Tenth special session
AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE
TENTH SPECIAL SESSION
Agenda items 9, 10, 11
and 12


ADOPTION OF A DECLARATION ON DISARMAMENT

ADOPTION OF A PROGRAMME OF ACTION ON DISARMAMENT

REVIEW OF THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN DISARMAMENT AND OF THE INTERNATIONAL MACHINERY FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON DISARMAMENT, INCLUDING IN PARTICULAR THE QUESTION OF CONVENING A WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE

Letter dated 29 May 1978 from the Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a resolution adopted today at the Extraordinary Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Non-Aligned Countries and Observers participating in the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

I should be grateful if you would kindly have the resolution circulated as a document of the tenth special session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 9, 10, 11 and 12.

(Signed) B. J. FERNANDO
Permanent Representative
Chairman of the Co-ordinating Bureau
of Non-Aligned Countries

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ANNEX

Resolution adopted at the Extraordinary Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Non-Aligned Countries and Observers participating in the special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament - 29 May 1978

Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Leaders of Delegations of Member States of the Non-Aligned Group of Countries, meeting in Extraordinary Session in New York on 29 May 1978,

1. Unanimously endorse the following sections of the Final Communiqué adopted by the Ministerial Meeting of the Co-ordinating Bureau of Non-Aligned Countries in Havana, 15-20 May 1978, relating to international security and détente; disarmament; the question of foreign military bases; utilization of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes; the escalation of Israeli conventional and nuclear armaments and South Africa’s plan to develop nuclear weapons:

"(International security and détente)

"The Bureau analysed the current international situation and expressed its concern at recent setbacks to the process of détente and at the deterioration of the situation in certain regions due to the lack of progress in resolving some of the most important international problems through the removal of their root causes.

"The Bureau noted with grave concern certain dangerous tendencies towards reviving manifestations of the cold war as reflected inter alia by the ever increasing arms race, which must be reversed as they posed a threat to international peace and security and indeed to the very survival of mankind in the event of an outbreak of nuclear war.

"The Bureau called for the deepening and broadening of the process of détente in order to encompass all spheres of international relations in all regions of the world, and to contribute to the solving of key international problems with the participation of all countries, and stressed that this would substantially contribute to the success of disarmament negotiations. The Bureau reiterated that peace, security and the relaxation of tensions cannot be based on the policy of the so-called balance of power, on the division into blocs and on the arms race.

"The Bureau reiterated that peaceful co-existence among States should be extended to all regions of the world and all countries alike.

"The Bureau also regarded that the strengthening of the struggle for the liberation of peoples from imperialist, colonialist, neo-colonialist and racist oppression, including zionism, contributed to the strengthening of world peace and security.

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In that regard, the Bureau reaffirmed the legitimate right of peoples to resort to armed struggle in their national liberation struggle.

(Dismament)

At its meeting in Havana on the eve of the special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations devoted to disarmament convened at the initiative of the non-aligned States, the Bureau expressed its satisfaction with the approach adopted by the non-aligned States in the Preparatory Committee as reflected in the draft final document.

The Bureau emphasised the exceptional importance of the special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations devoted to disarmament, which would be the most representative gathering of States convened on that subject. It stated that the task before the special session was of such outstanding importance for international peace and security that no effort should be spared to bring about its successful conclusion, especially in view of the continuing escalation of the arms race, particularly the nuclear arms race.

The Bureau expressed its firm conviction that lasting international peace and security would only be possible if there was general and complete disarmament under effective international control. Consequently, the Bureau called on the special session to agree on specific measures for the cessation of the arms race, particularly the nuclear arms race. It called for a halt in the development, testing and further production of nuclear weapons, the reduction and ultimate elimination of existing stockpiles of nuclear weapons, and a renunciation by the nuclear weapon Powers of the use of nuclear weapons. The Bureau also called for measures against the continued development, production, and use of other weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons.

The Bureau affirmed that there was a direct link between détente, disarmament and development. It stressed that effective measures of disarmament should release huge resources now devoted to the wasteful arms race, for use in the promotion of economic and social development, particularly of the developing countries. The Bureau was convinced that the deepening and broadening of détente could contribute to that process.

The Bureau reiterated the primary role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament, and the consequent need to readjust machinery for discussion and negotiation on disarmament, so as to create necessary conditions that will enable all States, particularly nuclear-weapon States and other militarily powerful States to participate in their solution.

The Bureau urged all non-aligned countries to take active part in the solution of those problems and to co-ordinate their actions on the basis of the common approach recommended by the Colombo Summit and the position of the non-aligned countries expressed in the final report of the Preparatory Committee, in order to ensure the success of the forthcoming special session.
"The Bureau took note of the information concerning the proposal of the President of Sri Lanka, His Excellency J. R. Jayewardene, for the creation of a world disarmament authority to function as a permanent institution within the United Nations system. The Bureau was convinced that the Governments of non-aligned countries would give serious and careful consideration to that proposal.

"(Question of foreign military bases)

"The Bureau expressed its firm conviction that, since the decolonization process had reached a crucial stage, the question of foreign military bases in colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories acquired particular relevance as an obstacle to the effective implementation of United Nations resolution 1514 (XV). The Bureau called upon all non-aligned countries to promote decisions during the special session of the United Nations devoted to disarmament and the thirty-third session of the General Assembly, aimed at the unconditional dismantling of all foreign military bases in the above-mentioned Territories and in other areas in Asia, Africa and Latin America, in order to guarantee to the peoples of those Territories the full, effective and free exercise of their inalienable rights to self-determination and independence.

"(Utilisation of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes)

"Recalling the decisions adopted at the Fifth Summit Conference of Non-Aligned Countries in Colombo and at the Conference of Foreign Ministers of the Co-ordinating Bureau of Non-Aligned Countries in New Delhi relating to mutual co-operation among non-aligned countries in the peaceful use of nuclear energy, in particular in those areas in which there could be greater self-reliance in the use of nuclear technology for developmental purposes and recalling the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Ministerial Meeting of the Co-ordinating Bureau of Non-Aligned Countries recommend that the Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Non-Aligned Countries should initiate action to draw up a programme of action, on the basis of a comprehensive study to be conducted by a group of experts from non-aligned countries.

"The Bureau also called upon all non-aligned countries to co-ordinate their views and activities on the basis of a common approach in the United Nations and other international fora in the area of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

"(Escalation of Israeli conventional and nuclear armaments)

"The Bureau condemned the Israeli military escalation in conventional arms and denounced its intentions of possessing nuclear weapons, as a serious threat to international peace and security and therefore called on all members of the Non-Aligned Movement at the tenth special session of the United Nations General Assembly on disarmament to endorse a proposal:

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(a) Calling upon all States, in particular the United States of America, to co-operate fully in effective international action, in accordance with Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, to avert the grave menace to international peace and security caused by the continued escalation of Israeli armament;

(b) Requesting the Security Council to call upon all States under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter and irrespective of any existing contracts, to refrain from any supply of arms, ammunition, military equipment or vehicles, or any spare parts thereof, to Israel; to ensure that such supplies do not reach Israel through other parties and to end all transfer of nuclear equipment or fissionable material or technology to Israel.

"(South Africa's plan to develop nuclear weapons)

"The Bureau categorically condemned South Africa's plans to develop nuclear weapons and urged the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly to consider the matter and take effective measures to forestall that serious development which was fraught with grave implications for Africa and for international peace and security."

2. Take note of the draft resolution proposed by Iraq on the escalation of Israeli conventional and nuclear armaments and its threat to international peace and security, and commend it for the widest possible support and sponsorship at the tenth special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament.