PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE SECOND SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEVOTED TO DISARMAMENT

LETTER DATED 28 APRIL 1982 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE SECOND SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEVOTED TO DISARMAMENT

[Original: English]

With reference to the deliberations of the current session of the Preparatory Committee for the Second Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations Devoted to Disarmament, I have the honour to transmit to you, in an annex to this letter, the revised text of a working paper entitled "Principal objectives of international co-operation for speedier practical progress of disarmament negotiations". The working paper was submitted by the Czechoslovak delegation during the last year's session of the Preparatory Committee and circulated in document A/AC.206/11 of 12 May 1981.

In this connexion, I deem it appropriate to draw your attention to resolution 36/92 D of 9 December 1981 in which the General Assembly, *inter alia*, expressed its confidence that to intensify the comprehensive implementation of the recommendations and decisions unanimously adopted at its tenth special session, the effective, constructive and continuing co-operation among all States on all levels was essential, and recommended that the Preparatory Committee should make active use of the Declaration on International Co-operation for Disarmament in the preparations for the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

In submitting the revised version of its working paper, the Czechoslovak delegation is motivated by a desire to contribute to the Committee's work.

It would be greatly appreciated if you would circulate the revised working paper attached to this letter as an official document of the Preparatory Committee. It is my intention to introduce the document in the Committee without delay.

(Signed) Dr. Stanislav SUJA
Permanent Representative
Annex

[Original: Russian]

PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES OF INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION FOR SPEEDIER PRACTICAL PROGRESS OF DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS

Working paper of the delegation of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic

The Czechoslovak delegation would like to make the following observations on the preparations being made for the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

The experience of the years which have elapsed since the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament has again shown that determined and consistent efforts by all States, undertaken in a more co-ordinated manner and based on political goodwill and world-wide co-operation, are becoming necessary prerequisites for the achievement of the progress required in negotiations on disarmament.

The United Nations General Assembly has already embodied the ideas and principles of such co-operation in its documents, in particular the Final Document of the first special session devoted to disarmament, and has also incorporated these ideas and principles in the 1979 Declaration on International Co-operation for Disarmament (resolution 34/88).

Yet individual aspects of this co-operation, whose importance in view of the present complicated situation is increasing, either have not been fully implemented or else the effort to implement them has remained only one-sided. In the opinion of Czechoslovakia, this increases the urgency of determining the principal tasks of international co-operation for the speedier practical progress of disarmament negotiations under current conditions.

Czechoslovakia considers that the elaboration of a joint position on this question among the States Members of the United Nations by the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, would be an important contribution to speeding up current negotiations and starting constructive new ones on all those problems of curbing the arms race and promoting disarmament which demand immediate solution. In this regard, attention could be given to the following tasks in particular:

1. All States should undertake initiatives to reduce and eliminate the threat of war. In view of the growing danger of a world-wide nuclear conflict breaking out, States which possess nuclear weapons bear particular responsibility for averting such an event. All States should co-operate in every way in curbing the arms race by implementing practical disarmament measures, bearing in mind that the problems posed can be solved only by mutual co-operation based on the principle of equality and equal security. The efforts undertaken for this purpose must be sharply increased.

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The goals of disarmament cannot be achieved, in spite of the wishes of the overwhelming majority of countries, if some States stand aside or undertake steps which increase international tension in the arms race.

2. In this connexion, States must resolutely renounce any kind of propaganda for war or war preparations and attempts to represent war as a completely natural and therefore acceptable phenomenon. Theories which seek to justify the use of nuclear weapons are exceptionally dangerous, in particular those which allow for their first use and at the same time admit the possibility of waging some sort of "limited" nuclear war. These doctrines, by encouraging a stepping up of the arms race, create a real danger of the outbreak of a nuclear catastrophe. All States must have regard to the fact that these doctrines are in direct contradiction to the principles of international co-operation for the constructive solution of disarmament problems.

3. States must actively exercise their right to participate in disarmament negotiations and conscientiously conduct such negotiations simultaneously on all priority questions, including appropriate confidence-building measures, which should be extended to cover all militarily important areas of the world and should include the establishment of a zone of peace over as large an area of the oceans as possible. At a time when some States are suspending or discontinuing altogether their participation in negotiations, the task of stimulating these negotiations, which the General Assembly has repeatedly considered, is especially urgent.

4. States must make concerted efforts to achieve steadier and speedier progress in negotiations on halting the arms race and on disarmament. To this end, States must also refrain from any action which might hamper, complicate or render impossible the disarmament negotiations which are under way, the opening of new negotiations or the achievement of specific disarmament agreements, and must not raise artificial obstacles to these negotiations, particularly by putting forward questions which do not relate to disarmament. States must refrain from developing new directions and avenues for the arms race. The achievement of these objectives would be appreciably facilitated if all States which form part of military and political groups were guided by the principle of the maximum restraint in their military activities.

5. A concerted effort must be made during the disarmament negotiations to ensure that these negotiations are not outstripped by the qualitative development and quantitative accumulation of the types of weapons to which they relate. Halting the expansion of the arms race, which has already become extremely intense, should be the first objective of negotiations.

6. There should be more joint efforts to adopt measures whose implementation would aid in gradually overcoming the economic differences between developed and developing countries. In this regard, it is extremely important to reach an understanding on halting increases in arms spending, and to take steps to reduce it.

7. To ensure the smooth progress of disarmament negotiations, it is essential that States and their representatives, including the highest representatives, should consult each other on disarmament questions as frequently
as possible, thus creating the political prerequisites for their solution. It is necessary actively to seek and create opportunities for such consultations and to make widespread use of them in the common interest.

8. Many important and constructive proposals on specific steps to halt the arms race and bring about disarmament, including the proposals submitted recently, have not been pursued and negotiations on them have still not begun. The second special session of the General Assembly should take full account of the fact that this creates conditions which give rise to negative developments in this field. Priority should accordingly be given to the discussion of new initiatives and proposals of Member States. Each side must consider responsibly, constructively, and in a spirit of mutual co-operation all the proposals and initiatives of the other side which could hasten the advancement and the adoption of new, mutually acceptable disarmament measures. States must also view positively and encourage any unilateral actions designed to curb military activities or to limit or curtail any kind of armaments, particularly nuclear weapons.

9. In all the activities indicated, States should be guided by the principles of the United Nations Charter, the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, and the relevant resolutions and recommendations of the General Assembly on strengthening the principles of international co-operation for disarmament. States must make positive efforts to establish the conditions referred to in the above-mentioned documents, and should thus endeavour to achieve a constructive dialogue directed towards the limitation of armaments, particularly nuclear weapons, by the conclusion of appropriate agreements with the ultimate objective of general and complete disarmament under effective international control.

In drawing attention to these questions, the delegation of Czechoslovakia is guided by its belief that their consideration would help towards a positive outcome of the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.