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

Public information activities in connexion with the
second special session of the General Assembly
devoted to disarmament

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

At the request of the Preparatory Committee for the second special session of
the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, the Secretariat presents below the
outline of public information activities being arranged or proposed in connexion
with the forthcoming special session. The Centre for Disarmament and the
Department of Public Information will work closely together to co-ordinate their
activities in order to achieve the best effects and make the best use of resources.

A. Centre for Disarmament

Department of Political and Security Council Affairs

1. During the period leading up to the forthcoming special session, the efforts
of the Centre for Disarmament will be focused increasingly on activities relating
to the session. As far as human and financial resources will allow, publications,
study reports, Fact Sheets, summaries and other documents will be made widely
available to foster interest in and support for the work of the special session.

2. Activities planned for Disarmament Week 1981 will give special emphasis to the
second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. The
activities include an extensive lecture and briefing series and an international
disarmament poster campaign (see para. B.4, below).

3. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 35/46, the Centre for
Disarmament has initiated seminars in different regions of the world for
non-governmental organizations for the discussion of issues relating to the arms
race and disarmament. The importance of the special session was emphasized at the
The Department intends to make further efforts in connexion with the forthcoming special session to mobilize world public opinion in support of disarmament. Following is a brief description of the Department's programme for the special session.

Pre-session Information Programme

Publication

1. A backgrounder for redisseminators of basic information on disarmament issues will be issued by January 1982. This is intended to be issued in the six official languages of the United Nations and several regional languages.

2. A simplified text on general disarmament-related issues, which will be of interest to individuals not already well informed on these issues, is scheduled for publication.

3. A booklet entitled "The United Nations versus the Arms Race" was published in 1980 and serves a wide public audience as a guide to the United Nations disarmament activities. Russian and German versions of "The United Nations versus the Arms Race" will be issued with costs of the latter being borne outside the United Nations. Reprinting of 5,000 copies of the English version has been completed and distribution is underway. This booklet should be appropriately updated after the completion of the special session.

Audio-visual materials

4. An international poster competition for the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament was held this year. National panels of judges selected the finalists from their countries, all of which will be exhibited at United Nations Headquarters in New York during this year's Disarmament Week. On 13 October, the Secretary-General announced the name of the winner and four further prize-winners in the international poster competition. The prize-winning design will become the official poster of the United Nations throughout the preparation for and during the General Assembly's special session on disarmament.

5. An animated film called "Big 'if'" co-produced by the United Nations and Kratky Films (Prague), depicting the economic and social consequences of the arms race, is completed and will be ready for release by the end of October.

6. The film "Horrors of War" has been delayed but will be completed by the end of this year.

7. A 60-second TV spot alerting the public to the special session will be produced in Arabic, English, French and Spanish.

8. Regular feature radio programmes covering the subject of disarmament will continue, making particular mention of the special session.

9. A journalists' Encounter will be organized at Headquarters just prior to the special session.

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(c) the publication of the results of the special session and summaries in various DPI periodicals and reference materials such as UN Chronicle, UN Today (Suggestions for Speakers), Yearbook of the United Nations, and Basic Facts;

(d) radio programmes reflecting the deliberations and results of the special session.

Financial considerations

19. Provision is included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983 for the activities described above except for the Encounter, additional prints of the poster and the advance version of the United Nations Disarmament Yearbook. Should the Preparatory Committee wish these three activities to be undertaken, additional appropriations in the amounts of $72,000, $10,000 and $4,000 respectively would be required.