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

VIEWS OF MEMBER STATES ON THE AGENDA AND OTHER RELEVANT QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE SECOND SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEVOTED TO DISARMAMENT

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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AUSTRALIA

Australia's approach to questions of disarmament and arms control has been stated frequently in United Nations forums. Australia strongly supports the goal of disarmament and the negotiation of balanced and verifiable measures of arms control. Australia will continue to give the highest priority to preventing the spread of nuclear weapons, particularly through continued support for the nuclear non-proliferation Treaty, the conclusion of a comprehensive nuclear test ban Treaty, which would ban the testing of nuclear weapons by all States in all environments, and through the development of an international consensus on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Australia's view is that the second special session on disarmament offers the international community an opportunity to review the international disarmament agenda. Australia would hope that the special session might concentrate on those disarmament issues which are likely to lead to fruitful concentration in disarmament forums; including the Committee on Disarmament and the United Nations Disarmament Commission, and set aside those items of an essentially political nature which have unfortunately remained on the United Nations General Assembly's First Committee agenda for several years.

A review by the second special session of the disarmament agenda should, of course, include review of the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. But Australia believes that there should be no attempt to amend or rewrite that document. Such action would retard progress towards the goal of securing early and fruitful action on those disarmament issues where such progress is possible.

Australia would hope, therefore, that the second special session on disarmament will give impetus and effectiveness to international disarmament and arms control endeavours. Australia is of the view that the second special session should be able to restate clearly its recognition that there is a continuing need for international endeavours towards arms control and disarmament. The need for these endeavours has been underlined by the threats to world peace which have been experienced in the period since the first special session.

The second special session should recognize that there is a need to set priorities in the discussion of arms control measures. In Australia's view, the elaboration of a treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons testing in all environments is a central issue on the international disarmament agenda, and the second special session should encourage the early conclusion of such an agreement. Australia also sees progress towards a chemical weapons convention as of particular importance to the international community. Australia hopes that the session will accord the highest priority to those issues. On such matters, as with other areas of arms control and disarmament, Australia believes that effective verification is an essential element in any agreement. While the precise requirements for verification...
provisions will depend on the nature and scope of the agreement in question, verification must protect the security of States accepting agreed limitations, provide reasonable confidence that a case of non-compliance will be quickly detected, deter any breach of agreed conditions and provide mechanisms to deal with possible breaches or circumvention. Australia hopes that the second special session will strongly endorse the principle of verification.

Australia has noted the progress which has been made recently in the Committee on Disarmament on the drawing up of a comprehensive programme of disarmament, and hopes that there might emerge from the second special session a realistic programme of concrete disarmament measures worthy of the respect and support of all countries.

Australia also supports suggestions that the second special session could usefully examine the effectiveness of existing disarmament forums and discuss the follow-up action required by the various disarmament studies currently being undertaken for the special session.

BULGARIA

//Original: Russian//
//5 May 1981//

The People's Republic of Bulgaria attaches great importance to the second special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament, scheduled to take place in 1982.

Disarmament is an exceptionally important key problem of modern times, whose solution depends directly on the strengthening of peace and international security. This problem has become particularly acute and urgent in the current strained international situation where, as a result of actions by the forces of imperialism and militarism designed to accelerate the arms race sharply and heighten military confrontation, the danger of war has been growing.

In accordance with its peace-loving policy, Bulgaria, like the other countries of the socialist community, is resolutely opposed to certain countries' efforts considerably to expand their armaments so as to attain NATO military superiority over the forces of the Warsaw Treaty Organization and to their "position of strength" policy. In contrast to these efforts, the member States of the Warsaw Treaty Organization are calling for a change-over to cutbacks in weapon stockpiles, a reduction in the level of military confrontation and the expansion of detente to the military sphere. This consistent political line was again resoundingly confirmed in the decisions taken at the Twenty-sixth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU), the Twelfth Congress of the Bulgarian Communist Party and communist party congresses in other socialist countries.

