Twelfth special session
AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE
TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION
Agenda item 13

MEASURES TO MOBILIZE WORLD PUBLIC OPINION IN FAVOUR OF DISARMAMENT

Note verbale dated 23 June 1982 from the Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of the Mongolian People's Republic to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to transmit herewith a working paper on the Week Devoted to Fostering the Objectives of Disarmament.

It would be appreciated if this document were circulated as an official document of the twelfth special session of the General Assembly under agenda item 13.

* Re-issued for technical reasons.
ANNEX

Working paper

1. In its Final Document, the tenth special session of the General Assembly (devoted to disarmament) proclaimed the week starting 24 October, the day of the foundation of the United Nations, as a week devoted to fostering the objectives of disarmament.

2. That decision, adopted by the General Assembly as a concrete measure aimed at mobilizing world public opinion in favour of the struggle to strengthen peace, preserve and deepen international détente, end the arms race and achieve disarmament, was widely supported by the international community.

3. General Assembly resolutions 33/71 D and 34/83 I, entitled "Disarmament Week", which were adopted by consensus at the General Assembly's thirty-third and thirty-fourth sessions and which indicate practical ways and means of implementing the special session's decision on the observance of a Week Devoted to Fostering the Objective of Disarmament, are of great importance. The adoption of those resolutions by the General Assembly and the measures taken within the context of Disarmament Week reflect the desire of the world's peoples to put an end to the arms race and to effect concrete disarmament measures.

4. At its first substantive session of 1979, the Disarmament Commission stressed the important role of world public opinion in helping to solve the problems of disarmament and included in its recommendations to the General Assembly concerning elements of the Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament an item entitled "Implementation of the provisions contained in the Final Document intended to mobilize world public opinion in favour of disarmament".

5. In the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade, adopted on 3 December 1980 by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session, governmental and non-governmental information organs of Member States and those of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, as well as non-governmental organizations, are recommended to undertake during the decade further activities in the field of information relating to the danger of the arms race and the need to end it and to prevent nuclear disaster, as well as to disarmament efforts and negotiations and their results, particularly by means of annual activities conducted in connexion with Disarmament Week. Thus, the decision adopted at the special session has repeatedly been emphasized and confirmed in subsequent decisions of the General Assembly.

6. In the four years since the first special session devoted to disarmament, the Week Devoted to Fostering the Objectives of Disarmament has been widely celebrated annually throughout the world. A great number of activities and varied programmes, including symposia, seminars, conferences, publications, film presentations, photographic exhibitions, art exhibits, mass meetings, demonstrations, and the like, have been carried out in various countries. Governmental and non-governmental organizations of many States, the United Nations and its specialized agencies, and international non-governmental organizations participate actively in the observance of the Week.

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7. In conformity with General Assembly resolution 33/71 D, the Secretary-General has prepared a model programme to assist States in developing their local programmes for Disarmament Week.

8. It has become a tradition to hold annually a special meeting of the First Committee of the General Assembly devoted to the opening of Disarmament Week, at which messages from the President of the General Assembly at the session in progress and from the Secretary-General of the United Nations are read out. In his 1980 message, the Secretary-General called on all governmental and non-governmental organizations and the mass information media to help ensure that the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament becomes a landmark in the struggle for disarmament.

9. Many Governments are devoting a great deal of attention to extensive observances in their countries of the Week Devoted to Fostering the Objectives of Disarmament and, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 33/71 D and 34/83 I, are regularly informing the Secretary-General of the United Nations about the activities undertaken by them in connexion with the Week. Reports on the observance of the Week have been submitted annually to the Secretary-General at the sessions of the General Assembly, beginning with the thirty-fourth session.

10. The annual observance of Disarmament Week serves as an important means of mobilizing the public in the struggle against the growing threat of nuclear war, for ending the arms race and for disarmament and peace between peoples. The experience of the observance of such a Week over the past four years gives clear evidence of the need to continue and intensify United Nations activities aimed at mobilizing public opinion.

11. In the present difficult world situation, with a growing threat of war, all Governments and peoples bear a greater responsibility than ever before for the preservation of peace and the prevention of nuclear war. In this connexion, the mass movement of the public for peace and disarmament, with the participation of the most diverse political parties, public organizations and people holding a wide variety of views, has become the outstanding cause of our times in the countries of Europe and other regions of the world.

12. The Government of the Mongolian People's Republic believes that the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament must reaffirm the decision of the previous special session with regard to the annual observance of a Week Devoted to Fostering the Objectives of Disarmament and must declare itself in favour of the further active observance of such a Week as one of the most important means for waging the struggle for disarmament, peace and international security. In this connexion, it must be pointed out that the conduct of the World Disarmament Campaign and the organizing of a world-wide action to collect signatures in support of measures for averting nuclear war, curbing the arms race and promoting disarmament would significantly advance the broader and more active involvement of the world public and of governmental and non-governmental organizations in supporting the cause of disarmament."
13. The Mongolian People's Republic proposes that the document to be adopted by the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament should include specific items relating to the further observance of the Week Devoted to Fostering the Objectives of Disarmament.

14. In an attempt to facilitate the elaboration of appropriate items, the Mongolian People's Republic herewith submits the following formulating for consideration at the special session:

"The General Assembly notes with satisfaction that the decisions of the tenth special session of the General Assembly (devoted to disarmament) which relate to the mobilization of world public opinion in favour of disarmament, and in particular to the observance of a Week Devoted to Fostering the Objectives of Disarmament, are being successfully implemented. The experience gained in the annual observance of the Week Devoted to Fostering the Objectives of Disarmament over the past four years shows that it is an important means of mobilizing world public opinion for the struggle against the threat of nuclear war, for the ending of the arms race and for disarmament and peace between peoples. It is essential to continue to observe such a Week every year, to intensify the activities and the role of all Governments and of the United Nations and its specialized agencies in this connexion, in order to help avert the threat of nuclear war and promote the objectives of ending the arms race and implementing effective measures in the field of disarmament.

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