Twelfth special session
AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE TWELFTH
SPECIAL SESSION
Agenda item 9

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

Letter dated 29 June 1982 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Guatemala to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you the text of the statement made by the President of the Republic of Guatemala, Brigadier-General José Efraín Ríos Montt.

I should be grateful if you would transmit the contents of this communication to the President of the twelfth special session of the General Assembly and arrange for it to be circulated as an official document of that session under agenda item 9.

(Signed) Juan Carlos DELPREE-CRESPO
Ambassador
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.
ANNEX

"Statement dated 28 June 1982 by the President of the Republic of Guatemala

1. Guatemala, whose people and Government are deeply committed to peace, deems it appropriate to express its ideas to this forum convened to discuss all aspects of disarmament.

2. Guatemala considers that the arms reduction campaign is vital for the peace of the world, the development of States and the prosperity of peoples.

3. It is necessary to express openly the dangers inherent in the continuation of the arms race and to dispel the hope that peace and security can coexist with the accumulation of vast quantities of means of destruction.

4. General and complete prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons is of paramount importance, since it helps to reduce the risk of nuclear war which would mean a holocaust for mankind.

5. My country believes that both atomic and nuclear energy should be used only for peaceful purposes and for the benefit of the human race.

6. Guatemala considers that a lasting peace can be secured only through general and complete disarmament under effective and strict international control and not through a balance of armaments between the great Powers.

7. Disarmament is one of the objectives proclaimed by the United Nations for over three decades, but despite the numerous initiatives adopted by the Organization, the world is witnessing a frenzied arms race.

8. Although the great Powers should be primarily responsible for disarmament, Guatemala believes that it would also be desirable to ban sophisticated weapons in Latin America as a way of contributing to universal disarmament and of increasing the resources allocated to economic and social development.

9. The Treaty of Tlatelolco, to which Guatemala is a party is a very useful instrument for preventing Latin America from being converted into a depository of nuclear arms or a test site for atomic weapons.
10. I feel it is appropriate to underscore the great importance of the highly industrialized countries understanding that if, instead ofdevoting large sums of money to the production of weapons of mass destruction, they were to channel those resources to poor countries to help them in their efforts to achieve integral and harmonious development, the major scourges of hunger, unemployment, malnutrition, illiteracy and precarious living conditions which prevail in the third world would be considerably reduced.

11. Peace and social justice, which are the greatest aspirations of mankind, can be achieved with the active participation of all nations with a view to establishing a new international order and creating for present and future generations a more human and balanced world based on solid foundations, of equality and dignity.

Guatemala, 28 June 1982

José Efraín Ríos Montt
President of the Republic of Guatemala