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

VIIEWS 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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BAHAMAS

The Bahamas welcomes the decision taken by the General Assembly in adopting a resolution which recommends a second special session devoted to disarmament.

While the Bahamas feels that even though progress since the first special session has been minimal, she is of the opinion that in a decade when struggle for power seems to outweigh the desire to compromise, continued frank discussions and serious negotiations are mandatory if there is to be an appreciable slow-down in the arms race and a decrease in military spending.

The Bahamas is convinced that small developing nations can no longer afford to be mere spectators in these debates. Conscious and dedicated participation by developing countries could serve as a catalyst in dissuading nuclear and near-nuclear Powers from accelerating their efforts in testing and building new weapons of destruction.

The Bahamas considers that special attention must be directed to the link between development and disarmament. There should also be strong regional identification which would allow States in the region to protect their integrity and sovereignty. In addition, existing security arrangements should not be disturbed to the detriment of regional/international security.

The Bahamas is of the opinion that whatever progress was made during the first special session devoted to disarmament should not only be maintained and strengthened, but amplified. For example, those studies which have been instrumental in clarifying issues and identifying problems inherent in the disarmament field ought to be updated.

The Bahamas is further convinced that regional denuclearization, weapon-free zones and arms reduction would help to lessen the threat of aggression and stabilize the maintenance of universal peace and security. Most importantly, the question of disarmament should continue to receive widespread support through fundings, conferences, media and classroom activities. These and other similar measures would help to preserve interest and foster co-operation and genuine goodwill among nations.

IRAN

The second special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament will convene at a time when the international community is facing dangerous threats to its security and peace as a result of big-Power rivalries...
in different regions of the world to secure national interests at the expense of the international common good and in distinct contradiction to the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations.

At a time when the question of disarmament is being studied in different fora within the framework of the United Nations and without, the major Powers, and in particular the two super-Powers are continuing, with more vigour than before, to expand, to perfect and to modernize their arsenals. At the same time, new definitions of national interest and national security are formulated by major Powers in order to necessitate the establishment of new military units specialized in intervention in other sovereign States, or else to justify actual acts of intervention. To be more specific, the United States is increasingly referring to the oil resources of the Persian Gulf as her "vital interests", for the defense of which rapid deployment forces have been established, and are being continuously trained for the sole purpose of intervention in an area thousands of miles away from the American mainland. These developments are taking place, of course, with complete disregard for the legitimate rights of the peoples of the region to full sovereignty over their natural resources, as recognized by the Charter of the United Nations. On the other hand, Soviet presence continues in Afghanistan against the will of the Afghan people.

The Islamic Republic of Iran supports all effective measures whether through the United Nations or by regional arrangements leading to a reduction of the level of nuclear, conventional, chemical, and bacteriological weapons in the international community as a whole. In fact, one of the first measures that revolutionary Iran took was to review the previous policies of the country with regard to the military role that was envisaged for Iran in the Persian Gulf region, and consequently cancelled several major arms deals including some of the most sophisticated types of weapons. What the Iranian Revolution was hoping to achieve was to destroy the role that had been imposed upon Iran by American imperialism as the "gendarme of the Persian Gulf", and at the same time pave the way for a general reduction of the level of armaments in the region. What happened in fact was contrary to what was hoped for. American imperialism, having lost its strongest bastion in the Persian Gulf, drastically increased its military presence in the region by positioning naval task forces in the Indian Ocean and acquiring bases and facilities there. Imperialism also found in the region a power-hungry leader starved for personal glory, who was willing to fill the gap and even launch a proxy war of aggression to prove his reliability.

In the view of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the second special session on disarmament provides a most appropriate opportunity for the international community to identify some of the basic difficulties that the implementation of an effective programme of disarmament faces, among which are the following:

- There has been an increasing reference to "national security", "vital interests" and "the right of self-defence" as justification for the use of force or the threat of the use of force in acts of aggression. The misuse of these notions through the presentation of different and sometimes contradictory definitions of them by different States indicates their vagueness. Therefore, in order to halt the misuse of these notions as
excuses and justifications for acts of aggression, an attempt should be
made to find clear and distinct definitions for them, acceptable to all,
even if reaching this goal needs a great deal of effort.

The flow of conventional armaments from a few arms-producing countries to
the rest of the world, mainly the developing countries, has acquired
alarming dimensions and seems to have gotten out of control. The major
arms-producing countries increasingly consider destructive weapons as one
of thousands of other commodities supplied on the international market.
In fact, competition among the major producers of arms to acquire bigger
shares of the world market has turned armaments industries into significant
sectors within the national economies of these countries, for the
expansion of which attempts are made continuously to flare up regional
differences, thus encouraging regional arms races and even wars of
aggression. The second special session should consider the question of
the ever-increasing flow of armaments specially to aggressive and
expansionist régimes, and try to establish some form of effective control
over the quantity, type and destination of weapons supplied by the
arms-producing countries, and also determine the degree of responsibility
of arms-supplying countries when such weapons are used in contradiction
to the spirit of the Charter and other instruments relating to human
rights and dignity.

ZAIRE

Original: French
May 1981

The Republic of Zaire had placed high hopes in the tenth special session of
the General Assembly, devoted to disarmament, and, above all, in the implementation
of the decisions and recommendations adopted at the session, particularly those
contained in the Programme of Action of the Final Document of the Tenth Special
Session of the General Assembly.

Since 1978, the Secretary-General's various reports on the implementation of
the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth
special session have underscored the fact that very little progress has been made
in this field.

