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

REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

BANGLADESH

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[17 July 1981]

The decision to hold the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament was taken against the backdrop of certain important developments which were less than reassuring for the international community. We are convinced that the decision was well timed in our endeavour to arrest the juggernaut of military preparations we are witnessing.

We have been striving, in a series of meetings of the General Assembly for concerting efforts between developed and developing countries, North and South, East and West, to harmonize our views and agree on arrangements to act on the question of resolving social and development problems and the problems of hunger, death and disease. Progress in that field also has been dismal.

We have witnessed violations of Charter principles, we have seen the use and threat of use of force against smaller and defenceless countries. We are again in the midst of relentless acceleration of armaments and the accentuation of super-Power rivalries.
At the first special session on disarmament, agreement was reached with regard to the principles on which disarmament negotiations should be based and the role of the United Nations in that field. The Programme of Action adopted at the first session clearly indicated the necessity of halting the arms race and initiating a process of genuine disarmament and the establishment of international machinery for real negotiations on disarmament questions. The objectives of the first Disarmament Decade proclaimed by the United Nations in 1969, that is, the reduction of the vast military expenditures and use of the resources thus realized for development, particularly in the developing and the least developed countries, have not been realized.

Peace and security cannot be maintained in the existing conditions of glaring economic inequalities without a more harmonious and accelerated economic and social development of States as well as the solution of the problems of recession, inflation and unemployment and other issues of the world economy. To redress the situation, the Foreign Ministers of the non-aligned countries in their recent meeting in New Delhi emphasized, inter alia, and I quote:

"The achievement of international security for all peoples and nations could be realized only by efforts in their changing international relations as well."

The success of the second special session or the dynamics for the success of it will certainly, to a very great extent, depend on the international climate prevailing at the time when the meeting will be held. We, therefore, believe that the session should be very carefully prepared. One of the conditions which, in the view of my delegation, would help create a climate conducive to the ultimate success of the special session, would be to conclude the negotiations that are now under way on some important disarmament issues in the Committee on Disarmament, like the prohibition of chemical weapons and radiological weapons as well as negative security guarantees. This of course does not detract from the fact that all efforts should be made to bring to a conclusion the negotiations that have been going on, for a number of years, on a comprehensive ban on nuclear tests and on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all weapons of mass destruction.

We have noted, with some expectancy, the recent announcement about the possibility of the resumption of the arms limitation talks between the two super-Powers. We commend both the super-Powers to start negotiations in right earnest.

Against the backdrop of the above objective imperatives, the agenda for the second special session devoted to disarmament should not be very difficult to be formulated. The immediate items which come to our mind may include the following:

(a) General debate;

(b) Review and appraisal of the current international situation and the vital need to achieve substantive progress in the field of disarmament and in halting the arms race;

/...
(c) Review of the implementation of the decisions and recommendations contained in the Final Document of the first special session devoted to disarmament;

(d) The establishment of a close link between disarmament and international security and peace and economic development;

(e) Strengthening of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament;

(f) Consideration and adoption of the comprehensive programme of disarmament;

(g) Adoption of resolutions;

(h) Adoption of the Final Document/Act.