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

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION ................................................................. 2

REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS ................................ 2

Argentina ................................................................. 2
Australia .................................................................. 3
Canada ...................................................................... 8
Cuba ........................................................................ 10
Egypt ........................................................................ 11
Finland ....................................................................... 14
Iraq ............................................................................ 16
Mexico ........................................................................ 19
New Zealand ............................................................. 20
Nigeria ........................................................................ 24
United States of America .............................................. 26

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INTRODUCTION

1. At its forty-first session, the General Assembly adopted, under the item entitled "Convening of the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament", resolution 41/60 G, the operative part of which reads, inter alia, as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"1. Decides to convene its third special session on disarmament in 1988 and to establish an open-ended preparatory committee for the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament;

"2. Requests the Preparatory Committee to prepare a draft agenda for the special session, to examine all relevant questions relating to that session and to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-second session its recommendations thereon;

"3. Invites all Member States to communicate to the Secretary-General their views on the agenda and other relevant questions relating to the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament not later than 1 April 1987;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit the replies of Member States relevant to paragraph 3 above to the Preparatory Committee and to render to it all necessary assistance, including the provision of essential background information, relevant documents and summary records;".

2. Pursuant to paragraph 3 of the resolution, the Secretary-General submits herewith the replies received from Member States concerning their views on the agenda and other relevant questions relating to the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

ARGENTINA

[Original: Spanish]

[20 March 1987]

1. On behalf of the Argentine Government, I should like to reaffirm our keen interest in the successful conduct of the special session.

2. Argentina, as a member of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Group of 21 in the Conference on Disarmament, cannot but recall that special sessions of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament began to be held in response to the unease felt within the Movement at its 1961 meeting in Belgrade.

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3. Since that time, the establishment of clear priorities and guidelines in the field of disarmament has been a topic of constant concern.

4. The first session, remembered for its Final Document, was especially interesting inasmuch as it spelt out a specific Declaration and Programme of Action charting a definite course for disarmament negotiators to follow. It did not prove possible, however, to carry this determined beginning through its completion at the second special session as had been hoped.

5. The Argentine Government, which has obtained a firm commitment from the forces favouring international disarmament and peace, therefore intends the next special session to move forward without fail from the consensus reached in 1978, and it lays special emphasis on matters that, like negotiations on the progress and present status of disarmament, a reaffirmation of the principles, priorities and targets agreed to in the Declaration and Programme of Action from the Final Document, and the adoption of concrete courses of action, cannot be omitted from the agenda of the forthcoming session.

6. Finally, we feel it necessary to reaffirm that the Argentine Republic considers it essential to defend and enlarge the role of the United Nations in disarmament matters; we must ensure that the Conference on Disarmament lives fully up to its name as the only multilateral negotiating body on disarmament.

7. We will make efforts, as the occasion arises in the Preparatory Committee, to develop these general notions with further thoughts and ideas to help in making ready for what, we hope, will be a truly successful special session devoted to disarmament.

AUSTRALIA

[Original: English]

[21 April 1987]

1. The purposes, principles and objectives of the Charter of the United Nations are as valid and important today as they were when they were written. They proclaim that a fundamental objective of the world community is the maintenance of international peace and security. As an original Member of the United Nations, Australia remains wholly dedicated to the Charter and its objectives and emphasises the importance of their full implementation by all States. While the Charter mentions, twice, the contribution that disarmament should make to the maintenance of international peace and security, it has clearly been the growing conviction of the world community that those provisions have required supplementation, not least because of the phenomenon of the contemporary arms race in both nuclear and conventional weapons.

2. The General Assembly has drawn attention, in countless resolutions, to the
need to halt and reverse the arms race. Then, in 1978, it met in its first special session devoted to disarmament. That was an historic event. It provided a clear response to the need to supplement the Charter in order to ensure that arms control and disarmament played its correct role in the maintenance of international peace and security.

3. The decision to convene a special session of the General Assembly is not taken lightly. Australia supported that decision and the process which it came to involve. The Declaration and Programme of Action embodied in the Final Document 1/ of the first special session serves both to strengthen and to supplement the Charter in the key area of the role of arms control and disarmament in the maintenance of international peace and security. Australia strongly endorsed the outcome of the first special session, and remains fully committed to it today. This policy decision of the Australian Government is deeply supported by the Australian public, in particular by the very large number of non-governmental organizations interested in issues of peace, arms control and disarmament - the role and awareness of which organizations was further enhanced through the activities undertaken and supported by the Government within Australia during 1986 - the International Year of Peace.

4. The second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament took place at a time when the international political climate and related circumstances were not conducive to progress in the implementation of the terms of the Final Document of the first special session. Nevertheless, the second special session reaffirmed the validity of the Final Document.

5. The task of the third special session will be to examine and to seek agreement on ways and means through which the Programme of Action of the Final Document can be implemented and its goals fulfilled. In pursuit of this common endeavour, consensus must be the hallmark of the special session's deliberations. Australia is firmly committed to the principle of consensus and would deplore any attempt to force through proposals by resorting to majority voting. The Final Document of the first special session has by and large stood the test of time precisely because it was the product of consensus.

6. In Australia's view, the third special session will have at least three key goals.

7. First, the special session should provide the occasion for States to reaffirm their commitment to the Final Document, as well as reviewing it as appropriate. In this context, some parts of the Final Document have been overtaken by events and the special session should therefore address itself to updating it. This should be managed in such a way as to avoid reopening the existing text or calling into question the consensus reached at the first special session. The objective of such a review should be to highlight the progress achieved in the last 10 years.

8. For instance, in the 10 years since paragraphs 23 and 86 of the Final Document were drafted, the international community has concluded a Convention on prohibitions or restrictions on the use of certain conventional weapons which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects. An update
of these paragraphs would acknowledge this achievement and urge all States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Convention. The list of nuclear-weapon-free zones proposed in paragraph 63 could be updated by reference to the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty (the Treaty of Rarotonga), which is now in force. Paragraphs 94 and 95, which deal with the disarmament and development issue, will also need to be revised to take account of events at this year's United Nations conference on the subject.

