



REPORT
OF THE *AD HOC* COMMITTEE
ON THE
WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 28 (A/32/28)

UNITED NATIONS



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I. INTRODUCTION

1. By its resolution 31/190 of 21 December 1976, the General Assembly requested the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference to maintain close contact with the representatives of the States possessing nuclear weapons in order to remain currently informed of their respective attitudes, as well as to consider any relevant comments and observations which might be made to the Committee and, for this purpose, to meet briefly and submit a report to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session, in accordance with its established procedure.

2. By resolution 3183 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973, the General Assembly decided to establish an Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference 1/ to examine all the views and suggestions expressed by Governments on the convening of a world disarmament conference and related problems, including conditions for the realization of such a conference, and to submit, on the basis of consensus, a report to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session. The General Assembly invited the States possessing nuclear weapons to co-operate or maintain contact with the Ad Hoc Committee, it being understood that they would enjoy the same rights as the appointed members of the Committee. The General Assembly also invited all States to communicate as soon as possible to the Secretary-General, for transmission to the Ad Hoc Committee, any views and suggestions they deem pertinent to submit for the purpose defined in this paragraph.

3. At its twenty-ninth session, by resolution 3260 (XXIX) of 9 December 1974, the General Assembly, inter alia, invited all States to communicate to the Secretary-General their comments on the main objectives of a world disarmament conference, in the light of the views and suggestions compiled in section II of the summary annexed to the 1974 report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference. 2/ By the same resolution, the General Assembly decided that the Ad Hoc Committee should resume its work in accordance with the procedure established in General Assembly resolution 3183 (XXVIII) and that, in discharging its assigned task, it should give priority (a) to the preparation, on the basis of consensus, of an analytical report, including any conclusions and recommendations that it might deem pertinent concerning the comments received pursuant to paragraph 1 of resolution 3260 (XXIX); and (b) to maintaining close contact with the representatives of the States possessing nuclear weapons, in order to keep currently informed of any change in their respective positions.

1/ The General Assembly decided that the Ad Hoc Committee should consist of the following 40 non-nuclear-weapon Member States appointed by the President of the General Assembly after consultation with all regional groups: Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Liberia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire and Zambia.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 28 (A/9628).

4. By its resolution 3469 (XXX) of 11 December 1975, the General Assembly renewed the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference and requested it to submit a report on its work to the Assembly at its thirty-first session, including an analytical study of the conclusions contained in the Committee's report to the thirtieth session, as well as any observations and recommendations it might deem appropriate relating to its mandate. The resolution reaffirmed in its entirety resolution 3260 (XXIX).

5. In accordance with its mandate mentioned in paragraph 1 above, in 1977 the Committee held four meetings at United Nations Headquarters between 4 April and 16 September 1977.

6. The elected officers of the Committee were appointed to serve as follows:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. Fereydoun Hoveyda	(Iran)
<u>Vice-Chairmen:</u>	Mr. Carlos T. Alzamora	(Peru)
	Mr. Henryk Jaroszek	(Poland)
	Mr. Artémon Simbananiye	(Burundi)
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. Juan López-Chicheri	(Spain)

7. France, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland participated in the work of the Committee by virtue of paragraph 3 of resolution 3183 (XXVIII). Under the same provision, China and the United States of America maintained contact with the Ad Hoc Committee through its Chairman. The German Democratic Republic attended meetings of the Committee as an observer.

8. The working group established in 1974 3/ continued to function and held meetings between 12 and 16 September 1977.

3/ The composition of the Working Group is as follows: Burundi, Egypt, Hungary, India, Iran, Italy, Mexico, Peru, Poland and Spain (Chairman). Austria, Netherlands, Sweden, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Yugoslavia participated in the Working Group as observers.

II. WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

9. Pursuant to the mandate entrusted to it by resolution 31/190, the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference held the first meeting of its eighth session on 4 April 1977 and after a general debate (see A/AC.167/SR.37) and an exchange of views decided, inter alia, that the remainder of the eighth session should be held in September 1977 and that the working group should have the same composition (see para. 8 above) and follow the same procedure as in the past.
10. The Ad Hoc Committee resumed its work on 12 September and held two meetings devoted to a general debate (see A/AC.167/SR.38 and SR.39). Statements were made by a number of countries, excerpts from which are included in the annex to this report. Members of the Committee were also fully aware of the positions previously expressed by the Governments of other States on the convening of a world disarmament conference. 4/
11. At its 40th meeting, on 16 September 1977, the Ad Hoc Committee considered and adopted the draft report submitted by the Working Group.
12. In compliance with its mandate, the Ad Hoc Committee also held, through its Chairman, close contact with the representatives of States possessing nuclear weapons in order to remain currently informed of their respective attitudes towards the convening of a world disarmament conference.
13. Information regarding those contacts which in the opinion of the Ad Hoc Committee, in the prevailing circumstances of its work, are a unique feature of the Committee 5/ was provided by the Chairman to the members of the Committee on 25 August 1977, and is as follows:

4/ For the views of Member States, see A/8817 and Add.1; Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 28 (A/9628); ibid., Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 28 (A/10028 and Corr.1); ibid., Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 28 (A/31/28); ibid., Plenary Meetings, 5th to 32nd meetings; A/C.1/31/PV.20-50; A/AC.187/51 and 76; and A/AC.187/SR.15-20.

