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

VIews of Members States on the Preparations for the Second Special Session

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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The holding of special sessions of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament reflects the awareness of the international community of the urgency of the task of disarmament and of its global dimensions. While the responsibilities of States for disarmament vary according to their military power and international role, all nations have the right and duty to co-operate in responding to this challenge.

The first special session devoted to disarmament reformed the multilateral disarmament machinery to increase the opportunities for all States to participate in the discussions on disarmament matters. The new structure of the Committee on Disarmament facilitated the participation of all permanent members of the Security Council, which greatly enhanced the status of this body. The Final Document of the first special session, adopted by consensus, constitutes the most fundamental and comprehensive statement of the international community on disarmament questions. Its provisions on the priorities, objectives and principles have since become an invaluable frame of reference for the entire disarmament process.

These considerable achievements of the first special session have to be weighed against the near total failure in the years since 1978 to translate the universal commitment to the cause of disarmament as embodied in the Final Document into concrete disarmament measures. Today, on the eve of the second special session devoted to disarmament, most of the elements of the Programme of Action, including those to which the highest priority was ascribed, still await implementation. In a rapidly deteriorating international climate disarmament and arms control negotiations stagnated or were suspended. Increasing tensions between the two major alliance systems accelerated the military buildup and led to a renewed emphasis on military power in international relations at the expense of co-operation and pressing social and economic concerns. Intensified military research efforts by the major Powers threaten the stability of deterrence, extend the arms race to outer space and further complicate arms control efforts.

The second special session on disarmament will thus take place at a time of severe strains in the fabric of international security and of an enormous surge in national armament efforts. But it is also the tie of an unprecedented rise in popular awareness of the danger and the wastefulness of the present arms race and of the imperative necessity to take steps to end it. This acute consciousness of the high risks and costs of a continuation of the present course is one of the few positive elements of the current situation. The Austrian Government hopes that the second special session will help to further enhance and focus this awareness and prepare the ground for transforming it into concrete progress toward disarmament.

Prevention of nuclear war

Prevention of nuclear war remains the most urgent task of the international community. In the face of an unceasing accumulation of ever more sophisticated and
destructive nuclear weapons it is obvious that the second special session must devote particular attention to this issue. To be fruitful, this discussion must be kept free from propaganda and polemics. It should rather aim at identifying concrete measures which could contribute to diminishing the risk of nuclear war.

1) Measures to enhance stability

Present developments of nuclear weapons technology and the ensuing new possibilities to use this weaponry as if it were no different from conventional arms are opening appalling new avenues of nuclear conflict. These tendencies undermine the stability of nuclear deterrence in times of international crises and increase the risk of an outbreak of nuclear war through human errors or technical malfunctions. While technological advances might promise short-lived gains in the nuclear balance between the two super-Powers they are ultimately working against their own security interests and those of all other nations. It seems, therefore, essential that these dangerous developments be stopped both through unilateral restraint and agreed measures. All nuclear-weapon States should adopt force postures aimed at maximizing stability and minimizing mutual mistrust and fears of pre-emptive nuclear strikes. Those military research efforts particularly dangerous to stability should be limited through international agreements. Some measures to improve communications in times of crises are already in existence (Hot Line Agreement, Agreement on the Prevention of Nuclear War, etc.). In view of the new threats to stability further steps should be taken with the participation of all nuclear-weapon States to facilitate crisis management and alleviate the risk of a fatal misunderstanding.

2) Nuclear disarmament

Ultimately only nuclear disarmament can be a reliable guarantee against the outbreak of nuclear war. The lack of tangible results in this area since 1978 constitutes the most serious failure in the implementation of the Final Document of the first special session devoted to disarmament.

It has to be recognized that in the present international situation significant progress toward nuclear disarmament can only be achieved in the framework of bilateral negotiations between the two nuclear-weapon States possessing the largest arsenals. It is for these reasons that the Austrian Government attaches the utmost importance to an early resumption of the negotiations on strategic nuclear arms between the United States and the Soviet Union. These negotiations should build on the achievement of SALT I and II and should aim at more comprehensive agreements providing for substantial cuts in the strategic arsenals and limitations on the development of new weapons.

