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

Second session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 11th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York
on Friday, 8 May 1981, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. ADENIJI (Nigeria)

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session.

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The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m.

CONSIDERATION OF VIEWS CONCERNING THE AGENDA OF THE SECOND SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEVOTED TO DISARMAMENT (continued)

CONSIDERATION OF VIEWS ON OTHER RELEVANT QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE SECOND SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEVOTED TO DISARMAMENT, INCLUDING THE ORGANIZATION OF WORK OF THE SESSION (continued)

1. Mr. SOLA VILA (Cuba) said that, in its reply to the Secretary-General's communication concerning the second special session devoted to disarmament, his Government had set forth its view that the special session should conduct an in-depth evaluation of both the progress made and the difficulties encountered in implementing the Programme of Action adopted at the first special session devoted to disarmament. It also stated that the special session should also consider the serious acceleration in the arms race, its root causes and the recent worsening of the international climate. The special session should likewise assess the status of disarmament negotiations both within and outside the United Nations, especially the work of the Committee on Disarmament. If all the members of that Committee demonstrated genuine political will, it would be able to make major progress by the spring of 1982, which would guarantee the success of the second special session devoted to disarmament. In that connexion, he hoped that the Committee on Disarmament would be able to complete work on a comprehensive programme of disarmament and on texts of conventions for the prohibition of the use of chemical and radiological weapons, and the protection of non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, and that it would be able to make progress in efforts to bring about the cessation of nuclear testing and nuclear disarmament.

2. Another matter which would have to be taken up at the special session was the increase in military expenditure in the imperialist countries, which were seeking to sow distrust in order to justify the strengthening of their war machines and the deployment of troops and sophisticated weapons in Europe while at the same time pursuing their interventionist policy of threats and blackmail in the Caribbean, in Central America, in the Indian Ocean, in the Middle East and throughout the world. All those matters must and no doubt would be discussed at the second special session devoted to disarmament, as they had been at the earlier special session, for the peace-loving countries, which were in the majority, would not be tricked by those who lived by war and were seeking to ensure the failure of the 1982 special session. If the voice of the overwhelming majority of the world's peoples was heeded, tremendous benefits could be reaped by releasing for peaceful purposes the resources currently allocated for the machinery of death.

3. The Final Document adopted at the first special session on disarmament was irreplaceable, and its validity and relevance had become more evident with the passing of time.

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4. Mr. MENZIES (Canada) said that what was needed in the Preparatory Committee was the vision to look ahead to work out ways in which the 1982 special session could give further momentum to disarmament negotiations and to discover what could be done to prepare new approaches for national leaders that would enable them to reanimate stalled negotiations. While agreeing that it was important to mobilize public opinion, he suggested that some thought should be given to opportunities for national leaders to make statements, individually or jointly, that would provide the assurances needed to bridge the gap of confidence and would announce commitments to give new vitality to arms limitation negotiations.

5. There was a need not only for vision but also for realism. Some members had stated that linkage should not be used to defer negotiation, and it had been pointed out that arms control agreements negotiated in other periods of international tension had helped to ease tension. It was, however, important to be realistic in recognizing that both political and military confidence-building measures would be needed to create sufficient international trust for productive arms-limitation discussions. Some of that international trust could be built up through the provision of private assurances as well as by public declarations. Of course, such assurances would have little impact unless restraint was exercised in the period ahead in areas of international tension.

6. The views of his Government on the agenda and other relevant questions relating to the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament were contained in document A/AC.206/2 and needed little elaboration. Canada attached great importance to the maintenance of the Final Document of the 1978 special session as a very important statement of principles and a programme of action agreed upon by the entire international community. It was a document which should be cherished, and no attempt should be made to rewrite it. In reviewing the 1978 Programme of Action, there would be an opportunity for the 1982 special session to discuss priorities in the light of recent experience, but he felt that there were dangers in attempting to fix rigid time-frames for the conclusion of agreements.

7. His delegation would make a sustained effort to contribute to the work of the Preparatory Committee and to the second special session devoted to disarmament.

