Twelfth special session
Agenda item 13 (b)

MEASURES TO MOBILIZE WORLD PUBLIC OPINION IN FAVOUR OF DISARMAMENT

World Disarmament Campaign

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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1. It has been the consistent view of the Government of India that constant progress towards general and complete disarmament needs to be maintained. An active and aroused world public opinion, conscious of the grave dangers posed by the arms race, particularly the nuclear arms race, serves this cause. The survival of mankind, achievement of lasting world peace, and the emergence of a new, just international economic order is not possible to achieve in the absence of nuclear disarmament.

2. In order that it may effectively serve the cause of disarmament, the proposed world disarmament campaign should concentrate on basics, on which there exists an international consensus. Only through such an approach can the right ideas be promoted, and the wrong notions, spread by powerful vested interests in the arms race, be dispelled. The proposed world disarmament campaign should not lend its support, even by implication, to the deterrence and other theories which essentially seek to rationalize the continued development, production and stockpiling of nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction and to justify their use in certain situations.

3. The proposed world disarmament campaign must make it clear that the international community has unequivocally pronounced through various repeated resolutions of the General Assembly and the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament adopted in 1978, that the goal of all disarmament efforts should be the achievement of general and complete disarmament under effective international control, with the highest priority being accorded to the elimination from the arsenals of all nations of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction.

4. The proposed world disarmament campaign should also stress the two positive, fundamental gains that have been achieved through the continued striving of the international community and which will greatly help the ongoing efforts of the international community for the cause of disarmament: (a) the recognition that the United Nations has the central role and primary responsibility in the field of disarmament; (b) the evolution of a machinery for disarmament which provides for both international deliberations and negotiations on disarmament. Above all, the principle of multilateral negotiations on disarmament has been firmly established. In the history of the disarmament efforts made by the world, an unprecedented development is that a single multilateral negotiating body has already been functioning for two decades. It has been preparing itself during this period to face the vital and critical challenges and tasks that lie ahead.

5. It is India's view that the proposed world disarmament campaign should not be used to propagate erroneous notions, flawed concepts, or unequal and discriminatory treaties. The cause of disarmament cannot be advanced through such attempts.

6. The arms race has complicated the process of stabilizing the international monetary system, aggravated the balance-of-payment problems and distorted the
desired evolution of healthy international exchange in a period of growing economic interdependence. The proposed world disarmament campaign should, therefore, underline the economic and social consequences of the arms race and stress the essential link between disarmament and development, so that the world public opinion accepts the need for channelling a substantial portion of the resources released by measures of arms limitation and disarmament for the accelerated economic and social development of the developing countries.

7. As a testimony of the importance attached by the Government of India to the mobilization of World Public Opinion through a World Disarmament Campaign in the service of the cause of disarmament, they have already announced a contribution of Rs. 1 million for this Campaign.

MONGOLIA

[Original: Russian]
[11 June 1982]

See document A/S-12/15/Add.1.