I have the honour to transmit to you, in connexion with General Assembly resolution 3260 (XXIX), the following comments of the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria concerning the main purposes of a World Disarmament Conference:

"The Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria has had many occasions to set out its views on the convening of a world disarmament conference. Its position stems from its unchanging policy in support of all initiatives and efforts, the aim of which is to realize the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter with a view to strengthening further international peace and security. The proposal for holding a world disarmament conference is particularly aimed in this direction.

"The détente in international relations was established as the predominant trend in international life of recent years. The efforts of the peoples are centred on broadening this trend and extending it to cover all regions of the world. Conditions were created which enabled the political détente to find concrete manifestations in the field of disarmament by commencing the implementation of different practical measures towards disarmament leading to general and complete disarmament. The international agreements concluded in the field of disarmament, such as the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water, 1/ the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, 2/ the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor, 3/ the Treaty on Principles

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* A/10000.
2/ General Assembly resolution 2373 (XXII), annex.
3/ General Assembly resolution 2660 (XXV), annex.
Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, 4/ the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction 5/ etc., show that, despite their difficult nature, the problems of disarmament have become a constant item for discussion at bilateral and multilateral fora within and outside the United Nations. The agreements signed between the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America on the prevention of nuclear war and on the limitation of strategic weapons 6/ and others, are a source of hope that it is possible to halt the arms race.

"The Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria is of the opinion that recent international developments have made the convening of a world disarmament conference in the nearest future both timely and expedient. A number of resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at previous sessions on the initiative of the Soviet Union and related to this question have embodied the will and desire of the overwhelming majority of Member States.

"A number of important international fora and organizations, such as the conferences of the non-aligned States, the World Peace Council and the Congress of the Peace Forces (Moscow, 1973), have spoken out resolutely in favour of the convening of a world disarmament conference. All this gives us good reason to think that the political preparatory work for a world disarmament conference has in fact been laid down.

"The General Assembly has entrusted the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference with the task of preparing and submitting an analytical report, containing its conclusions and recommendations. This decision shows the desire of the overwhelming majority of the States Members of the United Nations to commence in practical terms the preparation for the conference with a view to its early convening. The positive results obtained from the work of the Ad Hoc Committee during 1974 are encouraging.

"Emphasizing the importance of this decision, the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria also notes with satisfaction the fact that three out of the five nuclear States take part in the Ad Hoc Committee. Their contribution to its work can only be welcomed by all who cherish the cause of peace and disarmament. The People's Republic of Bulgaria is hopeful that the other two nuclear States, whose refusal to participate in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee represents the major obstacle to reaching early progress in the preparation of the conference, will comply with the desire of world public opinion and will join forces with the other countries so that the conference can be convened as soon as possible.

4/ General Assembly resolution 2222 (XXI), annex.
5/ General Assembly resolution 2826 (XXVI), annex.
6/ A/9708-DC/237, annex B, document CCD/439, annexes I and II.
"The Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria maintains that the principal task of a world disarmament conference is to be the discussion, with the participation of all countries, including the nuclear ones, of the different problems of disarmament and primarily the problem of general and complete disarmament. Such a conference will facilitate the study of the real possibilities of achieving effective results and will make it possible to focus the agreed efforts of all States in this field.

"All along, the conference should also devote its attention to different partial measures involving the curbing and halting of both nuclear and conventional arms races as well.

"A world disarmament conference will help to acquaint better world public opinion with the dangers of continuing the armaments race. It will also help to mobilize world public opinion to take speedy measures towards disarmament.

"The Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria is firmly convinced that a world disarmament conference will be yet another impetus to the endeavour of peoples to achieve concrete results in the field of general and complete disarmament. The conference could become a turning point in such an endeavour. That is why pre-conditions cannot be accepted, for in actual fact their aim is to thwart the convening of the conference.

"The Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria believes that all countries in the world, including the States possessing nuclear weapons, must be represented at a world disarmament conference. On the basis of equality and without any discrimination whatsoever, they could take part in the consideration of the questions of disarmament and could unite their efforts to find ways of achieving further progress in this field of international relations, which is so vital to all peoples.

"The Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, as in the past, will continue to do everything within its possibilities to help ensure progress towards disarmament and towards the discontinuation of the armaments race, convinced that this is the most effective way of guaranteeing peace and of creating an atmosphere of confidence and co-operation. The Bulgarian Government regards the convening of a world disarmament conference as a timely and important measure aimed at the realization of these noble purposes which must guide all States Members of the United Nations."

I would be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 42 of the preliminary list of items to be included in the provisional agenda of the thirtieth regular session of the General Assembly of the United Nations (World Disarmament Conference).

(Signed) Guero GROZEV
Permanent Representative
of the People's Republic of Bulgaria
to the United Nations