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

VIEWS OF MEMBER STATES ON THE AGENDA AND OTHER RELEVANT QUESTIONS
RELATING TO THE THIRD SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
DEVOTED TO DISARMAMENT

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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1. Belgium wishes first to emphasize that it is fully aware of the importance of the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

2. This third special session should serve the primary purpose of enabling the international community to draw up a list of recommendations that should be considered for the future in the field of arms control and disarmament.

3. Belgium remains persuaded that the international community aspires to live in a climate of greater confidence. It also considers that prospects exist for achieving the conclusion of agreements on disarmament and the reduction of arsenals.

4. Against that background, this special session should be able to take place within a framework of constructive dialogue, and with the hope of achieving positive results. In connection with this special session, it is appropriate to reaffirm the importance and validity of the final document the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament was able to draw up in 1978.

5. Belgium regrets that the second special session devoted to disarmament ended without any real achievements to its credit, and that consensus could not be reached on its ambitious objectives it had set itself. Nevertheless, Belgium remains convinced that the various difficulties encountered at that session must and can be overcome.

6. In the context of a more favourable international climate marked both by a measure of flexibility and by a commitment to do everything possible to ensure the successful outcome of the third session as a whole, Belgium considers that progress can be achieved on real and tangible disarmament measures. It nevertheless remains true that, to ensure the success of this session, extremely careful preparation of its work is called for.

7. In the light of the discussions taking place between the two super-Powers, Belgium, while aware that the nuclear arms race has not really become any less intense since the first special session, expresses the firm hope that real progress may be achieved both with regard to the reduction of nuclear arsenals and in the area of limiting conventional weapons.

8. Belgium considers that the work on achieving global and verifiable prohibition of the production, development and stockpiling of chemical weapons and their destruction should be a major item on the agenda.
9. The General Assembly at its third special session should examine the advantages of a progressive approach in the complex process of arms control, one that would make it possible to implement a set of proposals effectively in a reasonable time frame.

10. It is Belgium's hope that, at this session, it will be possible to adopt a realistic agenda, a principal feature of which would be a focus on objectives that are achievable in the medium term.

11. Belgium is also convinced that the outcome of this session will depend on the realism, flexibility and constructive attitude of the States that participate in its work.

12. In that perspective, the agenda, after devoting one item to the work of the preparatory committees, should focus on:

(a) General debate devoted to analysing the current situation in the light of recent developments and disarmament prospects;

(b) Nuclear disarmament and all the priority issues that relate to it;

(c) Conventional disarmament;

(d) The evolution of the situation with respect to the prohibition of chemical weapons and consideration of the work of the Conference on Disarmament on this subject;

(e) Prevention of an arms race in outer space;

(f) Problems related to better verification of agreements in general;

(g) Confidence-building measures and their effects on the disarmament process;

(h) Reduction of military budgets and the means envisaged to obtain better objective information on military questions and greater transparency;

(i) Strengthening the role of the United Nations in the field of information activities and United Nations studies devoted to disarmament;

(j) Consideration and adoption of a series of realistic proposals and recommendations designed to promote the achievement of specific objectives in the field of arms control and disarmament.
1. The People's Republic of Bulgaria attaches great importance to the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

2. The contemporary scientific-technical revolution has led to the quantitative stockpiling and qualitative refinement of the means of mass destruction, and to the emergence of the possibility that they may spread to new spheres, including outer space. The arms race is now unprecedented in scale, and this has increased the danger of an annihilating war. Today, as never before, all peoples are faced with the most important problem of our time — whether to survive together or to perish together.

3. The arms race has given rise to a series of problems of a political, socio-economic and environmental nature. There is a vital need to halt it and channel the material and human resources thus released to peaceful purposes and the well-being of peoples. For this reason mankind cannot accept the lack of progress in disarmament negotiations.

4. With respect to problems relating to the third special session of the General Assembly, Bulgaria has a number of comments to make.

