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 28 June 1982 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of
the Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith to Your Excellency an initiative on the
investigation of the alleged use of chemical and toxin weapons in Afghanistan,
Kampuchea and Laos.

In his address to the General Assembly on 17 June 1982 (see A/S-12/PV.16),
President Reagan called on the Soviet Government, as well as the Governments of
Laos and Viet Nam, to grant full and free access to their countries or to
territories they control, so that United Nations experts could conduct an
effective, independent investigation to verify cessation of the horrors of the use
of chemical and toxin weapons.

If these Governments are innocent of these charges, as they claim to be in the
face of overwhelming evidence to the contrary, then they should welcome an
impartial investigation by United Nations experts.
To implement President Reagan's call, the United States offers the attached initiative under agenda items 9, 10 and 11 of the twelfth special session of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Kenneth L. ADELMAN
Acting Permanent Representative
of the United States of America
to the United Nations
ANNEX

Proposal on the investigation of the alleged use of chemical and toxin weapons in Afghanistan, Kampuchea and Laos

1. During the past several years, disturbing reports have reached the outside world that toxins and other lethal chemical weapons are being used in conflicts against people in remote regions of the world. The international community made clear its concern over these reports in creating the United Nations Group of Experts to conduct an impartial investigation of the evidence. The Group of Experts to Investigate Reports on the Alleged Use of Chemical Weapons was established in accordance with resolution 35/144 C of 12 December 1980. Its mandate was renewed by resolution 36/96 C, adopted on 9 December 1981. The Group of Experts has endeavoured to carry out its mandate but has been prevented from doing so by its inability to visit the countries where chemical attacks have taken place. The Group itself has said, in order to reach definitive conclusions, it requires "timely access to the areas of alleged use of chemical warfare agents" (A/36/613, p. 35).

2. For these reasons, the twelfth special session of the General Assembly should call on the Soviet Government, as well as the Governments of Laos and Viet Nam, to grant full and free access to areas where chemical attacks have been reported so that the Group of Experts can conduct the effective, independent investigation mandated by the General Assembly to ascertain the facts concerning the use of chemical weapons in Laos, Kampuchea and Afghanistan.