In view of the close interrelationship between the weapons systems concerned, a resumption of the SALT process also constitutes a prerequisite for a successful conclusion of the ongoing negotiations on Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces in Geneva. Austria hopes that these negotiations will lead to the elimination or to sharp reductions of these forces. Future arms control efforts should also include nuclear weapons of shorter range. Quantitative and qualitative limitations on these weapons could contribute to raising the nuclear "threshold" and alleviate the risk of nuclear conflict.

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The primary responsibility of nuclear-weapon States notwithstanding, it seems essential that other nations whose security is, after all, equally affected by the threat of nuclear war, be actively involved in the nuclear disarmament process. The Committee on Disarmament is the appropriate forum for substantial and comprehensive talks on issues of nuclear disarmament. Parties to separate negotiations should keep the Committee on Disarmament informed on the progress made.

3) Comprehensive test ban and non-proliferation

Austria considers the nuclear arms race and the threat of a further spread of nuclear weapons as two closely interrelated aspects of the same problem. Only simultaneous decisive action in both areas can bring lasting progress toward a safer world. A comprehensive test ban which would impede both the further development of existing nuclear capabilities and the emergence of additional nuclear-weapon States, is, therefore, an essential step towards controlling both vertical and horizontal proliferation. The second special session should devote special attention to promoting an early conclusion of an adequately verifiable comprehensive test-ban treaty. In addition, other measures should be considered which could strengthen the non-proliferation treaty régime and increase its attractiveness to non-parties. Austria believes that the application of full-scope safeguards should constitute a condition of all future nuclear supply commitments.

Chemical weapons

Austria attaches special importance to the negotiations on the prohibition of the development, production and stock-piling of chemical weapons. While the bilateral talks between the United States and the USSR regrettably were suspended in 1980, the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Committee on Disarmament has in the years since made significant progress in identifying the issues and preparing the framework for such a convention. The constructive work of the Committee on Disarmament on this issue gives rise to the hope that the remaining important differences concerning the convention's scope and its system of verification can be bridged. An early conclusion of a chemical weapons ban would not only remove one of the most cruel types of weapons from the world's arsenals, it would also, as one of the first substantial and far-reaching disarmament agreements, immeasurably contribute to building up momentum for the entire disarmament process.

The second special session on disarmament should, therefore, call for an intensification of efforts to reaching agreement on the prohibition of chemical weapons. It should also appeal to all nations to refrain from any activities which would be incompatible with this goal.

Conventional weapons

Austria has long held the view that the conventional arms race, which consumes approximately 80 per cent of global military expenditures, has so far not received adequate attention within the framework of the United Nations. The decision by the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session to carry out a comprehensive study on conventional disarmament constitutes an important step to remedy this situation. Austria hopes that this study will provide valuable information on the existing
conventional arsenals and on the dimensions and the dynamics of the conventional arms buildup. It should also contain an in-depth analysis of the complex relationship between the nuclear and conventional arms races and a substantive evaluation of the various approaches toward conventional disarmament.

Austria believes, however, that the decision to begin an expert study on this issue does not diminish the necessity for the second special session to conduct a constructive dialogue on ways and means to promote conventional disarmament. In this connexion it should be kept in mind that the great difference in the levels of conventional armaments and forces in the various regions of the world make the regional approach particularly suitable for conventional disarmament. The second special session should, therefore, give a fresh impetus to existing regional disarmament efforts and promote the start of such processes in other regions.

Confidence-building measures and measures to improve the information in the military area

The first special session was a starting point for the United Nations' involvement with the evaluation and promotion of confidence-building measures. The work since then accomplished in the framework at the United Nations, in particular the expert study on this issue, has established the great potential of confidence-building measures for the strengthening of international peace and for fostering an international climate conducive to successful disarmament negotiations. The study has clarified the concept of confidence-building measures, increased governmental and public awareness of their value and outlined criteria and methods for their introduction and implementation. The expert group has finally emphasized the important role the United Nations could play in facilitating the development of confidence-building measures. It is to be hoped that the second special session will give new impetus to existing processes of confidence-building and encourage such efforts in other regions.

