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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REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

FRANCE

[Original: French]

[26 May 1987]

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 41/60 G, France wishes to communicate to the Secretary-General its views on the agenda and other relevant questions relating to the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

1. It wishes first of all to emphasize how much importance it attaches to this third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, which it fervently hopes will be successful. France trusts that this session will give the international community the opportunity to measure the progress made in the field of disarmament since 1982 and especially since the first special session devoted to disarmament, to analyse the causes of the arms race and to study the prospects of concluding disarmament agreements.

2. In approaching this third special session it is essential to reaffirm and emphasize the importance of the Final Document adopted in 1978 at the end of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (resolution S-10/2). France regrets that the second special session, in 1982, was unable to achieve positive results because of the overly ambitious objectives it had set itself. It is for that reason that the third session should take into account the complexity of the current international situation and undertake a clear analysis of the conditions for a constructive dialogue that would lead to concrete disarmament measures. Furthermore, the French authorities believe that any serious approach to disarmament cannot be dissociated from the legitimate security concerns of all States. France remains convinced that the difficulties encountered at the second session can be overcome. Lastly, it emphasizes that in order to ensure the success of the third session, the latter's work must be carefully prepared.

3. France considers that, no matter that hopes may currently exist concerning the eventual conclusion of an agreement on Soviet and United States intermediate range nuclear missiles, the priority objective of nuclear disarmament remains above all that of achieving substantial, balanced and verifiable reductions of the strategic arsenals of the USSR and the United States. It hopes that the two parties will also reach agreement on the maintenance of the ABM treaty.

In that regard, France considers that in the debates at the special session appropriate attention should be devoted to the current negotiations between the United States and the USSR. Nuclear disarmament can be initiated in a realistic and useful manner only in so far as effective and verifiable reductions are made in the nuclear arsenals of the two most highly armed Powers. Consequently, we are bound to approve the fact that at the Reykjavik summit, for the first time, the two greatest Powers gave priority to a substantial reduction of their strategic weapons.

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4. France fervently hopes that there will be real progress, on a regional basis, including Europe, with regard to the essential matter of controlling conventional weapons. It trusts that the third special session will undertake an in-depth study of the question of conventional disarmament.

5. France considers that a substantive item should be devoted to the current work aimed at the preparation of a multilateral convention on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and on their destruction.

6. In view of the responsibility which all States share for disarmament, France trusts that the debates at the third session will take place in a constructive atmosphere. It considers that the agenda should seek to identify the subjects on which prospects of agreement might be opened up. It continues to believe that the results of the third session will depend very largely on the realism of the countries participating in its work.

7. It is for that reason that France considers it desirable that the following questions should be examined:

(a) Analysis of the current situation in the light of recent developments and prospects regarding disarmament, particularly the bilateral USSR-United States negotiations on nuclear weapons and space;

(b) The regional approach to the control of conventional weapons;

(c) Confidence-building measures;

(d) Problems linked to the verification of agreements in general;

(e) Evolution of the situation with regard to the complete prohibition of chemical weapons and consideration of the work of the Conference on Disarmament on that point;

(f) Prevention of an arms race in space and the peaceful uses of outer space;

(g) Reduction of military budgets and means envisaged to ensure objective information on military questions and to achieve greater transparency;

(h) Strengthening of the role of the United Nations with regard to information activities and disarmament studies.

NETHERLANDS

[Original: English]

[20 May 1987]

1. The Netherlands Government welcomed the decision of the forty-first session of the General Assembly to convene a third special session of the General Assembly
devoted to disarmament. It provides the States Members of the United Nations with an additional opportunity to reflect both on recent developments in the field of disarmament and on the prospects for further action. The session will be held at an appropriate moment as, in a wide range of arms control forums, interesting and promising developments can be identified. The bilateral talks between the United States and the Soviet Union, progress made in the negotiations on a chemical-weapons ban in the Geneva Conference on Disarmament, and the successful conclusion of the Stockholm Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe are cases in point.

2. The Netherlands would like to call on the General Assembly at the third special session to stress the need to pay adequate attention to the difficulties the Member States have encountered in implementing the Final Document (resolution S-10/2) of the first special session, which on many points can still be considered as an important guideline for deliberations and actions of Member States. The session should furthermore endeavour to explore new, practical and result-oriented avenues, building, inter alia, on new and promising developments in the arms-control field (verification, confidence-building, elimination of complex categories of weapons, deep cuts in existing arsenals). Reflection on these developments and agreement on goals to be pursued in the future are the main tasks of the session. Mainly declaratory statements should be avoided. It must also be borne in mind that the special session is not a forum for the negotiation of concrete disarmament measures, but a forum for deliberations and recommendations. Under this proviso, the Netherlands looks forward to the coming session as a welcome opportunity for exchanging new ideas geared towards stimulating our common endeavours for equal and undiminished security at significantly low levels of armaments.

