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

Fourth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 31st MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 27 April 1982 at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. ADENIJI (Nigeria)

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The meeting was called to order at 11.20 a.m.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. The CHAIRMAN summarized the recommendations of the Bureau on the organization of the Committee's work during its fourth and final session. The first was that there should be no more general debate but members should have an opportunity to express specific views on items 4 and 5 of the agenda, i.e., "Consideration of substantive issues related to the special session, including the implementation of the decisions and recommendations adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session" and "Principal document(s) to be adopted at the special session". Very few Governments had responded to the Secretary-General's request for written statements. In the circumstances, others might wish to register any important points which they wished to see reflected in the review of the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the first special session devoted to disarmament. Any such exchange should focus on specific issues and not be turned into a general debate to which representatives brought long written statements. Such statements could be submitted to the Secretariat for publication.

2. The exchange should take up very few meetings, after which the Committee would be in a position to assess what should be included in that part of the document of the special session which dealt with substantive issues. The Committee should then establish a working group which could outline or perhaps even draft that part of the document. Any such paper would form part of the Committee's submission to the special session as an aid to its work.

3. The Committee's discussion of agenda item 4 should not be seen as only a sort of post-mortem on the implementation of the decisions and recommendations adopted by the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, but as an opportunity to consider substantive issues and other items of a forward-looking nature on the agenda recommended to the second special session. Mention had been made of the importance which that session would attach to the Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament. But there were to be further informal consultations on how that and other issues should be handled, so the Bureau was unable as yet to make any specific recommendations.

4. On other organizational matters, the growing role of non-governmental organizations in the disarmament field warranted them taking a greater part in the second special session than in the first. The Bureau therefore recommended that the number of meetings of the Committee of the Whole scheduled for non-governmental organizations and disarmament and peace research institutions to make oral statements to the special session should be increased from three to four. A conference room paper listing organizations selected to address the session would be circulated as soon as the ad hoc Liaison Committee had finished working on it.

5. The Olof Palme Commission on Disarmament and Security Issues and the Inter-Parliamentary Union had both asked to be allowed to make oral presentations to the special session. In view of their significant contribution to the cause of
disarmament, the Bureau saw no difficulty in granting their request, even though they were not strictly speaking non-governmental organizations. The Committee might therefore wish to recommend that they should be allowed to address the Committee of the Whole separately from the non-governmental organizations, although not at any special or additional meeting.

6. The Committee might also wish to recommend that the Directors-General of UNESCO and IAEA should again address the special session in plenary meeting and that the Executive Director of UNEP should be enabled to present the report on the historic responsibility of States for the preservation of nature for present and future generations.

7. If the Bureau's recommendations were acceptable, the next few meetings of the Committee would be devoted to an exchange of views on agenda items 4 and 5, with the emphasis on the former. Unless he heard any objection, he would take it that the Committee agreed.

8. It was so decided.

9. The CHAIRMAN said that unless he heard any objection he would take it that the Committee agreed that four meetings of the Committee of the Whole should be allocated to hearing oral presentations by non-governmental organizations, the Olof Palme Commission and the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

10. Mr. FIELDS (United States of America) reserved his country's position and asked for time to reflect before reaching a final decision.

11. Mr. ISSRAELIAN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked if the paper listing the non-governmental organizations to be heard at the special session could be circulated before a decision was taken on the number of meetings to be allocated.

12. The CHAIRMAN said that, in the circumstances, a formal decision on the recommendation would have to be deferred. However, he should point out that paragraph 28 of the Committee's report to the General Assembly (A/36/49) had invited greater participation by non-governmental organizations and it would be inconsistent not to make provision accordingly.

13. Since the Olof Palme Commission and the Inter-Parliamentary Union would not be included in the list of non-governmental organizations, the deferment did not affect a decision on the recommendation that they should be invited to address the Committee of the Whole. Unless he heard any objection, he would take it that the Committee approved the recommendation.

14. It was so decided.

15. The CHAIRMAN said that unless he heard any objection, he would take it that the Committee approved the recommendation that the Directors-General of IAEA and UNESCO and the Executive Director of UNEP should be invited to address the special session in plenary meeting.