In this context, Austria continues to place a high degree of importance upon the proposal concerning a conference on confidence-building measures and disarmament in Europe which is under study at the Madrid follow-up meeting assembled on the basis of the Helsinki Final Act of 1975.

One other aspect of confidence-building in which Austria takes a particular interest is the improvement of information in the military area. Inadequate information on the military strength and the force posture of States often lead to misperceptions and mistrust, to rising tensions and an accelerated buildup in national armaments. Arms control and disarmament efforts are severely impeded by the uncertainty about the balance of military power. Measures to increase the flow and to enhance the objectivity of information could diminish misunderstandings, build confidence and thereby improve conditions for disarmament negotiations. Austria hopes that the second special session will help to advance the initiatives already under way in this area.

The elaboration of a standardized reporting instrument for military expenditures constituted an important step toward increasing information available on the level of resources devoted by States to military purposes. It also provided
an important prerequisite for agreements on the reduction of military budgets. To fully utilize its potential it seems essential that more States from different social and economic systems transmit annual reports on their military expenditures to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The establishment of an International Satellite Monitoring Agency would also be a valuable measure to provide objective information of military measures. Apart from its functions on the verification of compliance in arms control and disarmament agreements, the Agency could monitor military activities of States in areas of tension and thereby contribute to the settlement of international crisis. It could also be entrusted with other missions designed to build confidence through the dissemination of reliable information on the military potential of States.

In addition to promoting these initiatives, the second special session on disarmament should also consider other measures aimed at facilitating a higher degree of openness and enhancing the objectivity and reliability of information in the military area. In particular, Austria believes that an assessment of specific military situations by independent organs could alleviate international tension and strengthen security. Such mechanisms could be employed on a regional, interregional or global level to establish an objective data base concerning specific types of weapon systems and military forces as a step towards disarmament agreement. The institutional arrangements for such mechanisms would have to be carefully elaborated according to the special conditions and requirements of the respective area of application. The experience gained by the United Nations with fact-finding methods and study groups could provide valuable guidance for the setting up of such mechanisms.

**World Disarmament Campaign**

The support of world public opinion is an essential prerequisite for the success of efforts to halt the arms race. The mobilization of this support through the dissemination of information on the arms race and disarmament will, therefore, constitute one of the important objectives of the second special session on disarmament. The expert study on the organization and financing of a World Disarmament Campaign under the auspices of the United Nations provides a useful conceptual framework and realistic guidelines for the direction and financing of relevant programmes. Austria believes that strict objectivity of the disseminated information and equal accessibility of all regions are essential requirements for the success of these efforts.

**DENMARK**

[Original: English]

[23 April 1982]

It is a deplorable fact that neither bilateral nor international negotiations on disarmament - with one exception concerning inhumane weapons - have led to concrete results to the benefit of mankind since the first special session devoted
to disarmament which was held in 1978. The Danish Government expresses the hope that the second special session will create an environment conducive to the obtaining of important comprehensive and binding agreements in the years to come.

Accordingly Denmark assigns three major tasks to the second special session on disarmament, 1) the review of the implementation of decisions and recommendations adopted by the first special session on disarmament, 2) the adoption of a comprehensive programme of disarmament and 3) the review of machinery in the field of disarmament and the role of the United Nations in this field.

1. As regards the first major task of the second special on disarmament, the "review of the implementation of the decisions and recommendations adopted by the SSOD I", Denmark continues to be of the opinion that rather than merely emphasizing the lack of substantial progress in the field of disarmament the second special session should take into account the full complexity of the present international situation and reflect on the reasons why certain measures have not yet been implemented. For it is on the basis of a clear understanding of the present circumstances that a constructive and forward-looking dialogue should take place on specific disarmament measures.

