Public information activities in connexion with the special session
of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

At the request of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the
General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament, the Secretariat is presenting below a
tentative outline of public information activities envisaged in connexion with the
forthcoming special session on disarmament.

Centre for Disarmament

1. A systematized retrieval and dissemination of information on disarmament and
related questions has been organized in the Centre and the first visible result
will be the United Nations Yearbook on Disarmament for 1976 (see General Assembly
resolution 31/90), which will be issued in October 1977. The Yearbook is intended
to provide those who work on disarmament questions with a relevant source of
officially available information. A special effort is planned to present the
1977 Yearbook on Disarmament in time for the special session, although possibly
not in printed form and in all languages.

2. A second information project, the Disarmament Bulletin, may be established by
the General Assembly at its thirty-second session in 1977 (see General Assembly
resolution 31/90). The Bulletin is intended to present, three times a year,
information on disarmament issues "in highly readable form" and should, therefore,
give a wider public and accurate picture of the problems and progress in the field.
If the General Assembly decides to establish the Bulletin, the Centre will make a
special effort to have the first issue ready for the special session.

3. The Secretary-General's report, prepared under General Assembly resolution
3462 (XXX) with the assistance of qualified consultant experts, entitled "Economic
and social consequences of the arms race and military expenditures" is ready and
will be issued as a General Assembly document during the first days of
September 1977. It is expected that, as in the past, the General Assembly at its
thirty-second session may request the Secretary-General to arrange for the
production of the report as a United Nations publication and to give it the widest
possible publicity in as many languages as is considered desirable and practicable.
If the General Assembly makes such a request, it will be implemented in time for
the special session.

4. Another report by the Secretary-General, under General Assembly resolution
31/87, prepared with the assistance of qualified experts and dealing with the
question of the reduction of military budgets, will also be before the General
Assembly at the thirty-second session which may decide to give the report wide
publicity.

5. The working papers prepared by the Secretariat at the request of the
Preparatory Committee for the special session, providing information concerning
disarmament, have been sent to the depository libraries and to the United Nations
information centres and they are available to the public at large, together with
all the other documents relating to the preparation of the special session.

6. The Centre for Disarmament will continue to provide staff for briefings and
lectures in connexion with activities of the Visitors' Section of the United Nations
and at the request of universities, non-governmental organizations and other bodies.

7. The activities described above will not require specific appropriations in
connexion with the special session, since they are or will be financed from the
regular budget of the United Nations.

Office of Public Information 1/

Pre-session information activities

A. Press and publications

1. Publications

(a) A leaflet containing the statement by the Secretary-General at the
opening of the Preparatory Committee for the special session.

(b) A brochure providing background information on United Nations activities
on disarmament and the purpose of the special session in United Nations
official languages as well as in various other languages.*

(c) A brochure on the economic and social consequences of the arms race,
containing highlights of the Secretary-General's report on the same
subject.

1/ Activities for which there are no funds available and which should be
provided for are indicated with an asterisk.
(d) A "question and answer" leaflet on the same subject as above.

(e) A special chapter on the special session in the leaflet, "Suggestions for Speakers".

(f) A list of documents relating to the subject-matter of the special session for the information of correspondents accredited to the United Nations and for distribution through United Nations information centres.

(g) Fact sheets on various aspects of United Nations activities on disarmament.

(h) Background press releases, explaining the purpose of convening the special session.

2. **Press conferences**

   To assist in holding press conferences by the President of the special session, the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, delegations and officials of the Secretariat.

3. **UN Monthly Chronicle**

   A signed article will be published in the *UN Monthly Chronicle* before the special session.

### B. Audio-visual services

1. Radio and television coverage will be provided for activities relating to the session, including press conferences and briefings.

2. In its weekly feature programmes *Perspective* and *Scope* as well as in news and broadcast programmes, in a variety of languages, the Radio Service will include material relating to the forthcoming session.

3. A special exhibition to be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York during the session.*

4. To release a documentary film on the subject of nuclear disarmament.

5. To release an animated film on the arms race.

6. To produce (together with the Publishing Division, Department of Conference Services) a special poster for wide distribution (in several languages).*

### C. United Nations information centres

1. A special circular memorandum will be sent to all directors of information centres, drawing their attention to the preparations for the session.

2. All relevant documentation and information materials will be sent to information centres for their use and further distribution.

...
D. Co-operation with non-governmental organizations

Special briefings on the session will be conducted for non-governmental organizations at Headquarters and at the United Nations Geneva Office.

E. Other

The editors' round-table discussions will focus on disarmament and the special session. The Centre for Economic and Social Information (CESI) intends to devote several projects to the subject of "Disarmament and Development". Issues relating to disarmament and the special session might also be taken up by the CESI Development Information meeting and the World Development Information Day Encounter.

In-session activities

1. OPI media and functional Divisions will provide intensive coverage for the session by all available means at its disposal. This will include issuing press releases, holding briefings for the press and for non-governmental organizations, organizing interviews with delegates, providing adequate visual and radio coverage, including live radio-broadcasts, etc.

2. The network of United Nations information centres will not only be involved in the dissemination of materials but also in encouraging local initiatives to arouse public opinion in support of disarmament. With this aim, they will use the information media and other available channels of communication to reach wide segments of the population, including educational institutions, non-governmental organizations and others.

Post-session information activities

A multi-media information programme, based on the results of the special session will be worked out by OPI in co-operation with the Centre for Disarmament. It will include inter alia:

(a) A special pamphlet reflecting the work, decisions and recommendations of the session.

(b) The results of the session's deliberations will be published in the UN Monthly Chronicle.

(c) Radio programmes reflecting the discussions and results of the session.

(d) A special round-up press release for the use of information media.

(e) To ensure effective publicity displays of various United Nations visual material, including publications, photos, etc., in collaboration with non-governmental organizations concerned, will be mounted in all information centres.

/...
(f) United Nations Day Student Leaflet on Disarmament.

Financial implications of items included in the description of public information activities in connexion with the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament

The Office of Public Information will absorb within its work programme most of the work and costs of the activities listed in Conference Room Paper No. 3. However, because they fall outside the normal scope of OPI resources, certain specific items will have additional financial implications as follows:

Pre-session information activities

Item A. 1 (b)

While OPI will produce the brochure in the working languages, additional funds are needed to allow for the translation and publication in a variety of languages of this text for dissemination by the information centres. Among the languages are: Amharic, Dari, Dutch, Greek, Hebrew, Hungarian, Indonesian, Italian, Malagasy, Persian, Pidgin, Pilipino, Polish, Pushtu, Romanian, Serbo-Croat, Singalese, Thai, Turkish, Urdu and several other languages. $15,000

Item B. 3

A small sum is required to cover external services in connexion with the display panels and the preparation of captions which cannot be done in the house. 2,000

Item B. 6

Production costs of a poster in two to three colours, printed in several languages. The design of the emblem and the artistic work would be done in co-operation with the Department of Conference Services. 12,000

Post-session information activities

Item (a)

In the same manner as for the pre-session brochure, OPI would produce the post-session pamphlet in the working languages but would require funds for its translation, printing and dissemination into all the other languages. The pamphlet is expected to be larger in volume than the brochure. 26,000

Item (e)

An amount is needed for the reproduction into the required number of copies of the photos and other display materials, for the provision of captions in various languages and for the shipment by surface, or where necessary, by air freight of the display materials. 10,000

Total ........ $65,000