5. The primary significance of the session will be determined by the central role the world organization plays in debating and finding solutions to the priority question of contemporary international relations — disarmament. At the first special session in 1978 consensus was reached on the Final Document, /1/ encompassing all aspects of disarmament. The implementation of the measures and principles contained in this basic document remains an ongoing task.

6. The third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament should, in our opinion, concentrate its efforts on the adoption and further development of the fundamental concepts relating to global measures for all aspects of disarmament, with provision for a step-by-step process and a monitoring system, taking into account the new realities of the nuclear age and the need for mankind to survive and for the creation of a world without weapons, violence or wars.

7. Bulgaria is participating actively in the preparation by the Conference on Disarmament of a draft comprehensive programme of disarmament. Bulgaria fully supports the broad-scale initiative of the socialist countries aimed at creating a comprehensive system of international peace and security, in which the proposals contained in the statement made by M. S. Gorbachev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, on 15 January 1986, concerning the elimination of nuclear weapons by the year 2000, occupy a central place. The summit meeting in Reykjavik showed that the genuine removal of this means of mass destruction within a determined period of time is an attainable goal.

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8. Bulgaria is untried in its concern for the development of fruitful co-operation and good-neighbourliness between States. It is working to implement proposals for the establishment of a zone free from nuclear and chemical weapons in the Balkans and to mobilize public opinion in favour of disarmament.

9. The work of preparing for the third special session would be significantly facilitated by drawing on the experience gained at the first and second special sessions of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, while bearing in mind the specific problems of the contemporary situation.

10. The consolidation of new approaches to the realities of the nuclear age and of a new political thinking should become the basic approach to the solution of all problems. Constructive co-operation, in the first place between the major military States, is of great importance for the success of the session. In our view, special attention should be given to achieving equal security for all States, at a lower level of military confrontation.

11. On the basis of experience gained so far in the negotiations and of the numerous proposals that have been put forward, the third special session of the General Assembly should devote maximum effort to achieving rapid and decisive progress in the disarmament negotiations. All forums should be used to achieve this goal: negotiations on a bilateral and multilateral basis, in the General Assembly of the United Nations, and in international conferences at the global and regional levels.

12. The achievement of tangible results with respect to the most pressing disarmament problems in the international forums currently at work on them before the special session is convened would provide beneficial conditions for its successful conclusion. The attainment of this objective requires political will and realism, particularly on the part of the nuclear States. Special attention should be paid to those disarmament problems to which the international community attaches the greatest significance - the cessation of the arms race, and especially the nuclear-arms race, the prevention of its extension to outer space and the implementation of practical disarmament measures under strict and effective international control. In relation to the latter point, Bulgaria greatly appreciates the proposal made by the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, M. S. Gorbachev, in February 1987, concerning the conclusion of a separate agreement on the elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe. This is yet another indication of the sincere and dynamic nature of Soviet foreign policy, which is aimed at the progressive implementation of fundamental proposals for the elimination of all nuclear weapons. Various proposals by the USSR and some other States concerning, inter alia, the prohibition of nuclear weapons tests and the speedy conclusion of a convention on the prohibition and destruction of chemical weapons, also serve this goal.

13. The People's Republic of Bulgaria expresses the hope that the third special session devoted to disarmament will contribute to the adoption of concrete measures directed towards arms control and disarmament in order to achieve the hopes of the peoples for peace world-wide and without weapons.

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DENMARK

[Original: English]
[15 May 1987]

1. Denmark welcomes General Assembly resolution 41/60 G, adopted by consensus, by which the Assembly decided to convene a third special session devoted to disarmament, and would like to submit the following comments on the agenda and other relevant questions relating to this session.

2. The Final Document 1/ of the first special session devoted to disarmament represents the foundation for the work of the international community in the disarmament field. The General Assembly at its third special session should reaffirm the validity of this document, which is the most comprehensive set of principles and guidelines for disarmament ever adopted by the international community. The integrity and scope of this document must be kept intact.

3. The third special session will take place at a time of brighter prospects for progress in the bilateral arms control and disarmament negotiations. It is therefore important to contribute in a constructive and positive manner to this process.