In this respect Denmark regards it essential to stress vigorously the negative effects produced on the international climate and on mutual confidence - the latter being an indispensable prerequisite for fostering the process of disarmament - by the increasing number of serious violations of the principles of the Charter, such as invasions, permanent military occupations, gross interferences in the domestic affairs of other States, suppression of fundamental human rights and inadequate efforts on an international basis to promote the creation of a new and more just international economic order.

While Denmark sees no way but to accept the deplorable fact that the above-mentioned threats to the international security and the increased tensions in the world have negative implications for arms control and disarmament efforts Denmark in this very situation considers it of special importance to maintain and strengthen the broad dialogue within the United Nations and the Committee on Disarmament.

Denmark expresses the hope that the second special session will assist in rebuilding lost confidence.

2. "The adoption of a comprehensive programme of Disarmament" shall be a fundamental goal of the second special session. In the view of Denmark the comprehensive programme of disarmament should envisage the conclusion of specific disarmament measures already under negotiation and provide a realistic and flexible framework for negotiations on future disarmament measures together with a statement of the principles that should govern the negotiations and the priorities which should be applied in the negotiations without setting rigid time limits.

3. Denmark attaches the greatest importance to the realistic and concrete initiatives that Member States might introduce during the Session, including proposals regarding ways and means to strengthen the effectiveness of the machinery in the field of disarmament and the role of the United Nations in this field.

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As is well known Denmark considers it to be absolutely necessary that disarmament and arms limitation agreements provide for adequate measures of verification satisfactory to all parties concerned in order to create mutual confidence and to ensure that they are being observed by all parties. Denmark believes that the United Nations could play an enhanced role as regards development and implementation of measures of verification. Altogether, new thinking in the field of verification might greatly help to create favourable conditions for reaching arms control agreements, particularly for those of highest priority:

- Agreements on balanced and verifiable reductions of nuclear weapons and their delivery systems, respecting the principle of undiminished security for all States.

- Agreements on a comprehensive nuclear test ban.

- Agreements on the prohibition of chemical weapons.

- Agreements on balanced reductions of the present levels of conventional arms and armed forces.

Denmark confirms its high appreciation for the results of the United Nations studies, which make important contributions to further progress towards the final goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control. Denmark reaffirms its continued strong interest in the United Nations study on conventional disarmament in all its aspects, which with the support of a great majority of the States members of the United Nations has been launched by the General Assembly.

MEXICO

[Original: Spanish]

[7 April 1982]

In response to the invitation which the General Assembly extended to Member States in its resolution 36/81 of 9 December 1981, the Government of Mexico has the pleasure to formulate in this memorandum some considerations regarding the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, to be convened on 7 June 1982.

It seems clear that, as indicated under item 8 of the provisional agenda submitted by the Preparatory Committee, there will be during the general debate, a review and appraisal of the present international situation "in the light of the pressing need for specific generally agreed measures to eliminate the danger of war, in particular nuclear war, halt and reverse the arms race and to achieve substantial progress in the field of disarmament, especially in its nuclear aspects, taking due account of the close interrelationship between disarmament, international peace and security, as well as between disarmament and economic and
social development, particularly of the developing countries." As to the substantive matters under items 9 to 13 of the provisional agenda, Mexico maintains that the fundamental item is item 10, relating to the "consideration and adoption of the Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament".

The Final Document of 1978 specifically called for the elaboration of a comprehensive programme of disarmament, assigning a well-defined role to the Disarmament Commission, which was requested to consider "the elements" of such a programme. In due course, the Commission considered the elements and submitted them to the General Assembly as recommendations, which were endorsed by the Assembly at its thirty-fourth session. A well-defined role was also assigned to the Committee on Disarmament, which the Assembly instructed to undertake "the elaboration of a comprehensive programme of disarmament encompassing 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."

Pursuant to that Assembly decision, the Committee on Disarmament has been dealing with that question since February 1980. In March 1980, it established a Working Group, which began its work on 19 July. At the outset, the Group agreed that "the comprehensive programme will have to be self-contained" and should follow a structure very similar to that of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session.

It is clear from the above that the Comprehensive Programme should not only encompass all the elements included in the Final Document with regard to objectives, principles and priorities; as far as measures, stages of implementation, and machinery and procedure are concerned, the Programme will have to go further than the Document.