Bulgaria fully and unreservedly supports the CPSU peace programme drawn up at the Party's Twenty-sixth Congress this year. The wide range of concrete,
constructive proposals put forward by L. I. Brezhnev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, on arms limitations and military détente are of particular importance in averting the danger of nuclear war and preserving peace on earth. Putting these important initiatives into practice would undoubtedly help to achieve a faster solution to some of the most urgent and pressing problems in this area, creating an atmosphere of mutual trust and co-operation between countries.

The new proposals for the Balkans made by Todor Zhivkov, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party and Chairman of the Bulgarian Council of State, at the Twelfth Congress of the Bulgarian Communist Party, are also designed to promote the development and strengthening of peaceful relations and co-operation among States.

The real way out of the present complicated and dangerous international situation is to take decisive steps to halt the unchecked arms race and bring about disarmament. This is the reason why the second special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament is of such importance.

The first special session, in 1978, adopted by consensus an elaborate Final Document covering all aspects and problems related to disarmament.

The implementation of the measures set forth in this programme is again on the agenda. Hence the primary task of the second special session is to discuss the situation as regards arms limitation and matters relating to the implementation of the decisions and recommendations from the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. The agenda should also allow for a discussion of new initiatives from States Members of the United Nations and the adoption of a corresponding final document or documents.

The first special session evolved and applied suitable organizational and procedural arrangements, allowing generally acceptable decisions to be reached without prejudicing States' security. This experience can be used to lighten considerably the task of preparing for the second special session.

Bulgaria continues to be convinced of the objective need for a comprehensive discussion of the problems of disarmament at the most broad-based world forum, where effective decisions binding on States may be taken. It therefore considers it particularly pertinent for the second special session to decide in favour of commencing concrete, practical preparations for a world conference on disarmament.

There is no doubt that conditions will be the more propitious for a successful special session if, over the period until the session opens, there are intensive efforts to make real advances towards solving the most pressing and urgent problems of disarmament. This will require that current negotiations be stimulated by all possible means, and the groundwork be laid for serious negotiations on new facets of disarmament, particularly where nuclear disarmament is concerned.

Bulgaria hopes that the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament will satisfy peoples' longings for a breakthrough in efforts to check the arms race and to make determined progress towards solving the problems of disarmament. The session must take a further step towards the ultimate goal - universal and complete disarmament.
Pakistan believes that the main purposes of the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament are to secure implementation of and progress towards concrete and priority disarmament measures, to intensify the political commitment of States to the objectives of disarmament and to reinforce the institutional mechanisms required to achieve these objectives.

DRAFT AGENDA OF THE SECOND SPECIAL SESSION

2. To realize the above goals, the agenda of the second special session should include consideration of the following subjects:

I. Urgent political and security measures to halt and reverse the arms race

3. Despite the far-reaching consensus on disarmament achieved at the first special session of the General Assembly on disarmament, the nuclear and conventional arms race has continued to escalate sharply due to a marked deterioration in the international political climate. The recent years have seen military interventions and acts of violence by States which have dealt a grievous blow to international peace and security and have frustrated international initiatives for disarmament. There is a real danger that this negative trend may further intensify unless international tensions are eased through urgent solutions of the crisis situations in the various regions of the world through political dialogue and on the basis of respect for international law and the expressed will of the international community. The second special session must, therefore, consider adoption of political and security measures which could strengthen international peace and security in which respect for independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of States is ensured. Such an environment is imperative for meaningful progress in the international endeavours for disarmament. In our view, the second special session provides the opportunity for all concerned to present their point of view on the present international situation and to initiate a dialogue, at a high political level, designed to defuse international tension and to halt and reverse the global arms race, especially between the two super-Powers.

II. Comprehensive programme for disarmament

4. The Final Document of the first special session devoted to disarmament, the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade and the relevant decisions of the Committee on Disarmament clearly stipulate that the comprehensive programme of disarmament should be adopted at the second special session. That programme could form the centrepiece of the actions to be taken at the second special session...
provided it contained meaningful disarmament measures leading to general and complete disarmament; created legal and political obligations for all States to negotiate and implement these measures in a step-by-step process, and included a clear indication of the time-frames within which these measures are to be achieved.

