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DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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STATEMENT BY SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ON
RELEASE OF SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPORT ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS

On September 27, during my address to the United Nations General Assembly, I stated that the Secretary-General's Report on Nuclear Weapons would be released shortly. At that time I said that this report must command the careful attention of all people interested in the development of a rational and stable world order. The report has now been released. In my view, it represents an important and constructive contribution to the continuing international discussion on the effects of nuclear weapons and the implications of the acquisition and further development of such weapons.

The report comprises three sections. The first section examines the effects of the use of nuclear weapons. It discusses the destruction produced by relatively small nuclear weapons and the widespread devastation which would follow the use of more powerful weapons of which there are now substantial numbers. These effects have been considered in relation to both the civilian population and military targets.

The second section analyzes the economic implications for governments of the acquisition of nuclear weapons. The report reaches the conclusion that, especially for the lesser-developed countries, the allocation of technological and material resources necessary to produce nuclear deterrent forces would impose a very heavy burden on the civilian economy and would adversely affect standards of living.

The third and concluding section of the report deals with the security implications of the acquisition and further development of nuclear weapons. The examination of the various national and international factors involved leads to the conclusion that a solution

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