8. Mr. ROSSIDES (Cyprus) said that the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament would have to focus attention on finding logical and visible means of halting an arms race that was incompatible with any movement towards the regulation and reduction of armaments. Since the arms race was the result of making security dependent on a balance of power and weaponry, any attempt to end it would have to include the development of other means for guaranteeing the security of States. He drew the attention of the Committee to paragraphs 13 and 110 of the Final Document of the first special session devoted to disarmament, which spoke of the need to implement the international security system provided for in the United Nations Charter and to place at the disposal of the United Nations forces which would be readily available when the Security Council decided that it was necessary to suppress or deter aggression. He was sure that all States would agree to contribute to such forces. If the United Nations had effective means to enforce Security Council resolutions, a new climate of trust and confidence would
non-governmental organizations at the second special session on disarmament would not be less than it had been at the 1978 special session. Attention should be focused for the time being on the request of non-governmental organizations to participate in the work of the Preparatory Committee. The Bureau considered that non-governmental organizations had, of course, the opportunity to circulate their views to members in writing and that they should be encouraged to avail themselves of that opportunity. With regard to oral presentations by non-governmental organizations, the Bureau recommended that consideration be given to the possibility of allocating one meeting or a part of a meeting at the Preparatory Committee's October session to enable non-governmental organizations to present their views on specific issues before it. If the Preparatory Committee took a decision to that effect, the Secretariat would be asked to make that arrangement as widely known as possible and to work out with the non-governmental organizations themselves the specific arrangements for their participation. It would be necessary, for example, owing to the limited time that would be available at the October session, for non-governmental organizations to decide among themselves which organizations would be able to speak.

20. **Mr. AWANIS (Iraq)** expressed the hope that the view put forward by his delegation, which reflected the views of other Arab countries, to the effect that the agenda for the special session should include the questions of peace zones, nuclear-weapon-free zones and the acquisition of nuclear weapons by the racist régimes of Israel and South Africa, would be reflected in the analytical summary.

21. The **CHAIRMAN** assured the representative of Iraq that all views, whether put forward orally or in writing, would be reflected in the analytical summaries. However, at the current stage, it might be difficult to include in those documents views put forward orally at the current session owing to the fact that not all the summary records of the Preparatory Committee's meetings so far were available.

22. **Mr. LIDGARD (Sweden)** said that his country traditionally took a favourable view of the participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the United Nations. His delegation therefore hoped that the Preparatory Committee would decide to authorize the participation of non-governmental organizations in its own work and at the forthcoming special session itself. It shared the view that a decision on specific arrangements could be deferred to a later date. In any event, it was his delegation's understanding that the participation of the non-governmental organizations at the 1982 special session would be at least on the same level as at the 1978 special session. Non-governmental organizations should be allowed to make oral statements to the Preparatory Committee at its next session, and it might be appropriate to take a formal decision at the current session to allocate time for that purpose. Once again, the specific arrangements could be worked out later between the Secretariat and the non-governmental organizations themselves.

23. **Mr. HIMMELS (Canada)** said that his Government favoured giving non-governmental organizations, both national and international, an opportunity to contribute to the success of the second special session on disarmament. His delegation therefore...
agreed with the Bureau that the participation of non-governmental organizations should be at least on the level previously agreed upon for the first special session on disarmament. It also seemed appropriate to give non-governmental organizations an opportunity to contribute their views at one of the Preparatory Committee's own sessions. That would be more beneficial when the Preparatory Committee was considering substantive rather than procedural matters. The time allocated for that purpose should not, however, be too extensive.

24. Mr. **ISSRAELYAN** (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation agreed with the suggestions of the Bureau concerning the preparation by the Secretariat of analytical summaries of the discussion on the organization of the forthcoming special session. The general views of delegations could, of course, be summarized at a later stage. With regard to the participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Preparatory Committee and at the forthcoming special session, he said that his country attached great importance to the active participation of all the world's peoples in the process of disarmament. President Brezhnev had recently stressed the importance of making the peoples of the world aware of the dangerous consequences of nuclear war, and the Soviet Union had proposed the establishment of an international committee for that purpose. A formal decision on the question of the participation of non-governmental organizations could be deferred until a later stage. There was sufficient precedent to guide the Preparatory Committee and the specific details could be worked out in consultation with representatives of non-governmental organizations.

25. Mr. **TALIANI** (Italy) said that the general comments made by delegations in the course of the discussion could prove to be very important in the Preparatory Committee's future work. He therefore hoped that they would be duly reflected in the documents to be prepared by the Secretariat.

26. The **CHAIRMAN** assured the representative of Italy that the general comments of delegations would receive due attention in the analytical summaries.

27. In the light of the discussion, he took it that the Committee agreed in principle to authorize the participation of non-governmental organizations at its next session. The specific arrangements would be worked out in consultation with non-governmental organizations and a formal decision on details taken at a subsequent meeting.

28. Mr. **CSILLAG** (Secretary of the Committee) said that analytical summaries would be prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of both the written and oral statements of members. They would be updated in addenda so as to reflect all views expressed by members in the course of the Preparatory Committee's deliberations.

The meeting rose at 12.05 p.m.