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

VIEWS OF MEMBER STATES ON THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE SECOND SPECIAL SESSION

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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IRELAND

[Original: English]
[12 May 1982]

Special session

1. Ireland considers that notwithstanding the present deterioration in international relations, every effort should be made to conduct the special session in a constructive way. While the General Assembly should take into account the extent to which the present state of affairs hinders possibilities for making progress in disarmament, account should also be taken of the fact that this state of affairs makes negotiations more urgent than ever before.

Committee on Disarmament

2. When examining the progress so far achieved in disarmament negotiations, the General Assembly should consider the reasons why the Committee on Disarmament has not succeeded in negotiating measures in areas where the overwhelming majority of the United Nations membership has long demanded progress.

Comprehensive programme of disarmament

3. The elaboration of a comprehensive programme of disarmament should figure among the first priorities of the session. The Committee on Disarmament has already conducted negotiations on such a programme for two years. The comprehensive programme should represent an advance on the Programme of Action contained in the Final Document of the first special session. It should be realistic in the goals it sets for the international community and for the States principally concerned. But it should also be framed as to impart an impetus to disarmament negotiations. The programme should contain an outline of measures which will institute an orderly and integrated progression towards the major disarmament and arms control goals. This should be accomplished in accordance with a sequence of phases and in such a manner as to ensure undiminished security for all States at each stage in the process.

Nuclear disarmament

4. The special session should continue to emphasize the undiminished need for progress in nuclear disarmament. Conventional arms have caused untold death and injury in the last quarter of a century; nuclear arms, however, are of a different order and represent a threat to mankind itself. Strategies and tactics of nuclear war, in which the possibility of engaging in a limited nuclear war is for the first time being envisaged as a rational instrument of state policy, underline the need for renewed resolve completely to eliminate these weapons for all time.

Comprehensive test-ban treaty

5. Ireland considers the comprehensive test-ban treaty as a logical first step in nuclear disarmament. The special session should reaffirm the importance which the
international community attaches to the conclusion of a comprehensive test-ban treaty. It should also urge the Committee on Disarmament to expedite the negotiations and conclude a multilateral agreement at the earliest possible date.

Reduction of nuclear weapons

6. The adoption of a realistic comprehensive programme of disarmament should promote a phased, progressive and balanced reduction of stockpiles of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery. The General Assembly should urge the nuclear Powers to discharge their responsibilities in engaging in the bilateral negotiations envisaged in such a programme.

Assurances against the use of nuclear weapons

7. The special session should examine the possibilities for the early conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. The discussion of the question in the Committee on Disarmament demonstrates the need for some concrete steps to be taken now by the nuclear-weapon States.

Nuclear non-proliferation

8. The adoption of measures such as those described above would be a major step in strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation régime and in promoting universal adherence to the nuclear non-proliferation Treaty. Strict observance of the Treaty's provisions is essential to achievement of the goal of nuclear disarmament.

Chemical weapons

9. Ireland has taken note of the broadened mandate for the Ad Hoc Working Group on the chemical weapons convention agreed in the Committee of Disarmament and hopes that substantial progress towards a convention will be reported to the special session.

Conventional weapons

10. Ireland is also concerned that there should be a halt to the growth of conventional weapons. The recent upsurge in acquiring conventional arms both in the developed and developing countries has given a new urgency to the need for limiting and reducing these weapons.

Disarmament and development

11. Ireland hopes that the Secretary-General's study on the relationship between disarmament and development will highlight the need to reallocate resources for civilian purposes which are currently squandered in this way. The special session should consider possible arrangements with special reference to the needs of developing countries.
Outer space

12. At the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly, the international community demonstrated its concern at developments which might result in the emplacement of weapons of any kind in outer space. A nuclear arms race in outer space was prevented by the 1968 Treaty on the peaceful uses of outer space and a similar treaty or a protocol to the earlier treaty could again preclude any new threat to the peaceful uses of outer space. Its effectiveness is likely to depend on an instrument being concluded at an early date. The special session should take account of the urgency of this question in its deliberations.

Role of the United Nations

13. The United Nations should continue to exercise its central role in disarmament and should have adequate institutions at its disposal to respond to the increasing demands made on it. The special session will have to consider the most effective means of maintaining and enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations institutions in the field of disarmament, including the Centre for Disarmament.

PORTUGAL

[Original: French]
[12 May 1982]

The Government of Portugal has already informed the Secretary-General of its views on the holding of the second special session devoted to disarmament in accordance with paragraph 3 of resolution 35/47 of the thirty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly. This information was published in United Nations document A/AC.206/2/Add.1. We are taking advantage of the consultation held pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 4 of resolution 36/81 A of the thirty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly to clarify and reaffirm certain points of view.

The Government of Portugal wishes to reaffirm its commitment to the rule of adoption by consensus of all substantive decisions and resolutions of the special session.

In its deliberations, the Assembly should take due account of the current state and complexity of international relations. Tensions felt in recent years as a result of violations of the United Nations Charter have created a climate of distrust among countries and encouraged the arms race. The Assembly should accordingly take note of them in its analysis of developments in and the current status of disarmament and arms control negotiations.

Time and again, several States including Portugal have stressed the importance of verifying disarmament and arms control agreements. A few recent developments have demonstrated the importance of such verification. The Assembly should therefore reaffirm the important role that verification mechanisms play in disarmament and arms control agreements.
We hope that the Assembly will be able to adopt progressive measures in the field of disarmament. Among such measures, Portugal attaches very great importance to the adoption of the comprehensive programme of disarmament currently being negotiated in the Committee on Disarmament. We feel that, in view of the current state of international relations, flexibility and realism should be two characteristics of such a programme.

Portugal also attaches great importance to all measures likely to reduce existing military arsenals in a balanced and internationally verifiable manner. In this regard, nuclear disarmament undoubtedly becomes the priority objective of disarmament efforts. However, the principle of undiminished security for States resulting from disarmament and arms control measures adopted should be taken into consideration.

Furthermore, the conclusion of agreements on the total prohibition of all nuclear and chemical-weapons testing would signify major progress.

Conventional armaments constitute a significant percentage of international military spending. They play a very important role in international relations at the regional level. This makes it justifiable for the Assembly to consider the possibility of adopting procedures for reducing conventional arsenals in some regions, particularly those in which tensions are more evident.

The United Nations has produced studies of undeniable importance, particularly on regional disarmament, confidence-building measures, relations between disarmament and development and the establishment of an international agency for satellite control that are worthy of the attention of the Assembly.