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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UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

[Original: Russian]

[27 May 1987]

The views of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics concerning the agenda and other questions relating to the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, as communicated in the message received from Eduard A. Shevardnadze, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, are as follows:

1. The third special session will be prepared and held at a critical juncture in world affairs. There has been growing awareness of the catastrophic nature of a nuclear war, and the idea of ridding mankind of deadly means of mass destruction has been gaining strength. The Soviet Union, as one of the nuclear Powers, is doing its utmost to translate into practice the concept of a demilitarized, democratic and non-violent world. The programme of ensuring security through disarmament of 15 January 1986, Reykjavik and subsequent Soviet initiatives have added a new dimension to the question of reducing military arsenals and have made it possible to draw the outline of a nuclear-free future. At the same time, the arms race has been accelerating rapidly, and the "Star Wars" programme threatens to extend that race to new environments and multiply its dimensions. Civilization is at the nuclear and space crossroads and, it would seem, is faced with the most critical choice in its history: to be or not to be.

2. The Soviet Union is convinced that the restructuring of international relations should be conducted with a view to establishing a comprehensive system of international peace and security. The main avenues leading to that goal are, in our opinion, the elimination of nuclear and all other weapons of mass destruction, the prevention of an arms race in space and the limitation of States' military capabilities to the level of reasonable need. The development of all the military and political characteristics of such a system calls for a comprehensive approach to disarmament and to the entire body of interrelated measures for limiting and reducing armaments, building confidence, improving verification machinery and reallocating the resources thus released for peaceful development purposes.

3. The broad democratic dialogue on the foundations of security for all, which is gathering momentum, will permit identification of the most efficient means of restructuring international relations, in keeping with the aspirations of all peoples of the world, and will concentrate on the creation of a truly humane, demilitarized world.

4. The third special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament should make a significant contribution to the further development of such a dialogue and to its practical definition in the military and political fields. It is important that it should be viewed from the very outset as an extraordinary event, both in terms of the nature of the questions raised and because of the new period in the world community's efforts to end the arms race and advance from declarations to the establishment of an international atmosphere which
is conducive to real and tangible results in the negotiations on the limitation and reduction of arms.

5. Attention at the session will undoubtedly centre on the question of ways and means of achieving a nuclear-free world. The specific stages of nuclear disarmament were outlined in the statement of 15 January 1986. In essence, they form the core of the comprehensive programme of disarmament to be considered at the session.

6. While we have singled out the question of the elimination of nuclear weapons, we nevertheless believe that the prohibition and limitation of other types of weapons of mass destruction, conventional arms and military activities must also be dealt with, since these issues represent major independent avenues towards comprehensive security in the military field. Indeed, in the final analysis, the main goal of the international community is general and complete disarmament, dedication to which should be forcefully reaffirmed at the special session.

7. As successor to the two previous special sessions devoted to disarmament, the third special session is called upon to highlight the most pressing disarmament tasks of today and tomorrow. The session will provide an opportunity to use the substantive provisions of the Final Document of the first special session devoted to disarmament, which became the historical foundation of the multilateral approach in this field, as a basis for the achievement of a nuclear-free world and to forge an organic link between those provisions and the goal of establishing a comprehensive security.

8. In practical terms, the session could settle questions pertaining to the enhancement of the efficiency of multilateral machinery, with special emphasis on the role of the United Nations. The time has come for the member nations to look upon themselves as a unified entity which maintains the balance of general security not by force of arms but by reason and morality. The United Nations should contribute actively at all stages of the reduction of military capabilities and should become the guarantor of States' security, especially in the post-nuclear situation, the body that maintains the balance at the level of reasonable need, with a constant trend towards reduction.

9. As regards the agenda for the forthcoming special session, the Soviet Union believes that it should be aimed at achieving real progress in curbing the arms race and furthering disarmament and at making fuller use of the potential of the United Nations in this field.

10. It is important that the dialogue at the session should be purposeful and should lead to the adoption of a final document which may be short but must be substantive and which, in addition to stating the main principles governing a nuclear-free and safe world, should provide for specific means of achieving such a world, including the establishment of an appropriate political atmosphere based on trust and mutual understanding, openness, transparency and predictability in international affairs.
11. The session will be a reflection of the extraordinary responsibility facing mankind at this stage of its history. With what hopes, plans and achievements will the world enter the third millennium? There is little time left to us before the dawning of a new historical era. We propose that the 1990s be proclaimed the decade for creating a nuclear-weapon-free and non-violent world.

12. We are counting on the session to provide a forum for constructive and fruitful efforts by the world community to curb the arms race and for mutually acceptable bold solutions and a constructive search for common ground in the positions of all groups of States. The Soviet Union, for its part, intends to contribute actively to its success.