5/ In this connexion, the Ad Hoc Committee wishes to recall paragraph 15 of its report to the thirty-first session of the General Assembly which reads as follows:

"At present, this is a unique feature of the work of the Committee. No other forum exclusively dealing with problems related to disarmament has formally established similar contacts with all five nuclear-weapon States. Under the circumstances now prevailing and given a basic diversity of opinion among nuclear-weapon States (see sect. III below) on the convening of a world disarmament conference, an examination of the work of the Ad Hoc Committee may take due account of this fact."

China: The position of China has not changed. According to that position a world disarmament conference can only be convened if certain prerequisites for the creation of conditions conducive to genuine disarmament are met. The convening of a world disarmament conference, or preparation for such a conference, could only be acceptable if all the nuclear-weapon States, in particular the two nuclear-weapon Powers, would undertake an obligation: (a) not to be the first to use nuclear weapons, particularly against the non-nuclear-weapon States; and (b) to end all forms of military presence on the territory of other countries by those concerned. If such pre-conditions are met, a world disarmament conference can be convened with a clear aim, namely, to consider the question of complete prohibition and thorough destruction of all nuclear weapons.

France: The holding of a special session of the United Nations General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament, the main objectives of which would be to define the general principles applicable in the matter of disarmament, to determine the main foci of efforts in that regard and to enhance the effectiveness of the existing negotiating machinery, does not in any way lessen interest of France in the convening of a world disarmament conference. It is hoped that the necessary prerequisites for such a gathering - in particular, endorsement by all the nuclear Powers - can be met in the near future.

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics attaches exceptional importance to the question of convening the World Disarmament Conference, at which all countries of the world, without exception, and on an equal basis, could state and compare their views on the whole range of disarmament problems. If properly organized and with working bodies available to ensure a thorough preparation and practical agreement in taking appropriate decisions with due regard for the interests of all States, a world disarmament conference could work out specific, effective measures aimed at curbing the arms race and thus achieving a break-through in solving the problem of disarmament. The Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference could recommend to the General Assembly that the latter entrust it to prepare a report for the special session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament on the item of convocation of a World Disarmament Conference in order to implement resolution 31/190.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: There is no change in the position of the United Kingdom which has been expressed on many occasions in the past. In the view of the United Kingdom, the participation of all militarily significant States, including all nuclear-weapon States, remains an essential element in convening a world disarmament conference.

United
States of
America:

The position of the United States has not changed. According to that position, the General Assembly could note by consensus that a world disarmament conference could play a role in the disarmament process at an appropriate time. However, under the circumstances it is not the lack of a suitable forum, but the lack of political agreement that constitutes the principal obstacle to progress in disarmament. A world disarmament conference would be unlikely to overcome this lack of agreement and thus would more probably hinder, rather than assist, efforts to reach concrete arms control agreements. It, therefore, would be premature at this time to convene, to set a date or to start preparations for a world disarmament conference.

III. CONCLUSION

14. In considering the advisability of the continuation of the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference under an appropriate mandate, in the light of the contents of the present and previous reports, the General Assembly may wish to bear in mind the recommendation made to it by the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament. 6/

6/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 41 (A/32/41), para. 18.

ANNEX

Excerpts from statements made by the representatives of Member States in the general debate of the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference (A/AC.167/SR.37-39)

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BULGARIA

The representative of Bulgaria stated that the People's Republic of Bulgaria had consistently favoured the convening of a world disarmament conference. His country was profoundly convinced that the need for such a conference was growing daily more urgent in view of the unceasing arms race, which was supported by certain well-known militarist circles. He fully agreed with the statement made the previous day by the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the effect that the reasons for convening the conference were still valid and were constantly increasing in significance. The rate at which the arms race was accelerating tended to overtake measures to reduce and control it, which was understandably causing universal anxiety. The special task with which the world was now faced was to direct the will and efforts of all countries, and particularly of the nuclear countries, towards reaching a satisfactory solution to that cardinal problem.

The People's Republic of Bulgaria was convinced that the convening of such an authoritative international forum as the world disarmament conference would give major impetus to a thorough discussion of all aspects of disarmament, would highlight the most pressing current tasks in that field and would indicate the practical measures to be taken to achieve success. The special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament was a step in the right direction and should be a significant stage in preparing for the conference. He was satisfied with the work of the Preparatory Committee, which had adopted a number of important and constructive recommendations.

