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

Letter dated 14 April 1977 from the Permanent Representative of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, with reference to the resolution on general and complete disarmament, 31/189 B, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations at its thirty-first regular session, has the honour to forward, enclosed herewith, the views of the Government of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on the agenda and other relevant questions relating to the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.
VIEWS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOCIALIST FEDERAL REPUBLIC
OF YUGOSLAVIA ON THE AGENDA AND OTHER RELEVANT QUESTIONS
RELATING TO THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
DEVOTED TO DISARMAMENT

The United Nations, since its establishment, has been devoting exceptional
attention to the problem of disarmament, exerting efforts toward general and
complete disarmament under international control. Unfortunately, the results
achieved so far are not commensurate with the invested efforts, nor do they meet
the requirements of the international community.

The Government of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia considers that
the decisions of the thirty-first regular session of the General Assembly to convene
a special session devoted to disarmament is an expression of the strong desire of
the international community to halt the ever more accelerated arms race and to set
in motion the process of disarmament.

The United Nations has played an important role in maintaining peace,
preventing or solving many situations involving crises and armed conflicts and
has, in particular, supported the struggle of peoples for liberation, for
decolonization, for safeguarding sovereignty and for the development of more
equitable and just relations in the international community.

In its basic provisions, the Charter of the United Nations makes it incumbent
on States to refrain, in their international relations, from the threat or use of
force, to solve their international disputes by peaceful means and to remove the
basic causes of the arms race.

Since the founding of the United Nations, Yugoslavia has been devoting the
greatest possible attention to this problem, striving for general and complete
disarmament under international control. Drawing attention to the fact that the
continuation of the arms race is fraught with unforeseeable consequences for peace
and security in the world, Yugoslavia urged, together with other non-aligned
countries, at the Belgrade Conference in 1961, the convening of a special session
or a world disarmament conference.

At their conferences, in the United Nations, within the framework of CCD and
elsewhere, the non-aligned countries have been constantly striving to agree on
measures of disarmament and have themselves submitted numerous proposals.
Yugoslavia has always believed that the United Nations is the most appropriate and
only universal forum where this problem can be considered and a solution found.
Consequently, it emphasizes the need for the world Organization to assume
responsibility for solving the problem of disarmament without, however, negating
the importance of regional, bilateral and other forms of negotiations.

Experience has shown that a policy based on force is not in the interest of
any country relying on such a policy. Such a policy is also contrary to the
interests of the international community as a whole. International peace and
security based on balance of power cannot endure, while the arms race is a
component and expression of such a policy. The greatest scientific and technical
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achievements have been placed, today, in the service of the arms race, while the involvement of ever larger human, material and financial resources for research and the manufacture of ever more sophisticated weapons jeopardizes the economic development of the international community, affecting adversely not only small and medium-sized States, but also those disposing of the greatest economic power.

The maintenance of bloc divisions in the world and the strengthening of military blocs, the presence of large military forces in foreign territories, the establishment, maintenance and even strengthening of military bases in various parts of the world constitute not only a cold war anachronism, but also elements of worsening of tensions in the world and in some regions in particular.

At their Fifth Summit Conference in Colombo, the non-aligned countries launched the initiative for convening a special session of the General Assembly convinced that it is the most appropriate way to remove this problem - on a universal basis, in the United Nations - from the state of certain stagnation and to ensure rapid progress toward resolving some substantive questions of disarmament.

Yugoslavia believes that the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament should be held at the highest possible political level with a view not only to appraise the present state of the problem of disarmament, the results of negotiations, the consequences and dangers posed to the process of détente by the continuation of the arms race as well as consequences involving the economic and social development of the international community but also to reach agreement with regard to a programme of measures the consistent implementation of which would enable an effective solution of some basic problems of disarmament and ensure a greater role and over-all involvement of the world Organization in this field.

In the light of such a concept of the objectives and results to be achieved at the special session, Yugoslavia considers that it is indispensable to examine the current situation and, in particular, to indicate the most appropriate way leading the international community toward general and complete disarmament under international control. Yugoslavia believes that it is necessary to adopt generally acceptable principles on which disarmament negotiations and the whole activity of the United Nations and of all of its Member States should be based. The broadest possible consensus should be achieved with regard to the adoption of such measures as will render possible the effective organization of the United Nations and organs and bodies under its auspices and co-ordinate the negotiating machinery.

Proceeding from the aforementioned ideas, the Yugoslav Government feels that the agenda of the special session should be conceived in broad terms and proposes that it should include the following: general debate; adoption of a political declaration (or declaration on disarmament) adoption of a programme of measures of disarmament; and question of negotiating machinery in the United Nations. Within this framework should also be considered the question of convening a world disarmament conference. The rules of procedure of the General Assembly should apply in the work of the Preparatory Committee and the special session of the
General Assembly with regard to the adoption of decisions, however, one should strive to the maximum for the adoption of decisions by consensus.

