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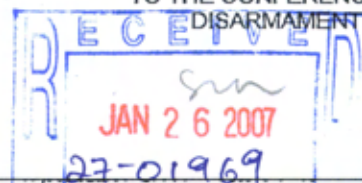
## CONFÉRENCE DU DÉSARMEMENT

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CH-1211 GENEVE 10

## CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
TO THE CONFERENCE ON  
DISARMAMENTLE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL  
REPRÉSENTANT PERSONNEL  
DU SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL  
À LA CONFÉRENCE DU  
DÉSARMEMENT

TELEFAX

ACTION CL  
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TO:	The Secretary-General ✓	From:	Sergei A. Ordzhonikidze S. Ordzhonikidze
CC:	Mr. Vijay Nambiar, Chef de Cabinet of the Secretary-General	Tel. N°	+41 22 917 2100
	Mr. Nobuaki Tanaka, Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs	Fax. N°	+41 22 917 0002
Date:	26 January 2007	Pages:	1
Subject:	<i>Report on the start of the 2007 session of the Conference on Disarmament</i>		

1. Your message to the 2007 session of the Conference on Disarmament was well received and drew favourable comments from a number of Members.

2. During the opening meeting, Israel proposed adding a new item to the Conference's customary agenda, addressing the issue of arms transfer to terrorists. There was strong resistance to opening up the agenda on the part of the majority of states from all regional groups. In an effort to move the proceedings along, I suggested that the existing agenda was broad enough to accommodate Israel's needs. After obtaining new instructions in this context from its capital, Israel agreed to this approach.

3. At the same meeting, however, a series of rights of reply triggered by comments on Iran and the DPRK in a EU statement again threatened to derail the adoption of the agenda. I was obliged to point out that resolutions adopted by the Security Council were not in need of value judgments by the Conference on Disarmament, but rather of implementation by Member States, while the Conference needed to concentrate on addressing the problems it had before it. The president of the Conference and all regional groups supported this approach. The resolution of the above two political issues enabled the agenda to be adopted on 24 January.

4. Despite this somewhat rocky beginning, the Conference on Disarmament has agreed to intensify its efforts in 2007. The Conference accepted an organizational framework proposed by the six Presidents for 2007, including, for the first time, the appointment of Coordinators for each of the seven substantive agenda items. At the end of March, the Coordinators through the Presidents will make evaluations of progress.

5. Making predictions, particularly in the context of the Conference on Disarmament, is imprudent. But there is a palpable inclination among Member States towards overcoming the paralysis of the past decade. The next seven weeks will be crucial in determining whether this phase will turn from debate to engagement on concrete texts, once the evaluations are made in the last week of March.