III. Adoption of treaties and agreements on specific disarmament items

5. Several urgent and priority measures of disarmament approved at the tenth special session of the General Assembly have been included on the annual agenda of the Committee on Disarmament for negotiations. The Committee has set up ad hoc working groups to conduct negotiations on chemical weapons, radiological weapons and effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, besides the comprehensive programme of disarmament. Furthermore, the Declaration of the 1980s as a disarmament decade states, in paragraph 12, that "all efforts should be exerted by the Committee on Disarmament urgently to negotiate with a view to reach agreement, and to submit agreed texts where possible before the second special session devoted to disarmament" on a comprehensive test ban treaty, a treaty banning chemical weapons, a treaty for the prohibition of radiological weapons and on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

6. Therefore, the agenda of the second special session should provide for the adoption of the concrete treaties or agreements which the Committee on Disarmament is expected to transmit to the session on these above-mentioned four items.

IV. Review of the implementation of the Final Document adopted at the tenth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament and of the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade

(i) Status of implementation of various measures

7. The Final Document adopted at the tenth special session states, in paragraph 44, that "the present Programme of Action enumerates the specific measures of disarmament which should be implemented over the next few years". The Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade also provides for the achievement of several concrete measures of disarmament, either immediately or during the course of the decade. Those items on which treaties or agreements are expected to be negotiated could be considered separately as recommended above. However, other important measures, including those on which negotiations are under way or contemplated on a bilateral or regional basis, would also need to be reviewed at the second special session. These questions include: SALT negotiations, medium-range nuclear weapons and limitation and reduction of conventional weapons in Europe, establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in Africa, the Middle East and South Asia and creation of zones of peace in the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia.
The States concerned should transmit comprehensive information regarding the status of implementation or stage of negotiation of all such measures contained in the Programme of Action adopted at the tenth special session and in the Declaration of the Second Disarmament Decade.

(ii) Disarmament and development

8. The tenth special session commissioned a comprehensive expert study on the relationship between disarmament and development whose recommendations should be examined by the Preparatory Committee. The second special session should adopt concrete decisions on this subject, including on proposals such as the one for the establishment of an international disarmament fund for development.

9. The special session should also elaborate on the previous recommendations concerning the promotion of international co-operation for the peaceful uses of nuclear technology with a view to making a positive contribution to the success of the United Nations Conference on the subject to be convened in 1983.

(iii) Institutional measures

10. Three kinds of institutional questions will have to be addressed by the special session:

    (a) Intergovernmental;

    (b) Expert studies and research; and

    (c) The responsibilities of the United Nations.

(a) Institutional measures at the intergovernmental level

11. The first special session on disarmament adopted a number of important decisions regarding the intergovernmental machinery in the field of disarmament, including the establishment of the Committee on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission, etc. The second special session should evaluate the effectiveness and achievements of these and other bodies in the field of disarmament and make appropriate recommendations for such improvements as may be necessary. The experience in the Committee on Disarmament so far, particularly its inability to initiate negotiations on certain priority items, indicates the need for a review of this negotiating body. Similarly, consideration should also be given to a more effective utilization of the Disarmament Commission, specifically the contribution it could make to the examination of disarmament issues by the First Committee. The second special session may also consider assigning the responsibility to one of the existing intergovernmental institutions or creating a separate institutional arrangement for the purpose of monitoring progress on the implementation of the results of the second special session, particularly the implementation of such confidence-building measures which are aimed at creating a climate conducive to relaxation of international tension.

/...
(b) Expert studies and research

12. The expert studies and research undertaken in pursuance of the decisions of the first special session have proved to be especially useful. They have enriched the body of thought on disarmament issues and have compiled valuable material for mobilizing world public opinion. These studies are especially useful to developing countries which do not have resources to undertake independent research in various fields of development. The second special session should further expand such study programmes and adopt decisions to enhance their relevance to concrete disarmament negotiations. The recommendations of the Secretary-General’s Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies would be most relevant in this context.

(c) Role and responsibilities of the United Nations

13. The central role which the United Nations is expected to play in the promotion of the cause of disarmament will lead to heavier responsibilities on its part in the wake of the second special session on disarmament. These responsibilities include assistance and support to the various intergovernmental disarmament institutions and an active involvement in various disarmament programmes, particularly the universal campaign for disarmament. The second special session may examine the related institutional questions, if there are any, with a view to enhancing the capacity of the Secretariat to adequately carry out its increased responsibilities.

