Tenth special session
Ad Hoc Committee of the Tenth
Special Session
Agenda items 9, 10, 11 and 12

Review and Appraisal of the Present International Situation in the
Light of the Pressing Need to Achieve Substantial Progress in the
Field of Disarmament, the Continuation of the Arms Race and the
Close Interrelationship between Disarmament, International Peace
and Security and Economic Development

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 2 June 1978 from the Permanent Representative
of Sri Lanka to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

Further to the statement made by His Excellency Mr. A. C. S. Hameed, Minister
for Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka, on 25 May 1978, during the general debate of the
ten tenth special session of the General Assembly (A/8-10/PV.4, p. 2), I have the
honour to transmit herewith the salient points relating to the proposal made by
His Excellency Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, President of the Republic of Sri Lanka for
the establishment of a world disarmament authority.

I shall be grateful if you could kindly have the annex 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
of Sri Lanka

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ANNEX

Establishment of a world disarmament authority

Speaking in Sydney, the President of the Republic of Sri Lanka, His Excellency Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, expressed his concern about the arms race and emphasized the necessity of acting positively on this question. The President is of the view that the establishment of a world disarmament authority, which would function as a permanent institution of the United Nations system, could contribute towards the realization of the objective of general and complete disarmament.

The world disarmament authority could be given a broad mandate, beginning with the collection and study of data relating to the armaments industry and the distribution of arms throughout the world. It could serve as a centralized body, collecting such information from sources that are already engaged in this task and it could also make its own studies or undertake such studies as required by the United Nations. The world disarmament authority could also be the agency for monitoring the implementation of disarmament measures already agreed upon and those to be adopted in the future. Further, the world disarmament authority could be an agency for the development of realistic proposals and programmes on disarmament and it would also be the source of information on disarmament for Member States and non-governmental organizations. When the world community has moved towards general and complete disarmament, in the view of the President, the world disarmament authority could play the role of controlling and regulating the production and distribution of any necessary armaments. He also visualizes that this authority would be finally vested with power to use arms to defend the decisions of the United Nations where there are international conflicts and the use of arms is necessary.

The President wishes the leaders of the Member States of the United Nations to share their thoughts on this subject with him and, should this proposal gain broad acceptance in principle, there is no doubt that details relating to every aspect of the proposal could be worked out.