Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament

Note verbale dated 15 April 1977 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and with reference to his note No. OR 421/6(3) of 26 January 1977, seeking the views of Member States on the agenda and all other relevant questions relating to the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, has the honour to state the following:

It is a source of encouragement that after 32 years of United Nations, the Organization will for the first time be devoting more concerted efforts towards effective disarmament with the participation of the whole United Nations membership in a special session of the General Assembly.

The Government of Cyprus suggests that during the special session, there should be first a review of the existing situation with reference to the long-standing stagnation in the field of disarmament and a search into the basic causes thereof.

In light of such review, the close interconnexion between disarmament and other world problems, namely international security, the peaceful settlement of disputes and economic development would have to be given particular consideration in its significant ramifications to the disarmament problem.

In our view, effective progress in disarmament will continue to be hampered so long as there is no means for the security of nations other than dependence on armaments. The functions of the United Nations and more particularly of the Security Council under the Charter, for the maintenance of international security and peace, will have to be basically examined in its effects upon the disarmament problem.

Co-operative efforts in a climate of confidence is pre-eminently needed in the disarmament endeavour. Such climate requires a framework less antagonistic than
that of the outworn concept of balance of power, which is but the extreme of mistrust - short of war.

It is therefore suggested that in the special session there should be a new and more realistic approach of the problem of disarmament by the initiation of parallel efforts on the subjects interconnected with disarmament, already mentioned, namely: international security, peaceful settlement of disputes and economic development. Committees on these subjects may be set up as appropriate.

Through such co-ordinated efforts effective progress in disarmament would, we feel, be achievable. Decades of frustrated experience from centring on the mechanics of disarmament alone, without parallel attention to the related subjects, amply demonstrated the need for a new approach to the problem of disarmament; one that would essentially bring us nearer to international order and security and the elimination of unrestrained aggression.

As the Secretary-General pertinently remarked in his statement at the opening of the session of the Preparatory Committee on 28 March 1977: "In order to tackle the question of disarmament in all its ramifications, we must examine the underlying problems of international order." (document A/AC.187/SR.1).

**Suggested agenda and organization of work**

(a) Review and appraisal of the present international situation in the light of the stagnation in the field of disarmament, the continuing arms race and close interrelationship between disarmament, international peace and security and economic development

(b) Adoption of a Declaration of Principles on Disarmament in the light of the above

(c) Adoption of a Programme of Action on Disarmament

(d) Review of the role of the United Nations in disarmament and its interrelation with international security and peaceful settlement of disputes and of disarmament mechanisms, including the question of convening a World Disarmament Conference.