9. Paragraph 52 of the Final Document, dealing with the SALT II 2/ talks, could be amended to take account of recent developments in the nuclear arms negotiations between the Soviet Union and the United States. This would also provide an opportunity for the special session to encourage those two States to pursue the significant potential for agreement identified at the Reykjavik Summit. It is our earnest hope that by the time the third special session is held, the finalization of new agreements between the United States and the Soviet Union will be firmly set in train, involving major reductions in nuclear arsenals.

10. The new developments listed above could be reflected in amendments to the existing text, the use of footnotes, or by drafting a supplementary document. Those portions of the Final Document which do not require updating would, of course, continue to draw attention to the outstanding issues on the international disarmament agenda.

11. A second key objective on the agenda of the third special session will be the finalization and adoption of the Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament (CPD). This item was on the agenda of the second special session, but agreement on a text was not achieved. One reason the second special session failed to reach agreement on a CPD was that preparatory negotiations had not reached a sufficiently advanced stage to assure success at the special session itself.

12. The draft programme was referred back to the Conference on Disarmament, which has since devoted considerable time to it. Some progress has been achieved, although many outstanding issues remain to be resolved. This reflects the complexity and breadth of the task as well as differing national approaches to the range of items on the international disarmament agenda and the relative priorities attached to them. The forty-first session of the General Assembly agreed that the Conference on Disarmament should conclude the programme during the first part of its 1987 session to be presented to the Assembly prior to the conclusion of its forty-first session.

13. Australia, as Western co-ordinator in the Conference on Disarmament on this item and in its national capacity, is playing an active part in the work of the Conference's Committee on the programme. Australia believes, however, that if a text is not agreed by the end of the spring session of the Conference, it would be timely for the Preparatory Committee to address, at an early stage, the outstanding issues to try to ensure that the necessary groundwork for agreement is laid by the time the special session convenes.

14. A third key item which should appear on the agenda of the third special session is a review of the multilateral disarmament machinery. It is widely
recognized that the multilateral system is not working as effectively as it should, and that it requires consideration and revision. The financial crisis currently facing the United Nations has also underlined the need to improve the functioning of the multilateral disarmament machinery. At the same time States should be careful not to disrupt those institutions and procedures which are working satisfactorily.

15. Much useful work has been done on this issue by the Disarmament Commission. The Chairman's paper which emerged from the 1986 session of the Commission contains a number of practical measures which could be further refined at the Commission's forthcoming annual session. The resultant paper would form a solid basis for a wider and more conclusive consideration of possible reforms to be undertaken at the third special session.

16. In this context, of particular concern to Australia is the need to improve the operations of the First Committee of the General Assembly. Measures which could be implemented include increased clustering of agenda items; staggering of perennial agenda items over two or more years; more time for informal consultations; and, where views converge, merging draft resolutions under the same agenda item.

17. The third special session will also want to address the effectiveness of the Conference on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission. The multilateral disarmament process might be better served if these bodies could focus their attention on a number of priority agenda items. There is a strong case for streamlining their current agendas by setting aside items that are less urgent or relatively unsuited to consideration by these bodies, at the present time.

18. It would be helpful if the special session could resolve some of the procedural problems which have affected the Conference on Disarmament in recent years. The Conference spends too much of its time in procedural argument about the appropriate method of treatment of various agenda items. This diverts it from conducting substantive work, the value of which has been demonstrated by, for instance, the progress made in the chemical and radiological weapons negotiations, preparatory work on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, and the work of the group of scientific experts on the role of global seismic monitoring in a future nuclear test ban.

19. It should be possible to determine, at an early stage of each annual session, those agenda items on which a consensus exists for negotiations. Chemical weapons, radiological weapons and the comprehensive programme of disarmament have clearly fallen into this category.

20. A second category of items would comprise those where there is no consensus on a negotiating mandate, but on which useful work falling short of full-scale negotiations could be done. Committees with a mandate similar to the one adopted for the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space could be formed on these items. Useful work would not be endlessly deferred by political arguments over other aspects of the issues.

21. A third category would comprise those items on which there is no present
consensus for the substantive work. The item on cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament is a case in point. Consideration of such items could be set aside, temporarily.

22. Taking early note of the existence of consensus for one of these courses would obviate the need for time-consuming procedural wrangles and allow the Conference to concentrate its attention on treaty negotiations or other substantive work.

23. The role of the World Disarmament Campaign and other efforts of the United Nations to promote public awareness of disarmament will also need to be scrutinized. Australia has made voluntary contributions in each of the past four years to both the Campaign and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR). This reflects the importance Australia has attached to the work done by the United Nations in such areas.

24. The current United Nations financial crisis has resulted in a shortfall of regular budget subventions for these activities. The third special session will need to consider how best to deal with the financial problems of bodies like UNIDIR in the prevailing climate of budgetary restraint, keeping in mind that it is in our collective interest that such bodies be able to make an understanding of all issues relevant to the process of arms control and disarmament, as well as the practical achievement of its objectives.

25. In rededicating itself to the ultimate objective of general and complete disarmament under effective international control as set out in the Final Document of the first special session, the third special session should also give due recognition to practical achievements since the drafting of that document 10 years ago. These include the consolidation of existing agreements such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, by the increase in the number of signatories since the second special session. Adherence to existing multilateral agreements is a fundamental step in the pursuit of arms control and disarmament. A consideration of the status of multilateral disarmament agreements could, therefore, be one item on the agenda of the third special session. Those States which have not yet become parties to the existing agreements should be encouraged to do so.

26. Other key elements relevant to progress in the field of disarmament which have received increasing attention by the international community in recent years include: the fundamental importance of effective verification and compliance mechanisms for existing and future agreements; the importance of conventional disarmament on a global and regional scale; and the related question of confidence-building measures spanning the whole range of efforts to ensure the maintenance of international peace and security.

27. The Australian delegation to the Preparatory Committee for the Third Special Session will be elaborating on the above-mentioned themes during the lead-up to the third special session. Australia believes that the special session can become a milestone in the international community's efforts to ensure that arms control and disarmament play their full role in the maintenance of international peace and security. The Australian delegation will strive to co-operate with other delegations to this end.
1. Canada has long been a firm supporter of a strong United Nations role in the area of arms control and disarmament. With its near universal membership, the United Nations is uniquely qualified to address this subject which is of fundamental concern to all nations.