16. It was so decided.
17. Mr. NAIK (Pakistan) asked for some indication of the time-table to which
dellegations might expect to be working during meetings of the Committee and of the
special session.

18. The CHAIRMAN said that close touch would be maintained with those charged with
making arrangements for the special session and the Committee would be provided
with details as soon as appropriate.

19. Mr. ISSRAELYAN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that many other
organizational and procedural questions had arisen at the first special session
devoted to disarmament. For example, what working bodies were there to be apart
from the Committee of the Whole, when would the Committee of the Whole begin its
work, and was it intended that the Preparatory Committee should make
recommendations about the working bodies? There were many such questions relating
to item 6 of the Committee's agenda. He wished to know whether it was intended to
discuss them and, if so, when.

20. The CHAIRMAN said that if an item was on the agenda, time naturally had to be
allotted for its consideration. The Committee had already given an indication of
its thinking on the organization of the work of the special session in paragraph 22
of its report to the General Assembly (A/36/49), which had recommended the
establishment of a Committee of the Whole, a working group on the Comprehensive
Programme of Disarmament and as many open-ended groups or subsidiary organs as
might be necessary. But if members had further thoughts, it might be possible to
have a brief exchange of views under agenda item 6 before beginning the second
stage of work under agenda item 4. Meanwhile, the Secretariat ought to consider
such questions as when the general debate of the special session should end and
when the work of the Committee of the whole and its subsidiary organs should begin,
as insufficient time might otherwise to allocated for that work.

CONSIDERATION OF SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES RELATED TO THE SPECIAL SESSION, INCLUDING THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION

PRINCIPAL DOCUMENT(S) TO BE ADOPTED AT THE SPECIAL SESSION

21. Mr. ROSSIDES (Cyprus) said that the current world situation differed
significantly from that which had obtained at the Preparatory Committee's last
session and its work must inevitably be influenced by it. The nuclear-freeze
movement was gaining momentum all over the world, wherever ordinary people were
allowed to speak freely. An important new development was that ordinary citizens
were to have an opportunity to express their views on nuclear weapons in the
forthcoming elections in the United States. Thus individuals now had an
opportunity to state their opinions on a topic that was formerly thought of as a
matter for governments only. A similar movement in favour of a freeze was taking
place all over Europe, and probably, behind the scenes, in other countries where
freedom of expression was less widespread. As the Preparatory Committee discussed
the details of the forthcoming second special session of the General Assembly, it
must keep those developments in mind as well as other vitally important realities
of the present day.

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22. One such reality was the current conflict between the United Kingdom and Argentina. A remarkable aspect of that dispute was the very small role played in it by the United Nations. It might have been expected that, after the United Kingdom had gone to the Security Council in the wake of the invasion and a resolution had been adopted calling for the withdrawal of Argentinian troops from the Falkland Islands, the United Kingdom would press for the implementation of that resolution. It had not done so because in fact Security Council resolutions were never implemented, and instead it had fastened to send its battle fleet to the area. Similarly, if Argentina had believed that the Security Council could take effective action, it would not have used military force in the first place. The whole situation resulted from the fact that the Security Council was powerless to enforce its decisions. One task of the next special session on disarmament, therefore, should be to inquire into the reasons for that. The basic cause was the original error, at the time of the founding of the United Nations, through the failure of the Security Council, particularly its permanent members, to conclude the agreements for a United Nations force to be available to the Security Council for the effective implementation of its decisions, as expressly required by the Charter. Though very little was ever said about it, that failure was the root cause of the arms race. Arms competition was inevitable because the alternative, through a Charter system of international security, was lacking, and the fact of the arms race meant that there could be no progress on disarmament. To halt the arms race there must be a viable system of international security, and the United Nations should be empowered to function effectively in that respect. It was through that original error that the world had been brought to its current state of increasing terrorism, insecurity and anarchy.

