Tenth special session
AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE
TENTH SPECIAL SESSION
Agenda item 12

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

Note verbale dated 30 May 1978 from the Permanent Mission
of France to the United Nations addressed to the United
Nations Secretariat

The Permanent Mission of France presents its compliments to the United Nations
Secretariat and, with reference to the address by His Excellency
Mr. Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, President of the French Republic, on 25 May 1978,
has the honour to transmit herewith a memorandum from the French Government
concerning the establishment of an "International Institute for Disarmament
Research".

The Permanent Mission of France would be grateful if the Secretariat would
issue this memorandum in all the official languages of the Organization and have
it circulated as a document of the tenth special session of the General Assembly
under agenda item 12.
ANNEX

Memorandum from the French Government concerning the establishment of an International Institute for Disarmament Research

1. Negotiations on disarmament and the continuing effort to ensure greater security for all must necessarily be based on objective technical studies relating both to the actual world situation regarding armaments and to the various types of control machinery. It is in this context that France proposes the establishment, within the framework of the United Nations, of an International Institute for Disarmament Research enjoying complete scientific autonomy.

1. Purpose

2. The basic task of the Institute should be to implement a continuing programme of theoretical and applied research on questions relating to disarmament and international security.

3. Although by its very nature this work would be useful to ongoing negotiations, it nevertheless should not be directly linked to them; the reason for this would be both to preserve the essentially scientific character of the Institute's task and to enable the Institute to be in some measure future-oriented.

4. The following research topics may be cited as perhaps suitable for inclusion in the Institute's programme:

   (a) Military technologies;

   (b) Comparative studies of various control systems for disarmament agreements;

   (c) The concept of the right to security and its regional applications, etc.

2. Organization

5. The Institute should be an autonomous body within the framework of the United Nations with a statute possibly modelled on that of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR):

   (a) Effective direction of the Institute's activities would be entrusted to an Executive Director appointed by the Board of Trustees;

   (b) The Board of Trustees would be appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in consultation with the President of the General Assembly and the Chairman of the Disarmament Commission. Its function would be to determine
the main directions of the Institute's research programme and subsequently to assess the work of the Institute:

(c) The members of the Board of Trustees should be persons of independent standing chosen for their contribution to the cause of peace and disarmament and their scientific competence in fields relating to security.

6. The work of the Institute would be conducted in a completely independent scientific manner and would be exclusively the responsibility of the Institute itself. However, the Executive Director of the Institute should work in close contact with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and with United Nations bodies, particularly the United Nations Centre for Disarmament, whose Director would be an ex officio member of the Institute's Board of Trustees. This co-ordination would be designed, inter alia, to prevent any duplication between the work of the Centre and of the Institute, a task which would be made easier by the fact that the differing nature of their respective tasks would be very clearly defined:

(a) The United Nations Centre for Disarmament, whose resources should be substantially increased in connexion with the fresh impetus imparted to international disarmament activities by the special session, should carry out work related to ongoing negotiations, to which it should continue to provide essential technical support;

(b) The International Institute for Disarmament Research would engage in research that was both more technical in nature and more future-oriented.

7. The Institute should, of course, maintain close relations with the various private or public bodies throughout the world engaged in work on similar topics.

3. Resources and financing

8. The Institute should employ a small staff of experts (approximately 10 at the outset) chosen for their competence in areas of law, social science and the exact sciences related to disarmament and security.

9. The Institute would be financed from two sources:

(a) A contribution under the United Nations budget, comprising an initial capital sum and an annual grant;

(b) Voluntary contributions made by Governments, intergovernmental organizations and foundations and other private sources under conditions which fully preserve the independence of the Institute, that is to say, on the basis of arrangements similar to those governing the financing of UNITAR.

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10. The French Government requests that the proposal to establish an International Institute for Disarmament Research, as outlined above, should be considered at the special session of the General Assembly, which should set up a group of experts to study all of its implications.