2. A special session of the General Assembly, held at an opportune time, would offer an invaluable opportunity to dislodge the barriers to progress in this important area and to build in a realistic and practical way upon past efforts. Increased confidence at the global, regional and national levels is a prerequisite to real progress in arms control and disarmament. Confidence can only be developed on a step-by-step basis, through the implementation of practical and realistic measures which are responsive to the security concerns of all. It is incumbent upon all participants at the special session to take full advantage of this occasion to contribute to meaningful progress in disarmament.

3. Before addressing more specific questions relating to the special session, the Government of Canada wishes to add a strong note of caution. While the third special session will offer important opportunities to make progress, there are limits on what a forum of this nature can achieve. The General Assembly is a deliberative rather than a negotiating body. Many of the issues it will address are the subject of ongoing negotiations or discussions in other forums. Still others may be of local or regional concern. Canada would urge participants at the special session to focus on disarmament issues from the unique United Nations perspective. The pronouncements of the special session will exert more influence if they serve to spur on arms control efforts in other forums. To the extent that the United Nations can speak with one voice on the crucial need for progress in disarmament, the better the prospects will be for all mankind. Consistent with the practice at the first and second special sessions, decisions at the third session should be by consensus.

4. The third special session should enlarge public understanding of the importance of achieving progress on arms limitations on disarmament which enhance stability and increase security. An educated and concerned public can have a positive impact in motivating Governments to make continued or renewed efforts in that direction. Canada welcomes as observers to the third special session the participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations from around the world which play a major role in sensitizing the general public to the importance of disarmament issues.

5. Canada considers that the third special session should build upon the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session, 1/ of 1978, which remains a landmark statement. As the experience of the twelfth special session, in 1982, has demonstrated, progress can only be achieved in practical steps. Although often disappointingly slow, such steps are cumulative and preferable to failed unrealistic initiatives.
6. The third special session should attempt to build upon the following major themes as developed in the Final Document 1/ of the first special session devoted to disarmament:

(a) Encouragement of the continuation of meaningful negotiations between the super-Powers concerning the limitation and radical reduction of nuclear weapons and the enhancement of strategic stability;

(b) Recognition of the importance of confidence-building measures in creating the climate necessary for the successful conclusion of arms control and disarmament agreements;

(c) Emphasis on the importance of compliance and transparency in the development and implementation of meaningful arms control agreements, and of the essential role of effective verification in that regard;

(d) Enhancement of efforts in the area of nuclear disarmament including the achievement of a cessation of nuclear testing;

(e) Consideration of measures to enhance the global nuclear non-proliferation régime;

(f) Increased efforts to reduce levels of conventional armaments with special emphasis on the importance of regional approaches;

(g) Special attention to the need to conclude a multilateral convention on the complete and effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and on their destruction;

(h) The prevention of an arms race in outer space;

(i) Acknowledgement of the importance of disarmament and development as parallel processes which benefit from and contribute to enhanced security.

7. The Canadian Government strongly supports each of these important themes as fundamental objectives of its own arms control and disarmament policy.

8. Canada is committed to active and productive participation, in a spirit of flexibility and compromise, in the preparations for and in the special session itself. Canada's principal objective is that the special session should build on and surpass the achievements of the first and second special sessions.

9. The history of the first and second special sessions suggests that a successful outcome is highly dependent upon the state of the international environment at the time. Canada believes that the principal function of the Preparatory Committee at its coming session (26 May–5 June 1987) should be to examine conditions in the international environment with a view to making appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly at its forty-second session, including the important question of the timing of the third special session. In respect of this examination, full attention should be paid to progress in major

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ongoing negotiations on nuclear or conventional force limitations and reductions. The stakes for the third special session are too high to risk failure.

10. The Canadian approach to the preparatory process for the special session will be based on the positions outlined above. It is Canada's fervent hope that the agenda for the special session will build upon these elements so that, when convened, it will have the advantage of a solid foundation upon which to build.

CUBA

[Original: Spanish]
[9 April 1987]

1. The Government of the Republic of Cuba is pleased that the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament is convened in 1988, since it is convinced that the session will offer us an opportunity to explore new approaches and directions aimed at more effective disarmament negotiations.

2. Upon reviewing the previous sessions of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, we can see that events since 1978 have not permitted the realization of the hopes for a just and lasting peace that were raised by the tenth special session, the first devoted to disarmament.

3. The expectation that a comprehensive disarmament programme would be adopted proved illusory because of the intransigent and tendentious positions of those who base their foreign policy on threats, blackmail and scorn for the legitimate interests of the developing countries. In the vanguard of such a retrograde course of action, we find the present Administration of the United States. With the goal of imposing its military hegemony at all costs, it bears chief responsibility for the unbridled arms race that today threatens mankind, a race which the United States Government is seeking to extend to the cosmos through its so-called Strategic Defense Initiative.

4. Cuba reaffirms the validity and importance of the Final Document / of the first special session, held in 1978, and of the objectives, principles and priorities set forth therein.

5. In view of the fact that the special sessions have reaffirmed the necessity of disarmament, we must redouble our efforts to ensure that the third special session emphasizes the priorities established in the discussions since 1978.

6. The most urgent measures to be considered at the third special session are any which can help to:

(a) Prevent the militarization of outer space;

(b) Promote negotiations on all matters relating to nuclear weapons, including:
(i) A declaration by the nuclear-weapon States that they will not be the first to use such weapons;

(ii) Complete cessation of nuclear weapon tests;

(iii) Prohibition of the production and deployment of new chemical weapons.

7. The Government of the Republic of Cuba, in keeping with its principled policy on disarmament issues, will attend the meetings of the next special session devoted to disarmament with the firm intention of contributing to its success.

EGYPT

[Original: English]

[10 April 1987]

1. The adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 41/60, commencing the preparatory process for the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, reflects the world community's continued vivid awareness of the dangers of the arms race, the urgent need for concrete disarmament measures, as well as the invaluable role of the United Nations in the process of disarmament. Furthermore, it confirms, in the multilateral aspect of this process, that disarmament is a universal goal, and that all members of the world community bear a responsibility to pursue it. It further sets forth the guidelines and parameters for our work on the basis of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, which over the years have been translated and interpreted through the different resolutions of the General Assembly, foremost amongst which in this field is the Final Document of the First Special Session Devoted to Disarmament, with the priorities and programme of action set forth therein. This is how Egypt interprets resolution 41/60. This is the basis upon which Egypt has participated as a co-sponsor of that resolution. Consequently, it goes without saying that this is the basis upon which we believe the preparatory work, and the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, should commence and be engaged.

