Twelfth session
Item 13 (b) of the provisional agenda*

MEASURES TO MOBILIZE WORLD PUBLIC OPINION IN FAVOUR OF DISARMAMENT

World Disarmament Campaign

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

CONTENTS

REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

Czechoslovakia ......................................................... 2
Denmark ........................................................................... 3
Hungary ......................................................................... 4
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics ................................. 5
Yugoslavia ..................................................................... 5

* A/S-12/10.
1. Czechoslovakia has actively participated in a number of disarmament negotiations in which it did its utmost to contribute to the achievement of tangible progress. Czechoslovakia is of the view that it is first of all radical steps in the field of weapons of mass destruction, including chemical ones, which can bring mankind to general and complete disarmament. The current complicated situation in the world, however, does not offer a realistic hope that this objective will be achieved in a foreseeable future. That is why it is necessary to appeal to the world public opinion and to the Governments of individual States and to promote the ideas of disarmament by means of negotiations on the basis of the principles of equality and equal security. A substantial contribution to that objective can be made also by the world disarmament campaign under the auspices of the United Nations. The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic fully supports projects of this kind, because they contribute to a deeper understanding of the purpose and the necessity of disarmament. In their way they help to create suitable conditions for disarmament negotiations. They play an irreplaceable role in mobilizing world public opinion against war, for peace and the security of nations. Another reason why Czechoslovakia welcomes the implementation of the world disarmament campaign is that it can help to stem a further deterioration of the international climate, an escalation of the arms race and the breaking up of normal relations between States.

2. Czechoslovakia believes that in the implementation of the world disarmament campaign use should be made, apart from other documents, of the Declaration on International Co-operation for Disarmament adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session in 1979. This Declaration represents a certain code of conduct for States in disarmament negotiations and indicates the principles on the basis of which such negotiations should be conducted. The timeliness of the Declaration remains unchanged. On the contrary, it has even grown in the current aggravated international climate. This was highlighted also by the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly when it adopted the resolution on international co-operation for disarmament (resolution 36/92 D). The resolution points out the importance of the Declaration for the successful holding of the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament and, especially, in the implementation of its decisions.

3. The financing of the world disarmament campaign under the auspices of the United Nations should, in Czechoslovakia's view, be undertaken on the basis of voluntary membership contributions by individual States.
DENMARK

[Original: English]

[26 May 1982]

1. Denmark welcomes the report of the Secretary-General containing the study on a World Disarmament Campaign (A/36/458). The Danish Government shares the view expressed in the study that the general purpose of a World Disarmament Campaign under the auspices of the United Nations would be to mobilize public opinion with regard to disarmament, addressing the priorities for disarmament in accordance with the final document of the first special session on disarmament and being carried out in all regions of the world in a balanced, factual and objective manner.

2. Denmark endorses the view that the implementation of a World Disarmament Campaign would require a continuing co-operative effort from the United Nations system, Member States and governmental and non-governmental organizations.

3. Denmark considers that the study submitted by the Secretary-General provides a very useful contribution to the further deliberations on the issue which are anticipated in connexion with or during the second special session devoted to disarmament.

4. As stressed in the study, the United Nations system should play a major role in taking initiatives, co-ordinating and guiding a campaign. These responsibilities should mainly be confided to the Centre for Disarmament which should, inter alia, increase its activities in diverse fields of information and act as an over-all co-ordinator with regard to the various activities carried out under such a campaign. As is emphasized in the study, a campaign should be carried out to the largest extent possible within existing United Nations resources and without hampering other activities in the operative field of disarmament.

5. Efforts by Governments as well as by non-governmental organizations in accordance with the objective of a campaign should be considered important elements in a World Disarmament Campaign. While recognizing the responsibility of Governments to provide factual information and support to the efforts of non-governmental organizations, the activities of the latter would constitute most important contributions to the success of a campaign.

6. The Danish Government, for its part, has for many years issued an annual report on developments in the disarmament negotiations. Last year a new body - the Danish Commission on Security and Disarmament Affairs - was created with the specific purpose, among other things, to inform about disarmament and to support research and information in this field. Furthermore, the Government financially supports the Danish United Nations association and other non-governmental organizations interested in the subject. Such activities should be considered an integral part of a campaign and might be carried out by all Member States.

7. The Danish Government attaches great importance to the existence of well-informed public opinion with regard to disarmament issues. Such issues are clearly of importance to all people and should in all regions of the world be...
subject to a free and open opinion-making process based on factual and objective information. In this respect, a World Disarmament Campaign with appropriate modalities could play a major role.

HUNGARY

[Original: English]

[19 May 1982]

1. The Government of the Hungarian People's Republic considers that in the present international situation, characterized as it is by a growing danger of nuclear war arising from the step-up and escalation of the arms race, the statements made at the tenth special session of the General Assembly, contained in the Final Document of that session, calling attention to the importance of mobilizing world public opinion in support of disarmament, are of particular validity and timeliness.

