Economic and Social Council resolution 891(XXIV). The General Assembly further invited the Secretary-General and the governments of developing countries to intensify their efforts "to establish and implement soundly conceived projects and well integrated development plans of a national and regional character, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1708(XVI) of 19 December 1961, the implementation of which may be accelerated as part of an economic programme for disarmament at such time as additional resources are released following an agreement on general and complete disarmament under effective international control", and requested the Secretary-General "to present his preliminary report on this matter to the General Assembly at a forthcoming session, if possible at the eighteenth session".

5. At its resumed thirty-fourth session, the Economic and Social Council decided that the "Declaration on the conversion to peaceful needs of the resources released by disarmament" be circulated to the regional economic commissions (E/35.1238). Accordingly, the text of the Declaration is attached herewith (see annex).

6. The Executive Secretary was informed that in accordance with sub-paragraph 7(b) of Council resolution 391(XXIV), the Secretary-General of the United Nations has, by means of a Note Verbale dated 23 January 1963, invited governments to submit to
him by 31 March 1963 information concerning their studies on the economic and social consequences of disarmament. The information received is to be included in the Secretary-General's report to the Council pursuant to sub-paragraph 7(c) of Council resolution 819(XXXIV).

7. In the same Note Verbale the Secretary-General, pursuant to paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 1837(XVII) has invited governments to submit to him by 31 May 1963 pertinent information concerning the establishment and implementation of the projects and plans referred to in that resolution.

8. The Executive Secretary has consulted with the Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs on work to be carried out at United Nations Headquarters in implementation of Council resolution 819(XXXIV) and General Assembly resolution 1837(XVII).

9. With regard to the resolution of the Council, the Executive Secretary understands that the information to be received from governments concerning the studies on the economic and social consequences of disarmament is to be included in the Secretary-General's report to the Council. Arrangements have been made for the ECE Secretariat to receive from United Nations Headquarters, for study and analysis, the material supplied in response to this request by states members of the United Nations who participate in the work of the Economic Commission for Europe.

10. With regard to the Secretary-General's request to submit information concerning certain projects and plans pursuant to General Assembly resolution 1837(XVII), the Executive Secretary understands that the information requested is to provide the basis for the Secretary-General's preliminary report under paragraph 8 of that resolution. In analysing this material the Secretary-General will call upon the assistance of the ECE Secretariat, as appropriate.

11. In addition to assisting the United Nations Headquarters in analysing the material received from governments in accordance with the two resolutions dealing with economic and social consequences of disarmament mentioned above, the ECE Secretariat will, in the light of the third presambular paragraph of Commission resolution 8(XVII), bear in mind in its normal work of economic research certain of the problems raised in the study of the economic and social consequences of disarmament prepared by the Group of Expert Consultants. In particular, the Secretariat intends, in agreement with United Nations Headquarters, to investigate more closely the impact on the civilian labour force in the various countries, of a complete demobilisation of the defence services, combined, with some examination of present tendencies towards changes in the structure of employment. The purpose of
this work would be to see what impact on the structure of the civilian labour force in individual countries would be produced by complete disarmament and which were likely to be the labour-absorbing sectors and branches, should the civilian labour supply suddenly be increased. The Executive Secretary intends to report to the Commission, at its nineteenth session, on progress made in this study.

12. In the light of the experience gained in connection with work on this first study, of the additional material to be presented by governments to the Secretary-General, of the forthcoming suggestions by the Secretary-General on what further studies on the impact of disarmament might be useful, as well as of the views expressed and the points made on this question by delegations at the Commission's eighteenth session, the Executive Secretary will consider, in consultation with the Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs, what further specific aspects of the economic consequences of disarmament in the ECE region could appropriately be examined by the ECE Secretariat.
ANNEX

1837 (XVII). Declaration on the conversion to peaceful needs of the resources released by disarmament

The General Assembly,

inspired by the ardent desire for peace and by the lofty aims of the Charter of the United Nations and recalling its resolutions 1378 (XIV) of 20 November 1959 and 1516 (XV) of 17 December 1960,