2. The third special session is part of an evolving process which has developed over the years and is governed by the acceptable norms of relations between States, international law as codified in treaties and declarations, United Nations resolutions and decisions. This process was brought into clearer focus with the convening of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. While fully recognizing the importance of events that have preceded the first special session on disarmament, as well as the importance of the efforts being made thereafter in the disarmament field with a more limited participation whether regional or bilateral, Egypt resolutely believes that the first special session and its Final Document should be our point of departure. The first special session remains, in Egypt's view, a milestone in the field of multilateral disarmament efforts. Having albeit endured some frustrating vicissitudes and not yet having given birth to results commensurate with our aspirations, the
conclusions of that session and the process emanating from them remain viable and should be preserved, nurtured and developed. Egypt cautions against attempting to repeat past efforts or competing against the achievements of our predecessors. We do not have the luxury of time, nor can we afford to weaken the basis which we laid almost 10 years ago. Egypt resolutely believes that the basis of our work remains valid and that we should attempt to build upon our achievements.

3. The third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament is a propitious opportunity to restore vitality in the multilateral disarmament process. This should be attempted after first appraising the situation which we now face. One should not, and cannot, lend a blind eye or a deaf ear to the events and trends which have transpired since the first special session or the second one. We cannot ignore the changes that have occurred. The negative aspects must be addressed. Of paramount importance is for us to be able to recognize, admit and endeavour to remedy our failures. One cannot deny the frustration felt by the world community owing to the limited progress achieved towards disarmament since the first special session, in spite of the large measure of understanding which had developed at that time. The meagre results of the second special session on disarmament reflect our cumulative failure and a generally negative balance of the disarmament process during the past decade. The most dangerous of these trends is the continued development of new weapons systems and the expansion of the arms race into new areas and new domains such as outer space. Another ominous threat emanates from the ever-increasing development of nuclear weapons and weapons systems, and their proliferation vertically and horizontally to the detriment of both regional and global security.

4. Egypt believes that the international community is fully appreciative of the utility, purposes, and future of multilateral efforts to curb the arms race. It firmly believes that the United Nations multilateral mechanisms are relevant, responsible, and effective.

5. Egypt considers the present international political climate as a propitious one for achieving major positive results, particularly in the light of recent developments in negotiations in other forums about nuclear and conventional disarmament, as well as confidence-building measures. Egypt firmly believes that the prevailing general atmosphere has a decisive influence on the prospects for agreement through the process of multilateral negotiations.

6. Positive elements, where they can be found, should be developed. The greater universal character of the Conference on Disarmament reflecting a more equitable participation in disarmament negotiations, in spite of the absence of significant results, should not be denied. Serious consideration should be directed at agreeing upon the ways and means of increasing the universal participation in this body while keeping its size appropriate for carrying out the mandate it has been entrusted with, and that is to negotiate disarmament agreements multilaterally. The third special session should also direct its attention towards further enhancing the Conference on Disarmament's ability to conclude disarmament agreements. This consideration of the Conference on Disarmament, and its activities, should always be endeavoured in conjunction with the other disarmament bodies within the United Nations system for they all complement each other, and
enhancing the efficiency of one may actually be achieved through modifications in the working procedures of another body.

7. The Disarmament Commission's deliberative role should be strengthened to enable it to make substantive recommendations on various problems in the field of disarmament and to follow up the relevant decisions and recommendations of the previous special sessions as well as the coming third special session devoted to disarmament in 1988.

8. The third special session should endeavour to be functional and action-oriented. It should attempt the following:

(a) (i) To make an extensive and careful preparation with the active participation of all Member States. Prior agreement on basic principles and objectives will facilitate reaching consensus in the session and enhance the negotiating process. Hence, the need to formulate a realistic set of goals and expectations which could be achieved through multilateral efforts;

(ii) To make a general assessment of the present situation with respect to the arms race and disarmament efforts;

(iii) To acknowledge the negative trends which have surfaced, whether in terms of digressions from what had been previously achieved or negative elements of a new character;

(iv) To define the positive elements that have emerged since the first special session, with particular emphasis on those of multilateral character.

(b) (i) To pronounce itself on measures to curtail the negative trends which have emerged particularly with regards to new areas of the arms race and new weapons systems with a view to preventing the further exacerbation of the arms race;

(ii) To enhance the disarmament process by suggesting effective ways and means further to encourage the positive elements which have emerged;

(iii) To agree upon specific steps regarding how progress can be made on the pertinent disarmament items previously accorded priority and to release resources towards the economic and social development of mankind;

(iv) To consolidate further and enhance the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament through the full utilization of the potential of the United Nations system in this regard, and the optimum and most efficient use of the resources available;

(v) To foster an international consensus on disarmament items by avoiding any cleavages, and drawing on the positive elements offered
by the Charter and other instruments available within the United Nations system.

9. Egypt remains committed to working actively, sincerely, and diligently throughout the preparatory process and during the third special session on disarmament towards consolidating multilateral disarmament efforts for the betterment of mankind. Egypt remains confident that with the sincere efforts of all peace-loving nations, multilateral disarmament endeavours shall be given new impetus and the third special session will be an auspicious occasion for inching further towards the achievement of global international peace and prosperity.

FINLAND

[Original: English]

[30 March 1987]

1. The special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament has a particular authority and role due to its universal nature. The task of the special session is to contribute to the achievement of disarmament and the strengthening of international security.

2. The purpose of the special session is not to negotiate concrete arms control or disarmament agreements but to work out an international disarmament strategy for forthcoming years. Such a strategy was presented in the Final Document 1/ of the first special session.

3. The particular tasks assigned to the second special session was a review of the decisions of the first special session and the adoption of guidelines for further action, including a comprehensive programme of disarmament. The results of the session were clearly unsatisfactory although a broad discussion and a review of the first special session was carried out.

