The experience of the General Assembly at its first special session devoted to disarmament underscored how useful it is, in dealing with a wide-ranging item whose various elements are closely interrelated, to do everything possible to prevent a dissipation of effort, and to seek instead a concentration of effort, with a view to maximum co-ordination.

This experience will be very valuable for the second special session; the lessons of the experience must be turned to full account. Such an approach is particularly advisable considering that the key item on the agenda will undoubtedly be the comprehensive programme of disarmament; the programme's structure and content are in several respects similar to those of the Final Document. Even more than the latter, they will require a sustained unity and the necessary correlation between the various components.

It thus appears most desirable to avoid a proliferation of items on the agenda of the forthcoming second session, which would rob it of its distinctiveness as a "special" session and make it rather like a regular session. That would be all the more regrettable considering the frequency of regular sessions: the thirty-sixth session will take place six months before the second special session, and the thirty-seventh session barely three months or so after the end of the special session.

On the other hand, since the comprehensive programme of disarmament has to be "self-contained" and do justice to the adjective "comprehensive", a thorough examination and analysis of the content of the programme by the Assembly at its special session, a sine qua non for the adoption of the programme by consensus,
would, far from preventing consideration of other less important related items, make such consideration indispensable. The annotations under item 9 of the preliminary draft provisional agenda are intended to explain the issue clearly, accurately defining the meaning and scope of the proposal made orally by the representative of Mexico in the Preparatory Committee for the Second Special Session Devoted to Disarmament on Wednesday, 6 May 1961. This proposal follows in full in this working paper under the heading "Annotated preliminary draft provisional agenda of the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament."

ANNOTATED PRELIMINARY DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE SECOND SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEVOTED TO DISARMAMENT

1. Opening of the session in accordance with rule 30 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly*

2. Minute of silent prayer or meditation*

3. Credentials of representatives to the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament:
   (a) Appointment of members of the Credentials Committee
   (b) Report of the Credentials Committee*

4. Election of the President of the General Assembly*

5. Organization of the session*

6. Report of the Preparatory Committee for the Second Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament*

7. Adoption of the agenda*

8. General debate

Even though it would of course be improper to attempt to tell representatives of sovereign States participating in the general debate - especially if, as we hope, heads of delegations are heads of State or Government or Ministers for Foreign Affairs - to which items they should address themselves, the Preparatory Committee felt that, without any prejudice to their absolute and unlimited

* Annotations under this item should be prepared by the secretariat of the Preparatory Committee, using an approach similar to that used in the case of the annotated provisional agenda of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (A/S-10/15 of 15 May 1978).
decision-making powers, they might find it helpful to have some idea of the relevant discussions within the Committee. Therefore, for purposes of information only, the various items mentioned in the course of such discussions are indicated below. They are primarily:

9. Consideration and adoption of the comprehensive programme of disarmament

The elaboration of the comprehensive programme of disarmament was expressly provided for in the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. In paragraph 109 of that Document, the General Assembly agreed that the programme should encompass "all measures thought to be advisable in order to ensure that the goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control becomes a reality in a world in which international peace and security prevail and in which the new international economic order is strengthened and consolidated".

Subsequently, the Committee on Disarmament, in its report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session (a report welcomed by the Assembly), affirmed that the comprehensive programme would have to be "self-contained".

In the light of those statements, borne out by the structure and content of the programme, which are in general similar to those of the Final Document of the first special session, held in 1978, it seems obvious, on the one hand, that the key item on the agenda of the second special session, to be held in 1982, will be the comprehensive programme of disarmament and, on the other hand, that the programme itself, by virtue of its "comprehensiveness", not only will encompass all the elements included in the Final Document, but will go further than the Final Document in some respects.

Appropriate consideration of the draft comprehensive programme prepared by the Committee on Disarmament will therefore require, inter alia, a review of the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the previous special session, and a review of the status of disarmament negotiations envisaged in the Programme of Action, particularly those relating to nuclear disarmament. It will also be necessary to consider the recommendations made by the Assembly at the previous special session, the follow-up to studies initiated by it during or after that session, the initiatives and proposals of Member States, and the manner of implementation of the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade.

It will certainly be essential for the General Assembly to consider another question during its deliberations on the comprehensive programme: the strengthening of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament, including the functioning of deliberative organs, ways of enhancing the

\[\text{\#2}\] The summary accounts of the items in question should be prepared by the secretariat of the Preparatory Committee, in consultation with its Chairman, on the basis of the material emerging from the discussions at the informal meetings of the Committee held on Wednesday, 13 and Thursday, 14 May 1981.

\[/\ldots\]
effectiveness of the Committee on Disarmament as the sole multilateral negotiating body in the field of disarmament, and the consideration of such other institutional arrangements as the possible convening of a world disarmament conference. Similarly, the World Disarmament Campaign - and this provisional agenda includes a specific item with a view to the solemn launching of the Campaign and the holding of the first pledging conference for the Campaign - will undoubtedly be accorded a rightful place in the work of the General Assembly, like such other educational and informational activities on disarmament as the holding of seminars and the fellowship programme.

10. Consideration, adoption and opening for signature of draft treaties or conventions on disarmament submitted by the Committee on Disarmament

The discussions in the Preparatory Committee showed that, on the basis of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, its members felt that the conclusion of a treaty banning all nuclear-weapon tests - an issue which the United Nations has been considering for more than a quarter of a century and to which the General Assembly has repeatedly accorded "the highest priority" - and the conclusion of a convention on the elimination of chemical weapons - an issue to which the Assembly has also repeatedly accorded "high priority" - would provide the two instruments which could have most beneficial effects for the General Assembly.

11. Solemn launching of the World Disarmament Campaign and holding of the first pledging conference for the Campaign

In line with the provisions of resolution 35/152 I of 12 December 1980, it appears very likely that the report prepared by the Secretary-General, with the assistance of a group of experts, on the organization and financing of a World Disarmament Campaign under the auspices of the United Nations will be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session. It also appears very likely that, at that session, the General Assembly will take the necessary action for the solemn launching of the Campaign and the holding of the first pledging conference at the second special session, with a view to giving the Campaign the exposure and prominence it undoubtedly deserves.

12. Adoption of the Final Act of the session

In order to avoid confusion and since the results of the first special session were reflected in a "Final Document", it would seem advisable to use a different term (e.g., "Final Act") to designate the corresponding instrument adopted at the second special session, whether or not the instrument is to be signed; according to current practice at international conferences, a final act does not have to be signed.