4. The third special session should build upon the Final Document of the first special session. It would be natural to have a review of the implementation of the results of the previous special sessions as well as an assessment of developments since 1978 in the disarmament field. The principal part of the considerations at the third special session should, however, be forward-looking. While the areas to which a special session on disarmament must address itself are many, Denmark is of the belief that the best result will be achieved if the considerations are concentrated upon carefully selected subjects, which seem most likely to carry consensus. It would not be a realistic ambition to aim at the drawing-up of an all-encompassing final document. Attempts in this direction might in fact be counterproductive to a successful outcome of the session.

5. A number of developments since 1978 can serve as a guidance when selecting areas for special attention. In the field of nuclear disarmament, the session should take account of the positive outcome of the third NPT-conference and consider measures to enhance the nuclear non-proliferation régime. Likewise, the question of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty should be considered.

6. Growing awareness and increasing concern has been expressed over the conventional arms race. The third special session will offer an opportunity to expand the area of consensus in the field of conventional disarmament. Account should be taken of the contributions towards this end made by, for example, the United Nations study on conventional disarmament, of 1984, and the study on regional disarmament, of 1980, as well as developments registered during the General Assembly deliberations and at the Disarmament Commission. The conclusion of the convention on prohibition or restriction on the use of certain conventional weapons, which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate
effects, could be acknowledged and Member States who have not yet done so could be urged to become parties to the convention.

7. Other items which by way of developments since 1978 merit special attention are:

(a) Prohibition of chemical weapons;
(b) Prevention of an arms race in outer space;
(c) The essential role of effective verifications measures in arms control and disarmament agreements;
(d) The importance of openness in military matters as well as that of making available objective information;
(e) Confidence-building measures;
(f) Strengthening of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament, including a review of the multilateral disarmament machinery, disarmament studies and information activities.

8. In the view of the Danish Government, the third special session should aim at a short and realistic final document, including an action programme. Consistent with the two previous sessions, the decisions at the third special session should be by consensus.

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

[Original: English]

[29 April 1987]

The German Democratic Republic, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 41/60 G, herewith presents the following views on the agenda and substantive issues relating to the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

1. The German Democratic Republic has actively taken part in the process of elaborating resolution 41/60 G. It considers the decision of the General Assembly at its forty-first session to convene the third special session devoted to disarmament in 1988 to be timely and of great importance.

The German Democratic Republic expects this special session to be a universal forum for a comprehensive dialogue on the basic issues of our time, i.e., the removal of the nuclear threat; the liberation of mankind from the burden of nuclear armament; the strengthening of international security; and the development of international co-operation.
2. Together with the other Warsaw Treaty member States, the German Democratic Republic has submitted a comprehensive disarmament programme that does not leave out any type of weapon and provides for effective mutual verification of each disarmament step. Particular importance is attached to the Soviet programme of 15 January 1986 for the elimination of nuclear weapons by the year 2000. The German Democratic Republic also endorses the proposals put forward by the Soviet Union at Reykjavik to help implement the above programme, the recent Soviet initiatives on the liquidation of Soviet and American intermediate-range missiles, operational-tactical missiles and nuclear battlefield weapons in Europe. The establishment of the nuclear- and chemical-weapon-free zones in Central Europe as proposed by the German Democratic Republic and Czechoslovakia would facilitate the speedy elimination of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction in Europe. Far-reaching proposals have been tabled by the socialist States concerning disarmament in the conventional field from the Atlantic to the Urals. This realistic programme corresponds to the peoples' interests and is in line with the international disarmament strategy adopted at the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. This strategy is aimed at removing the danger of a nuclear war, and taking concrete measures for the termination of the arms race and for disarmament finally to achieve general and complete disarmament under effective international control.

3. The third special session is called upon to pave the road towards a world without nuclear weapons. It would be important to reach agreement on the means necessary for achieving this objective, including an international mechanism for the implementation of these far-reaching disarmament measures.

