Note verbale dated 10 April 1977 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cuba to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and has the honour to refer to his note in which the Government of the Republic of Cuba is asked for information and suggestions relating to General Assembly resolution 31/189 B, adopted on 21 December 1976, by which the Assembly decided to convene a special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

The Government of the Republic of Cuba considers that the arms race is one of the principal impediments to the strengthening of international security and to just and equitable economic and social progress.

Action to bring about general and complete disarmament is more necessary than ever since it is substantially inseparable from the objectives of achieving lasting peace. Never before have arms possessed such destructive power, and never before has the risk that mankind might be wiped out been greater.

It is obvious that the use for military purposes of an ever-increasing volume of material and human resources is damaging not only to international security but also to the economic and social development of nations. Despite the increasing activity of peace-loving peoples in pursuit of general and complete disarmament, imperialist circles are still beating the drums of the cold war and assigning ever-growing budgets to building up their war arsenal.

In the face of these reactionary forces, world-wide awareness of the historic responsibility for saving mankind from a new holocaust of war is rapidly increasing. The Government of the Republic of Cuba therefore considers that, in the present international political situation, conditions are such as to enable progressive peace-loving forces to prevail over the forces of the armaments monopolies, for which the well-being and future of mankind have become just another item of merchandise.
It is essential to move forward from the existing disarmament proposals to the search for, and implementation of the necessary machinery to put the proposals into practice.

The Government of the Republic of Cuba considers that mere declarations of goodwill and of devotion to the irrefutable principles of disarmament are no longer enough; the need is to proceed to adopt practical measures that will genuinely make a gradual advance towards general and complete disarmament possible. To that end, it draws attention to the letter dated 28 September 1976 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics addressed to the Secretary-General, which made specific proposals concerning the most pressing problems of disarmament.

Given the existence of conditions favourable to the achievement of practical results with regard to general and complete disarmament, the special session should prepare the way for the holding of a world disarmament conference, as called for in the resolution on disarmament adopted at the Fifth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-aligned Countries held at Colombo.

The special session could make a valuable and vital contribution to the convening of a world conference on disarmament which could lead to joint efforts and common approaches to a question of concern to all mankind.

The Government of the Republic of Cuba has always advocated general and complete disarmament and has maintained a position consistent with this view in the United Nations, by supporting proposals for the attainment of this goal, which is of such pressing urgency. This position was recently reiterated by the First Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba in the following passage of its statement of principles and programme objectives:

"The promotion of détente and peaceful co-existence among States and the achievement of a peace which will benefit all peoples and extend to all areas of the earth. To this end, it will determine its participation in international organizations and events in the light of the general interests of peoples and of socialism.

"To work tirelessly for the consolidation of a worthy and lasting peace for all peoples, in accordance with Leninist principles of peaceful co-existence between countries with different social systems, for the cessation of the arms race, general and complete disarmament, the total prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons and other means of mass destruction, for the dismantling of imperialist military bases in various countries and for the elimination of aggressive military pacts."

In keeping with this position, the Government of the Republic of Cuba has consistently supported, within the framework of the world forum of the United Nations, proposals designed to achieve general and complete disarmament, such as: total prohibition of nuclear tests; prohibition of chemical and bacteriological weapons and of the development of new types of weapons of mass destruction; prohibition of the use of the environment for military purposes; and the convening...
of a world disarmament conference, the preparatory framework for which should be the special session of the General Assembly, as decided by the General Assembly at its thirty-first session.

The Government of the Republic of Cuba believes that, unless the arms race is halted, it will inevitably become an obstacle to the strengthening and expansion of political détente in relations among States and it will accordingly offer its full support and co-operation to ensure a most successful and productive outcome of the special session of the General Assembly on disarmament.

The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cuba takes this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurances of his highest consideration.

New York, 10 April 1977