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

First and second sessions

SUMMARY RECORDS OF THE 1st TO 14th MEETINGS

Held at Headquarters, New York, from 28 March to 20 May 1977

Corrigendum

The present corrigendum contains delegation and Secretariat corrections applying to the English text of the summary records of the meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament at its first and second sessions (A/AC.187/SR.1-14).

With the issuance of the present corrigendum, the summary records of the above-mentioned meetings are to be considered final.

3rd meeting

Paragraphs 6 and 7

Replace the paragraphs by the following:

6. In the matter of working procedure, the Preparatory Committee should be guided by the experience of other major United Nations bodies. Certain United Nations committees, as well as the sixth and seventh special sessions of the General Assembly, had applied the principle of consensus. It was particularly desirable to apply that principle when discussing the problems of arms limitation and disarmament, which affected the interests of all peoples. Since the constructive co-operation of all States would be required in order to ensure the success of the special session, the Preparatory Committee should set an example by continuing to work on the basis of consensus.
7. The delegation of the German Democratic Republic had serious reservations regarding the participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Committee. General Assembly resolution 31/189 B, under which the Committee had been set up, referred only to States. Only States Members of the United Nations were invited to transmit their views regarding the special session to the Secretary-General. Furthermore, the question of the participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of United Nations organs was governed by the Charter. Moreover, there were so many different non-governmental organizations that their participation was virtually impossible.

6th meeting

Paragraph 10

Replace the eighth sentence by the following:

The bilateral Soviet-United States negotiations should play an important role in containing the arms race as in the case of the limitation of strategic arms.

7th meeting

Paragraph 22

Replace the second sentence by the following:

Soma maintained that the holding of that Conference would not be a realistic solution because of the opposition of certain Powers. Recent history has provided many examples of the achievement of goals which had seemed unrealistic a few years earlier. When a number of countries proposed holding a European Conference on Security and Co-operation, for some the proposal had also seemed to be unrealistic; later, however, it was possible to hold the conference. It should be pointed out that the political climate in Europe had improved considerably in recent times and that any progress achieved in the field of disarmament would surely accelerate the process of détente.

8th meeting

Paragraph 20, line 1

For 1961 read 1971

Paragraph 22

Replace the paragraph by the following:

22. It was a fact that the first partial results in the area of arms limitation and disarmament already existed in the form of bilateral and multilateral
agreements. On the other hand, the arms race continued to an increasing extent and the danger of a world war was not eliminated.

Paragraph 31, line 4

After way of life, add and even the lives themselves,

Paragraph 34, line 12

For Similarly, read In this regard,

9th meeting

Paragraph 38

Replace the penultimate sentence by the following:

Never before in the history of evolution had man possessed the means of destroying all life on earth and the mad logic to justify it.

Paragraph 39

Line 9: after negotiations add which were incorporated the following year in the McCoy-Zorin Agreement.

At the end of the paragraph add the following:

The special session should deal with nuclear disarmament as a matter of high priority rather than attempt to find answers to all questions. The special session might not be able to do more than stimulate action in certain positive directions. Depending on its outcome, it might become necessary to hold a series of such special sessions culminating in a world disarmament conference.

Paragraph 40

Replace the last sentence by the following:

Since a nuclear war posed a threat to the very survival of mankind, non-nuclear weapon States, particularly the non-aligned could play the role of a non-reacting catalytic agent in disarmament negotiations between the super Powers. However, as all States had a legitimate interest in the outcome of disarmament negotiations between nuclear weapon States, the negotiating machinery should be equipped with conciliatory procedures by which the non-involved States could play a useful role, when necessary.

/...
Paragraph 41

Replace the last sentence by the following:
The concept of a surprise nuclear attack should be outlawed. Among other confidence-building measures for improving the climate of international peace and security, the two draft treaties on disarmament proposed by the United States of America and the Soviet Union in 1962 should be revised and updated by the authors for the special session.

14th meeting

Paragraph 6

At the end of the paragraph add the following:

While it would be necessary for Governments to bear responsibility for decisions in the field of disarmament, the delegation of the United States of America believed that support and ideas should be sought from all available sources. In particular, it believed that private and non-governmental organizations and national and international research institutes could make significant contributions. It hoped such bodies would use their talent and energies to develop ideas for the special session.