This special session will contribute to this goal if it helps ensuring the effective implementation of the Final Document 1/ of the first special session and of the numerous resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on major issues of disarmament. A comprehensive disarmament programme to be prepared by the Conference on Disarmament could play an important role in this respect. Thus the special session would promote the establishment of a comprehensive system of international peace and security in the world, whose central element would be measures for the termination of the arms race on Earth, the prevention of its extension into outer space, and for disarmament. International security and economic advances for all peoples as well as the solution of other global problems facing mankind will be out of reach in the long run if disarmament is not achieved.

4. As agreed upon in the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, the United Nations, in accordance with its Charter, has a central role and primary responsibility in the sphere of disarmament. In the view of the German Democratic Republic, the United Nations should make a greater contribution to preserving peace, ending the arms race and promoting disarmament.

The third special session should, therefore, contribute to strengthening the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament with the aim of increasing its political stand and effectiveness as an important element in the process of multilateral disarmament endeavours. On the one hand, it would be appropriate to use more effectively the existing multilateral mechanism for negotiations and
deliberations on disarmament issues; on the other the special session could discuss
and agree on the organization prerequisites required to implement the
above-mentioned comprehensive disarmament measures. In this context, procedures to
verify observance of such measures are of major importance.

5. Against this background, the German Democratic Republic considers that the
third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament should focus
its attention on the following items:

(a) A firm commitment to joint efforts for disarmament as a major element of
a comprehensive system of international peace and security based on the principles
of the Charter of the United Nations;

(b) Concrete ways and means to implement the international disarmament
strategy agreed upon at the first special session devoted to disarmament, with the
aim of achieving a world without nuclear weapons;

(c) Effective steps to increase the role of the United Nations in the field
of disarmament.

The considerations should be duly reflected in the draft agenda for the third
special session to be prepared by the Preparatory Committee as stipulated in
resolution 41/60 G.

The German Democratic Republic is prepared to contribute actively to the work
of the Preparatory Committee, and will forward further suggestions in the course of
the forthcoming deliberations.

GERMANY, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF

[Original: English]

[15 May 1987]

1. The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany welcomes General Assembly
resolution 41/60 G by which the Assembly decided to embark upon the preparatory
work for the third special session devoted to disarmament. At a time when West and
East have resumed their dialogue and entered into new, intensive negotiations on
central security matters of global importance, it is particularly appropriate for
the General Assembly to meet in special session and review recent developments,
given its function as the irreplaceable universal body of the United Nations
competent to evaluate the situation in the field of arms control and disarmament on
behalf of the world community.

Ten years after the first special session devoted to disarmament, starting
from and against the background of its Final Document, 1/ this review, if carried
to a success, will be of great importance, as it will confirm the role of the
United Nations as a forum for debate, reflecting world opinion and stimulating new
ideas in the field of disarmament. It will also confirm the continuing validity of
the Final Document for the disarmament process.
2. In the view of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, the present period is more favourable for convening another special session than 1982, when the second special session failed to reach substantial results. Since the second special session the prospects for disarmament have clearly improved, as progress has been achieved in several areas towards the objective of concrete, substantial, balanced and reliably verifiable disarmament agreements.

3. On the other hand, the unsatisfactory result of the second special session may help all Member States to draw lessons which would facilitate a successful conclusion of the third session. The main reason for the failure of the second special session was the lack of concentration on areas where most progress could be expected and consensus was most likely. This lack of agreement in the Preparatory Committee on an appropriate selection of topics was compounded by its failure to define an operable quantitative limit for a final document.

4. It will be of paramount importance, however, for the success of the third special session that the discussion of the agenda be guided by a forward-looking, result-oriented approach. The criterion for the inclusion of items and proposals in the work of the session should be whether or not they can be expected to contribute to a successful debate leading to the consensus adoption of a final document.

It should be the overall task of the third special session to identify those positive new developments and areas in the field of disarmament which, on the basis of the principles and concepts laid down in the Final Document of the first special session, have proved to be most constructive and promising for the future of the disarmament process.

