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

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

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

Letter dated 28 June 1982 from the Permanent Representative of Finland
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to Your
Excellency a working paper on the subject of the comprehensive study on the
question of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all its aspects, carried out in 1975 by
the Ad Hoc Group of Qualified Governmental Experts.

I would be grateful if the working paper could be circulated as an official
document of the twelfth special session of the General Assembly under agenda
items 9 and 11.

(Signed) Ilkka PASTINEN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Finland
to the United Nations
ANNEX

Comprehensive study on the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all its aspects

Working paper

1. The growing interest in nuclear-weapon-free zones has been clearly reflected in the deliberations of the current twelfth special session of the General Assembly. The zonal approach as well as concrete proposals have been discussed in statements made in the general debate.

2. The General Assembly decided at its twenty-ninth session in 1974, upon the initiative of Finland, to undertake a comprehensive study of the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones. The study, carried out by an ad hoc group of governmental experts under the auspices of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, was completed in 1975 and was considered by the General Assembly at its thirtieth session (see memorandum submitted by Finland on 17 May 1982, A/S-12/19).

3. The study, the first of its kind, dealt with six substantive aspects of the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones. They were the following:

   (a) Historical background of military denuclearization by areas;
   (b) Concept of nuclear-weapon-free zones;
   (c) Responsibilities of States within the zone and other States;
   (d) Verification and control;
   (e) Nuclear-weapon-free zones and international law;
   (f) Peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

The study was the first of its kind. The Group of Experts reached consensus on several basic aspects and principles relating to the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones. On a number of questions, it did not prove possible to reach consensus at that time.

4. Since the completion of the study in 1975, important developments have taken place in both the practical implementation of existing arrangements and consideration of modalities and issues closely related to the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones. These developments include, i.e., the following:

   (a) In the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session, the General Assembly dealt extensively with nuclear-weapon-free zones. In the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade, the General Assembly identified "the strengthening of the existing nuclear-weapon-free zone and the establishment of other nuclear-weapon-free zones in accordance with the relevant paragraphs of the
Final Document" as a priority measure which should be pursued as rapidly as possible.

(b) Implementation of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Treaty of Tlatelolco) has progressed since the special session. Through signing and ratification of its Additional Protocols, significant steps have thus been taken towards the full implementation of the Treaty.

(c) The question of the security of non-nuclear-weapon States, an issue closely related to the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, is under substantive consideration in the Committee on Disarmament. All nuclear-weapon States have made unilateral statements defining situations in which they would not use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States. An Ad Hoc Working Group has been established by the Committee on Disarmament to consider the question of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. The work of the Group has progressed.

(d) Existing proposals for the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in various parts of the world have been reiterated, developed further and discussed, i.a., in the General Assembly. In addition to the Treaty of Tlatelolco, the denuclearization of Africa and the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in the Middle East and South Asia are on the agenda of the General Assembly. A resolution on a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East was adopted without a vote, for the first time, in 1980.

(e) The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones is in general regarded as a most effective regional measure against the proliferation of nuclear weapons, complementing in this regard the non-proliferation treaty.

(f) The regional approach, of which the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones is an aspect, has been extensively discussed and analysed in subsequent United Nations studies, such as the study on all aspects of regional disarmament and the study on confidence-building measures.

(g) It has been recognized that nuclear-weapon-free zones could give, on a regional basis, an impetus for enhancing international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

5. The accelerating arms race, especially the nuclear arms race in its new technological dimensions, gives added urgency to efforts to limit, on a geographical basis, its effects and to insulate, where possible, regions from the reach of nuclear strategic speculation.

6. In view of the factors outlined above, the Government of Finland proposes that a supplementary study on the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones be undertaken in an appropriate form.