Fifteenth special session
Items 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 of the provisional agenda*

REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE PRESENT INTERNATIONAL SITUATION, ESPECIALLY IN THE LIGHT OF THE VITAL OBJECTIVE OF TERMINATING THE ARMS RACE AND THE PRESSING NEED TO ACHIEVE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IN THE FIELD OF DISARMAMENT

ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH AND TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSIONS

CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME OF DISARMAMENT

ASSESSMENT OF DEVELOPMENTS AND TRENDS, INCLUDING QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE ASPECTS, RELEVANT TO THE DISARMAMENT PROCESS, WITH A VIEW TO THE ELABORATION OF APPROPRIATE CONCRETE AND PRACTICAL MEASURES AND, IF NECESSARY, ADDITIONAL PRINCIPLES, TAKING DULY INTO ACCOUNT THE PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES ESTABLISHED IN THE FINAL DOCUMENT OF THE TENTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE FIRST SPECIAL SESSION DEVOTED TO DISARMAMENT


UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF DISARMAMENT, INCLUDING MEASURES TO MOBILIZE WORLD PUBLIC OPINION IN FAVOUR OF DISARMAMENT

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT, IN THE LIGHT OF THE ACTION PROGRAMME ADOPTED AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
Letter dated 30 May 1988 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you annexed to this letter a working paper entitled "Positions and propositions on the questions under discussion at the third special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament" (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could arrange to have this working paper distributed as a document of the fifteenth special session of the General Assembly under items 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) LI Luye
Permanent Representative
of the People's Republic of China
to the United Nations
ANNEX

Working paper submitted by the Chinese delegation

POSITIONS AND PROPOSITIONS ON THE QUESTIONS UNDER DISCUSSION AT THE
FIFTEENTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
THE THIRD SPECIAL SESSION DEVOTED TO DISARMAMENT

INTRODUCTION

Since the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to
disarmament (the twelfth special session of the General Assembly), the people
throughout the world have made unremitting efforts in opposing war and maintaining
world peace, thus pushing the international situation to develop in the direction
favourable to peace. Progress has also been registered in the fields of bilateral
and multilateral disarmament.

However, the arms race between the super-Powers is still continuing, with the
emergence of a new trend marked by the shifting to weapon quality improvement and
by the extension of their arms race into outer space. The danger of war still
exists, posing a grave threat to world peace and security. Therefore, it remains a
pressing and strenuous task to stop the arms race and to maintain world peace and
security.

China is all along opposed to war and the arms race, and has dedicated itself
to the cause of maintaining world peace and security. Always standing for
disarmament, China has taken a series of practical steps to reduce military
forces. Together with all the peace-loving countries, China will continue its
efforts to promote international peace and security, disarmament and development.

PRINCIPLES

(1) The validity of the Final Document of the tenth special session of the
General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament, and the basic
principles contained therein should be reaffirmed.

(2) As a new trend has emerged in the arms race, characterized by its
extension to new fields and the shifting to quality improvements of weapons, it is
imperative to take immediate and vigorous measures to stop it. The utilization of
nuclear energy and modern high technology for peaceful purposes should be
underscored.

(3) The States possessing the largest nuclear and conventional arsenals bear
a special responsibility for halting the arms race and for disarmament, and should
take the lead in making concrete moves for drastic reduction of armaments.

(4) As the question of disarmament concerns peace and security of all States,
it should not be monopolized by a few big Powers. All States, big or small, strong
or weak, should enjoy equal rights to participate in discussions on and the

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settlement of problems related to disarmament. No bilateral agreement on disarmament should jeopardize the interests of third parties.

(5) The activities and role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament should be strengthened.

(6) Disarmament activities and measures in bilateral and multilateral forums should promote and complement each other.

(7) Peace and development are major issues in the present-day world. To strive for disarmament is for the purpose of peace and development. To maintain international peace and security, it is imperative to check aggression and settle regional conflicts in a just and reasonable manner. All States should strictly abide by the United Nations Charter and develop their mutual relations on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. Meanwhile, efforts should be made to improve international economic relations by promoting development and co-operation.

I. NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

(1) The ultimate goal of nuclear disarmament is the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons. All measures for nuclear disarmament should serve the realization of this goal.

(2) The United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics possess the largest and most advanced nuclear arsenals in the world, and are engaged in improving the quality of their nuclear weapons. It is necessary that they take the lead in halting the test, production and deployment of all types of nuclear weapons, and in drastically reducing and destroying all types of nuclear weapons they have deployed inside and outside their respective countries. After this, a broadly representative international conference on nuclear disarmament with the participation of all nuclear-weapon States can be held to discuss steps and measures towards thorough destruction of nuclear weapons. Such is the really effective way to nuclear disarmament, and China is determined to make its contribution to the realization of this goal.

(3) The signing of the INF treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics is a welcome development. The international community calls upon the two States to implement the provisions of the treaty as early as possible, and to make practical moves towards the drastic reduction of their strategic offensive nuclear weapons. In the mean time, they should stop forthwith their arms race both in the nuclear field and in outer space.

(4) As an effective measure to prevent nuclear war, all nuclear States should undertake not to be the first to use nuclear weapons at any time and under any circumstances, and to refrain from using or threatening to use such weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States and nuclear-weapon-free zones. On such a basis, an international convention should be concluded with the participation of all the nuclear-weapon States to ensure the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons.

