Note verbale dated 25 May 1977 from the Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Philippines, in supporting the concept of a special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, strongly endorses the convening of said special session in May-June 1978.

The Philippines believes that after 30 years of consideration of the issue of disarmament by the United Nations, time has come indeed to take concerted measures in order to achieve the over-all objective of disarmament. The special session is an approach that could open avenues to achieving a programme of gradual and balanced disarmament measures which ultimately would lead to general and complete disarmament. In other words, now is the time for the super-Powers and the major military Powers to give proof of sincere political will in co-ordinated and co-operative efforts towards resolving disarmament issues.

The special session should be able to adopt a declaration of principles on disarmament coupled with a programme of action in the implementation of said principles. In this connexion, and in so far as the Philippines is concerned, like many others, nuclear disarmament is number one in importance and should be given the highest priority. We cannot conceive or envisage a peaceful world in which nuclear weapons exist. The imponderables of power politics are such that the risk and danger of a nuclear exchange is ever present as long as there are nuclear weapons. The escalation to an all-out nuclear war is not far-fetched due to the use and sophistication of nuclear warheads in both tactical and strategic weapons.

To achieve nuclear disarmament, all the world knows that there are three essential steps to be taken: (1) the total and absolute cessation of nuclear weapons testing; (2) a complete shut-down of nuclear weapons production; and (3) the destruction of all existing nuclear weaponry.
As mentioned above, the ultimate objective is general and complete disarmament. But to our mind, if the essential steps and measures are agreed upon towards nuclear disarmament, it would pave the way towards parallel steps and measures towards the goal of general and complete disarmament. It is our hope that the special session can find the framework and the priorities towards this end.

The special session, to be a success, should be well prepared and should be approached by all interested parties with no reservations or pre-conditions. All Members of the United Nations should whole-heartedly and actively participate in the special session. It is obvious to us that the success of the special session will spell a greater and more meaningful role for the United Nations in the field of disarmament.