Letter dated 8 April 1977 from the Permanent Representative of the Hungarian People's Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

8 April 1977

Statement of position of the Government of the Hungarian People's Republic concerning the special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament

The Government of the Hungarian People's Republic, bent on serving the fundamental interests of the Hungarian people, consistently favours any initiative and proposal seeking to promote the strengthening of international peace and security, the curbing of the arms race and the realization of general and complete disarmament, and lends active support to the elaboration and implementation of effective measures in pursuit of these goals. It has been particularly active in this respect since it became a member of the Geneva Committee on disarmament. At this forum of high prestige, it is led by an endeavour, in keeping with the sincere aspirations for peace of the Hungarian people, to do constructive work and put forward useful initiatives and workable proposals in order to enhance the cause of disarmament, and to contribute its share to elaboration of measures for checking and halting the arms race and for achieving actual disarmament. The Hungarian People's Republic has at all times declared its readiness to support reasonable and realistic disarmament initiatives at other forums as well, and is a party to all the international agreements already achieved on disarmament.

The current period, in which the main tendency is for the relaxation of international tension, is held by the Hungarian Government particularly propitious for disarmament negotiations to move ahead at a higher speed and to make considerable progress, a decisive breakthrough in this field. While this is facilitated by détente, the goal of widening this process and making it irreversible calls for the urgent adoption of further effective disarmament measures. Extension of détente to the military field would undoubtedly have a favourable influence on the political, economic and other aspects as well.
Starting from the consideration that each and every country is most directly affected by and interested in the halting of the arms race, the Hungarian Government deems it necessary for the problems of disarmament to be discussed in a comprehensive manner and on the widest scale. The most appropriate forum for such a discussion, which would make participation by all States and peoples of the world possible, could be a world disarmament conference where States would be enabled to put forth their views on the current situation and on the measures to be adopted in the interest of disarmament. Having thus learned better the views and positions of each other, they would be able to define the most essential characteristics of the road leading to general and complete disarmament, and to outline a realistic long-term programme of practical action. A world disarmament conference could in this way give great impetus to starting the elaboration of the most urgent measures, and helping to make the existing results more solid and truly universal.

Such a realistic approach characterizes the proposal put forward in 1971 by the Government of the Soviet Union, which has been and continues to be supported by the majority of the countries of the world. The Government of the Hungarian People's Republic has from the outset come out in favour of convening a world disarmament conference at the earliest possible date and invariably seeks to promote initial steps for the preparation of a world conference. It is a deplorable contradiction of our age that certain Powers may block the convening of a world conference in defiance of the peoples' aspirations for peace and of the vast majority of States. Given as such the situation, the Hungarian Government regards the convening of the special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament as a useful step towards, as a stage on the road of preparations for, a world disarmament conference, and is lending its support to it accordingly.

The special session of the General Assembly and the world disarmament conference are forums that are not mutually exclusive but are organically interrelated. This realization is similarly reflected, in a manner acceptable also to the Hungarian Government, by the political declaration and the resolution on disarmament adopted by the Summit Conference of Non-aligned States held in Colombo last year. Member States of the United Nations were also led by this consideration when, in a resolution unanimously adopted at the thirty-first session of the General Assembly, they decided to convene the special session for May/June 1978.

The Government of the Hungarian People's Republic believes that the special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament will, if prepared and held in such a spirit, create favourable conditions and an appropriate atmosphere for the participating countries to devote all their attention and all their efforts to the elaboration of effective and realistic measures designed to end the arms race and enhance disarmament, and to promote the preparation and convening of a world disarmament conference. These are the goals to be served by the work of the special session and by the documents to be adopted. The special session should at the same time favourably influence the work of the
present bilateral and multilateral forums which have proved to be good practical channels of disarmament negotiations, first of all the concrete negotiations going on in the Geneva Committee on disarmament. All these combined may ensure that the special session will be a truly decisive turning point in the solution of current disarmament issues so long awaited by the peoples of the world.

The Hungarian Government deems it indispensable both for the preparatory stage of the special session and for the special session itself as well as the documents to be adopted to spell out clearly the enormous responsibility borne for the cause of disarmament by each and every State, particularly the nuclear Powers, which, having the greatest military potential, are able to do the most for disarmament. Similarly, effect should be given to the principle that disarmament measures must not prejudice the security of any single State. These principles should be asserted to the full not only in general disarmament measures but also in the different partial or regional agreements.

The Government of the Hungarian People's Republic is led by these considerations in preparing for the special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament and in participating in the work of the preparatory committee. As it attaches particular importance to the satisfactory preparation of the special session, it deems it necessary to state that it does not regard the present composition of the preparatory committee to be final, for it does not include such members of the community of the socialist countries, which play a consistent and important role in disarmament questions also in their capacity as active members of the Geneva Committee on disarmament. Precisely for this reason, it expresses the hope that the General Assembly will remedy this deficiency during its forthcoming thirty-second session.