

dently on their own merits."<sup>58</sup> New Zealand claimed an "incontestable truth -- that excessive military expenditure can only jeopardize security -- including economic and social security."<sup>59</sup>

The United Kingdom maintained that security depended on armament and nuclear deterrence.

The security policy pursued by a state will always be determined by how that state considers it best able to ensure its own safety. We fully agree that it is for each nation to determine the level of military expenditure it deems necessary for its own security. For 40 years our policy of defence and deterrence has provided that level of security, and my government remains committed to it.<sup>60</sup>

In contrast, the European Community said,

One of the achievements of this conference is the reaffirmation of the crucial importance of the question of security in any detailed analysis of the relationship between disarmament and development...The twelve believe that a realistic approach reveals the connections between disarmament and development to turn on the third element in a triangular relationship-security.<sup>61</sup>

Zimbabwe expressed the views of the non-aligned states and denounced the conference emphasis on security. "References to security have been given extravagant and needless prominence in the final document." Disarmament and development should not be made "prisoners of security."<sup>62</sup>

Mexico was the harshest critic of all:

Excessive importance is attached to security and to questions relating to security which are out of place in United Nations documents, and even inconsistent with the provisions of the Charter. The word "security" appears

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<sup>58</sup> Letter from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands, A/Conf. 130/33, 11 September 1987, p.2.

<sup>59</sup> Letter from the Permanent Representative of New Zealand A/Conf. 130/36, 11 September 1987, p.3.

<sup>60</sup> Letter from the Head of Delegation of the UK, A/Conf. 130/28, 11 September 1987, p.3.

<sup>61</sup> Letter from the Permanent Representative of Denmark, A/Conf. 130/25, 11 September 1987, p.2.

<sup>62</sup> Letter from the Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe, A/Conf. 130/31, 11 September 1987, p.2