Tenth special session
AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE TENTH
SPECIAL SESSION
Agenda item 9


Letter dated 6 June 1978 from the Permanent Representative of the German Democratic Republic to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to transmit to you a letter from the Chairman of the Government Commission for the Preparation and Holding of the International Year of the Child in the German Democratic Republic (see annex) and a statement adopted by the Government Commission on the occasion of its constituent meeting, on 31 May 1978, on the subject that is before the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (see appendix).

I request you to have the texts of the letter and the statement circulated as an official document of the tenth special session of the General Assembly under agenda item 9.

(Signed) Peter FLORIN
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs
Permanent Representative of the German Democratic Republic to the United Nations
ANNEX

Letter from the Chairman of the Government Commission for the Preparation and Holding of the International Year of the Child in the German Democratic Republic addressed to the President of the General Assembly

On 31 May, 1978, the constituent meeting of the Government Commission for the Preparation and Holding of the International Year of the Child in the German Democratic Republic, appointed by the Council of Ministers of the German Democratic Republic, took place in Berlin, the capital of the German Democratic Republic. The Commission includes among its members representatives of government agencies and social organizations as well as public figures of my country.

At the meeting of the Government Commission, a statement was adopted on the subject that is before the current special session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. I take the liberty of bringing that statement to Your Excellency’s notice.

(Signed) Margot HONECKER
APPENDIX

Statement adopted by the Government Commission for the Preparation and Holding of the International Year of the Child in the German Democratic Republic on the occasion of its constituent meeting on 31 May 1978

The German Democratic Republic feels deeply committed to the socialist policy principle of ensuring a happy and peaceful future for the rising generation. The favourable balance our socialist State will be able to strike in the thirtieth year of its existence includes the continuous effort for the benefit of the children and the young generation. At the same time, this record will reflect the awareness that it is only in peace that optimum conditions can be offered to the junior citizens for the shaping of their future.

In alliance with the Soviet Union, the other fraternal socialist countries and all peace-loving forces in the world, the German Democratic Republic, therefore, works actively for peace, détente and disarmament. In this endeavour we are guided by the consideration that the continued pursuit of the process of détente depends to a great extent on the cessation of the arms race and on concrete steps towards disarmament.

Not only does the arms race kindled by imperialist circles impose immense social burdens on the peoples, it also threatens, to an unprecedented degree, the very survival of mankind.

We therefore demand, in concord with all progressive people in the world, that an end be put forthwith to the arms race in the interest of the children of all countries. We call for general prohibition of the production and use of nuclear weapons, including the neutron weapon, and for effective steps to reduce forces and armaments, ranging up to general and complete disarmament.

The disarmament programme proposed by the Soviet Union at the tenth special session of the General Assembly has the full backing of the German Democratic Republic because it is aimed at safeguarding peace and at utilizing immense resources for the solution of pressing problems facing mankind and for the good of the children of the present and future generations.

We therefore most resolutely favour this world-wide disarmament programme - in the name of peace, in the name of life and in the name of the children.