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(5) Nuclear-weapon-free zones or zones of peace established by the States concerned through consultations and agreement based on their free will and in accordance with specific regional conditions are conducive to security and stability of the respective regions. The nuclear-weapon States should respect the status of these zones and undertake corresponding commitments.

II. CONVENTIONAL DISARMAMENT

(1) Conventional disarmament and nuclear disarmament are closely related. The importance and urgency of conventional disarmament must not be neglected. Conventional armaments should be drastically reduced while nuclear disarmament is pursued. Conventional wars have caused huge losses in life and property. Conventional weapons are getting increasingly lethal and destructive. Conventional armaments have consumed immeasurable valuable resources.

(2) The two super-Powers that possess the largest conventional arsenals bear a special responsibility for conventional disarmament. They should negotiate in real earnest and reach agreement as soon as possible on the drastic reduction of conventional armaments.

(3) Appropriate regional efforts on conventional disarmament should be encouraged. In particular, negotiations should be accelerated in Europe where two major military alliances are confronting each other, with the objective of promoting the process of conventional disarmament.

(4) The conventional armaments of all countries should only serve defensive purposes and must in no way be used for armed aggression and intervention against other countries.

III. HALTING THE ARMS RACE IN OUTER SPACE

(1) As common heritage of mankind, outer space should be used only for peaceful purposes and in the interests of human welfare.

(2) To halt the arms race in outer space has become a new priority item in the field of disarmament. The development of space weaponry has caused a qualitative escalation in the arms race, which constitutes a new threat to international security and stability.

(3) The prohibition of space weaponry is an effective way to halt the arms race in outer space. The two super-Powers, which possess the greatest space capacity and are engaged in developing space weapons, should commit themselves not to test, develop, produce or deploy space weapons and to destroy all their existing space weapons. On such a basis, an international agreement on the complete prohibition and destruction of space weapons should be concluded.
IV. PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS

(1) The Geneva Protocol of 1925 on the prohibition of the use of chemical weapons must be strictly observed.

(2) The United States of America, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and all other States possessing chemical weapons should pledge themselves not to use chemical weapons. These two States as well as all the States capable of producing chemical weapons should stop forthwith the test, production, transfer and deployment of chemical weapons.

(3) An international convention on the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of chemical weapons should be concluded at an early date so as to completely eliminate the existing chemical weapons and ensure that no new chemical weapons will be produced. The convention should contain necessary and effective measures for verification.

(4) The convention should not jeopardize the interests of the civilian chemical industry of different countries. It should promote international co-operation in the peaceful utilization of the chemical industry.

V. NAVAL ARMAMENTS AND DISARMAMENT

(1) The naval arms race has intensified increasingly. The States that have the largest naval arsenals should take the lead in adopting measures to limit and reduce their naval armaments, their offensive naval forces in particular.

(2) The naval forces of all countries should not exceed the reasonable need for defence, and must not be used for aggression and intervention against other countries.

VI. CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES

(1) The basic objective of confidence-building measures is to promote the relaxation of tension and stability in international relations, with a view to strengthening international peace and security.

(2) Confidence-building measures should be formulated and observed on a voluntary basis by the countries concerned through consultations and in accordance with the specific circumstances in and practical needs of different regions.

(3) All confidence-building measures should be aimed at moving forward the process of disarmament.

VII. VERIFICATION

(1) A disarmament agreement should provide for necessary and effective measures of verification.
(2) Verification provisions should be determined in accordance with the purposes, scope and nature of the specific disarmament agreement. National and international means of verification, including on-site inspection, may be used.

(3) All States parties to an agreement should enjoy equal rights to participate in the relevant international verification. The measures of verification should be just, reasonable and non-discriminatory.

(4) The States parties to an agreement should be co-operative, and should not try to evade verification under various pretexts. It is also necessary to avoid abuses and activities irrelevant to the purposes of verification. Verification arrangements should not unduly interfere in the internal affairs of the States concerned or infringe upon their sovereignty.

(5) The United Nations and other relevant international organizations should play a proper role in the area of international verification.

VIII. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

(1) Disarmament and development are interrelated. The arms race has consumed large amounts of precious resources which otherwise could have been used for economic development. Progress in disarmament will benefit the development of all States and prosperity of the world.

(2) The super-Powers should take the lead in reducing their armaments. The money thus saved should be used to expand their assistance programme for the development of the developing countries.

(3) Without affecting their security, all States should make use, to the extent possible, of their military industries and installations to the benefit of their own economic and social development.

(4) The International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development has made useful efforts in the discussion of the relationship between disarmament and development. The third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament should consider the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted by the International Conference.

IX. THE UNITED NATIONS AND MULTILATERAL DISARMAMENT MACHINERY

(1) According to the United Nations Charter the United Nations should play an important part in the field of disarmament. The United Nations should promote and encourage all unilateral, bilateral and multilateral disarmament measures.

(2) The United Nations may consider all international disarmament questions. As a multilateral disarmament negotiating body, the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva may conduct negotiations, in accordance with agreed procedures, on major and pressing international disarmament questions.
(3) The role of the United Nations and that of multilateral disarmament machinery should be strengthened. They should be kept informed of the unilateral, bilateral and multilateral disarmament efforts and progress without affecting the normal proceeding of the negotiations involved.

(4) Necessary and reasonable improvement should be introduced to the work of the United Nations and multilateral disarmament machinery, in order to raise their efficiency.