Accordingly, in order for the draft Comprehensive Programme elaborated by the Committee on Disarmament to receive proper consideration, there will have to be, inter alia, a review of the implementation of the decisions and recommendations adopted at the tenth special session and a review of the status of disarmament negotiations referred to in the Programme of Action, especially negotiations on nuclear disarmament. It will also be necessary to examine recommendations, consider how the studies initiated by the General Assembly during and since the tenth special session have been progressing, consider the initiatives and proposals of Member States and see how the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade is being implemented.

Another question that will absolutely have to be considered during the Assembly's deliberations on the Comprehensive Programme has to do with the strengthening of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament. Under this item, the Assembly should consider the functioning of the deliberative bodies, ways of enhancing the effectiveness of the Committee on Disarmament as the sole multilateral forum for disarmament negotiations, and other institutional arrangements, such as the possible convening of a World Disarmament Conference. Similarly, the World Disarmament Campaign (for which the provisional agenda includes a specific item with a view to the solemn launching of the campaign and in
connexion with which it is hoped that, pursuant to paragraph 4 of resolution 36/92 C of 9 December 1981, there will be "a pledging conference to take place at the initial stage of the special session"), and other disarmament education and information activities, such as the holding of seminars and the fellowship programme, will no doubt have their proper place in the Assembly's work. It is to be hoped, however, that this process will serve to complement work on the Comprehensive Programme, without in any way affecting the central role which the Programme undoubtedly deserves.

As Mexico has already stated in transmitting to the Secretary-General its views on the institutional arrangements relating to the process of disarmament, the Government believes that the United Nations Secretariat must be equipped to cope with the "increasing demands on United Nations management of disarmament affairs for purposes such as the promotion, substantive preparation, implementation and control of the process of disarmament", to use the terms of resolution 34/87 E of 11 December 1979.

To that end, it is felt that, for the time being, the best way for the United Nations Secretariat to cope with those demands would probably be by continuing, as it has done up to now, to strengthen and expand the structure and functions of the section concerned with disarmament in a gradual manner; thus the next step at the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly would be to change the existing "United Nations Centre for Disarmament" into a "Department for Disarmament Affairs", to be headed by an Under-Secretary-General. The Department would report directly to the Secretary-General and would be at the same level as the other Departments, such as the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs and the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs. After a few years, in the light of the results achieved and of future requirements in the sphere of disarmament, the United Nations could consider whether it would be justified to establish a specialized agency devoted to disarmament, in accordance with proposals already submitted to the General Assembly.

Finally, it is imperative to stress the need for States Members of the United Nations to accept, with regard to the Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament, a commitment that would ensure that its provisions are as binding as possible, even if they fail to be as binding as treaties and conventions - this, unfortunately, being a prospect which apparently has to be ruled out for the time being. There would be no point in adopting the noblest principles and objectives and what are potentially the most effective and productive measures, if some are to be condemned to dead-letter status. That, it must be admitted, is what has happened to virtually all the provisions of the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. The Assembly anticipated this with great foresight when it stated unequivocally: "The pressing need now is to translate into practical terms the provisions of this Final Document and to proceed along the road of binding and effective international agreements in the field of disarmament."
MONGOLIA

[Original: Russian]

[14 April 1982]

In pursuance of paragraph 4 of resolution 36/81 A, adopted at the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly, concerning the preparations for the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, and as a supplement to the comments of the Mongolian Government contained in my letter dated 29 April 1981 (A/AC.206/2/Add.2), I have the honour to inform you of the following:

1. The Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly adopted in 1978, is as important and relevant today as it was then. In that document the States Members of the United Nations proclaimed inter alia that "... the immediate goal is that of the elimination of the danger of a nuclear war and the implementation of measures to halt and reverse the arms race and clear the path towards lasting peace."