Other relevant questions

14. Apart from approving a draft agenda for the second special session, the Preparatory Committee shall have to examine and submit its recommendations on organizational and other questions relating to the session.

Duration and venue of the second special session

15. The second special session should be convened at United Nations Headquarters in New York in mid-1982 for a period of four to five weeks.

General debate, creation of committees, etc.

16. As regards organization of work, it may be useful to draw inspiration from the precedents established at the first special session. The second special session could thus open with a brief general debate, which could be followed by the convening of a committee of the whole at the ministerial level to evolve specific recommendations on the political and security measures required to halt and reverse the arms race and to create necessary conditions for disarmament. In addition, separate ad hoc committees could also be convened at the special session to examine the comprehensive programme of disarmament and other treaties and agreements to be adopted at the session and to conduct a review of the implementation of the various disarmament measures as well as to examine and approve recommendations relating to institutional measures.
Final document and resolutions to be adopted at the second special session

17. In addition to the agenda, an important question concerns the final document and resolutions to be adopted at the second special session. The Final Document adopted by the first special session on disarmament enjoys universal consensus as an important blueprint for international disarmament initiatives and its status as such must be preserved. The second special session may, however, enlist priorities or further disarmament measures to supplement the Final Document of the first special session. The comprehensive programme of disarmament and any other disarmament treaty or agreement may be adopted through separate resolutions of the General Assembly. Furthermore, the second special session may give consideration to preparing a separate ministerial declaration regarding political and security measures for the improvement of the international political climate.

Role of the Preparatory Committee

18. Apart from reaching agreement on the draft agenda and organizational matters, the Preparatory Committee could assist in the adoption of well-considered decisions at the second special session by drafting recommendations for consideration at the special session, especially on the review of the implementation of disarmament measures and institutional questions.
UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

[Original: Russian]  
[30 April 1981]

The Ukrainian SSR attaches great importance to the preparations for the second special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament. This international gathering is particularly important in present circumstances, when there are serious complications in the international situation and a continuing build-up of armaments, especially nuclear missiles.

The aims of strengthening international peace and security and maintaining and expanding détente urgently demand that the arms race be curbed, the efforts of all States to achieve practical results in that field be further intensified, and the threat of war be removed. It was from that position that the Ukrainian SSR, together with other countries of the socialist community, approached the preceding special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. This position of principle was affirmed anew at the Twenty-sixth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Twenty-sixth Congress of the Communist Party of the Ukraine.

The Final Document of the preceding special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament contains many positive elements which lay a fairly good basis for the activities of States Members of the United Nations aimed at curtailing the arms race and achieving disarmament. However, negotiations on a number of specific matters in that field, including such important matters as the strategic arms limitation, have recently come to a standstill or been broken off.

The Ukrainian SSR acknowledges the role of the United Nations in preserving peace and security, and values the contribution which this Organization is making to the search for a solution to the problems of the limitation of the arms race and the achievement of disarmament.

In the opinion of the Ukrainian SSR, the second special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament can and should provide further stimulus for fruitful talks on the specific and pressing questions of arms limitation and disarmament. For that purpose, its agenda should provide for a general exchange of views on the implementation of the provisions and principles contained in the Final Document of the first special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament and a discussion of new and constructive proposals by States Members of the United Nations aimed at containing the perilous arms race and achieving disarmament, including preparations for the convening of a world conference on disarmament. The results of the work of the second special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament should, of course, be duly reflected in the relevant document or documents.

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The Ukrainian SSR is prepared to do everything possible to enable the second special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament to play a useful role in arms limitation and disarmament. For that purpose, a responsible approach and political will are necessary on the part of all States Members of the United Nations.

VENEZUELA

[Original: Spanish]
[14 May 1981]

The first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament was an unprecedented event which laid the basis for giving a decisive impetus to the efforts to achieve disarmament which the United Nations has been making determinedly and perseveringly ever since it was established.