4. The failure of the second special session to produce a more substantive outcome has mainly been attributed to the prevailing international situation at that time. The particular task of the third special session should be to enhance the central role of the United Nations in future multilateral disarmament endeavours.

5. The tasks of the Preparatory Committee is to give careful consideration to proposals on an agenda and other relevant matters relating to the session. In preparing the agenda for the session, the Committee should take into consideration both the success of the first and the partial failure of the second special session.

6. The Government of Finland considers it essential that the agenda of the third special session should consist both of a review of the implementation of the results of the previous sessions and the confirmation, on a consensus basis, of guidelines for future disarmament and arms control endeavours. These guidelines
should form the basis of a comprehensive international disarmament strategy. Central elements in this strategy should be the prevention of nuclear war, nuclear disarmament, a comprehensive nuclear test ban, the total elimination of chemical weapons, conventional disarmament, regional measures, confidence-building measures and the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament.

7. Although many of these elements are closely interlinked as was shown by the Final Document of the first special session, substantive results should not be kept hostage to the adoption of one comprehensive consensus document. Likewise a proliferation of separate documents on different disarmament issues could further undermine the unique authority of the special session. The Finnish view is therefore that the Preparatory Committee in drafting the agenda for the special session should concentrate on designing a small number of aggregated items, such as the aforementioned elements, on which concerted independent action seems possible. In composing these aggregated items, the attainability of balanced formulations within each item should be kept in mind.

8. Within this framework Finland suggests three themes for inclusion on the agenda of the special session:

(a) Conventional disarmament;

(b) The naval arms race;

(c) The role of the United Nations in the verification of disarmament agreements.

These themes could become independent aggregated items on the agenda or part of such an item.

9. Although nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction pose the greatest danger to mankind, conventional weapons constitute the bulk of military expenditure in the world. All wars after the Second World War have been waged with conventional weapons and they continuously pose a real threat to international security. In the view of Finland, it is obligatory to strive to limit the stockpiling production, trade and use of conventional weapons and conventional armed forces.

10. One of the more recent developments in the arms race has been the increase in naval capabilities. The global strategy of the leading nuclear Powers is increasingly sea-borne and there is therefore a need to improve stability and predictability in this domain. A first step towards naval arms control and disarmament would be marine confidence-building measures.

11. The disarmament role of the United Nations should be strengthened. As a small and neutral State, Finland sees a special value in the possibilities to entrust the United Nations with some of the responsibilities of verification of the compliance with disarmament or arms control agreements. The United Nations could also be instrumental in the practical fulfilment of confidence-building measures.
12. The goal for the work of the Preparatory Committee must be to ensure, through careful preparation, a successful and substantive outcome of the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. Finland intends to give its full support to the achievement of this goal and will participate actively in the work of the Preparatory Committee.

IRAQ

[Original: Arabic]

[23 March 1987]

1. The view of the Iraqi Government with regard to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/60 G, entitled "Convening of the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament", concerning the major topics which the above-mentioned session should deal with are as follows:

- Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East

2. Iraq still adheres to the principle of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East, to be established on the basis of the acknowledgement of acceptance of the comprehensive safeguards régime of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and adherence to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which are the two mechanisms on which the international community relies in curbing nuclear proliferation in the world, particularly since the value of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is proven by the fact that it is the treaty to which the largest number of parties have adhered, which reflects its universality and effectiveness in fulfilling its mission.

3. The prevailing conviction is that the region of the Middle East is not free from nuclear weapons at present because of the lack of verification of the capabilities of Israeli nuclear facilities of military significance, which have been confirmed by many international sources. Accordingly, the region must first become free of nuclear weapons, as a first step in the direction of achieving a region that is truly free of nuclear weapons, through the application of its IAEA safeguards and adherence to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, inasmuch as these constitute the machinery for actual verification of the peaceful nature of nuclear activities. This course has been emphasized in the Final Document of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and in many international resolutions and instruments.
Participation in the work of the World Disarmament Conference

4. Emphasis should be placed, from the outset, on the universality of participation in the work of the Geneva Disarmament Conference. This should be achieved by enabling all States that are not members of it to enjoy the right to participate by presenting their positions with regard to halting the nuclear-arms race and achieving general and complete disarmament. Emphasis should be placed also on the right of States that are not members of the Conference to participate by attending plenary meetings and setting forth their views on questions and topics of concern to them that are under discussion.

5. The misuse of the rules of procedure by certain States members of the Conference to prevent non-member States from exercising their right and making known to the Conference their views on topics concerning their security and sovereignty is inconsistent with the universality of the Conference and demolishes the credibility of its work for the effective achievement of world disarmament through the combined efforts of all.

Arrival at an agreement prohibiting attacks against nuclear facilities

6. In recent years, the General Assembly has adopted a number of draft resolutions stating that military attacks with conventional weapons against nuclear facilities could cause the release of dangerous material and radioactive contamination. On the basis of these premises, it was considered that the Israeli military attack against the Iraqi reactor might have resulted in radiological warfare and we requested the Conference on Disarmament to reach an agreement prohibiting military attacks, as reflected in General Assembly resolution 41/59 I.

7. The possibility of fresh Israeli aggression against Iraqi nuclear facilities will be actualized as soon as Israel finds appropriate circumstances and the appropriate weapon, particularly in the light of Israeli statements on various occasions. Any attack against any nuclear facility by any State will, unquestionably, lead to horrendous consequences that will not be stopped by geographical frontiers or material precautions. Accordingly, any resolution submitted on this subject must include the following points:

(a) Reference should be made to General Assembly resolutions relating to the conclusion of an agreement prohibiting military attacks against nuclear facilities;

(b) Any military attack with conventional weapons against nuclear facilities is tantamount to the use of radiological weapons because of the release of radioactive material that could result therefrom;

(c) The Israeli military attack against peaceful Iraqi nuclear facilities under the international safeguards régime constitutes a real threat to international peace and security and an attack on IAEA and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, as confirmed in Security Council resolution 487 (1981);
(d) Reference should be made to IAEA resolution GC (XXVII)/RES/409 of 1983, which, inter alia, calls upon member States to support any internationally acceptable formula for protecting nuclear installations devoted to peaceful purposes from military attacks;

(e) The Conference on Disarmament should be urged to reach, as early as possible, an agreement prohibiting military attacks against nuclear facilities.

