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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Tenth special session
Working Group A

Review of the role of the United Nations in disarmament and of
the international machinery for negotiations on disarmament,
including in particular the question of convening a world
disarmament conference .

Austria, Egypt, India, Mexico, Norway and the United Kingdom
of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:

Establishment of an advisory board of eminent persons to advise the Secretary-
General on all aspects of studies to be made under the auspices of the United
Nations in the field of disarmament and arms control.

ANNEX

Establishment of an advisory board of eminent persons

1. In his statement at the opening of the tenth special session of the General Assembly the Secretary-General emphasized, inter alia, the importance of developing a comprehensive approach to international studies in the field of arms control and disarmament. The Secretary-General pointed out that one way of achieving effective utilization of international expertise would be through the appointment of an advisory board of eminent persons. This idea has had a favourable response from a number of delegations.
2. Statements made at the special session and proposals made to the Preparatory Committee show an increasing interest in having in-depth studies carried out on a variety of topics. As a result of these proposals, it is likely that the Secretary-General will be requested to undertake a considerable number of studies, which it will take several years to complete. It is also very probable that several of these studies will lead to further in-depth inquiries. Each study will require great care in its preparation and implementation, taking into account the often sensitive nature of the subject.
3. In this light, a comprehensive approach to the planning of international disarmament studies seems important. In order to assure the effective utilization of international expertise, the Secretary-General should appoint an advisory board of eminent persons, to give advice and assistance in the planning and execution of the studies.
4. The establishment of an advisory board is a logical organizational response to the multitude of requirements, designed to put these in an integrated and operative frame, and would be conducive to facilitating the United Nations' study activities in the field of disarmament, taking due account of the various political, socio-economic and regional considerations involved. It should have the mandate of proposing and periodically adjusting a comprehensive programme of studies for two to three years ahead, taking into consideration what already has been achieved in the field of disarmament studies. It should further have the task of proposing the framework and content of subjects to be studied, the approach to and organization of the studies and the presentation of relevant results. The board should also be in a position to initiate proposals for new studies.
5. The members of the advisory board should be selected by the Secretary-General on the basis of their personal expertise, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical representation.
6. Consequently, it is suggested that the following paragraph be inserted in the Machinery section of the final document, after the proposed paragraph 11 (document A/S-10/1):

"The General Assembly requests the Secretary-General to set up an advisory board of eminent persons to advise him on various aspects of studies to be made under the auspices of the United Nations in the field of disarmament and arms limitation, particularly:

- "(i) Propose and periodically review a programme of studies;
- "(ii) Give advice on the framework and content of subjects to be studied."