23. It had been agreed on many occasions that without a system of international order and security there could be no progress on disarmament. The Committee on Disarmament had sought for years to bring about negotiations on arms reduction but without success. The question of disarmament and international security must therefore be taken up by the new special session. It would have every justification for doing so during its consideration of the implementation of the decisions and recommendations adopted at the tenth special session. The Declaration in the session's Final Document had been forthright in stating that "enduring international peace and security cannot be built on the accumulation of weaponry by military alliances nor be sustained by a precarious balance of deterrence or doctrines of strategic superiority. Genuine and lasting peace can only be created through the effective implementation of the security system provided for in the Charter of the United Nations and the speedy and substantial reduction of arms and armed forces ... leading ultimately to general and complete disarmament under effective international control". Concentrating on arms reduction without first halting the arms race through the effective implementation of an international security system had proved futile. It was essential, therefore, that the forthcoming second special session on disarmament should move at once to bring the system into being.

24. As paragraph 11.0 of the Programme of Action adopted at the first special session on disarmament said, "progress in disarmament should be accompanied by
measures to strengthen institutions for maintaining peace and the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means. ... there should be taken ... the necessary measures to maintain international peace and security, including the obligation of States to place at the disposal of the United Nations agreed manpower necessary for an international peace force to be equipped with agreed types of armaments. Arrangements for the use of this force should ensure that the United Nations can effectively deter or suppress any threat or use of arms in violation of the purposes and principles of the United Nations”.

25. Since nothing had been done so far to comply with the Final Document of the tenth special session, it was important for the forthcoming special session on disarmament to take up the question of international security first. He reminded the Committee that after the first special session on disarmament, the General Assembly had adopted resolution 35/156 by consensus, and with the express consent and support of the two super-Powers, calling for the implementation of the system of international security provided for in the Charter. Resolution 35/156 J called upon all States to proceed in a positive spirit towards measures for a system of international security concurrently with efforts at effective disarmament measures, and requested the permanent members of the Security Council to facilitate the work of the Council towards carrying out its essential responsibility under the Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security. The Secretary-General had been requested to submit a report on progress in implementing the resolution to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session. The submission of the report had been delayed for a long time, and when submitted, it had not been relevant to the subject-matter of the resolution: the Council had not been asked what it had done or what it proposed to do in that regard, so in that sense the report was still pending. The matter would therefore have to be brought before the second special session, which must deal with that relevant resolution, so that the session could contribute towards improving the world situation.

26. The recent burgeoning of the nuclear-freeze movement represented the awakening of the individual citizen, whose right and responsibility it was to act because for the first time in the history of nations the actual existence of man on earth was at stake. He congratulated the Chairman and the Preparatory Committee, therefore, for agreeing to expand the role of the non-governmental organizations, which represented the ordinary citizens of every country. As such, they could be expected to be free of the calculations and vested interests that had hitherto prevented progress towards the effective cessation of the arms race. He believed that the participation of the non-governmental organizations, and of the Olof Palme Institute and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in the work of the second special session would demonstrate the yearning of ordinary men and women for simple survival.

27. The study on the relationship between disarmament and international security, called for in resolution 35/156 A, which had been completed and submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session, was supposed to be published in time for submission to the second special session, together with the views of Member States. A brief paper had been produced on the study by the Centre for Disarmament, but the conclusions and recommendations of his delegation, the only
ones that had been submitted, had not been included. Thus, even the Centre for Disarmament was unwilling to consider international security as a prerequisite for arms control. In conclusion, he praised the improved participation of non-governmental organizations in the special session.

28. **Mr. Lidgard** (Sweden) said that he would pick out the salient points in the views submitted by his Government to the Secretary-General on the preparations for the second special session contained in document A/AC.206/19. The Final Document of the first special session would be an appropriate starting-point, since it was clear that its provisions had not been satisfactorily fulfilled and that efforts must be intensified to initiate negotiations on the limitation and reduction not only of nuclear weapons but also of armed forces and conventional weapons. Nevertheless, there were grounds for optimism in the emergence of a mass protest movement against nuclear arms and particularly in plans for launching a world disarmament campaign.

29. In the specific context of nuclear disarmament, a special drive was needed to start negotiations on reducing and ultimately eliminating tactical nuclear weapons in Europe and to conclude a comprehensive agreement on theatre nuclear forces. The issues of tactical, theatre and strategic nuclear weapons being indissociable, it was also essential to resume talks on strategic arms limitation and reduction. The second special session should also call for an early start to multilateral negotiations on the particularly important measure of a comprehensive test-ban treaty. Specific measures should also be considered to lay down effective and far-reaching safeguards governing the supply of nuclear material, equipment and technology to prevent the further spread of nuclear explosive devices. For the prevention of nuclear war, it was important for all nuclear-weapon States to comply with resolution 36/81 B adopted by the General Assembly by consensus.

