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 25 June 1982 from the Permanent Representative
of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of Japan 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 concerning the installation in the United Nations
of documentation and materials concerning Japan's atomic bomb experiences and
requests that it be distributed as a document of the twelfth special session of the
General Assembly under agenda item 13.
ANNEX

Installation in the United Nations of documentation and materials concerning Japan's atomic bomb experiences

Working paper

1. In the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session, the General Assembly emphasized the necessity of mobilizing world public opinion on behalf of disarmament through the dissemination of information on various aspects of the issue, including the status of the armaments race and efforts to halt and reverse it.

2. Japan fervently hopes that a nuclear catastrophe will never be repeated again. It therefore believes that the cause of disarmament would be promoted if every nation in the world were to cultivate, in an appropriate form, a proper awareness among its people of the effect of the atomic bombs exploded in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which should serve as a warning as to the dangers inherent in the arms race.

3. For this reason, His Excellency Mr. Zenko Suzuki, Prime Minister of Japan, made it clear, in his statement on 9 June 1982 at the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, that Japan would co-operate in the implementation of a fruitful world disarmament campaign and, in this connexion, expressed the hope that the precious documentation and materials of Japan concerning its atomic bomb experiences be installed in the United Nations, in order that they might be made widely available to peoples of all nations in support of renewed efforts for nuclear disarmament.

4. The Government of Japan feels it would be useful if the United Nations were to collect certain of the abundant documentation and materials mentioned in the Prime Minister's statement, in particular those held by the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

5. The Programme may be outlined as follows:

   (a) It would be desirable to assemble audio-visual materials relating to disarmament issues at the United Nations so that they would be available for use by all people of the world. Such materials would be extremely effective in increasing understanding of these issues. They would therefore contribute to the World Disarmament Campaign and might in particular be useful during Disarmament Week.

   (b) Since the Secretary-General is charged with responsibility for the over-all direction and co-ordination of the disarmament campaign activities, the management of the above-mentioned materials should be placed within the limits of the human and material resources of the United Nations under his guidance.
(c) This collection of audio-visual materials, which should include films, television programmes, radio programmes, and slides, would be drawn from:

(i) Materials already in the possession of the United Nations;
(ii) Materials to be produced by the United Nations;
(iii) Materials to be purchased by the United Nations;
(iv) Materials to be donated by Governments, non-governmental organizations and other organizations.

(d) A committee, composed of a representative of the Secretary-General, the head of the Department of Public Information, the head of the Centre for Disarmament and other persons, should be established for the purpose of making rules and decisions regarding the purchase and lending of these materials by the United Nations.

(e) The committee should submit annual reports on its activities to the General Assembly through the Secretary-General.