Peaceful uses of nuclear energy

8. Emphasis should be placed on measures to prevent nuclear proliferation taken by exporting States, whether at the local or the international level. The firmly established rights of all Member States to use and develop their nuclear programmes for peaceful purposes in order to achieve economic and social progress in accordance with the interests and needs of these States must not be jeopardized.

9. There must be respect for the decisions of States to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, without prejudice to fuel cycle programmes, international co-operation, conventions and agreements on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy within the framework of IAEA procedures.

10. It should be emphasized that the adoption of new policies and restrictions on nuclear exports by exporting States, other than those provided for under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and IAEA safeguards, would destroy the basic principles of scientific co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

11. The non-nuclear States, which have rejected the nuclear military option, must be accorded priority in the guaranteeing of nuclear supplies in order to strengthen the safeguards function of IAEA and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Israeli nuclear armament

12. In its resolution 34/89, the General Assembly, in September 1979, first expressed its concern at Israeli nuclear armament and called for a study on this subject.

13. At subsequent sessions of the General Assembly, Israel was condemned for its refusal to relinquish possession of any nuclear weapons and to place all its nuclear activities under the IAEA safeguards, and the Assembly requested the Security Council to take urgent and effective measures to ensure the implementation of resolution 407 (1981). The General Assembly also requested IAEA to suspend any scientific co-operation with Israel which could contribute to Israeli nuclear capabilities. Israel, however, refused and still refuses to comply with all relevant General Assembly resolutions, the most recent of these being resolution 41/93.

14. It is therefore essential that any resolution put forward in international forums concerning Israeli nuclear armament should contain the following points:
(a) A reference to Security Council resolution 487 (1981), which, inter alia, calls upon Israel urgently to place its nuclear facilities under the IAEA safeguards;

(b) Israel's constant refusal to undertake not to manufacture or acquire nuclear weapons, in spite of the repeated appeals made to it by the General Assembly, the Security Council and IAEA;

(c) A request to IAEA to suspend any scientific co-operation with Israel which could contribute to its nuclear capabilities;

(d) A request to all States and organizations that have not yet suspended their co-operation with Israel in the nuclear field to do so;

(e) Condemnation of the continuing nuclear co-operation between Israel and South Africa.

MEXICO

[Original: Spanish]

[6 April 1987]

1. The Government of Mexico considers that the current spiralling of nuclear weapons, and the lack of any significant progress in disarmament in recent years confirm the affirmation contained in the Final Document 1/ of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament that:

"Mankind today is confronted with an unprecedented threat of self-extinction arising from the massive and competitive accumulation of the most destructive weapons ever produced. Existing arsenals of nuclear weapons alone are more than sufficient to destroy all life on earth. Failure of efforts to halt and reverse the arms race, in particular the nuclear arms race, increases the danger of the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Yet the arms race continues."

2. It is therefore urgent that the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament should consider appropriate and practical measures which could be adopted for the prevention of nuclear war under the terms of General Assembly resolution 41/86 G.

3. Furthermore, it is considered essential that the adoption and signature of a multilaterally negotiated treaty on the cessation of all nuclear tests explosions should be one of the main items on the agenda of the third special session devoted to disarmament. It is relevant to mention in this connection that the General Assembly has adopted more than 50 resolutions on the subject, repeatedly giving it top priority in the field of disarmament. The Government of Mexico considers that a treaty on the complete cessation of nuclear tests would prevent the qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons and would constitute a first step towards general and complete disarmament.

/...
4. It would be highly desirable for the States parties to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water \(4/\) to be able to inform the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament of progress towards converting that Treaty, in accordance with the procedure provided for in article II thereof, into a treaty for the complete prohibition of nuclear tests.

5. Lastly, the Government of Mexico considers that the third special session devoted to disarmament should encourage the process of establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones.

6. In that respect, the process initiated with the Treaty of Tlatelolco \(5/\) and continued with the Treaty of Rarotonga should be extended with the objective of achieving, in the words of the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, "a world entirely free of nuclear weapons".

NEW ZEALAND

[Original: English]

[15 April 1987]

1. Member States, including New Zealand, at the forty-first session of the General Assembly, adopted by consensus resolution 41/60 G convening the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. The following comments on the agenda and other related questions are submitted in response to the invitation of the Secretary-General contained in that resolution.

2. Disarmament and arms control, and the strengthening of international peace and security generally, constitute a high priority in New Zealand's foreign policy. This reflects strong public concern about the arms race and the danger of nuclear war. In New Zealand's view the most vital issue facing the international community is the arms race. In its nuclear dimension the arms race poses the greatest current threat to mankind. New Zealand believes all States have a responsibility to work increasingly towards real and verifiable limitations and reductions of armaments, with the final aim being the complete elimination of nuclear weapons and a balanced and reduced level of conventional arms to ensure the undiminished or heightened security of each State. These concerns lie behind our support for a comprehensive test-ban treaty and the Non-Proliferation Treaty, \(3/\) and our advocacy of a nuclear-free zone in the South Pacific.

3. A halt to and reversal of the nuclear arms race cannot be achieved without the participation and co-operation of the five nuclear-weapon States, principally the two major nuclear Powers. The international community has an obligation to encourage and assist those two Powers in the disarmament and arms control process. In addition to supporting bilateral initiatives, such as the Geneva nuclear and space arms talks, New Zealand recognizes the importance of the multilateral aspect of international security relations. As a small State New Zealand has a
contribution to make to the disarmament process at the multilateral level. In October 1985, in his statement to the commemorative session for the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations, the New Zealand Prime Minister observed:

"I speak for a small country. Dag Hammarskjöld reminded us often that this is first of all the organisation of the small countries. Not just because we need it. Not just because we have the numbers. But because we have a contribution to make."

The New Zealand public expects its representatives to fulfil this role. A defence survey in 1986 revealed that 92 per cent of New Zealanders held that New Zealand should pursue disarmament and arms control under the aegis of the United Nations.