30. One possible solution to be investigated by the second special session to the problem of the steady expansion in military research and development programmes and the shift of emphasis from quantitative to qualitative weapons research was to reach international agreement on well-defined measures in limited areas. That approach had already been adopted in concluding the treaties and conventions on the limitation of anti-ballistic missile systems and strategic arms and on the prohibition of biological and chemical weapons and the military uses of environmental modification techniques. Another way of curtailing the impact of military technological advances on the arms race was to ensure the provision of reliable and complete data on military research and development programmes and to lay down the necessary procedures for verifying limitation agreements.

31. On the question of the verification of a comprehensive test-ban treaty, the group of seismological experts working under the auspices of the Committee on Disarmament had made considerable headway in developing an international seismic monitoring system. An international system for the monitoring of airborne radio-activity might also be devised.

32. The availability of reliable data on military expenditures was also essential to disarmament negotiations and verification procedures. The active participation of member States was necessary in establishing parity factors for the purposes of comparing military expenditures.
33. Given the lack of a satisfactory complaints and verification mechanism under the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, the second special session might recommend the convening of a special conference to establish a permanently available, objective and non-discriminatory verification and complaints procedure applicable to the Convention.

34. His Government shared the concern expressed by the group of governmental experts for the study of the relationship between disarmament and development over the critical juncture which the arms race had reached and would seek not only the effective implementation of its report but also the provision of fuller information on the benefits which developing countries would derive from conversion from military to civilian production. It also endorsed the view that the relationship between disarmament and development must find concrete expression in regular United Nations activities.

35. The second special session on disarmament should also consider the question of the military uses of the sea-bed and recommend the convening of a second conference to review and complement the 1971 Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof.

36. In addition to indicating the Swedish Government's views on the prevention of a naval arms race, the report dealt with the welcome proposals being made to ensure the use of outer space exclusively for peaceful purposes. The second special session should issue recommendations to forestall the development and prohibit the deployment of anti-satellite weapons and anti-ballistic missiles in outer space.

37. Sweden had already ratified the Convention established by the United Nations Conference on Prohibitions or Restrictions of Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, and trusted that the 20 ratifications required for its entry into force would soon be secured. However, it considered that the Conference had not made sufficient headway on some of the issues.

38. Finally, institutional disarmament arrangements were of special importance. The study on institutional arrangements conducted by the group of experts created by the General Assembly, while it contained some useful comments, failed to recommend any specific action in the direction suggested by Sweden. The second special session should therefore devote further consideration to the action required to strengthen United Nations disarmament machinery. One concrete step would be for the General Assembly to establish an adequately funded United Nations Disarmament Agency with an independent position within the United Nations and a governing body elected by and accountable to the General Assembly.

39. To conclude, the centrepiece of the second special session on disarmament would undoubtedly be the Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament currently being drafted by the Committee on Disarmament. The Swedish Government had already presented its detailed views on the programme in the course of the discussions held in the Committee on Disarmament.
40. The CHAIRMAN said that the groundswell of popular concern over the arms race and enthusiasm for disarmament, to which both the representatives of Cyprus and Sweden had referred, would undoubtedly make a positive contribution to the review of the implementation of the provisions of the Final Document of the First Special Session.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.
Preparatory Committee for the Second Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament

Fourth session

Summary record of the 32nd meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 27 April 1982, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Adeniji (Nigeria)

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82-55650 0151m (E)
The meeting was called to order at 3.40 p.m.

CONSIDERATION OF SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES RELATED TO THE SPECIAL SESSION, INCLUDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION (continued)

PRINCIPAL DOCUMENT(S) TO BE ADOPTED AT THE SPECIAL SESSION (continued)

1. The CHAIRMAN said that Switzerland and Viet Nam had requested observer status with the Preparatory Committee. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee agreed to grant those two countries observer status.

