Twelfth special session
AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE TWELFTH
SPECIAL SESSION
Agenda items 9, 10 and 11

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

CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME OF DISARMAMENT

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

Letter dated 24 June 1982 from the Acting Chairman of the German
Democratic Republic to the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee of
the Twelfth Special Session

I have the honour to submit to you the working paper of the German Democratic
Republic entitled: "Obligation of States to contribute to effective disarmament
negotiations".

May I request you to arrange for that working paper to be circulated as a
document of the twelfth special session of the General Assembly under agenda
items 9, 10 and 11.

(Signed) Harold ROSE
Ambassador
Acting Head of Delegation
ANNEX

Working paper

Obligation of States to contribute to effective disarmament negotiations

1. With reference to General Assembly resolution S-10/2 of 30 June 1978, 34/83 C of 11 December 1979, 35/46 of 3 December 1980, 35/152 E of 12 December 1980 and 36/92 M of 9 December 1981, the German Democratic Republic proposes the following for inclusion in the decisions and recommendations of the twelfth special session:

"In order to ensure the speedy implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the tenth and twelfth special sessions, the General Assembly emphasizes the prominent responsibility of all States, in particular the nuclear-weapon States and other militarily significant States, to live up to their commitment undertaken in international instruments and conduct without preconditions serious negotiations in good faith on arms limitation and disarmament on the basis of equality and undiminished security."

"Current negotiations should be intensified, suspended negotiations resumed and new negotiations started on effective international agreements on items of highest priority."

2. In this proposal the German Democratic Republic is guided by the considerations set forth below:

3. Since the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, threats to peace have been increased. The objectives set forth in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session as well as in the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade have yet to be fulfilled. The appeals of the General Assembly for implementation of the recommendations and decisions of the tenth special session by disarmament negotiations were not heeded by all States.

4. The new strong impulses which are expected to be produced by the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament presuppose sincere and intensive support by all States. Negotiations are an urgent necessity, particularly in times of aggravated international tensions. This is the only way possible to prevent a further exacerbation of military confrontation and to safeguard peace by means of serious and effective negotiations on the basis of equality and undiminished security.

5. The participation of the States in disarmament negotiations with the aim of achieving tangible results corresponds to their fundamental obligation to contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security. This is endorsed and spelled out in valid international treaties and other basic documents:

   (a) Paragraph 28 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session states that "all the peoples of the world have a vital interest in the success of disarmament negotiations. Consequently, all States have the duty to contribute to efforts in the field of disarmament" (resolution S-10/2, sect. III, para. 28).
(b) The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons reads in article VI: "Each of the parties to the Treaty undertakes to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control" (resolution 2373 (XXII) art. VI).

(c) This relates also to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water; it relates to the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and on the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof; to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction; to the Treaty on the Bases of Relations between the USSR and the United States; and to the Joint Statement of Principles and Basic Guidelines for Subsequent Negotiations on the Limitation of Strategic Arms, which was concluded in 1979 and which states that the United States and the Soviet Union are "convinced that early agreement on the further limitation and further reduction of strategic arms would serve to strengthen international peace and security and to reduce the risk of outbreak of nuclear war" (A/34/27, appendix III, vol. I, document CD/28, p. 14).

(d) A firm commitment of States to conduct serious negotiations on arms limitation and disarmament to fulfill the decisions and recommendations of the first and second special sessions devoted to disarmament as well as those contained in other basic documents would correspond to the demands of numerous member States expressed during the general debate at the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.