Yugoslavia considers that the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly should elaborate appropriate proposals in the light of such an agenda. Yugoslavia considers that - in the political declaration (or declaration on disarmament) - particular stress should be laid on the principles on which future negotiations should be based, and emphasizes the following:

(a) Highest priority to be given to the urgent need for considering and proposing measures for the prohibition of the manufacture, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction as well as new weapons and techniques of warfare.

(b) Principle of parallel negotiations on general and complete disarmament and on individual aspects of this problem.

(c) Principle of balanced reduction of forces on a lower level.

(d) Principle of control implying international, regional and national control, applied individually or in combination.

(e) Principle ensuring equal security for all countries.

(f) Universality as a prerequisite for the successful solution of this problem and implementation of adopted decisions.

(g) Principle that the United Nations should be kept informed of the course of negotiations, their substance and results.

A broader formulation and more precise defining of these principles, as well as adoption of others, should be the object of activity of the Preparatory Committee and agreement of all participants in the special session.

With regard to the programme of measures, Yugoslavia believes that it should be based on the present activity of the United Nations, the CCD and results of regional and bilateral negotiations, so as to ensure the solving of individual aspects of disarmament. Among the measures that could be adopted at the special session, we propose the following:

(a) Measures conducive to the cessation of the arms race, primarily nuclear.

(b) Measures for reducing other arms which, by their effects, approach the weapons of mass destruction.

(c) Measures for prohibiting other weapons of mass destruction (chemical and in combination with others).

(d) Measures prohibiting the use of napalm and other incendiary weapons as well as weapons which are excessively injurious and have indiscriminate effects.

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(e) Measures for the reduction of troops and, in connexion with this, reduction of expenditures for armament as well as establishment, from savings effected in this way, of funds for assistance to developing countries and for struggle against hunger and the effects of major natural catastrophes.

(f) Measures accelerating the adoption of decisions and agreements on withdrawal of foreign troops and bases from foreign territories.

(g) Measures restricting as well as prohibiting transfers of weapons, particularly in areas of crisis and armed conflicts.

Furthermore, Yugoslavia believes that agreement should be also reached with regard to other collective measures, especially those promoting the consolidation of international security, relaxation of tensions and building of confidence among peoples, such as:

(a) Measures contributing to the strict application of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations in international relations, to respect for the decisions of the United Nations and fulfilment of international treaty obligations.

(b) Measures adopted in Helsinki within the context of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, which could be extended so as to enlodge other regions of the world as well (notification of manoeuvres, of major troop movements, refraining from demonstrations of military force).

(c) Measures for overcoming bloc contradictions and for lessening bloc confrontations.

(d) Measures for avoiding military and other incidents, particularly those liable to lead to conflicts of wider proportions.

As regards the proposing, consideration and adoption of these measures, Yugoslavia considers that they should reflect the need and orientation of the international community toward the cessation of the arms race and should, at the same time, open a process of disarmament in all of its aspects. While adopting the programme of measures, one should not permit disagreement on some issues to endanger the adoption of the general programme to be adopted at the special session. One can also provide for target dates for the realization of the adopted programme of measures. The programme of measures should also provide for immediate and long-term objectives. The basis for reaching consensus should be founded on the experiences and results of present negotiations in the United Nations.

The negotiating machinery should be based on the role of the United Nations, as determined by the Charter. Yugoslavia considers that the United Nations is an irreplaceable forum which should take over the whole organization of negotiations and activities in line with the adopted programme. In this connexion, Yugoslavia proposes that the First Committee of the General Assembly should deal exclusively with questions of disarmament and international security. It is necessary to
review the activity of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, its closer link with the United Nations as well as re-examine the question of expanding its membership and possibly improving its organization and methods of work.

Yugoslavia also feels that it is necessary to determine and propose a more direct and closer link between bilateral and regional negotiations and the United Nations ensuring, in particular, that the international community should be kept informed of the substance and course of negotiations. Yugoslavia also believes that the existing United Nations Centre for Disarmament can and should play an important role, primarily with regard to research concerning some problems, especially those impeding negotiations and the adoption of definite measures.

Finally, Yugoslavia is convinced that there exist the necessary conditions and desire on the part of the international community that the special session should adopt such decisions and measures as will constitute a turning point in the solving of the problem of disarmament. Yugoslavia will, for its part, exert utmost efforts toward the realization of these objectives.