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

Note verbale dated 16 May 1977 from the Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of Malaysia presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and with reference to the latter's note OR 421/6(3) dated 28 January 1977 regarding the convening of the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament to be held in New York in May/June 1973, has the honour to transmit herewith the views of the Government of Malaysia.
Views of the Government of Malaysia

The Government of Malaysia has repeatedly expressed concern at the inherent dangers that the escalation of the arms race and the proliferation of nuclear weapons pose to the survival of mankind. It is very alarming to note that despite this internationally recognized threat and potential for disaster, the arms race, both conventional and nuclear weapons, continues unabated. The Charter of the United Nations envisages disarmament as a means towards achieving international peace and security. Malaysia believes that international peace and security is essential in order to achieve economic progress and well-being for its people and for all mankind in general. Disarmament is an important move towards the attainment of this goal.

As a first step towards attaining global disarmament, the Government of Malaysia has always believed in the need for the creation of conditions that would be conducive to the relaxation of tension both at the regional and the international levels, the advancement of peaceful relations among all States and the promotion of regional as well as intraregional co-operation in all fields. This favourable climate would inevitably create an atmosphere of confidence in the world community that could help to generate progress in disarmament efforts towards halting and eventually eliminating the arms race. It would also give added impetus towards accelerating the creation of zones of peace and the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones which constitute positive steps towards the attainment of the goal of disarmament. The savings gained through the reduction of military expenditures devoted to the arms race could be constructively channelled to the much needed areas of national development in the developing countries. At the international level, the surplus resources in the developed countries arising from the reduction of their military expenditures could be utilized towards achieving an equitable international economic order.

Since the special session would be the first occasion that the question of disarmament would be considered in its entirety, full participation by all Member States of the United Nations is highly desirable to ensure success in concerted a co-operative approach towards achieving a comprehensive programme for general and complete disarmament under effective international control.

Malaysia considers that the agenda of the special session should include the following elements:

1. Consideration of practical measures towards curbing and eventually eliminating the nuclear arms race.

2. Co-operative approach to seek agreement for:
   
   (a) The cessation of all nuclear weapons tests with a view to concluding a comprehensive test ban treaty, a prompt cessation of research and development of new types of nuclear weapons and other non-nuclear weapons of mass destruction, the reduction and
elimination of existing arsenals of all nuclear weapons as well as chemical, biological weapons and other types of weapons of mass destruction.

(b) General prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons and non-use of force in the settlement of disputes.

3. Creation of favourable conditions towards bringing about the relaxation of tension and to advancement of peaceful relations that would be conducive to promoting common agreement in establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones and zones of peace.

4. Review of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament to enable the existing United Nations disarmament machinery to proceed in a more co-ordinated and efficient manner directed towards the realization of the goal of complete and general disarmament under effective international control.

5. Improved United Nations machinery to give widest dissemination to the potential dangers of nuclear weapons at all stages of disarmament.

In view of the need to ensure the total success of the special session, it would be useful to co-ordinate the task by assigning specific aspects of disarmament problems to a number of sub-committees or working groups so that agreement could be greatly facilitated. The Government of Malaysia considers it important that the special session should adopt a declaration of principles that reflect a renewed commitment by Member States of the United Nations towards general and complete disarmament as well as a programme of measures aimed at accelerating all disarmament efforts.