Thirtieth session
Item 42 of the preliminary list*

WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE

Note verbale dated 20 May 1975 from the Permanent Representative of
Hungary to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of the Hungarian People's Republic to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, with reference to his note of 2 May 1975 sent to the Secretary-General in connexion with General Assembly resolution 3260 (XXIX), has the honour to request that the annex to the above-mentioned note, a copy of which is enclosed, be 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 session.

* A/10000.
ANNEX

The people of the Hungarian People's Republic have recently celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of the country's liberation and now they are preparing to commemorate the anniversary of the end of the Second World War, the historic victory over fascist oppression. When - between two such celebrations - the Government of the Hungarian People's Republic summarizes its standpoint concerning the world disarmament conference, quite understandably it cannot help recalling the situation of 30 years ago.

In consequence of the war which the ruling class had forced upon the people against their own interest, Hungary lost about 5 per cent of her population: direct military expenditures consumed two years' total national income and, together with the damages of the war, the losses amounted to the equivalent of five years' national income, counting with an average of the pre-war years. It is fully understandable, therefore, that the Hungarian people and their Government attach special importance to every step, initiative and measure which may be instrumental in averting wars and in eliminating the dangers of a new war. Their attitude, however, is determined, along with the experiences of the bitter past, primarily by a desire to protect their achievements in the field of socialist construction and to safeguard the present and the future of the country.

From the experiences of history, particularly of the last decades, the Hungarian people have drawn the lesson and conclusion that only lasting international peace and solid security can ensure the conditions favourable to their socialist construction work. That is why the Hungarian Government has set it as one of the main goals of its foreign policy to strive with all its efforts to bring about those conditions and, what is a precondition to that, to contribute, within the limits of its possibilities and capabilities, to eliminating the dangers of a new war, to strengthening the peaceful coexistence and wide-scale co-operation of States having different social systems.

Starting from the realization that, as a result of the steadfast peace policy of the socialist countries, first of all the Soviet Union, and through the consolidation of the world-wide process of international détente, it has become a realistic possibility in our epoch to avoid world wars and to settle peacefully, by means of negotiations, contested international problems, the Government of the Hungarian People's Republic is determined, in all possible ways and by all possible means, to carry that peace policy to success, to extend political détente to the military sphere also, to make existing disarmament measures truly universal and to create the proper atmosphere necessary to further steps in this field.

The aspirations of the people of this country and the endeavours of their Government are expressed in a proper and condensed form in the programme declaration which the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, the leading force of the society, has recently adopted at its Eleventh Congress. The programme declaration summarizing the tasks for a longer period to come, in the part entitled "International tasks and endeavours", among others, says the following:

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"In our era, the preservation of peace, the prevention of the threat of a new world war, the freeing of peoples from the nightmare of a nuclear war are in the vital interest of humanity.

"The institutional implementation of peaceful coexistence among countries with different social systems is, at the same time, a fight for the reduction and cessation of the arms race, for a ban on weapons of mass destruction, for general and complete disarmament, so that humanity can already in our time be freed forever from the danger of a new world war."

Representatives of the Hungarian People's Republic have on numerous occasions expressed the opinion that for the purpose of discussing all these tasks, as is summarized above in a condensed form, a world disarmament conference would provide the most suitable forum, where - on the basis of the results already achieved, and also having learned better in detail the views and aspirations of each other - the essential characteristics of the road leading to the goal could be defined, the steps to be taken could be outlined and the initial impetus to the practical elaboration of the most urgent measures could be given.

Not only by way of official statements and through its representatives, but also making use of all other forums, the Hungarian Government has, from the very beginning, given its full support to the proposal to convene a world disarmament conference, advanced in 1971 by the Government of the Soviet Union. On every new occasion since then, it has seen with satisfaction that the proposal enjoys the support of an ever growing majority of States, and in full harmony with them it is fully convinced that the time is ripe and the conditions are given for starting to take practical steps aimed at the convening of the conference. Therefore, the Government of the Hungarian People's Republic feels fully justified in hoping and expecting that the United Nations General Assembly, in the course of the forthcoming thirtieth session, will, without any further delay, adopt the resolution necessary to that end. At the same time, it hopes that the sense of responsibility for the future of the world will prevail also in those Governments which for various specific reasons are not now willing to give their support to the cause of the world disarmament conference. The same is expected even more of Governments which bear special responsibilities for the arms race and, respectively, for disarmament, first of all, of the nuclear Powers.

The convening of the world disarmament conference would create a very important international forum which, as yet, is still missing from the system of independent but inevitably interacting, bilateral or multilateral organs effectively dealing with various aspects of disarmament. Consequently, it also means that the world disarmament conference would not substitute for, but properly complement, the activities already going on in the present bilateral, regional and other international bodies.

The Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference, which in spite of difficulties has already made some progress, could speed up its work and start...
practical preparations of the conference. The Hungarian delegation in the Committee, in possession of instructions given in the same spirit, is striving hard to realize that aim and has been empowered to co-operate actively to that end in the course of the next session of the Ad Hoc Committee.

On the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the historic victory of the anti-fascist coalition and of the foundation of the United Nations that was born in its wake, it is timely and proper to reiterate also here the deep conviction of the Hungarian people and their Government that the collaboration and co-operation of States with different social systems is also very timely today for the purpose of solving such immense tasks, for example, disarmament, as are facing the whole of humanity.