LETTER DATED 8 MAY 1981 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

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
attachment to this letter, a working paper of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic
entitled "Principal objectives of international co-operation for speedier practical
progress of disarmament negotiations". In submitting this working paper, the
Czechoslovak delegation is motivated by a desire to make a constructive and tangible
contribution to the deliberations in the Committee.

It will be greatly appreciated if you would circulate the working paper as an
official document of the Preparatory Committee. It is my intention to introduce
the document in the Committee in the course of the next week.

(Signed) Ilja HULINSKY
Permanent Representative
Annex

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 work being done by the Preparatory Committee 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 increasingly necessary prerequisites for the achievement of any significant progress 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 Development (resolution 34/88).

Yet individual aspects of this co-operation, whose relevance in view of the present complicated situation is still increasing, either have not been fully explored or else the effort to explore them has remained only one-sided. In the opinion of Czechoslovakia, this calls for a discussion to determine what are the principal objectives of international co-operation for 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 must become one of the main aims of the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, which must also be considered in the future work of the Preparatory Committee. In this regard, attention could, in particular, be given to the following objectives:

1. All States must take initiatives to reduce and eliminate the threat of war, halt the arms race and achieve a breakthrough in this area by implementing practical disarmament measures. This objective can be attained only through mutual co-operation. The efforts undertaken for this purpose should be sharply increased. The goals of disarmament, in spite of the wishes of the overwhelming majority of countries, will never be achieved, if individual States do not participate and even take steps to increase international tension and the arms race.
2. States must more actively exercise their right to participate in disarmament negotiations and conscientiously conduct negotiations simultaneously on all priority questions, including appropriate measures for strengthening trust. In a situation in which certain States are suspending or discontinuing their participation in various negotiations, the task of stimulating these negotiations, which the General Assembly has repeatedly considered, is especially relevant.

3. States must combine their efforts to achieve steady and speedier progress in negotiations on halting the arms race and on disarmament. To this end, States must also refrain from impeding these negotiations, particularly by putting forward questions which do not relate to disarmament. Connecting negotiations on disarmament with the solution of other questions is contrary to the interests of international peace and security.

4. Every 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 growth of the arms race, which has already become extremely intense, should be the first objective of negotiations.

5. 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 particularly important to reach an understanding on halting increases in arms spending and take steps to reduce it.

6. 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.

7. 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 devoted to disarmament should take full account of the fact that this creates conditions which give rise to negative developments in this field and accordingly should give priority to the discussion of new initiatives and proposals of States Members of the United Nations. Each side must responsibly, constructively, and in a spirit of mutual co-operation consider all the proposals and initiatives of the other side which could hasten the advancement and the adoption of new, mutually acceptable disarmament measures.

In drawing attention to these questions, the delegation of Czechoslovakia is guided by its belief that their consideration at the second special session of the General Assembly and during preparations for the session will promote progress and achieve results in its work.