

states complained about "improper"²⁴ references to the UN Charter in trying to promote such a relationship.

The most significant efforts to show a relationship between disarmament and development have been in the past decade. In 1978 the United Nations General Assembly's Special Session on Disarmament Assembly drew attention to a competitive relationship between armament and development, declared that the globe could not sustain both, and appointed a group of experts to study the various forms of relationship that "might exist between disarmament and development; that is, between balanced measures to reduce military expenditure and improve the way of life of all peoples, particularly in the least developed countries."²⁵

Under the leadership of Sweden's Inga Thorsson, and after three years of work by a hundred researchers in twenty countries, forty special reports and the most extensive program of disarmament research undertaken through the United Nations, the group reported to the Secretary General in October 1981. The report emphasized the competitive relationship between arms spending and development needs. It made a strong guns-or-butter case. "The world has a choice. It can continue to pursue the arms race, with its characteristic vigour, or it can move with deliberate speed towards a more sustainable international economic and political order. It cannot do both."²⁶ The Thorsson Report's recommendations emphasized the need to measure and limit military spending, reallocate military resources to development of the poorest countries, and plan for conversion of military industries to civilian purposes.

The main conclusion of this report is that an effective relationship between disarmament and development can and must be established. Concrete measures within a framework of disarmament for development could have a positive effect, politically, psychologically and economically. They could improve

²⁴ UN International Conference on the Relationship Between Disarmament and Development, A/Conference 130/28, 11 September 1987. Letter from the head of delegation of the UK to the Secretary-General of the Conference, p.2.

²⁵ Resolution 33/71 I, 14 December 1978 was adopted without a vote.

²⁶ The Relationship between Disarmament and Development A/36/356 5 October 1981.