2. Against the background of the current world situation, that cardinal provision has become even more relevant.

As a result of the actions of the militant circles of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and primarily of the United States of America, which are attempting to heat up the international atmosphere as much as possible, the world situation has been sharply aggravated. The Administration of the United States has taken a dangerous course towards confrontation, the unprecedented exacerbation of the arms race and the production and use of increasingly destructive and inhuman weapons of mass destruction. The NATO decision for an arms build-up adopted in December 1979, is aimed at destroying the existing military and strategic balance on a world scale and achieving superiority over the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries. The United States is developing and beginning to produce radically new weapons of mass destruction and is blocking the work of various forums in which the questions of arms limitation and disarmament are being considered.

The plans of the United States to deploy new nuclear, neutron and chemical weapons in Western Europe are especially dangerous.

The world today stands at a cross-road with one path leading to the strengthening and development of peaceful co-operation between all States, while on the other, is the path of confrontation and brinkmanship.

3. Under these circumstances, the key problem of international relations is that of averting the threat of a global nuclear war. For that reason, the questions of arms limitation and disarmament and effective measures to reduce and eliminate nuclear missiles must be the focal points of the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.
4. The Mongolian People's Republic sees the session's basic goal as the discussion of effective measures to facilitate the speedy and complete implementation of the decisions of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament and of new and practical steps to end the nuclear arms race. In so doing, the session will also give an impetus to negotiations on specific questions of arms limitation.

5. The special session should devote particular attention to consideration of and support for new initiatives proposed by States Members of the United Nations with a view to curbing the arms race and preventing nuclear catastrophe.

In that connexion, it is desirable to underline the relevance of the new, constructive and peaceful initiatives of the Soviet Union for a gradual reduction of the medium-range nuclear weapons of the United States and the Soviet Union in Europe while preserving at all stages a balance in the limited amounts of such armaments retained by NATO and the Soviet Union a unilateral moratorium on the deployment of medium-range nuclear weapons in the European part of the USSR, that is to say, a qualitative and quantitative freeze on weapons already deployed there and cessation of the replacement of old missiles with newer ones, removal of a certain number of Soviet medium-range missiles before the end of this year, unless the international situation worsens, non-deployment of long-range marine and land-based cruise missiles, and reciprocal limitation of naval activities.

Such acts of good faith can create favourable opportunities for reaching agreement on the non-deployment of new United States medium-range nuclear weapons in Western Europe, which would be of great importance for détente on that continent and throughout the world.

6. The session must set itself the goal of promoting the early renewal of negotiations between the Soviet Union and the United States on the limitation of strategic weapons, which is a central problem in curbing the arms race and averting the threat of nuclear war.

7. The second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament should become an important beacon on the road to the convening of a world conference on that vitally important problem.

8. The special session is called upon to strengthen and enhance the relevant recommendations of the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly aimed at ending the arms race and preventing nuclear war. Of special importance are the Declaration on the Prevention of Nuclear Catastrophe and the resolutions on the prohibition of the stationing of weapons of any kind in outer space and on the prohibition of neutron and chemical weapons.

9. The work of the First Committee of the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session and of the Committee on Disarmament at Geneva this year has shown that many States attach great importance to the development of a comprehensive disarmament programme. The Mongolian People's Republic believes that such a programme should be completed, adopted at the special session and serve as a guideline for the development of practical measures for arms limitation and disarmament.
10. The Government of the Mongolian People's Republic holds the view that the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament should result in the adoption of a suitable final document or documents outlining specific ways and means of achieving the goals of arms limitation and disarmament.

11. In the world, especially in Europe, there has developed a powerful public movement against the arms race and in favour of disarmament, the guaranteeing of security and peaceful international co-operation. This movement could play an important role in achieving the purposes of the Charter of the United Nations relating to the preservation of international peace.

The Government of the Mongolian People's Republic has always attached great importance to the combination of United Nations efforts with international public movements for disarmament and the strengthening of general peace and security.

It was precisely for that purpose that at the tenth special session of the General Assembly, the Mongolian People's Republic advanced a proposal for the observance of an international week devoted to fostering the objectives of disarmament. The annual observance of such a disarmament week is an important means of mobilizing the public for the struggle against the growing threat of nuclear war and for arms limitation, disarmament and peace among peoples. Experience in the observance of such weeks over the past four years graphically demonstrates the need to continue and intensify United Nations activities aimed at mobilizing world opinion.