There has been no progress in the negotiations on the priority items on the
agenda of the Committee on Disarmament, namely, the elaboration of a comprehensive
test-ban treaty, the elaboration of a convention on the prohibition of chemical
weapons, the elaboration of a convention on the prohibition of radiological
weapons and the elaboration of a negative-safeguards convention under which the
nuclear-weapon States would undertake to refrain from the use or threat of use of
nuclear weapons against a non-nuclear-weapon State.

The return of the cold war and the spirit of confrontation to the international
arena has led to an intensification of the escalating arms race, so anxious are the protagonists to rebalance relationships or restore the balance of power in the world.

Year after year, despite proclaimed intentions to halt and reverse the arms race, military expenditure resulting from the balance of terror increases, with an ever-greater reduction in the resources which the world could allocate for development and the improvement of the living conditions of millions of human beings on our planet, particularly in the regions of Africa, Asia and Latin America.

In 1980, $500 billion were, apparently, spent on armaments - 10 per cent more than in 1979. In 1970, such expenditure amounted to $370 million.

Hotbeds of tension are increasing or are being reactivated throughout the world. Warfare by proxy, engaged in by the major Powers in the territories of others, preferably in the southern hemisphere, is on the increase, posing ever-growing threats to peace, international security and the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination, their right to determine freely their destiny and the form of their Government.

More and more often, we are witnessing attempts to destabilize and overthrow Governments through foreign military interventions that are the work of States Members of the United Nations, acting in defiance of the relevant provisions and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

Evidently, in addition to the fact that, in the implementation of the recommendations and decisions contained in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, there are delays consistent with the genuine reservations concerning disarmament which the major Powers have, there is the fact that resolution 2602 E (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, proclaiming the first Disarmament Decade, has fallen far short of the objectives.

While it is true that since the end of the Second World War, a third world war has been averted, the fact remains that between 1945 and 1980 there have been over 125 localized wars, which have claimed more than 80 million lives. For all these wars, third-world areas have usually provided the theatre of operations. It was against the international background of uncertainty, mistrust, insecurity and contradiction that the General Assembly, at its thirty-fifth session, adopted resolution 35/46, containing the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade. The background is very likely to be the same at the convening in 1982, pursuant to resolutions 33/71 H of 14 December 1978 and 35/47 of 3 December 1980, of the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

Undoubtedly, the arms race is today, as it was yesterday, central to the rivalry between the major military Powers and to the insecurity, mistrust, tension and instability in international relations.
By reducing or limiting the scope for international understanding and co-operation and by permitting all the excesses born of fear, the arms race poses a threat to peace and international security, for an increase in armaments does not spell greater world security.

The idea we would like to see gaining ground among all the States of the world, in support of the efforts towards general and complete disarmament, is the idea that States have the ability to realize all their political, economic, social and cultural objectives without the arms race and without military or nuclear competition.

Peace must be and must remain an adequate prerequisite for the realization of their political, economic, social and cultural aspirations and objectives.

The fact is that a system of international relations based on the will to exert power and to dominate, and on the balance of power would be totally unacceptable.

The Republic of Zaire believes that the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament will afford the international community a perfect opportunity to, on the one hand, assess the progress made to date, in the field of disarmament, in meeting the wishes expressed in the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, and, on the other hand, examine the real reasons for the reservations, delays and evasiveness with regard to the implementation of the decisions and recommendations contained in the Final Document, as well as the factors that operate against the efforts to halt and reverse the arms race, thereby hampering the efforts of the international community towards general and complete disarmament.

Another task will be to examine the progress made in implementing the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade, under the terms of paragraph 1 of the Declaration, which stipulates:

"(a) All Governments should intensify without delay their concerted and concentrated efforts for effective measures relating to the cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament and the elimination of other weapons of mass destruction, and for a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control;

"(b) Consideration should be given to channelling a substantial part of the resources freed by measures in the field of disarmament to promote the economic development of developing countries and, in particular, their scientific and technological progress."

It would also be highly desirable to reaffirm, at the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, the validity of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session.

The Republic of Zaire, which attaches great importance to the question of denuclearized zones and, specifically, the denuclearization of Africa, believes...
that South Africa's possession of the atomic weapon, the nuclear weapon, has introduced a new dimension here, making it necessary to re-evaluate the whole question of demilitarized zones within the general framework of the review and evaluation of the international situation, with reference to disarmament and its close links with peace, security, the progress and development of nations, and confidence-building measures throughout the world.

After examining the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Final Document of the first special session devoted to disarmament, the Assembly should, at the second special session, also undertake to adopt a comprehensive programme of disarmament, which is recognized as an important element of an international disarmament strategy.

Zaire would hope that by then the Committee on Disarmament will have finished elaborating the programme, so that it could be adopted at the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, pursuant to resolution 35/46.

In the light of all the above, the Republic of Zaire believes that the agenda of the second special session should include these main items:

1. Procedural matters
2. General debate
3. Review and evaluation of the international situation with reference to the maintenance of international peace and security, development and the promotion of international co-operation
4. Review and evaluation of the progress made in implementing the decisions and recommendations of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, particularly those contained in the Programme of Action of the Final Document of the first special session
5. Review and evaluation of the progress made in implementing the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade
6. Review of the findings of United Nations studies and reports on disarmament and such related questions as development, security and confidence-building measures
7. Review of multilateral institutional mechanisms with a view to the strengthening of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament
8. Adoption of a comprehensive programme of disarmament
9. Adoption of one or more documents.