5. The main topics on the agenda of the third special session, therefore, might be the following:

   (a) General debate: review and appraisal of the present international situation in view of the prospects for disarmament, including events and tendencies during recent years;

   (b) Review of the decisions and recommendations adopted by the General Assembly at its first special session in the light of subsequent developments, with particular emphasis on new and forward-looking approaches to:

      (i) Nuclear disarmament;

      (ii) Conventional disarmament;

      (iii) Prohibition of chemical weapons (state of Conference on Disarmament negotiations);

      (iv) Prevention of an arms race in outer space;

      (v) Verification;

      (vi) Confidence-building measures;
(vii) Objective information (including military budgets);

(viii) Strengthening of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament, including machinery, disarmament studies and information activities.

IRELAND

[Original: English]

[12 May 1987]

1. Ireland is fully aware of the importance of the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. We consider that the third special session offers the international community the opportunity to rededicate itself to the ultimate objective of general and complete disarmament and to draw up a list of practical and realistic measures and actions for the future in pursuit of this goal. Ireland believes that it is of the utmost importance that agreement on disarmament, and particularly nuclear disarmament, and the reduction of military arsenals generally be reached as a matter of urgency and that developments threatening international peace and security and contributing to increased international tension be fully addressed.

2. In our view, the General Assembly at its third special session should reaffirm the importance and validity of the Final Document \[1\] drawn up in 1978 at the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. Ireland fully supported the outcome of the first special session in 1978 and our commitment to its results, achieved by consensus, remains undiminished today.

3. Ireland regrets that the second special session ended in failure and that the ambitious objectives which it set for itself did not eventually meet with agreement. We believe, however, that its failure does not invalidate the underlying rationale of such special sessions and that it is imperative to continue with the overall approach to disarmament that these special sessions represent. Ireland is of the view that the several factors which together contributed to the failure of the second special session can and must be overcome and that the prospects for success of the third special session as a whole can be better assured by the presence of a favourable international environment.

4. With the first special session as a foundation, we believe that the agenda for the third special session should be guided by an approach with the overall aim of identifying elements which have contributed or could contribute to the achievement by consensus of goals in the field of disarmament. The third special session should dedicate itself to all areas which are central to the disarmament and arms control debate and which are a cause of widespread concern and anxiety in the international community as a whole. In a positive international environment, and with flexibility and a commitment to ensure the overall success of the session, Ireland believes that progress can be made in the search for real disarmament measures. We would underline the necessity and importance of comprehensive and careful preparation to ensure the success of the third special session.

/...
5. Ireland is deeply conscious of the fact that the arms race and, in particular, the nuclear-arms race, has not abated since the first special session. We are also aware of the damage to the credibility of the Final Document of the first special session caused by the uninterrupted upward spiral of the arms race and the failure to translate the spirit and content of that important document into concrete disarmament measures. We believe that while the areas to which the third special session must address itself are many, nuclear disarmament and the threat of nuclear warfare are items which of their nature must remain central to the deliberations and that an ordered and focused debate in this area may identify areas in which concrete and practical measures can be agreed. In the light of the current discussions between the super-Powers, we hope that it may be possible to record real progress in the reduction of nuclear arsenals and that a trend towards major disarmament in this area of vital concern to the international community may thereby be established. Ireland believes also that due emphasis should be laid on the need for universal and verifiable prohibition of the production, development and stockpiling of chemical weapons and on their destruction.

6. The General Assembly at its second special session failed to reach agreement on a Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament (CPD). There were several factors which contributed to the failure to reach a necessary consensus in this area, including the inadequacy of preparatory deliberations. Since the second special session, some progress has been made on CPD at the Conference on Disarmament, and Ireland would wish to see a resolution of outstanding issues at an early date to facilitate its further consideration at the third special session. Ireland is particularly anxious that the third special session should adopt a progressive approach in the field of arms control and disarmament and that its work should make possible, within a reasonable time, the effective introduction of a series of practical measures.

