Thirty-fourth session
FIRST COMMITTEE
Agenda items 42 and 45

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS
ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Letter dated 31 October 1979 from the Permanent Representatives
of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden to the United
Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit to you herewith a memorandum stating the views
of the five Nordic countries on the question of non-proliferation of nuclear
weapons, thereby expressing in particular their concern over the development and
achievement of nuclear explosive capability by any additional State or States.

We should be grateful if this letter and the memorandum could be circulated
as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 42 and 45.

(Signed) Wilh. ULRICHSEN
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of Denmark to the United Nations

(Signed) Ilkka Olavi PASTINEN
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
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(Signed) Tómas Á. TÓMASSON
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
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(Signed) Ole ÅGÅRD
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
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(Signed) Anders THUNBORG
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
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ANNEX

Memorandum on the question of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons

1. The Nordic countries attach the greatest importance to measures that enhance international peace, the security of States and prospects for social and economic development, keeping particularly in mind the interests and needs of the developing countries.

2. The achievement of these objectives would best be served by continuous efforts of all States towards ending and reversing the arms race, in particular the nuclear arms race. The nuclear-weapon States have the primary responsibility for ending the arms race and initiating nuclear disarmament measures as stated in the Final Document of the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament and in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The two States engaged in the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks should secure early and effective implementation of the treaty recently signed. Negotiations with a view to achieving further limitations and significant reductions of nuclear arsenals should continue. The speedy conclusion of a treaty banning all nuclear-weapon tests and further efforts to achieve effective international arrangements to ensure the strengthening of the security of non-nuclear-weapon States would greatly contribute to the realization of these objectives.

3. It is widely accepted that non-proliferation policies do not and should not jeopardize the right of any State to develop its programmes for peaceful non-explosive uses of nuclear energy provided that it accepts effective non-proliferation restraints. As is mentioned in the Final Document of the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, all States can and should take effective measures to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons at the national level as well as through joint international action.

4. The Non-Proliferation Treaty remains the most effective instrument available against the danger of proliferation of nuclear weapons. The vast majority of the international community is already party to the NPT. The continuing significance of the Treaty is manifested by the recently increased adherence to it. The Nordic countries welcome this positive trend. It is their firm conviction that an early adherence to the NPT by the largest possible number of additional States and their effective participation in the second review conference of the Treaty would markedly strengthen the non-proliferation efforts. The application of efficient safeguards by the International Atomic Energy Agency is an indispensable element in the non-proliferation efforts. Specifically acceptance by all non-nuclear-weapon States of IAEA safeguards on all their nuclear activities would enhance international trust and confidence that nuclear-weapons proliferation will not take place. Full support should be given to the Agency in its work to improve the efficiency and to widen the coverage of its safeguards system. Such support would also improve the security of all States and promote their right to participate...
in international co-operation for the peaceful uses of nuclear technology without the danger of its diversion to military purposes.

5. In the light of these fundamental objectives and their firm adherence to the NPT, the Nordic countries wish to emphasize their conviction that the development and achievement of nuclear explosive capability by any additional State or States would pose a grave threat to the international community as a whole and also be detrimental to the efforts to promote international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. It is their strongly held hope that no non-nuclear-weapon State will attempt to develop or otherwise acquire nuclear explosive capability and that all States will do their utmost to enhance international confidence and trust so that nuclear weapons proliferation to additional States will not take place. Such confidence and trust are essential for the security of States and international peace. The co-operation in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy can best be developed by removing the fears of proliferation of nuclear weapons.