4. New Zealand accordingly intends to participate fully, and in an objective and constructive way, in the special session and during the preparations for it. In this regard New Zealand stresses that discussion should be as realistic and practical as possible. Declaratory proposals serve little to advance the cause of disarmament; nor do prescriptions which ignore States' wider political and security interests. To be workable, disarmament measures must maintain or increase participating States' security at a lower level of armaments, contribute to the strengthening of confidence between the countries concerned, and contain provisions to verify adequately compliance with agreements entered into.

5. The validity of those principles was acknowledged by the first special session on disarmament where the world community adopted a comprehensive disarmament manifesto which included a declaration, set out a programme of action, and established disarmament machinery within the United Nations system. It is a matter of deep regret to New Zealand that little progress has been achieved in the implementation of the programme of action. In New Zealand's view that reflects a lack of political will rather than any inherent shortcoming in the Final Document 1/ itself. Our support for the Final Document remains undiminished and New Zealand therefore hopes that it will provide the basis for conducting this session's work.

6. The second special session on disarmament set itself an ambitious goal - to elaborate in detail the programme for future negotiations on all aspects of disarmament. Disappointment at its lack of success was expressed not only by the participating Governments but also by many ordinary citizens around the world who looked to the session to impart a new impetus to disarmament efforts. Nevertheless the second special session did serve a limited purpose. It provided a particular opportunity for delegations to improve their understanding of the security perceptions of others. It provided a forum in which non-governmental organizations could express the profound concern of people all over the world that they be freed from the danger and burden of armaments. Member States reaffirmed the validity of the first session's Final Document, the central role of the United Nations in disarmament, and their determination to ensure that the multilateral process of disarmament would continue in the United Nations and the Committee (now the Conference) on Disarmament.

7. New Zealand believes the third special session of the General Assembly devoted
to disarmament realizes the need for all Member States to reassess the multilateral disarmament process and in particular the disarmament machinery of the United Nations. New Zealand considers it important that this special session take full advantage of the work already done at previous sessions. Without becoming preoccupied with past failures, it must be recognized that much can be learned from them. A common understanding of the complex factors that have impeded progress in the past cannot but help pave the way for progress in the future.

8. Advantage should also be taken of the considerable work already undertaken on specific disarmament studies. Those studies provide information which may facilitate better understanding of the problems of the arms race, and they assist the negotiating process through analysis of specific issues. Studies such as those on conventional disarmament and on the naval arms race represent a distillation of experts' views upon which the special session could usefully draw.

9. Against the background of the first special session's Final Document, the main substantive item of debate should be a review of disarmament issues and their consideration by the United Nations. In New Zealand's view, the priority of the special session must be nuclear disarmament and this review should therefore cover, inter alia:

(a) The nuclear arms race;
(b) Nuclear non-proliferation;
(c) A comprehensive test ban;
(d) Nuclear-free zones.

New Zealand has noted the disquieting indications that the military competition between the major Powers may, in the coming years, also move to the new environment of outer space. An arms race in outer space must not be permitted. The special session should accordingly pay close attention to this issue. New Zealand also considers that the special session should examine weapons of mass destruction including chemical and biological weapons, conventional disarmament (including confidence-building measures), and disarmament and development.

10. As a separate but closely interrelated agenda item, the special session should also closely assess the negotiating, deliberative and research machinery of the United Nations in the disarmament field. With a view to strengthening the United Nations contribution to disarmament such an examination would cover the work of the following bodies:

Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies
Conference on Disarmament
Department for Disarmament Affairs
First Committee
United Nations Disarmament Commission
United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research
The Conference on Disarmament, the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating body, will be a particular focus of this examination. New Zealand is concerned at the lack of progress in some areas of the Conference's work, the difficulties being encountered and, in some cases, the failure to reach agreement on the establishment of the necessary ad hoc subsidiary bodies. New Zealand believes that the special session should also consider the question of the composition of the Conference on Disarmament, and how the impasse over the expansion of its membership should be resolved at an early date. Attention should also be given to ways of ensuring that, in the future, all States that wish, and are able, to make a contribution to the multilateral disarmament negotiating process are given every opportunity to do so. The future of the World Disarmament Conference and the role of the World Disarmament Campaign should also be closely examined.

11. The United Nations Committee on Information, in its 1986 report to the General Assembly, 6/ recommended (recommendation 33) that the World Disarmament Campaign should give full consideration to the role of the mass media as the most effective way to promote in world public opinion a climate of understanding, confidence and co-operation conducive to peace and disarmament. Consistent with that recommendation the special session should examine the roles of the world Disarmament Campaign, the Department of Public Information, and the Department for Disarmament Affairs in carrying out United Nations information activities in the field of disarmament. The effectiveness of the information programme plays an important part in the disarmament process.

12. New Zealand is of the view that non-governmental organizations play an increasingly important part in the political process, by focusing the views of the populace, educating politicians, and ensuring that Governments do not become complacent about the threat posed by nuclear arms in particular. The role of non-governmental organizations in the disarmament process is therefore another area the special session might usefully find worthy of consideration.

13. New Zealand considers that an agenda for the session, drafted in accordance with the broad outlines above, will provide the flexibilty necessary to ensure that the concerns of every State Member in the disarmament field may be put before the special session for consideration. We look forward to the drafting of a final document which can be adopted by consensus.

14. The New Zealand Government may wish to present, at a later date, further views on the agenda and other questions related to the special session and in particular its substantive deliberations.
NIGERIA

Views on the agenda of the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament

A. Organizational matters

1. Rules of procedure

   The session should be guided by the relevant parts of the rules of procedures of the General Assembly, in addition to the rules of procedure that shall be drawn up by the Preparatory Committee. In this connection, and regarding the decision-making process, efforts should be made to ensure that matters of substance are decided, as far as possible, by consensus.

2. Level of participation

   Participation at the session should be at the highest possible political level.

3. Participation by non-members of the United Nations

   Non-members of the United Nations, non-governmental organizations and research institutions should be allowed to participate at the session, and to make an oral statement but without the right to participate in the decision-making process, including voting.

4. Officers of the Conference

   In addition to other members of the Bureau, the Preparatory Committee should make recommendations as to the President and Secretary of the special session.

5. Structure of the session

   The special session should, inter alia, consist of the following:

   (a) Plenary meetings, which would include meetings for general debate;

   (b) Credentials Committee;

   (c) Committee of the Whole;

   (d) Open-ended working groups, to consider each substantive agenda item.

