

Bearing in mind that in their Joint Declaration, issued on 22 May, 1984, the Heads of State or Government of six Member States of the United Nations, coming from five different continents, urged the nuclear-weapon States "as a necessary first step . . . to halt all testing, production and deployment of nuclear weapons and their delivery systems" and that in the Delhi Declaration of 28 January 1985 they reiterated: "A halt to the nuclear arms race is at the present moment imperative. Only thus can it be ensured that nuclear arsenals do not grow while negotiations proceed."

Believing that it is a matter of the utmost urgency to stop any further increase in the awesome arsenals of the two major nuclear-weapon States, which already have ample retaliatory power and a frightening overkill capacity,

Welcoming the start of negotiations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America on a complex of questions concerning space and nuclear arms — both strategic and intermediate-range — with all these questions considered and resolved in their interrelationship,

Considering that a nuclear-arms freeze, while not an end in itself, would constitute the most effective first step to prevent the continued increase and qualitative improvement of existing nuclear weaponry during the period when the negotiations would take place,

Firmly convinced that at present the conditions are most propitious for such a freeze, since the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America are now equivalent in nuclear military power and it seems evident that there exists between them an overall rough parity,

Conscious that the application of the systems of surveillance, verification and control already agreed upon in some previous cases would be sufficient to provide a reasonable guarantee of faithful compliance with the undertakings derived from the freeze,

Convinced that it would be to the benefit of all other States possessing nuclear weapons to follow the example of the two major nuclear-weapon States,

1. Urges once more the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America, as the two major nuclear-weapon States, to proclaim, either through simultaneous unilateral declarations or through a joint declaration, an immediate nuclear-arms freeze, which would be a first step towards the comprehensive programme of disarmament and whose structure and scope would be the following:

(a) It would embrace:

(i) A comprehensive test ban of nuclear weapons and of their delivery vehicles;

(ii) The complete cessation of the manufacture of nuclear weapons and of their delivery vehicles;

(iii) A ban on all further deployment of nuclear weapons and of their delivery vehicles;

(iv) The complete cessation of the production of fissionable material for weapons purposes;

(b) It would be subject to appropriate measures and procedures of verification, such as those which have already been agreed by the parties in the case of the SALT I and SALT II treaties, and those agreed upon in principle by them during the preparatory trilateral negotiations on the comprehensive test ban held at Geneva;

(c) It would be of an initial five-year duration, subject to prolongation when other nuclear-weapon States join in such a freeze, as the General Assembly urges them to do;

2. Requests the above-mentioned two major nuclear-weapon states to submit a joint report or two separate reports to the General Assembly, prior to the opening of its forty-first session, on the implementation of the present resolution;

3. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-first session an item entitled "Implementation of General Assembly resolution 40/. . . on a nuclear-arms freeze".

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This paper draws heavily on working papers prepared by Gilles Grondin of CIIPS, and Lawrence Hagen and Ronald Purver of the Canadian Centre for Arms Control and Disarmament. The views expressed in the paper are those of the author, and should not be taken to represent the views of the Institute.

Published by the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security. Address: 300 Somerset Street West, Ottawa, K2P 0P7.



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