2. Resolution 36/92 C, on a world disarmament campaign, and resolution 36/92 J, on a world-wide action for collecting signatures in support of measures to prevent nuclear war, to curb the arms race and for disarmament, adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session, are of great importance to mobilizing world public opinion for curbing the arms race and for disarmament.

3. The Government of the Hungarian People's Republic supports the idea of organizing a world disarmament campaign and the general objectives formulated in the study prepared with the assistance of experts on the organization of a world disarmament campaign, namely, that the campaign would be designed to mobilize public opinion on behalf of disarmament through dissemination of information, education for disarmament, and generating public understanding of and support for disarmament, to provide factual information about the growing threat of the arms race and its economic and social consequences, and to explain to the public the role of disarmament in eliminating the danger of war. It seems important that the United Nations and its specialized agencies, as well as the Member States and non-governmental organizations, should actively participate in efforts to realize the said objectives. It agrees with the statement of the study that the campaign should be carried out within existing United Nations resources by making a more rational use thereof.

4. Guided by the principles and objectives set forth in the Final Document adopted by the tenth special session of the General Assembly and in the study on a world disarmament campaign, the Government of the Hungarian People's Republic will continue to do its utmost for disarmament and to lend every support to the related activities of social and mass organizations. The work done in this field by the Government of the Hungarian People's Republic and its social and mass organizations is outlined in the reply of the Hungarian Government addressed to the Secretary-General on 12 May 1981 concerning the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace (see A/36/388).
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

[Original: Russian]
[9 April 1982]

(See document A/S-12/15)

YUGOSLAVIA

[Original: English]
[28 May 1982]

1. The Government of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia expresses its satisfaction at the launching of concrete actions by the United Nations to establish a substantial and effective programme for informing and educating world public opinion on the indispensability of halting of the arms race and taking urgent measures to eliminate the stockpiles of all kinds of weapons. Since this campaign is aimed at mobilizing world public opinion on behalf of disarmament and preventing the outbreak of war, the Government of Yugoslavia renders it its full support.

2. The Government of Yugoslavia shares the view that, inter alia, the United Nations study on the World Disarmament Campaign and recommendations contained in it represent a natural reaction of the international community to the highly alarming situation in the field of disarmament and to the growing threat of an outbreak of a conflict with unforeseeable consequences for human society. We are witnessing a lack of, or a total stagnation in, the multilateral and bilateral negotiations on disarmament. On the other hand, it cannot be said that stagnation is a characteristic feature of the arms race. The arms race is continuing at a growing scale and momentum, attended by a multitude of adverse effects on peace and security, endangering even the very survival of mankind.

3. Accepting, basically, the recommendations contained in the study, the Government of Yugoslavia wishes to stress the specific importance of guidelines aimed at organizing and implementing the World Disarmament Campaign.

4. Regardless of the method which will be applied in organizing the campaign, ensuring of a timely and objective presentation of the arms race in the materials intended to popularize disarmament objectives is of foremost importance.

5. Within the framework of the campaign, particular emphasis should be laid on the need for disseminating information, on as wide a basis as possible, so as to inform world public opinion of great imbalance in the resources spent on weapons, on the one hand, and those allocated as assistance to the underdeveloped countries, on the other. All nations of the world have the right to be informed about all aspects of the arms race and, thereby, to be able to influence their own destiny. They have the right to be informed about the enormous expenditure on the senseless arms race conducted, first and foremost, by the two super-Powers, the victims of
which are all States. They also have the right to know that, essentially, nothing has been done to improve such a situation, and that an urgent curbing of the arms race and taking of disarmament measures are essential for the survival of all. However, under the conditions of better understanding of disarmament by all nations, the great Powers have less opportunity to manipulate public opinion. Therefore, allocation of the necessary resources in such a campaign would result in manifold benefit for all countries provided that this enhanced the launching of the process of genuine disarmament, thus ensuring conditions for reallocating considerable funds from non-productive to areas serving development needs.

6. The Government of Yugoslavia considers that the World Disarmament Campaign should not be limited simply to reporting on actions undertaken in the field of disarmament, but it should be oriented towards rousing the conscience of all nations of the world as to the indispensability of disarmament, i.e. that there is no alternative to general and complete disarmament in the future. Consequently, the engagement of the United Nations should be extensive and on a long-term basis, keeping in compliance with the central role which the world Organization plays in this field.

7. The Government of Yugoslavia considers that the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament constitutes an excellent opportunity to devote the greatest possible attention to this important question and to consider the possibilities for an effective and organized co-ordination of national programmes of the World Disarmament Campaign under the auspices of the United Nations, i.e. to adopt a programme which would serve as guidelines for this activity at the international level.