Tenth special session
AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE TENTH
SPECIAL SESSION
Agenda item 11

ADOPTION OF A PROGRAMME OF ACTION ON DISARMAMENT

Note verbale dated 6 June 1978 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of Japan presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, upon instructions from his Government, has the honour to transmit herewith a working paper on the question of "Disarmament Day".

The Permanent Representative of Japan would be grateful if this working paper were circulated as a document of the tenth special session of the General Assembly under agenda item 11.
ANNEX

Working paper on the question of "Disarmament Day"

1. At a plenary meeting of this special session held on 30 May 1978, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Mr. Sunao Sonoda, appealed to the world in general, and to the nuclear-weapon States in particular, for the complete abolition of nuclear weapons as an ultimate goal. At that time, he stated:

"Today's nuclear weapons have a destructive capacity which defies comparison with the atomic bombs used against the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. If nuclear weapons were ever to be used again, the ensuing devastation and suffering would be enormous, quite beyond our imagination. The Japanese people are firmly united in the conviction that such a tragedy must never be repeated. I believe that this determination is shared today not only by the Japanese people but also by the peoples of the entire world. In the light of such a world-wide conviction, I think it would be highly significant to proclaim 6 August as Disarmament Day." a/

2. Indeed, it is most appropriate for us to set a certain date to remind all countries, as well as all peoples of the world, of the urgent necessity for progress towards general and complete disarmament, particularly in the area of nuclear disarmament, which is of the highest priority and the supreme task of our time.

3. In the view of the Japanese delegation, the most appropriate date for this purpose would be 6 August, when mankind experienced the first atomic bombing in its history.

4. The Japanese delegation wishes to propose the insertion of the following new paragraph immediately after paragraph 1 of section G.2. (Information) of the Programme of Action: b/

"The General Assembly proclaims 6 August as Disarmament Day."

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a/ A/S-10/PV.9, p. 33.