Guided by its consistent policy designed to strengthen international peace and the security of peoples, end the arms race and achieve general and complete disarmament, the Government of the Mongolian People's Republic will make every effort to contribute to fruitful work at the session and the adoption by it of effective resolutions.

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

[Original: Russian]

[16 April 1982]

The negotiations, including those conducted outside the United Nations, designed to limit the scope of the arms race, halt it and bring about concrete disarmament measures, are becoming increasingly important, particularly under the conditions of today, when unprecedented growth in weapons and the qualitative development of military technology, accompanied by the constant threat of the use of military force, including nuclear weapons, are causing alarm with regard to the entire future course of international relations.

The position of the Soviet Union with regard to negotiations on arms limitation and disarmament is well known. Basing its position on the inadmissibility of a situation in which the pace of the arms race far outstrips the results of negotiations on its limitation, the USSR advocates a more active use of all

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existing channels for negotiations and an increase in their practical output. It also favours the resumption and intensive continuation of the negotiations which were held in recent years but were interrupted through no fault of its own. Furthermore, the Soviet Union believes that it is possible and necessary to undertake negotiations on those questions which have not yet been the subject of negotiations but need to be settled.

The negotiations between the USSR and the United States of America on the reduction of nuclear weapons in Europe are of particular importance today. Making every effort to ensure that these negotiations are conducted in a businesslike manner and yield substantial and constructive results, the Soviet delegation at the negotiations submitted a set of proposals calling for a considerable (more than threefold) phased reduction in the present number of medium-range nuclear weapons in Europe (approximately 1,000 units on each side).

These proposals, providing for the reduction of present medium-range nuclear weapons to 600 units on each side by the end of 1985 and to 300 units by the end of 1990, would maintain at all stages of the reduction the present approximate balance in such weapons between the USSR and the NATO countries and constitute in our opinion, a good framework for a reasonable agreement on the basis of equality and equal security. In order to create a favourable atmosphere for negotiations the Soviet Union has also unilaterally declared a moratorium on the deployment of medium-range nuclear weapons in the European part of the USSR and expressed a readiness to remove a certain number of its medium range missiles before the end of 1982 if there is no further aggravation of the international situation.

Unfortunately, the United States is still showing a clear unwillingness to seek through negotiations a basis for a mutually acceptable agreement. The so-called "zero option" which it has proposed calls only for the elimination of all medium-range Soviet missiles, while leaving untouched corresponding medium-range weapons and systems of the United States and the other NATO countries on the European continent. Hence this option completely contradicts the principle of equality and equal security and is designed to attain the single goal of destroying the present balance both in Europe and at the global level, to the detriment of the security of the USSR and its allies.

The USSR is also making vigorous efforts to achieve speedy practical results in the Vienna negotiations on the reduction of armed forces and armaments in Central Europe. The socialist countries participating in these negotiations have gone more than half-way to accommodate their Western counterparts.

In order to give new impetus to the negotiations, the USSR and the other socialist countries recently submitted at Vienna a draft agreement on the mutual reduction of armed forces and armaments and on related measures in Central Europe during the first phase.

This draft agreement is a comprehensive document, which contains all the necessary components for an agreement that would make possible the practical reduction of the level of military confrontation in the central part of the
European continent. It carefully balances the security interests of all States participating in the negotiations, including the countries with special status. The document provides for a carefully balanced system of supervision ensuring that States fulfil the obligations which they have assumed under the agreement and promoting the strengthening of mutual trust. The draft agreement does not place on the opposite side any obligations that the socialist countries themselves would not be prepared to accept. Unfortunately, at Vienna everything has been blocked by the Western countries' lack of political will to resolve the outstanding questions of principle relating to the reduction of the armed forces and armaments of the USSR and the United States in the first phase.

