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

Note verbale dated 2 May 1977 from the Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General and, in reply to his letter No. OR 421/6(3) of 28 January 1977 and in compliance with paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 31/189 B, respectfully submits the views of his Government on the convening of a special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

Colombia voted in favour of resolution 31/189 B. It did so for the simple reason that, in view of the resounding failure of the Organization in the field of disarmament, it feels that the international community must spare no effort in trying to reduce the horrible danger to life on this planet that is posed by the arms race. The Government of Colombia does not, however, have much hope that this new measure will produce any better results than those obtained in 30 years of exhausting and repeated debates in the General Assembly and the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament. For disarmament is in no way dependent on the will of the Organization as such, nor even that of the vast majority of its Members; it depends solely on the will of the countries that manufacture weapons, that have been stockpiling them, that trade in them and that derive both military and political power and enormous financial profit from this lethal industry. Therefore, so long as those countries are unwilling to disarm, to reduce the rate of weapons production or to place the interests of mankind in general above their own interests and hunger for power, nothing will be gained, no matter how many special sessions of the General Assembly or how many world conferences on disarmament are held.

Recognizing this undeniable truth, the Government of Colombia believes that if this new effort is to be pursued seriously at the special session of the General Assembly, the session must concentrate on specific questions. To undertake an analysis of what the Organization has done or left undone in the field of disarmament would be, as it has been in the past, just another scandalous waste of time, energy and money. The Government of Colombia therefore does not agree with the idea of drawing up a heavy agenda for the special session or of requesting the Secretary-General to prepare studies on disarmament matters, as these would
only increase the huge mountain of papers that have accumulated over the past several decades with no visible benefit.

The Assembly should concentrate on those problems which are causing the greatest concern to mankind today, namely:

**Nuclear weapons**

1. Total prohibition of tests;

2. Measures for permanently halting the proliferation of nuclear weapons;
   (a) Total prohibition of the transfer of nuclear technology usable for weapons production to countries that do not have it;
   (b) Prohibition of the production of nuclear weapons;
   (c) Destruction of existing stockpiles of nuclear weapons.

**Conventional weapons**

(a) In-depth study of the trade in and transfer of conventional weapons and measures for prohibiting such trade;

(b) Total prohibition of the manufacture of chemical, bacteriological and incendiary weapons.

The delegation of Colombia will develop these views further during the course of the debate.