Twelfth special session
AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE
TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION
Agenda item 12

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 CONVENCING OF A WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE

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

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the document entitled "Measures to enhance the effectiveness of the activities of United Nations centres related to the programme for the World Disarmament Campaign" that Egypt submits for consideration of the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

I should be grateful if you would have the annex of this letter circulated as an official document of the twelfth special session of the General Assembly under agenda item 12.

(Signed) A. Esmat ABDEL MEGUID
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Measures to enhance the effectiveness of the activities of the United Nations centres related to the programme for the World Disarmament Campaign

1. The World Disarmament Campaign is designed to help create a world-wide base of public opinion in favour of disarmament.

2. The Department of Public Information, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 34/82 and 35/201, has been efficaciously pursuing public information activities concerning disarmament through its information centres in all regions of the world.

3. In this context, we should like to submit the following proposals:

   (a) The report of the Secretary-General (A/S-12/27) has identified the objectives for this Campaign as concluded by the Group of Experts and also the requisition of carrying out the Campaign in all regions of the world in a balanced, factual and objective manner, owing to the importance of conducting the United Nations information activities on global scope, so as to reach the largest number of people. In addition to the important role of the five major constituencies identified by the Group of Experts, the United Nations should further seek the fundamental role of Governments in assisting in carrying out such a Campaign on a world-wide basis, particularly since the accomplishment of the goals of the campaign would undoubtedly be effective without a considerable co-operation, assistance and co-ordination on the part of Governments, particularly in the developing countries.

   (b) As for the objectives of the United Nations information and education activities, the report of the Secretary-General identified short and medium-range stages during which the mobilization of world public opinion, with a view to furthering understanding of the growing menace of the arms race to the international peace and security, could be achieved through the programme of activities of the United Nations as concluded in the Secretary-General's report. In addition to this, we perceive a long-range stage during which two main objectives should be outlined:

      (i) The elimination of all factors that passively affect world public thinking and deem it more receptive to the concept of armaments; to this end, a world ban should be enforced on the production of all materials that may lead directly or indirectly to such results such as war movies, toy weapons ... etc.

      (ii) The employment of psychological methods with a view to instilling the concepts of disarmament and peace in children's thinking through educational programmes.

/...
(c) A periodical assessment for the activities of the Department of Public Information in this respect should indeed be of considerable value. Also, the difficulties, if any, that the Department may have encountered in the course of discharging its responsibilities should be pinpointed along with the recommendations for surmounting these obstacles. We believe that the Disarmament Commission should be given a role in this assessment. The application of such a process should indeed assist the Department in laying a more effective plan for carrying out its activities and also assist in evaluating the situation.