Twelfth special session
AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE
TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION
Agenda item 11

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 Canada
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a document concerning the strategy of
suffocation as outlined by Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau during his speech
to the special session on disarmament on 18 June 1982 (see A/S-12/PV.18).

I would be grateful if this proposal could be distributed as a document of the
twelfth special session of the General Assembly under agenda item 11.

(Signed) Gérard PELLETIER
Ambassador and
Permanent Representative
ANNEX

Strategy of suffocation

1. At the tenth and twelfth special sessions Canada has proposed a strategy of suffocation designed to halt the technological momentum of the nuclear arms race.

2. The four elements of the strategy are:

   (a) A comprehensive test ban to impede the further development of nuclear explosive devices;

   (b) An agreement to stop the flight-testing of all new strategic delivery vehicles;

   (c) An agreement to prohibit the production of fissionable material for weapons purposes;

   (d) An agreement to limit and then progressively to reduce military spending on new strategic nuclear-weapon systems.

Each element involves the negotiation of verifiable agreements between the nuclear Powers. In combination, these elements would provide a more coherent, a more efficient and a more promising instrument for curbing the nuclear arms race.

3. The strategy is complementary to current negotiations aimed at reducing nuclear forces. The negotiations seek to achieve a stable nuclear balance at lower levels; the strategy seeks to inhibit the development of new nuclear weapons systems. Taken together they represent a policy of stabilization.