7. We consider that the General Assembly at its third special session should approach its task in a positive and realistic manner. We believe that the effectiveness of its efforts will necessarily depend on such realism and on the flexibility and constructive attitude of all States during the session. An agenda for the third special session which focuses on the following elements would, therefore, seem particularly appropriate:

(a) A general debate concerned with an analysis of the world situation as well as of the developments which have taken place since the publication of the Final Document of the first special session and of future prospects in the arms control area;

(b) Nuclear disarmament and related questions, including, in particular, the need for a comprehensive test ban and further enhancement of non-proliferation efforts;

(c) The evolving situation in the field of the prohibition of chemical weapons, including examination of the work of the Conference on Disarmament in this area;

(d) Prevention of an arms race in outer space;
(e) Conventional disarmament;

(f) Problems linked to improved verification of arms control agreements in general;

(g) Measures intended to increase confidence and their effects on the disarmament process;

(h) Reduction of military budgets and means intended to provide better and more objective information on military questions along with increased transparency;

(i) The reinforcement of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament, including means by which the functioning of the First Committee of the General Assembly can be enhanced, and an examination of the information activities and studies of the United Nations in the field of disarmament;

(j) Consideration of a Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament including a series of realistic measures and actions intended to promote more immediate progress towards the realization of agreed aims in the field of arms control and disarmament.

8. Ireland pledges itself to make every possible effort to contribute in a positive and constructive spirit to the success of the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

JAPAN

[Original: English]

[30 April 1987]

1. The Government of Japan attaches great importance to the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament which is scheduled to be held next year, six years after the second special session in 1982.

The promotion of arms control and disarmament is, needless to say, a matter of utmost importance for the realization of international peace and security. In the conviction that the nuclear holocaust that devastated Hiroshima and Nagasaki must never be repeated, and strictly adhering to its own three non-nuclear principles, Japan has consistently stressed the necessity of disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament. It is Japan's ardent hope that international efforts will be focused on the ultimate objective, which is common to all mankind - general and complete disarmament, in particular the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

In contrast to the high hopes for progress in arms control and disarmament, the actual results so far obtained are very meager. There is a notable tendency to attribute this state of affairs to the lack of political will of States, but it should be fully recognized that problems of arms control and disarmament are inseparably linked to the security interests of each State. As is obvious from
past experience, political declarations do not, in and of themselves, lead to the solution of problems; rather, what is urgently needed is the realization of conditions in which arms control and disarmament can be promoted in a manner that will not jeopardize the security of each State. The Government of Japan believes that the international community should place greater priority on the establishment of such conditions.

2. In the light of these considerations, the Government of Japan strongly hopes that the coming third special session of the General Assembly will review the development in the field of arms control and disarmament since the second special session in 1982, and conduct realistic, concrete, and constructive deliberations on the role the international community should play to further multilateral efforts for disarmament. The Government of Japan intends to contribute positively to those deliberations.

   Specifically, the Government of Japan considers that full attention should be paid to the following points:

   (a) Arms control and disarmament measures should be equitable and balanced, and the adoption of such measures should not damage the security of the States concerned. This point should be fully considered in the negotiations;

   (b) Efforts should be made to bring about concrete, feasible and realistic results, however limited, rather than engaging in comprehensive and general discussions;

   (c) The United States and the Soviet Union bear special responsibility in the field of arms control and disarmament. The international community should follow carefully their negotiations on nuclear arms reduction and their talks in the areas of chemical weapons, nuclear testing, etc., and encourage them to make progress in those efforts;

   (d) The Government of Japan considers that in order to realize disarmament, it is necessary seriously to consider measures to lessen and remove the mutual distrust among nations which lies at the root of the arms race. The abolition of arbitrary barriers to the transmission of information and culture or to the free movement of people will enhance trust among nations and facilitate the solution of problems relating to disarmament;

   (e) In seeking solutions to problems of disarmament, including nuclear disarmament, it is necessary to find as wide a common ground as possible, giving full consideration to the security interests of the parties concerned. A credible verification régime is one of the most important aspects of such a common ground and its establishment will help engender trust among nations;

