Twelfth special session
Agenda items 9 and 11

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

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION OF THE 1980s AS THE SECOND DISARMAMENT
DECADE AND CONSIDERATION OF INITIATIVES AND PROPOSALS OF MEMBER STATES

Prevention of nuclear war

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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REPLEYS RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

JAPAN

[Original: English]
[7 July 1982]

1. The Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly states that the existence of nuclear weapons and the continuing arms race pose an unprecedented threat to the very survival of mankind. The Government of Japan is deeply concerned about the massive stockpiles of nuclear weapons already in existence, which together can destroy the world many times over, and is of the view that we should use every means and avail ourselves of every opportunity to prevent a nuclear war from ever occurring.

2. As the Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Zenko Suzuki, stated on 9 June at a plenary meeting of the twelfth special session of the General Assembly, Japan, which alone has experienced the horror of nuclear weapons, is determined to act in accordance with its Constitution, which declares peace to be a national commitment, by continuing to observe its three non-nuclear principles of not possessing nuclear weapons, not producing them and not permitting their introduction into Japan, and by speaking out as a State party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons about the necessity of disarmament, and in particular nuclear disarmament.

3. This determination is rooted in the earnest aspiration of the Japanese people that a nuclear holocaust will never be allowed to occur again. The Government of Japan is convinced that this aspiration is shared by all the people of the world.

4. In order to realize this common aspiration of mankind, the Government of Japan considers it essential that all States, and especially those States possessing nuclear weapons, try to establish a balance of power at progressively lower levels by adopting one by one effective measures of disarmament, particularly of nuclear disarmament. In this respect, it must be stressed that the nuclear-weapon States, and particularly the two major nuclear Powers, should realize that they bear a special responsibility for nuclear disarmament. It is also to be stressed that continuing efforts on their part to promote genuine disarmament are absolutely crucial if there is ever to be general and complete disarmament, and the total elimination of nuclear weapons, which all mankind so earnestly desires.

5. The Government of Japan considers essential measures in the field of nuclear disarmament such as the following: substantial promotion of the strategic arms limitation talks and the negotiations on the intermediate-range nuclear forces between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; the early conclusion of a comprehensive test-ban treaty; the strengthening of the non-proliferation régime; and the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in areas in which appropriate conditions exist.

6. Concerning the proposed commitment regarding the non-use of nuclear weapons, in view of the undeniable reality that the peace and security of the international
community is ensured by an over-all balance of power in both nuclear and conventional weapons, the Government of Japan believes that full consideration must be given to the question of the effectiveness of such a commitment and its implications for the security of Member States.

7. It goes without saying that the compliance of all Member States with the Charter of the United Nations which serves as a set of fundamental guidelines for relations among nations, is essential if wars, conventional as well as nuclear, are to be prevented.

8. For these reasons, the Government of Japan is convinced that the most effective way to establish a solid foundation for efforts to prevent nuclear war is to promote disarmament, and in particular nuclear disarmament. It is therefore determined to make every effort to achieve this end through such multilateral forums as the United Nations and the Committee on Disarmament.