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

Second session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 13th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 11 May 1981, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. ADENIJI (Nigeria)

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The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.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. HEpburn (Bahamas) said that the main goal of the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament should be to improve on the results of the 1978 special session. It should therefore have a manageable agenda free from thorny political problems that interested only a few Member States.

2. His delegation felt that, in addition to the general debate, the agenda should provide for a review of the implementation of the Programme of Action contained in the 1978 Final Document. Under that heading, the 1982 special session could consider such priority programmes as regional denuclearization and zones of peace, reduction of testing and use of conventional and nuclear weapons and reduction of military budgets. If at the 1982 special session Member States could agree on measures to enforce implementation of the decisions taken in connexion with the above programmes, then the exercise would not have been in vain. The agenda should also provide for the adoption of a document recommending ways in which those programmes would be implemented. His delegation trusted that Member States would refrain from making undue reference to the fact that not much progress had been made in disarmament since the 1978 special session.

3. Mr. ARTEAGA (Venezuela) said that his delegation welcomed the common elements in the proposals put forward by various delegations and considered them an incentive for overcoming any obstacles that could arise concerning the drafting of other items for inclusion in the agenda. When drawing up the agenda, the Preparatory Committee would have to reach agreement on the wording that would be least controversial. The agenda would also have to reflect the interest and determination that all Members shared in promoting specific and practical disarmament measures.

4. His delegation had commented on the organization of work but the Secretariat had yet to record those views. He believed that the first item on the proposed agenda should be the organization of work and the second should be the general debate. Other delegations had proposed that the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament should review the progress achieved with regard to the Programme of Action adopted in 1978. He sought clarification as to how that would be done, since the general debate in itself would provide a framework for an exchange of views on the matter. Very little had been achieved in disarmament, and he felt that the best approach was to give impetus to practical action for disarmament based on the Final Document. The comprehensive programme of disarmament, which would be the fundamental achievement of the forthcoming special session, should be the third item on the agenda.
5. Previous replies received from Governments had mentioned studies carried out under United Nations auspices in recent years on various matters relating to disarmament. Those studies had highlighted the dangers of the failure to disarm and served as information for the general public, and he felt that it would be appropriate to include consideration of them as a separate agenda item. Venezuela attached particular importance to the study on the relationship between disarmament and development.

6. His delegation felt that the use of world public opinion as an instrument to achieve disarmament deserved specific mention in the agenda. His delegation viewed with sympathy the call made by the representative of Mexico for the launching of a world disarmament campaign. He suggested that item (e) of document A/AC.206/CRP.2 should read "Mobilization of world public opinion" and be so formulated in future documents. His delegation was awaiting with great interest the document being prepared by the Secretariat on alternative ways of promoting public opinion for disarmament.

7. The final agenda item should be the adoption of a final document or documents, which could be a solemn declaration with preambular and operative parts based on the Final Document of the first special session. A comprehensive programme of disarmament could be annexed to the declaration. His delegation's position regarding the form of the final document was flexible.

8. Mr. Yang Hushan (China) said that his delegation found the compilations of views very useful. While agenda items should be as brief and as general as possible, their formulation should reflect as accurately as possible the topics to be discussed. Regarding the wording of the item concerning the general debate, the proposals made by the non-aligned countries were worthy of consideration and adoption.

9. His delegation would welcome an agenda item entitled "Review and appraisal of the current international situation in the light of the urgent need to achieve substantive progress in the field of disarmament, in halting the arms race and in establishing a close link between disarmament, international peace and security and economic development". The representative of Cyprus had commented on the link between disarmament and security and the Chinese delegation was in favour of his proposal. A time-frame should be set for each agenda item. During the general debate, all delegations should be given ample time to speak. Many delegations had proposed that the formulation of the comprehensive programme of disarmament should be listed as a separate item; the Chinese delegation concurred with that view and with the view of other delegations that had proposed the consideration and adoption of a comprehensive programme of disarmament.

10. Mr. Kabia (Sierra Leone) said that his delegation agreed with various speakers who had indicated that there should be a general debate at the forthcoming special session. That debate should deal with all disarmament-related issues, particularly nuclear disarmament and the denuclearization of Africa, taking into account the maintenance of Africa as a nuclear-weapon-free zone. His delegation was in favour of using the Final Document of the 1978 special session as a working
document for the 1982 special session and of implementing all the decisions contained in the Final Document. In 1982, the General Assembly should establish a relationship between disarmament, international security and economic development. It should review and appraise the current arms situation and seek ways to halt and reverse the arms race.

