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

Note verbale dated 7 June 1977 from the Permanent Mission of Surinam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Surinam to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, with reference to His Excellency's circular note No. OR 421/6(3) dated 28 January 1977 regarding the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament scheduled for May/June 1978 in New York, has the honour to inform the latter of the following views of the Surinam Government on the agenda and all other relevant questions relating to the special session.

Disarmament is of vital interest to all States. The Surinam Government, therefore, welcomes the special session as a forum where all States can consider and express their views on this important issue and consequently attaches great importance to the work to be done at the special session.

It is the view of the Surinam Government that the unbridled production, stockpiling of, and trade in conventional weapons, poses a serious threat to international peace and security and to the very existence of mankind. The unabated arms race not only menaces international peace and security but should be regarded as a regrettable waste of time, energy and resources in a world where poverty and hunger are still prevailing.

The Government of Surinam, furthermore, is firmly opposed to the production and use of nuclear arms and other weapons for mass-destruction. In accordance with its deeply felt conviction on this matter the Surinam Government recently ratified the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America, concluded at Mexico City on 14 February 1967 (Treaty of Tlatelolco) and Additional Protocol II of 1968 relating to it.

It is the opinion of the Government of Surinam that the special session should be aimed at practical, genuine and durable solutions in order to contain the further production and proliferation of arms and simultaneously at setting the process of general disarmament into motion. Given the limited period of the session,
participants should endeavour to make the most effective use of the time available. A lengthy general debate should therefore be avoided, as such a debate may result in hostile exchanges and statements of a predominantly propagandistic nature.

The Surinam Government suggests that the agenda of the special session include the following items:

I. The drawing up of a balance-sheet of weapons for mass-destruction and their locations;

II. Prohibition of research, production, stockpiling and proliferation of nuclear and other weapons for mass-destruction;

III. Cessation of all nuclear-weapon tests;

IV. Establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones and zones of peace;

V. The role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament.

Since the issues to be dealt with during the special session concern the very survival of mankind as a whole, the question of disarmament cannot be considered as regarding only a few powerful States, but as a matter of vital interest to all peoples of the world.

Hence one of the objectives of the special session should be that widest possible information be given with regard to the dangers of the arms race and the manner in which the session will be dealing with this problem.

Finally, the Surinam Government expresses its hope that the special session on disarmament will mark an important stage in the process of halting the arms race and the realization of the goal of world-wide disarmament.