Noting that the arms race is continuing all over the world, that military expenditures of States are enormous, that conventional, nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction are accumulating and being developed, and that, as a result, an agreement on general and complete disarmament under effective international control is urgent,

Convinced that there is still time to stave off the deadly danger looming over the world and to achieve the implementation of general and complete disarmament under effective international control,

Recalling that the consultative group of experts, in its study on the economic and social consequences of disarmament estimated that the world is spending at the present time roughly $120,000 million annually on military account, a sum at least two-thirds of, and according to some estimates of the same order of magnitude as, the entire annual national income of all the under-developed countries,

Realizing the enormous importance which an agreement on disarmament would have for the attainment of accelerated economic and social progress for the benefit of mankind,

Recognizing that all problems of transition connected with disarmament can be met by appropriate national and international measures, that diversion to peaceful uses of the resources now in military use can be accomplished in a manner which will benefit all countries and will lead to the improvement of economic and social conditions throughout the world, and that disarmament can be accomplished in all countries not only without impairing their economies but with great advantages to the real welfare of their people,

Recalling its resolution 1710 (XVI) of 19 December 1961 on the United Nations Development Decade, which calls for proposals relating, inter alia, to the utilization of resources released by disarmament for the purpose of economic and social development, in particular of the under-developed countries,

\footnote{\textsuperscript{1/} E/3553/Rev.1}
Believing that the release of a portion of the savings which would follow upon an agreement on disarmament for aid to the economic growth of the less developed countries, together with their own intensified internal efforts and domestic savings, would enable countless millions of people in the less developed countries to improve substantially within a generation their present level of living standards through, inter alia, the development of new sources of energy and industrial activity,

Convinced that disarmament and the conversion of huge resources to peaceful uses would open up vast opportunities for the development of peaceful co-operation and trade among States on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, that the expansion of international economic exchange and mutual assistance would be beneficial to all countries, both big and small and both economically less-developed and highly developed, would ensure the growth of production and provide new jobs for millions of people.

1. **Solemnly** urges the Governments of all States to multiply their efforts for a prompt achievement of general and complete disarmament under effective international control;

2. **Declares** that it firmly believes in the triumph of the principles of reason and justice, in the establishment of such conditions in the world that would forever banish wars from the life of human society, and replace the arms race which consumes enormous resources of funds by broad and fruitful co-operation among nations in bettering life on earth;

3. **Takes into account** the important role of the United Nations in organizing international aid to the less developed countries and in making studies of the economic and social consequences of disarmament;

4. **Expresses its appreciation** for the report of the Secretary-General transmitting the study on the economic and social consequences of disarmament presented by the consultative group of experts pursuant to General Assembly resolution 1516 (XV);

5. **Endorses** the unanimous conclusion of the consultative group of experts that the implementation of general and complete disarmament will be an unqualified blessing for all mankind;

6. **Concurs** in Economic and Social Council resolution 891 (XXXIV) of 26 July 1962 and endorses the request in paragraph 6 thereof that Member States, particularly those which are significantly involved in or affected by current military programmes should devote further attention to, and conduct any necessary studies of, the detailed aspects of the economic and social consequences of
disarmament, with a view to developing needed information, plans and policies for making necessary economic and social adjustments in the event of disarmament and in the successive stages towards the achievement of complete disarmament, bearing in mind the imperative needs of the developing countries;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to make available to the General Assembly at its eighteenth session the report prepared for the session of the Economic and Social Council pursuant to Council resolution 891 (XXXIV);

8. Invites the Secretary-General and the Governments of developing countries to intensify their efforts to establish and implement soundly conceived projects and well integrated development plans of a national and regional character, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1708 (XVI) of 19 December 1961, the implementation of which may be accelerated as part of an economic programme for disarmament at such time as additional resources are released following an agreement on general and complete disarmament under effective international control, and requests the Secretary-General to present his preliminary report on this matter to the General Assembly at a forthcoming session, if possible at the eighteenth session;

9. Affirms that, pending an agreement on general and complete disarmament under effective international control, Member States should not relax their efforts to assist the developing countries but should rather accelerate such efforts.

1197th plenary meeting,
18 December 1962.