2. It was so decided.

3. Mr. AYEWAH (Nigeria) said that, where the work of the Preparatory Committee during its fourth and final session was concerned, his delegation was of the view that item 4 was sufficiently broad in terms of concept and content to accommodate consideration of issues covered by items 9 to 13 of the provisional agenda of the special session itself. While it was possible to regard each of those items as deserving of major consideration in some appropriate body - for example, a working group - his delegation felt that for all practical purposes, and in order to concentrate efforts on issues which were likely to make the special session meaningful and result-oriented, the Preparatory Committee should seek to address itself to three particular issues: (a) measures to halt and reverse the arms race and avoid the danger of war, in particular nuclear war; (b) assessment of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the tenth special session; (c) consideration of the Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament, which had rightly been described as the centre-piece of the second special session devoted to disarmament.

4. While it was possible to conceive of the Assessment of the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the tenth special session as retrospective, the Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament should be forward-looking and should chart the future course of action for the 1980s. The main objective would be to take cognizance of the vast amount of work done by the Committee on Disarmament, particularly for those States which were not members of that Committee. That did not mean a rewriting of the document on the Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament which would be submitted to the second special session; it would merely enable some delegations which had not taken part in the negotiations in the Committee on Disarmament to react in a preliminary way and perhaps suggest new ideas for progress. The discussions at the second special session could well concentrate on existing areas of disagreement, such as the concept of time-frames and the nature of future measures.

5. His delegation recalled that the General Assembly's decision to convene the tenth special session had been taken on the initiative of the non-aligned countries, following their fifth summit conference in 1976. However, the need for a special session on disarmament had been felt as far back as 1961, following

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the first non-aligned summit conference in Belgrade. Above all, the first special session devoted to disarmament had helped to sensitize Governments, non-governmental organizations and world public opinion to the deleterious consequences of the arms race and the need to halt and reverse it in the interest of the survival of civilization. His delegation regarded the second special session as one that would respond to the objectives of a failed mission of the first special session. In other words, it must be able to assess comprehensively how and why the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session had not been implemented and chart a way forward to meet the objectives of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade.

6. The halting of the arms race and the avoidance of war should take as a basic premise the non-use of force in international relations. Proceeding from that, efforts should then concentrate on the mechanics of halting and reversing the arms race, and in that connexion the first step should be to acknowledge the right and the duty of all States to participate in disarmament negotiations. Such negotiations could be undertaken at different levels and in different forums and should result in concrete measures within the framework of general and complete disarmament.

7. Based on the foregoing, his delegation believed that the concept of a nuclear freeze, which was currently gaining support in Europe and elsewhere, should be pursued energetically during the second special session. That would entail a cessation of the manufacture of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction, the non-production of fissionable materials for weapons purposes and a halt to the development of weapons technology. Once a freeze was achieved, negotiations could start on measures for active reduction of weapons within agreed time-frames. As a parallel step, the reduction of military expenditures should be undertaken with a view to slowing down the arms race. That, would, of course, require the provision of military expenditure data by all States. The various reports of the Group of Experts on the Reduction of Military Budgets should serve as a basis for initiating substantive efforts in that direction.

8. Conventional disarmament would be the next priority. That should also be approached from a comprehensive standpoint, including a determination of the root causes of weapons acquisition, even by countries less able to sustain such an unproductive arms race because of their weak economic base.

9. With regard to development and disarmament, the second special session should underscore the fact that the arms race was inconsistent with efforts aimed at achieving the new international economic order. It should also recognize that the current recession was in part a product of the arms race. The study by the Ad Hoc Group on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development indicated the direction in which the special session could proceed in order to visualize the problems for necessary action.

10. Finally, his delegation believed that measures for enhancing regional security as a component of global security should be pursued during the second special session. In that connexion, the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa would need to be updated to take account of the existing reality in Africa.

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11. Mr. ERDENACHULJUU (Mongolia) said that his delegation had recently submitted to the Secretariat the views of its Government on the second special session devoted to disarmament. Mongolia regarded the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session as still valid and topical. In it, Member States declared that the main purpose of the special session had been to reduce the danger of nuclear war and take measures to halt the arms race. Today, those needs were even more self-evident because the world was at a crossroads between peace and brinkmanship.

