Note verbale dated 19 April 1977 from the Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations has the honour, with reference to the Secretary-General's note No. or 421/6 (3) of 28 January 1977 to communicate to him the following views on behalf of the Government of Denmark on the agenda and all other relevant questions relating to the special session devoted to disarmament.

It remains a primary goal of Danish foreign policy in promotion of international détente and security to assist in all genuine efforts to achieve practical and durable results in the field of arms control and disarmament. In keeping with this policy the Danish Government endorsed the convening of the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament on the condition that it be prepared thoroughly and in such manner that it would be likely to make a constructive and realistic contribution to the attainment of satisfactory solutions. Hence it should be endeavoured to avoid confrontations between individual countries or groups of countries as well as proposals that would merely serve propagandist aims. The Danish Government considers it of paramount importance to secure the broadest possible participation in the special session and, in particular, that all the permanent members of the Security Council and the leading military Powers take part in it. Only in that event would the session be able to accomplish its task in recognition of the fact that these Powers hold the key to progress and are also bearing a special responsibility for a reversal of the spiralling arms race.

The Danish Government is of the opinion that with a view to attaining positive results the items of the agenda should be clearly specified and that the rules of procedure should be as precise as possible in order to allow an expedient course of the session. Considering the short period of the session, it should be endeavoured to make the most effective use of the time available. The general debate should therefore not take up so much time that there would not be sufficient time for thorough consideration of any specific proposal before the session. As a manifestation of the special character of the session, delegates should in principle refrain from merely repeating proposals tabled at previous regular sessions and
should instead as far as possible concentrate on an over-all appraisal of the possibilities to further the course of arms control and disarmament - an appraisal which, hopefully, would lead to more energetic and realistic action. In the final declaration, which is anticipated to ensue from the session, the States participating should not only express their common stand on the issues concerned, but the declaration should also contain a programme for further action.

It should be a main purpose of the session to try to identify the fields in which actions should be taken, and also their priorities. Among specific issues which the special session should preferably help to bring closer to a solution, the Danish Government would point especially to the problem of non-proliferation of nuclear arms, including primarily the conclusion of a treaty for a complete test ban, questions relating to chemical weapons and weapons of mass destruction, and the various problems concerning conventional weapons and transfers of such weapons, including measures to limit the arms transfers on a regional basis. The various disarmament measures should be so designed that they do not present to any party military advantages that would upset the military balance, and provisions should be made for adequate international control to ensure observance of the agreements.

The Danish Government hopes that the special session may help to strengthen the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament. The holding of the session could undoubtedly itself be seen as an expression of the firm wish of the world community to bring this about. If the session could help to generate among the peoples and Governments of the world a growing interest in the cause of disarmament, and if it resulted in a stronger political will to intensify the efforts of the United Nations in the fields of disarmament and arms control, it would have attained one of its principal goals.

In conclusion, the Danish Government expresses its sincere wishes for a successful outcome of the special session and its firm resolve to take an active part in efforts to that end.