For too long the issue of disarmament has been considered the special preserve of experts from two countries - the United States of America and the Soviet Union. The truth is that all countries are affected. Third world countries such as Barbados are continually exposed to dangerous radio-active fall-out and the effects of spoliation of the environment by those actively engaged in the arms race. Atmospheric and marine pollution on the one hand and disruption of the ecological balance on the other today represent a few of the major hazards. Such are the consequences of the arms race.

Third world countries suffer directly or indirectly from these consequences of the arms race and must be allowed to bring their perspective to bear upon these serious problems. The economy of Barbados like that of small States depending on a tourist industry could be seriously disrupted by the kind of environmental pollution which experimenters in arms development have caused over the years.

The investment of large sums of money, vast quantities of technology and skill in the manufacture of weapons of mass destruction represent gross misuse of the world's resources in an era of scarcity. Not only does it pose serious danger to life, limb and health but it diverts resources more needed in the eradication of poverty to the useless exercise of increasing weapons of mass destruction.

The Government of Barbados' opinion is that nuclear disarmament must be given the highest priority on the agenda. The Government of Barbados enthusiastically welcomes the United Nations special session on disarmament. We recognize that the absence of political will has so far not enabled the establishment of an international authority to guarantee the security of every country. We look forward however to a solution of the disarmament problem. We consider the diversion of resources from the creation of armaments to the satisfaction of the basic needs of the developing nations would be a positive step in this direction. We further consider the mobilization of world opinion in favour of disarmament as necessary to this end.