   (f) It is necessary to have a clear recognition of the ways in which scientific and technological progress affects disarmament questions. Otherwise, much of the discussion on disarmament is likely to be rendered meaningless.
3. With the above points in mind, the Government of Japan believes that the following should be given priority in the deliberations at the forthcoming third special session:

(a) In-depth discussions should be conducted on the conditions - political, military and of security, as well as scientific and technological - that will make disarmament possible;

(b) Importance should be attached to a total ban on nuclear tests as an important first step toward nuclear disarmament, and a realistic process leading to that end should be sought. In this regard, reference is made to the Government of Japan's proposal of a "step-by-step formula" for a phased lowering of nuclear test yields: Japan is actively participating in the international experiment on the exchange of seismic waveforms data, which will substantiate the verification aspect of the proposal, and it intends to continue to make substantial contributions toward the early establishment of a world-wide verification régime on nuclear testing;

(c) With regard to NPT régime, the successful conclusion of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty in September 1985 should be duly appreciated. At the same time, it should be stressed again that the international community must have a common recognition of the need to continue to make efforts to extend and strengthen the NPT régime;

(d) The fact that negotiations are being energetically conducted at the conference on disarmament on a treaty for a total ban on chemical weapons should be duly appreciated. The Conference should be urged to make further efforts to draft an effective treaty to realize a global ban on all kinds of chemical weapons;

(e) The role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament should be examined.

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

[Original: English]

[7 May 1987]

1. The United Kingdom looks forward to the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament as an opportunity for a balanced and constructive consideration of all aspects of arms control and disarmament, in the course of which the views of all countries will be accorded due attention and recognition.

2. The United Kingdom believes that the third special session should be a forward-looking meeting which assesses the current realities and, on the basis of that assessment, devotes its attention to ways in which progress in the arms control and disarmament process can be achieved in a realistic and concrete manner.
3. The third special session will, of course, take place against the background of its two predecessors. The first adopted a Final Document, 1/ much of which remains important today. The United Kingdom regrets that the second special session ended without success, and is convinced that the various difficulties which were encountered at that time can and must be overcome. The United Kingdom believes that, in the more propitious international climate which prevails at present, progress towards the goal of equal and undiminished security at the lowest levels of armaments is the priority objective. But the experience gained at the second special session underlines the need for thorough, though not necessarily lengthy or costly, preparation, and for a forward-looking approach to the discussions.

4. So far as nuclear items are concerned, the United Kingdom welcomes the real progress that has been made since the second special session in the bilateral talks between the United States and the Soviet Union, and believes that specific agreements may now be within reach. It is natural and right that the third special session will wish to discuss the progress of these talks and other related nuclear issues. But the United Kingdom believes firmly that such discussions must recognize the special position of the two super-Powers with regard to this issue. If the third special session's deliberations on these important matters are to make any substantive contribution, then they should concentrate on areas which will provide support to the efforts of the negotiators in Geneva rather than be gestures which are likely to have little practical effort.

5. While such issues should naturally be discussed, the United Kingdom believes that there are a large number of other matters which are equally worthy of the attention of the third special session. These include:

(a) The elimination of chemical weapons;

(b) Conventional arms reductions;

(c) The importance of verification in arms control and disarmament agreements;

(d) The need for greater transparency in military matters and the contribution that this could make to increased confidence between States;

(e) The advantages of the practical approach to arms control, which avoids unrealistic proposals that do not command consensus, and a rigid timetable for achieving them;

(f) A review of the role of the various multilateral disarmament forums.

6. The United Kingdom hopes that, in the more promising atmosphere prevailing today, the third special session will build on the growing consensus that now exists on a number of important issues and which is developing on a number of others. If it adopts a realistic and practical agenda which reflects the areas where progress might be possible in the foreseeable future, it could make an outstanding contribution to the search for ways of achieving greater international
security at significantly lower levels of arms. The United Kingdom can be relied on to play its full part at a forward-looking, positive and constructive third special session.

Notes

1/ General Assembly resolution S-10/2.