Twelfth special session
AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE TWELFTH
SPECIAL SESSION
Agenda items 12 and 13

ENHANCEMENT OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF MACHINERY IN THE FIELD
OF DISARMAMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF THE UNITED
NATIONS IN THIS FIELD, INCLUDING THE POSSIBLE CONVENING OF
A WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE

MEASURES TO MOBILIZE WORLD PUBLIC OPINION IN FAVOUR OF DISARMAMENT

Note verbale dated 25 June 1982 from the Chargé d'Affaires, a.i. of
the Permanent Mission of Sierra Leone to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

The Chargé d'Affaires, a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Sierra Leone to the
United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United
Nations and has the honour to inform the latter that the Government of the Republic
of Sierra Leone would like to submit a proposal to the Ad Hoc Committee of the
Twelfth Special Session, within the framework of the presentation of new
initiatives.

The Chargé d'Affaires, a.i. attaches herewith a copy of the proposal and
wishes to request, on behalf of the Government of Sierra Leone, that it be
circulated as an official document of the twelfth special session of the General
Assembly under agenda items 12 and 13.
ANNEX

Proposal by the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone
to the Ad Hoc Committee of the Twelfth Special Session of
the General Assembly

1. In his statement at the 3rd plenary meeting of the twelfth special session, on 8 June 1982, the Chairman of the Sierra Leone delegation to the session, His Excellency Ambassador Abdul G. Koroma, stated the following:

"... We urge world-wide support for the World Disarmament Campaign and propose that, because of the unequal level of disarmament knowledge in the various regions, information centres should be established in each region of the world or existing United Nations information centres around the world should be strengthened and mandated to educate and inform the peoples of all countries and increase their awareness of the dangers of the arms race, in particular the need for and urgency of disarmament. The United Nations Centre for Disarmament and the United Nations Department of Public Information should work closely together in this regard."

2. The Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone attaches great significance to the mobilization of world public opinion, in favour of disarmament and believes that such mobilization can only be possible if the peoples of all regions are well informed and educated on issues relevant and related to the disarmament problem. It is in this light that we support the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Programme approved at the first special session devoted to disarmament, in 1978, and the World Disarmament Campaign, launched on 7 June 1982.

3. Within the framework of the World Disarmament Campaign, in particular, and United Nations activities in general, the Sierra Leone Government is of the view that at this special session, the General Assembly should request the Secretary-General to take immediate concrete steps within the existing budgetary and personnel resources of the Secretariat to promote disarmament information, education and training in all countries, in particular the developing countries, where such knowledge is, at the moment, relatively under-developed.

4. Specifically, we propose that some of the United Nations information centres in various regions around the world, especially in the developing areas, should be mandated and strengthened to enable them to play a more active role in their respective regions in generating understanding of the nature and dangers of the arms race, in particular the nuclear arms race, and stimulating support for the objectives of disarmament through such measures as the dissemination of balanced, factual, objective and non-tendentious information, education and seminars for the countries of the various regions. We see the Centre for Disarmament, which is the principal Secretariat unit responsible for disarmament matters, and the Department of Public Information, under whose direct authority the various United Nations information centres fall, and which is the focal point for the co-ordination and implementation of the Public Information tasks of the United Nations, as playing the pivotal role in ensuring the concrete implementation of this proposal.

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5. The Government of Sierra Leone, therefore, proposes that the General Assembly, at the current special session on disarmament, should:

(a) Request the Secretary-General to take immediate concrete measures within the existing resources of the Secretariat to mandate and strengthen a number of the United Nations information centres around the world, with at least two of those centres to be so strengthened to be in each of the developing regions within the context of the World Disarmament Campaign;

(b) Request further the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session on steps taken to implement the above proposal.