Note verbale dated 9 May 1977 from the Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and pursuant to General Assembly resolution 31/189 B has the honour to communicate the following views of the Federal Government on the special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations devoted to disarmament:

1. The Federal Republic of Germany shares the concern of the community of nations about the consequences of an unabated arms race. It not only sees in the continuing arms race a threat to international security but fears that the nations will be increasingly denied the limited economic resources of the earth for their economic and social development.

To the Federal Republic of Germany, the ultimate goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control is indispensable. It cannot be ignored that, seen in terms of that goal, the success achieved up to now in negotiations on disarmament and arms control is but a beginning. The Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, therefore, when addressing the United Nations in September 1976, welcomed the initiative adopted in Colombo in the same year by the non-aligned States for a special session of the United Nations General Assembly to be convened in 1978, stating that the Federal Republic of Germany would be ready to co-operate constructively in such a session. The Federal Government has supported the initiative from the beginning and was a co-sponsor of the relevant draft resolution tabled at the thirty-first session of the General Assembly.

2. The Federal Government attaches great importance to the proposed special session and hopes that it will proceed in an atmosphere of co-operation and mutual trust. It also hopes that, without trying to hide the problems, Governments will succeed in fulfilling the expectations of the public, that they will convincingly demonstrate the credibility of the world-wide effort in pursuit of disarmament and arms control, and strengthen confidence among the States.
3. It should not be the purpose of the special session to negotiate specific subjects or work out draft treaties. This should remain the task of the CCD which, though perhaps capable of structural improvements, has proved an expert negotiating body. It is to be hoped that prior to the special session further progress and results will be achieved in Geneva in important areas.

4. The Federal Government has on previous occasions, and also in the United Nations forum, underlined the great value it attaches to the arms control negotiations which are going on in the special bodies. It thinks it necessary that these specific efforts in support of peace and security should be continued.

5. The following might, in the Federal Government's view, be the aims of the special session:
   
   - to take stock of results in the field of disarmament and arms control,
   - to provide impulses for discussion which in some fields is stagnant,
   - to reach a consensus on the basic elements of the disarmament discussion,
   - to define priorities of future work,
   - to review the present organization and structure of disarmament institutions as to their effectiveness.

6. Taking these aims into account, the Federal Government sees the following possible agenda:
   
   - general debate
   - discussion of basic elements of disarmament policy and adoption of a declaration based on stock-taking results
   - discussion of future tasks and priorities
   - discussion on the structure of disarmament institutions and their mechanisms.

7. As regards the subjects to be treated at the special session, the Federal Government considers that nuclear and conventional disarmament problems should receive equal treatment. The projects discussed should be genuinely conducive to strengthening confidence and international security. The Federal Government hopes that the special session will provide practical impulses for, among other things: the prohibition of chemical weapons, a comprehensive test ban, non-proliferation policy, the reduction of armament burdens, regional aspects of disarmament and discussion of the connexion between disarmament and economic and social development in the world.

8. The Federal Government is willing to participate in a discussion on possible modifications to the structure of both the CCD and the United Nations
disarmament institutions, but any changes in the CCD structure should at least maintain if not improve the capacity of this body.

9. Only after the results of the special session will be available will it be possible to judge how the discussion should be continued. Whatever the decision, it should be made sure that the work of existing disarmament bodies will not be impaired.

10. The Federal Government believes that the special session can provide valuable and constructive impulses for future efforts to achieve greater international stability and security by balanced measures of disarmament and arms control. A consensus among the participants would be the appropriate basis for attaining the goals of the session.