A large number of disarmament questions form the subject of negotiations in the Geneva Committee on Disarmament, whose role has grown significantly at a time when certain States are attempting to curtail other negotiations on these questions. Actively participating in the consideration of the questions at issue, the Soviet Union advocates that they should be settled speedily and that the Committee should achieve concrete and tangible results which would demonstrate the effectiveness of that multilateral disarmament body.

The Soviet Union considers it essential to give new impetus to the work of the Committee on Disarmament in the prohibition of chemical weapons. This problem is particularly relevant today in the light of the programmes undertaken by the United States for a sharp quantitative and qualitative increase in its chemical arsenals and of its plans to deploy these weapons, inter alia, in Europe.

In this connexion, the Committee should take urgent measures to prevent the production and deployment of new generations of chemical weapons, particularly binary weapons, and their emplacement in countries where there are no such weapons at the present time.

In the opinion of the USSR, the Committee on Disarmament should also intensify efforts to resolve the question of strengthening security guarantees for non-nuclear States. The elaboration and conclusion of an appropriate international convention is the most effective means of solving this problem. As a first step, all nuclear Powers could, in keeping with the appeals made in relevant General Assembly resolutions, make parallel declarations on the non-use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear States which do not have nuclear weapons in their territory.

In addition, the Soviet Union is doing everything necessary to enable the Committee on Disarmament to complete as soon as possible the drafting of a treaty prohibiting radiological weapons.

With regard to the suspended talks, which must be resumed, the question that is becoming most acute and urgent is that of continuing the process of strategic-arms limitation and reaching agreement between the USSR and the United States on limiting and reducing such armaments. As is well known, the United States has refused to give effect to the treaty signed in 1979 on that subject and has thus far refused to resume the talks, advancing a variety of specious pretexts to justify its refusal.
The Soviet Union has appealed to the Government of the United States not to place artificial obstacles in the way of the SALT talks and to participate in those talks at the earliest opportunity. Pending the resumption of the talks, the USSR is proposing that both sides should undertake not to open a new outlet for the arms race and not to develop long-range marine and land-based cruise missiles.

The USSR has consistently advocated the resumption of other talks on strategic-arms limitation and disarmament which have been broken off by the Western parties. They include the talks between the USSR, the United States and the United Kingdom on a general and complete prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests and a number of bilateral Soviet-United States talks on such issues as the prohibition and elimination of chemical weapons, the limiting of sales and deliveries of conventional weapons, and the limitation and subsequent reduction of military activities in the Indian Ocean.

The USSR takes the view that there is also a sound basis - in the form of General Assembly recommendations - for entering into a dialogue on those aspects of strategic-arms limitation on which talks have not yet been held.

In this connexion the USSR believes that the Committee on Disarmament must implement the relevant recommendations of the General Assembly and must initiate, as soon as possible, both the practical preparations for talks and the talks themselves on such urgent problems as nuclear disarmament, general and complete prohibition of nuclear-weapon testing, prohibition of the production, stockpiling, deployment and use of neutron nuclear weapons, and prohibition of the emplacement of weapons of any type in outer space.

In the view of the Soviet Union, a working group on the problem of the non-emplacement of nuclear weapons in the territory of States in which there are no such weapons at the present time and a special group of experts on the problem of the prohibition of new weapons of mass destruction should be set up within the Committee on Disarmament in the interests of finding an effective solution of these problems.

The USSR attaches great importance to questions relating to the strengthening of confidence, security and disarmament in Europe and believes that a positive contribution to the solution of such questions could be made by a general European conference on these matters. The work of such a conference could do much to strengthen peace throughout Europe and in the world at large.

The elaboration and implementation of confidence-building measures in the Far East would also help to promote détente and to strengthen the foundations of peace. The Soviet Union is prepared to engage in specific talks on this question with all interested countries in any forms acceptable to the participants in the talks.

The Soviet Union takes an attitude of the utmost seriousness and conscientiousness towards all talks on arms limitation and disarmament. The USSR has consistently manifested goodwill and a desire to co-operate constructively and to reach mutually acceptable solutions through dialogue. In this context it is prepared to go as far as other States will agree to go, up to and including general and complete disarmament.