Twelfth special session
AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE
TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION
Agenda items 11 and 13

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

MEASURES TO MOBILIZE WORLD PUBLIC OPINION IN FAVOUR
OF DISARMAMENT

Letter dated 24 June 1982 from the First Deputy Foreign Minister
and Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of a document entitled
"World-wide action for collecting signatures in support of measures to prevent
nuclear war, to curb the arms race and for disarmament" (General Assembly
resolution 36/92 J).

May I request you to have the text of this document, attached hereto,
distributed as an official document of the twelfth special session of the General
Assembly of the United Nations under agenda items 11 and 13.

(Signed) Boris TSVETKOV
Ambassador
First Deputy Foreign Minister
Permanent Representative to
the United Nations
ANNEX

World-wide action for collecting signatures in support of measures to prevent nuclear war, to curb the arms race and for disarmament

(General Assembly resolution 36/92 J)

1. The tenth special session of the General Assembly recognized the important positive role which world public opinion can play in support of measures to curb the arms race and for disarmament. The Final Document of the session stressed the need for concrete measures to mobilize public opinion along these lines.

2. The General Assembly, at its regular sessions, considered a number of proposals submitted by Member States on implementing this recommendation. Thus, at its thirty-sixth session, the Assembly adopted resolution 36/92 J on world-wide action for collecting signatures in support of measures to prevent nuclear war, to curb the arms race and for disarmament. This question will be considered at the present special session under agenda item 13, entitled "Measures to mobilize world public opinion in favour of disarmament".

3. The significance of the measure, envisaged in resolution 36/92 J, is determined by a number of factors.

4. The present actions of world public in support of the objectives of the second special session devoted to disarmament indicate its will for advancing the cause of disarmament. Of particular importance, however, is to ensure the broadest and active support of the public in all countries of the world for the decisions and recommendations of this session. World-wide action for collecting signatures in support of disarmament could become an effective instrument for achieving this goal. If carried out under the auspices of the United Nations and with the active participation of non-governmental organizations and in the context of the World Disarmament Campaign whose launching was solemnly announced at the present session, such action could play a major role in generating understanding and support for the decisions and recommendations of the special session and in focusing on the main task, namely, their practical implementation.

5. In pursuance of General Assembly resolution 36/92 J, a number of Member States communicated to the Secretary-General their views and suggestions concerning the most appropriate format and methods of carrying out such world-wide action. The replies of those States, annexed to the report of the Secretary-General on this question (A/S-12/15 and addenda), amply point out the advisability of carrying out the world-wide action in the context of the World Disarmament Campaign and present useful ideas regarding the realization of this measure.

6. It is also noteworthy that a number of national and international non-governmental organizations regard the world-wide action for collecting signatures as a major means of mobilizing world public opinion on behalf of
disarmament. The document adopted by the conference of non-governmental organizations, held at Geneva on 1 and 2 April 1982, points out that the participants have emphasized the importance of supporting the world-wide action for collecting signatures to curb the arms race and for disarmament.

7. The feasibility of the initiative for the world-wide action for collecting signatures is also confirmed by the fact that in various countries of the world scores of similar actions have already been carried out or are under way on a local basis.

8. It is the view of the Bulgarian delegation that the question of the world-wide action for collecting signatures in support of measures to prevent nuclear war, to curb the arms race and for disarmament should be considered at the present session, with due attention and a decision be taken on its carrying out within the framework of the World Disarmament Campaign.