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

Letter dated 28 April 1977 from the Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour, pursuant to operative paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 31/189 B, to transmit to you herewith a letter by H.E. Mr. Petar Mladenov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria, whereby he states the views of my Government on the Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations Devoted to Disarmament.

I kindly request the circulation of this letter as an official document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Dr. Alexander YANKOV
Ambassador, Deputy Foreign Minister,
Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations
Letter dated 6 April 1977 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria addressed to the Secretary-General

The Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria attaches exceptional significance to the struggle for the cessation of the arms race and for disarmament with the ultimate aim of achieving general and complete disarmament under strict international supervision. Together with the other countries of the socialist community, the People's Republic of Bulgaria is doing everything it can to achieve decisive progress in that field, to overcome the obstacles which some forces have placed in the way of disarmament, and to strengthen and deepen the détente which has been achieved in the political field by détente in the military field.

The results of the efforts made to date are well known - a number of international treaties and bilateral agreements have been concluded on various questions of disarmament and this undoubtedly represents considerable success. The fact remains, however, that the arms race in the world has still not been checked and the danger of war has not been completely eliminated. This arouses grave concern among all peoples. For this reason, the proposal of the Government of the USSR concerning the convening of a World Disarmament Conference has found support among the overwhelming majority of States Members of the United Nations. At such a conference, at which all countries, including the nuclear-weapon States, would participate, the problem of disarmament could be considered fully and the most effective ways of solving it could be studied. Unfortunately, despite many resolutions of the General Assembly, it has so far been impossible to convene that conference because of the attitude of some nuclear States towards it.

The decision by the General Assembly at its thirty-first session to convene a special session devoted to disarmament in 1975 was adopted on the full understanding that that session was not to take the place of the World Disarmament Conference. The majority of delegations, including the Bulgarian delegation, which supported the proposal for the convening of a special session, regarded it as a step towards the convening of the World Disarmament Conference.

In view of the foregoing, the People's Republic of Bulgaria considers that, in preparing the agenda for the session, the Preparatory Committee should take into account the need to ensure all the conditions necessary for the fruitful consideration of the question of the subsequent convening at an early date of the World Disarmament Conference. In addition to solving this fundamental problem, it would be advisable at that session to review the whole problem of disarmament in all its aspects, and, on the basis of that review, to prepare and adopt a final document reflecting the agreed views of States participating in the session. The decisions taken on these questions should give fresh impetus to the work of the specialized organs and forums on disarmament already established at the international level, in particular the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament.

To hold a special session of the General Assembly which achieves results would have enormous significance. That, however, is not an easy task. In view of the fact that it involves extremely important aspects of the security of States, the successful preparation and implementation of this complex undertaking will depend...
on the spirit of constructive co-operation shown by all countries, in particular by those States which are militarily most important. Unless the decisions concerning the preparation of the session and the recommendations of the session itself are adopted by general agreement, including the agreement of those States which bear the primary responsibility for peace and the security of peoples and which are expected to make the most significant contribution to the implementation of disarmament measures, it can hardly be expected that those decisions will lead to genuine results. The People's Republic of Bulgaria considers that the effectiveness of the work of the special session will depend to a great extent on whether this important aspect will be accurately reflected in the work of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session.

As is generally known, during the consultations concerning the establishment of the Preparatory Committee, the Group of European socialist countries expressed disagreement with the method of allocation of seats in that body and stated that it would continue to insist on broader participation in view of the genuine role which the European socialist countries are playing in the struggle to limit armaments and bring about disarmament. As one of the countries nominated by that Group to participate in the Preparatory Committee, the People's Republic of Bulgaria expresses the hope that at the thirty-second session of the General Assembly the question of enlarging the participation of the socialist countries in the Committee will be settled correctly in the interests of the successful convening of the special session and the cause of peace and disarmament.

(Signed) Petar MLADENOV
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the People's Republic of Bulgaria