11. His delegation endorsed the proposal made by the representative of Mexico, which would reiterate the call for a world disarmament campaign to mobilize world public opinion for disarmament. It agreed with the view that the United Nations should be the primary body to undertake all disarmament activities and that the final document of the forthcoming special session should be called the "Final Act on Disarmament".

12. Mr. WAGENMAKERS (Netherlands), speaking on behalf of the member States of the European Economic Community (EEC), said it was the impression of the EEC that all Members were agreed on the appropriateness of holding a general debate and on the need to review the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Final Document of the 1978 special session. Virtually all speakers had mentioned the comprehensive programme of disarmament. From the very outset, EEC had agreed to the inclusion of that item. Furthermore, EEC had noted that many Members shared its view that at the 1982 special session Member States should consider the recommendations from and follow-ups to studies initiated by the General Assembly at its first special session devoted to disarmament and subsequent sessions, as well as any other suggestions relating to disarmament. All speakers who had addressed the question had agreed that the 1982 special session should consider present and future institutional arrangements in the field of disarmament.

13. No one had contested the desirability of a document in which the results of the special session would be formulated. EEC countries had suggested that the final agenda item should be worded: "Acceptance of a resolution or a final report of proceedings which should, inter alia, contain a reaffirmation of the validity of the Final Document of the first special session on disarmament, an agreed comprehensive programme of disarmament and concrete proposals".

14. The EEC wished to express preference for a short agenda formulated in general terms to create a framework in which relevant issues could be discussed while at the same time ensuring their interrelationship with other issues. He drew attention to the individual proposals that member States of the European Community had made in that regard.

15. Mr. DIACONU (Romania) said that the agenda for the special session might usefully be divided into seven main subject-areas: firstly, a general debate, which should include a review of the results achieved since the 1978 special session; secondly, the examination and adoption of the comprehensive programme of disarmament; thirdly, discussion of proposals from Member States; fourthly, examination and adoption of specific disarmament measures, i.e., measures to be taken within the framework of various negotiating bodies such as the Committee on Disarmament, and also a discussion of measures arising from the studies undertaken by the United Nations; fifthly, measures designed to enhance the role of public opinion...
in matters relating to disarmament, as suggested by the representatives of Kenya, Mexico and Nigeria; sixthly, measures to strengthen the role of the United Nations in negotiations in the field of disarmament; lastly, the adoption of a final document or documents.

16. His delegation believed that the Preparatory Committee should make every effort to arrive at a generally acceptable agenda in order to ensure a successful outcome to the special session. He believed that an agenda on the lines he had proposed would provide a suitable framework for the session.

17. Mr. DE LA GORCE (France) said that the statements of previous speakers showed that there was a broad convergence of views on the agenda for the 1982 special session. It was generally agreed that the agenda should be both simple and general, and that it should provide an opportunity for a general debate and for a discussion on organization of work. Earlier speakers had also stressed that there should be a discussion on the Programme of Action adopted in 1978 with a view to formulating recommendations. Consideration of the comprehensive programme of disarmament was also a particularly important element in the agenda, and it was hoped that the special session would make a major contribution in that area. In conclusion he said that provision should be made in the agenda for a discussion on the studies carried out in the subject-areas identified by the 1978 special session, and for a consideration of proposals submitted by Member States.

18. Mr. LEIDGARD (Sweden) said that his delegation had submitted its views on the agenda for the special session to the Secretary-General and that those views were reflected in the conference room papers which had been circulated to members of the Committee.

19. His delegation had listened with attention to the suggestion made by the representative of Mexico that there should be a limit to the amount of time allocated at the special session to the item on the comprehensive programme of disarmament. While the suggestion was a logical one in view of the fact that the item was self-sufficient, his delegation felt that a time-limit might not permit adequate discussion of such vital aspects of the question as the relationship between disarmament and development and the institutional questions related to disarmament. It might therefore be preferable to deal with such topics under separate headings in the agenda. At the same time, the evaluation of United Nations studies relating to disarmament might best be carried out under one agenda item.

20. His delegation wondered whether United Nations disarmament information activities and the question of the strengthening of the role of the Organization in the field of disarmament might not warrant consideration as specific agenda items. Finally, he suggested that the convening of the third special session could be dealt with in the context of the discussions on the final act or declaration.

21. The CHAIRMAN said that a general consensus appeared to be emerging from the discussions on the agenda for the second special session. He believed that one or two more meetings would suffice for consideration of the agenda, and that it would shortly be possible to draw up a brief paper synthesizing the views expressed by delegations. The paper would be available as a basis for discussion at the formal meeting of the Committee to be held in October.

The meeting rose at 5 p.m.