/...
B. Substantive agenda items

The session should consider, amongst others, the following substantive agenda items:

6. Elaboration of a comprehensive programme of disarmament with a view to its adoption at the special session.


8. Consideration of, and implementation of, effective disarmament agreements, particularly nuclear disarmament.

9. Consideration of efforts to release resources from disarmament for development purposes: emphasis should, amongst others, be on implementation of recommendations of the Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development.

10. The nuclear capability of apartheid South Africa and its development of chemical and biological (toxin) weapons of mass destruction.

11. Conclusion of an international treaty under United Nations auspices on the question of Antarctica.

12. Effective implementation of denuclearization of Africa, as part of the non-proliferation régime.

13. The following other disarmament subjects should be considered:

(a) (i) Prohibition of the development, production, and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and their destruction;

(ii) Treaty on the prohibition of the development, production, and use of radiological weapons;

(iii) Measures to mobilize world public opinion in favour of disarmament;

(iv) Establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones.

(b) Consideration of the implementation of the decisions and recommendations adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth and twelfth special sessions for incorporation in the document or documents to be adopted at the third special session.

C. Conclusions of the session

14. The conclusions of the session should be set out in the form of a final document or declaration of the third special session.
1. The United States Government welcomes the opportunity afforded by General Assembly resolution 41/60 G to offer its views on the agenda and other relevant questions relating to the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

2. Last fall, the United States supported the adoption without a vote of General Assembly resolution 41/60 G. At that time, the United States representative stated that "the United States expects to participate constructively in the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament and in the work of the Preparatory Committee".

3. Underlying this approach is our belief that the special session offers an opportunity for all States to express their respective views on international security and disarmament, and to appreciate the views of other States on these important issues.

4. Secretary-General Pérez de Cuéllar noted in 1984:

   "It is essential to utilize the full potential of multilateral and bilateral negotiations, both to improve mutual understanding of the reasoning behind military postures and negotiating positions and to reach substantive balanced arms regulation and disarmament agreements."

5. Progress has been achieved toward the objective of balanced arms control and disarmament agreements since the second special session on disarmament in 1982:

   (a) The member States of the Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe successfully concluded their negotiations in September 1986 by agreeing to a series of concrete confidence- and security-building measures for Europe;

   (b) In the bilateral nuclear and space talks between the United States and the USSR, progress has been made in the negotiations on intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF), including eliminating these systems in Europe, and on achieving deep reductions of strategic offensive arms;

   (c) Negotiations have intensified on a convention prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons on a global scale. A draft convention tabled by the United States in 1984 has served in large part as the basis for these negotiations;

   (d) In the Vienna talks on mutual and balanced force reductions (MBFR), the West continues to await an eastern response to its proposal of December 1985 on specific reductions of United States and Soviet forces in central Europe;
6. The United States approach to the forthcoming special session is based upon certain fundamental tenets:

(a) Arms control and disarmament agreements cannot be pursued in isolation. Disarmament policy is an integral part of, rather than an alternative to or substitute for, national security policy. Thus disarmament is not a goal per se, but can be a vehicle to promote international peace and security;

(b) Any viable arms control or disarmament agreement should be militarily significant, balanced, equitable and should contain specific provisions for effective verification of compliance with the commitments undertaken;

(c) Arms are not the cause of but a symptom of international tensions. The most effective method for alleviating tensions between States and preventing military conflicts is to observe the non-use of force provisions of the Charter of the United Nations (Art. 2, para. 4) and to settle disputes peacefully and justly;

(d) Peace cannot be secured solely through the implementation of disarmament measures. It is the cessation of aggression, the establishment of peaceful relations among States, the reduction of suspicion through increased openness and the observance by all of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including human rights and fundamental freedoms, that would promote progress toward genuine peace;

(e) As long as some States fail to comply with the principles and provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, States must continue to rely on the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence to protect their security.

7. With regard to the agenda for this special session, the United States believes that it should review recent developments in the fields of arms control and disarmament and contribute to charting the future in this domain. In our view, therefore, the third special session should address the following general themes:

(a) Review of the World Disarmament Campaign: such a review would include the application of the principles of openness and transparency in disarmament debates and negotiations; the accessibility and accountability of Governments to a dialogue with their citizens; exchanges of objective information on military matters; reduction of military expenditures, based upon comparable data; and an examination of the direct link between openness and the verification of compliance with arms control agreements;

(b) Review of developments in bilateral and multilateral arms control negotiations such as the nuclear and space talks, the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, mutual and balanced force reductions, and the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, including the Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe;
(c) Review of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament, based in part upon material developed by the Disarmament Commission over the last few years.

8. With regard to procedural issues, the quantity of meetings is no substitute for the quality of discourse. Thus, it is our view that extended sessions do not necessarily advance the cause of disarmament. Consequently, we recommend the special session be limited to four weeks, while one session of the Preparatory Committee is adequate for its stated purpose (May/June 1987). The traditional principle of consensus should be maintained for both the forthcoming Preparatory Committee and the special session itself.

9. The third special session is not a negotiating forum but a deliberative body for discussing international arms control and disarmament in the context of global and regional security. Nevertheless, the special session can make an important contribution to international peace and security by focusing attention on practical measures that could be implemented in the near term and through steps that could be taken over a longer term. Such measures might, for example, include recommendations for greater openness with respect to military expenditures and activities, for reciprocal acts of restraint in various fields, for minimizing the risks of conflict through accidents or misunderstanding, and for the development of guidelines to promote stability and predictability.

10. The United States remains committed to the goals of the Charter of the United Nations and to the practical objective of regional and global disarmament. President Reagan stated in his address to the second special session, in 1982:

   "I have come to this hall to call for international recommitment to the basic tenet of the United Nations Charter - that all Members practice tolerance and live together in peace as good neighbors, under the rule of law, forsaking armed force as a means of settling disputes between nations."

11. It is the task of all United Nations Members to adopt and implement practical measures to make these lofty objectives international realities. The third special session on disarmament offers us a significant opportunity to rededicate our efforts to build a more secure and stable future.

Notes

1/ General Assembly resolution S-10/2.


3/ General Assembly resolution 2373 (XXII), annex.

