

polarization of wealth and poverty at the national and international levels. Gross and systematic violations of human rights retard genuine socio-economic development and create tensions which contribute to instability. Mass poverty, illiteracy, disease, squalor and malnutrition afflicting a large portion of the world's population often become the cause of social strain, tension and strife.⁶⁷

Sweden, Canada and a few other nations saw this definition as a step forward. Nevertheless, the Conference definition of security refers to the inherent right of nations to seek security through armament, military spending and "self-defence."⁶⁸ It is this understanding of security that continues to be favoured by governments.

The conference conclusions, found in its Final Document, reflect the deeply divided nature of the debate and the inability of nations to agree on any kind of relationship between disarmament and development, any common understanding of the problems that face humanity or any useful initiatives or plans. The conference suggested that nations only "give further consideration to" a number of ideas including:

- reduced military spending
- use of military equipment and personnel for humanitarian, emergency and development needs
- greater openness about military budgets (with no specific proposals for an arms trade register, or military spending reporting system).

Nations also agreed to assess, study, review and analyze various military spending, disarmament and development issues. And they agreed to "strengthen the role of the UN" in disarmament and development including more UN based public information activities, cooperation, study and review.

The Final Document reflects the fact that there was no agreement on the question of the economic importance of armament, the economic relationship between armament and underdevelopment, or the political relationship between disarmament and development

⁶⁷ Ibid., paragraph 18.

⁶⁸ Ibid., paragraph 15.