3. On the agenda of the third special session, the following themes might be addressed:

(a) Review of the perspectives for arms control and disarmament on the basis of developments in bilateral and multilateral negotiations during the last decade;

A review of the perspectives should take into consideration that during the last decade hardly any progress has been made, therefore this review should concentrate on a realistic assessment of the current international situations;

(b) (i) Prospects for nuclear disarmament, including related issues such as the cessation of nuclear tests: a review of this area should include due attention to the risks arising from the spread of nuclear weapons to countries that hitherto did not possess such weapons;

(ii) Conventional disarmament, including regional approaches: in the view of the Netherlands, it is appropriate to put emphasis on the topic of conventional arms control and disarmament, seen in combination with present opportunities in the field of nuclear-arms control and disarmament;

(c) Review and endorsement of efforts to conclude a comprehensive chemical-weapons convention; assessment of the biological-weapons convention;
(d) Outer space questions;

(e) Appreciation of the need for adequate measures of verification, so as to facilitate the conclusion of agreements and safeguarding their strict compliance;

(f) (i) Recognition of the importance of confidence- and security-building measures with a view to enhancing trust among nations, conducive to creating a climate in which agreements can be reached;

(ii) Measures to enhance information on and transparency of military matters; issue of reduction of military budgets;

(g) Institutional aspects: review of the role of the United Nations; dissemination of United Nations information on disarmament matters.

4. Further to suggested agenda item (f), the Netherlands considers that the special session should give particular attention to the furtherance of openness and transparency in military matters as a means to build confidence among States. Thereby the foundations for successful arms control agreements could be usefully strengthened.

5. The Netherlands expresses its hope that the third special session will be characterized by constructive, consensus-oriented, discussion. Only in this way will it be possible to agree on recommendations of practical use to further specific arms control and disarmament measures. In this spirit, the Netherlands is fully prepared to participate in the deliberations of the coming special session.

UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

[Original: Russian]

[26 May 1987]

1. The Ukrainian SSR supports the decision by the General Assembly to convene the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament in 1988, and to establish an open-ended preparatory committee.

2. The Ukrainian SSR believes that the present international situation urgently demands concrete collective moves to reverse the continuing arms race, avert the danger of nuclear war and set about the creation of a comprehensive system of international peace and security.

3. The most important routes to the restructuring of international relations along these lines lie through the abolition of nuclear and all other weapons of mass destruction, the prevention of an arms race in outer space and the restriction of States' military potential to an adequate but reasonable level. In order to arrive at the military and political parameters of such a system it is necessary to consider the problems of disarmament as an interrelated set of measures for limiting and cutting back on armaments, building confidence, setting up
verification machinery and diverting the resources thus released to
development-related ends.

4. The Ukrainian SSR takes a very similar approach to the preparations for the
third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. It considers
that the session should be a pivotal event in international relations, a forum for
extensive democratic dialogue on the means of constructing a secure, demilitarized
and violence-free world. Today more than ever before it is necessary to take a
fresh look at the state of world affairs, to re-think and reassess past approaches
and standards and bring them into line with the realities of the nuclear and space
age. The Ukrainian SSR is ready, together with other Member States of the United
Nations, to look for ways of unravelling the complicated problems of disarmament
and find the pathway to lasting peace that depends neither on nuclear might nor on
self-interest and enmity, but on a recognition that the fates of all States, large
and small, are interdependent.

5. It is the deep-seated belief of the Ukrainian SSR that the necessary basis for
a successful and productive third special session does exist. It can be found in a
whole series of large-scale initiatives and proposals put before the United Nations
recently by a variety of States. Pride of place in this series of initiatives
belongs to the programme of security through disarmament put forward by the Soviet
Union on 15 January 1986. The importance of that programme in the light of the
third special session is that it sets forth not merely an eventual goal but
practical disarmament measures with a specific timetable, to be put into effect
over a historically brief period of time. It takes equal account of the security
interests of all parties, without prejudice to any. The third special session
should seek to promote the execution of just such specific measures.

6. The Ukrainian SSR considers the role and responsibility of the United Nations
in collective moves by States to resolve the major issues of war and peace to be
particularly important. The coming period of concrete and, to a great extent,
unwonted activity implies new challenges for the Organization, demanding greater
efficacy and improvements in the existing multilateral disarmament machinery. The
Security Council which, under the Charter, bears primary responsibility for the
maintenance of international peace and security, has great potential in this
respect. The Ukrainian SSR is convinced that a discussion of measures aimed at
limiting armaments and bringing about disarmament must be an inseparable part of
any efforts, including efforts by the Security Council, to create a genuinely
secure world.

7. The Ukrainian SSR is certain that matters relating to the functioning of the
present United Nations disarmament machinery will be given due prominence in the
forthcoming special session.

8. Regarding the agenda, the Ukrainian SSR is of the view that the session should
concentrate on the key issues and be prepared to discuss questions that promise
real progress towards arms limitations, disarmament and an increase in the leading
role played by the United Nations in this area.
9. The Ukrainian SSR hopes that the forthcoming session will intensify the recently revealed change in the disposition of the international community towards acceptance of the need to initiate real movement towards a nuclear-free world and universal security through disarmament. It will, for its part, work actively to make the session a success.