The ideas and provisions of the Final Document of the first special session have acquired greater validity and depth in the face of the growing deterioration of the international situation, one of the principal causes of which has been, in fact, the continuing nuclear arms race. Consequently, it has become imperative to redouble efforts and formulate new initiatives to achieve disarmament as a vital factor in promoting understanding among States and contributing to the emergence of a new, more just and more equitable world order. This sense of urgency was reflected in the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade.

The second special session devoted to disarmament will have special significance in the sense that it could become an important step towards maintaining the impetus generated by the first special session and directing United Nations work in that field towards the immediate adoption and application of specific and effective disarmament measures.

The Government of Venezuela hopes that efforts to finalize in time for the special session the draft conventions or agreements on chemical weapons and arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons currently being negotiated in the Committee on Disarmament will be intensified.

In the opinion of Venezuela, the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament should consider the following matters on a priority basis:

Comprehensive programme of disarmament

1. Clearly, the centre-piece of the second special session must be the adoption of the comprehensive programme of disarmament which is currently being negotiated in the Committee on Disarmament. It is to be hoped that the Committee on Disarmament will be able to submit the most refined and complete draft possible.

As has repeatedly been noted, the comprehensive programme of disarmament should provide the necessary framework for promoting substantive discussions on
disarmament, with a view to achieving the application of a balanced and harmonious package of the greatest possible number of specific disarmament measures as soon as possible.

In the opinion of the Venezuelan Government, these measures must be interrelated and carried out through a gradual negotiation process guaranteeing security to all States. Thus the programme should promote security through disarmament.

The programme should not be at the mercy of the vicissitudes of the international situation. All States, especially the nuclear Powers, must make a commitment that, once the programme has begun, they will do everything possible to prevent external events from disturbing the progress of the negotiations provided for in that mechanism.

Venezuela hopes that the comprehensive programme of disarmament will be an instrument which, by its nature, will demand as solemn and binding a commitment as possible. It shares the view that the programme should contain or be preceded by a declaration, which will be adopted during the forthcoming special session.

The measures to be included in the programme should be based on the priorities set out in paragraph 45 of the Final Document, which would mean that the immediate cessation of the nuclear arms race and the elimination of the threat of nuclear war would receive priority.

The programme should contain stipulations or guidelines with respect to the time-frame for its implementation. The time factor is an essential element in stimulating and channeling the achievement of the objectives outlined. Consequently, the programme would provide for various phases or stages of execution. The number of phases will clearly depend on the measures, priorities and time-frame, so that a balance is achieved among the agreed measures. A period of 20 years consisting of four stages of five years each could be considered. Each stage or phase would be subjected to an evaluation process for the purpose of monitoring the rate of implementation of the decisions. As has been suggested, the monitoring process could be carried out at special sessions of the General Assembly or conferences convened especially for that purpose. At all events, the United Nations should play a primary role in supervising the implementation of the programme.

The comprehensive programme of disarmament must be an instrument that will contribute to the achievement of a new international order based on justice and equity.

Mobilization of international public opinion to promote disarmament

2. Venezuela has repeatedly stressed the importance it attaches to efforts designed to promote the mobilization of international public opinion on behalf of disarmament.

The need to establish new mechanisms and improve existing ones in order duly to inform the public about the implications of the arms race, especially the nuclear
arms race, and its growing risks and dangers is being demonstrated more and more clearly. It is already obvious that an international public thoroughly aware of the various aspects of the complex nuclear arms race could be of great service in promoting and extolling the goals of disarmament.

Since the first special session, fair progress has been made in the important task of informing the public. There is much to be done, however, since the very dynamism of the arms race imposes additional demands and responsibilities. Consequently, the intensity of efforts and initiatives to disseminate information must match or exceed the extremely rapid and alarming pace at which nuclear arms competition is proceeding. The public's demands for lasting peace and real disarmament can be mobilized by the United Nations still further through co-operation with non-governmental organizations and individuals.

The relationship between disarmament and development

3. This is one of the subjects which has become increasingly relevant in recent years. The special session will have before it a report on disarmament and development by a group of experts appointed by the Secretary-General, on the basis of which the General Assembly must formulate appropriate recommendations, taking into account the pressing need to move towards a just and equitable world order.

The comprehensive programme of disarmament should contain measures which ensure that the disarmament process contributes to the economic and social development of all peoples.