12. In considering effective measures to obtain the implementation of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session, the second special session devoted to disarmament should provide an impetus to the negotiations on specific measures and should give special attention to the new initiatives taken by Member States. In that connexion, emphasis should be placed on the recent initiative of the Soviet Union to obtain a gradual reduction of medium-range weapons, a freeze on weapons already deployed and an end to the development of new sophisticated weapons, and its unilateral moratorium on the emplacement of medium-range weapons in the European territory of the USSR. Those steps could create a good prerequisite for the removal of United States medium-range weapons from Western Europe, the achievement of détente and the speeding up of the limitation of nuclear weapons by the United States and the Soviet Union. The second special session would be an important step towards a world disarmament conference and should lead to a strengthening of the recommendations made in that connexion by the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session.

13. His delegation attached great importance to the Declaration on the Prevention of Nuclear Catastrophe, the conclusion on a treaty on the prohibition of the stationing of weapons of any kind in outer space and the prohibition of chemical and bacteriological weapons. In addition, many States attached importance to the Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament, which should be the focus of the second special session. His delegation also believed that the results of that session must be reflected in the final documents or, in other words, in concrete measures to put an end to the arms race and achieve disarmament.

14. There was now a powerful movement in Europe for nuclear disarmament, and that movement could help in attaining the objectives of the United Nations Charter for the prevention of war. It was for that reason that his delegation had made a proposal at the tenth special session for the proclamation of an international disarmament week. Developments during the past four years had shown the need for a further strengthening of such activities, and in that connexion his delegation supported the proposal by Mexico that consideration should be given to a world disarmament campaign.

15. Mr. SARAN (India) stated that his delegation could support much of what had been said by the representative of Nigeria. India also felt that it was important for the Preparatory Committee to concentrate on an assessment of the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the tenth special session. Many sound proposals had been adopted at that session, and efforts should therefore be made to determine the reasons for the lack of progress in the implementation of the Final Document. One reason was the lack of political will on the part of the major
Powers. In addition, efforts at disarmament had not kept pace with the arms race; rather, they had been impeded while the arms race continued. The second special session should also deal with the deterioration in international relations resulting from the arms race and reaffirm the validity of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session. There could be no dilution of the consensus achieved at that session and no deviation from the international disarmament strategy adopted then.

16. The representative of Nigeria had referred to a freeze on nuclear weapons. In that connexion, he drew attention to the proposal made by India in paragraph 9 of its communication to the Secretary-General reproduced in document A/AC.206/19.

17. His delegation agreed that the second special session could do much to bring about progress with respect to the Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament. To that end, some informal machinery should be set up with a view to solving existing problems, such as the nature of the Programme and its time-frame.

18. Mr. GARCIA ROBLES (Mexico) said that his Government had recently complied with the request in General Assembly resolution 36/81 B, paragraph 2, by submitting to the Secretary-General a report containing its views, proposals and practical suggestions for ensuring the prevention of nuclear war. That report stressed the critical need to remove the threat of nuclear war and the fact that the stockpiling of weapons, particularly nuclear weapons, which already existed in sufficient numbers to destroy the world’s population 50 times over, confronted mankind with an unprecedented threat of self-destruction. The report also stressed that lasting peace and security could never be achieved through the stockpiling of weapons or through doctrines of deterrence and strategic superiority. He pointed out that, while paragraph 2 of resolution 36/82 B merely invited non-nuclear-weapon States to submit their views, proposals and practical suggestions, paragraph 1 urged nuclear-weapon States to do so.

19. Quite as alarming as the mounting stockpiles of nuclear weapons was the increasing role of advanced technology in the nuclear-weapons field. Computer breakdowns were inevitable and human capacity to control weapons of mass destruction was only relative. Frequent false alarms regarding a potential attack had already been reported in the United States, causing it to place its intercontinental ballistic missiles in a state of full readiness. The measures already agreed on by the nuclear-weapon States, such as the establishment of direct communication links between them, were merely cosmetic arrangements. The peoples of the world, whose vital interests were at stake, demanded effective measures to avert the threat of nuclear war. He drew attention in that connexion to paragraphs 47 to 50 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session and stressed that the main factor preventing their implementation had been the complete absence of political will, particularly on the part of the nuclear super-Powers, which must change their behaviour and understand that their national security could not be enhanced by a heightening of international insecurity.

The meeting rose at 4.35 p.m.