Letter dated 12 April 1977 from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, with reference to his communication UN 421/6 (3) of 28 January 1977, takes pleasure in attaching hereto a text setting forth the views of the Spanish Government pursuant to operative paragraph 3 of resolution 31/189 B, in which the General Assembly invited all Member States to communicate to the Secretary-General their views on the agenda and all other relevant questions relating to the special session of the General Assembly.
COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS CONCERNING THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Spanish Government attaches great importance to the work on disarmament to be done at the special session of the United Nations General Assembly to be held in May/June 1978.

Accordingly, and in connexion with the provisions of resolution 31/189 B, it wishes to submit for the consideration of Member States the following comments and suggestions:

1. In the view of the Spanish Government, the agenda should place special emphasis on the consideration of practical measures that would effectively help to curb the arms race and establish a climate propitious to the development of a programme aimed at achieving general and complete disarmament under effective international control.

It is therefore important that one of the agenda items should provide an opportunity for careful consideration and eventual adoption of the drafts prepared by United Nations organs which are sufficiently mature.

Clearly, a general debate should be held. In addition, it would be advisable to adopt a declaration reflecting the feelings of Member States and containing recommendations that would help to bring about progress with regard to disarmament. It might be useful for the Assembly to consider the methods which have been used thus far to obtain positive results in connexion with disarmament and the appropriate forums for that purpose.

2. In the view of the Spanish Government, the topics to be discussed by the General Assembly should include the following priority questions:

   (a) The horizontal and vertical proliferation of nuclear weapons;
   (b) The problem of new types of especially deadly weapons;
   (c) The elimination of chemical weapons;
   (d) The establishment of denuclearized zones;
   (e) The problems relating to the security of non-nuclear countries;
   (f) The possibility of initiating multilateral negotiations with a view to preparing a treaty on general and complete disarmament under effective international control, and the continuation of efforts aimed at making it possible to convene a World Disarmament Conference.

3. With regard to the methods of work of the special session of the Assembly, it might be advisable to appoint ad hoc groups composed of a limited number of countries, although the various geographical groups should be represented therein, as well as the nuclear-weapon States. These ad hoc groups could be instructed to consider very specific points, with a view to preparing proposals for subsequent discussion in the plenary meeting.