It was regrettable that two nuclear Powers were continuing to create obstacles to the successful preparation of the conference. The efforts of the Ad Hoc Committee, reflecting the hopes and aspirations of the great majority of States Members of the United Nations, should be continued and intensified. The report to be prepared by the Working Group should reflect the views stated by Governments following the submission of the preceding report. (A/AC.167/SR.39)

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The representative of Czechoslovakia held that the joint communiqué adopted by Czechoslovakia and Iran following a visit to Czechoslovakia by the Shah of Iran showed the significance attached by the peoples of the world to the halting of the arms race and to the process of disarmament, as well as the timeliness of the Committee's mission for the convening of a world disarmament conference. The communiqué expressed support for the convening of the special session devoted to disarmament.

Some progress had been achieved at the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session and preparations for the special session were beginning to take concrete shape, although the drafting of the main documents was an important task for the next session of the Preparatory Committee. The convening of the special session was the result of efforts on the part of the non-aligned countries and should constitute a major step towards convening a world disarmament conference, which would lay a firm foundation for disarmament on the broadest possible basis and under strict international control. His delegation therefore wished to reiterate its appreciation for the highly constructive approach of the

non-aligned countries in seeking a solution of those most pressing and difficult problems of current international relations. If all States Members of the United Nations, and especially all the nuclear Powers, took a responsible approach, the special session could become a watershed in the long history of disarmament negotiations and would provide an impetus for greater efforts by the progressive forces of the world, which were becoming increasingly aware of the terrible threat posed to the whole of mankind by the continued arms race.

It should, however, be emphasized that the special session must be understood to be only an intermediate stage; the main goal must remain the convening of a world disarmament conference. World developments since the last General Assembly had again proved the urgent necessity of convening such a conference. There were powerful circles which still believed that complex international problems could be solved, not by patience and rationally conducted negotiations, but by upsetting the balance of forces in the world and developing still more destructive weapons.

The Ad Hoc Committee had made considerable effort to fulfil the mandate given to it by the General Assembly. Its work had, however, been hampered throughout by the attitude of the two members which did not participate in its work. A process of world-wide disarmament could be effective only if all countries participated in its preparation, especially those possessing nuclear weapons. All members of the Ad Hoc Committee, particularly the major Powers, should participate actively in the Committee's work in order to ensure progress. (A/AC.167/SR.39)

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

The observer of the German Democratic Republic noted that it was not surprising that the socialist countries had expressed themselves with particular insistence in favour of a world disarmament conference, for the struggle to halt the arms race in the interests of mankind was in harmony with the social structure of the socialist countries. Since 1917, following the October Revolution, the Soviet Union had advocated general disarmament and, increasingly supported by a number of other States, had made many proposals to that effect. In recent months, it had become clear that the idea of a world disarmament conference was receiving increasingly wide support. Certain circles had sought to prevent the inclusion of the question of a conference in the agenda of the special session, but that attempt had failed. The Preparatory Committee had also decided to recommend to the thirty-second session of the General Assembly that the Ad Hoc Committee be asked to submit a report on the matter to the special session, an idea already raised in the Ad Hoc Committee itself. The recommendation was a logical one. The question now arose whether the Committee's mandate should be widened by the General Assembly to make concrete considerations for preparing and convening a world disarmament conference. His delegation would support a recommendation to that effect.

Two States in particular were opposed to the holding of a world disarmament conference, a serious factor which cast doubt on the sincerity of the views expressed by those States concerning their preparedness for disarmament. The States in question currently envisaged concepts and measures which would tend to accelerate the arms race. Those States which genuinely favoured the holding of a world disarmament conference should speak out more strongly in support of the idea, for the two States which opposed the conference must not be permitted to define the course of international events in a manner contrary to the common will. The

Ad Hoc Committee had been effective in promoting the idea of a world disarmament conference, and he hoped that the report of the Committee to the thirty-second session of the General Assembly would clearly draw attention to the positive international situation relating to the conference. (A/AC.167/SR.39)

HUNGARY

The representative of Hungary observed that a number of circumstances had changed since the end of the Ad Hoc Committee's 1976 session. At its thirty-first session, the General Assembly had decided by consensus to convene a special session devoted to disarmament in the conviction that every effort must be made to mobilize the potential of the international community to promote disarmament and that such a session would be a major step towards the final goal of general and complete disarmament. The special session - and, indeed, any disarmament action - could be successful only if it was thoroughly prepared and if participants were fully informed of each other's views. The special session should contribute to that process. The session should not be regarded as a substitute for the world disarmament conference, for both gatherings would be major landmarks in the disarmament process. The work of the Ad Hoc Committee and that of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session must be complementary, for with mutual co-operation the special session could help to ensure that the aims of the world disarmament conference were achieved. The conference was the best framework within which to unite the international community in the fight for disarmament. (A/AC.167/SR.37)

The representative of Hungary noted that his delegation had from the beginning been an active advocate of the convening of a world disarmament conference, since such a conference was the most appropriate forum in which to discuss and initiate effective measures concerning disarmament. His Government therefore attached considerable importance to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee, and he was pleased that the recent session of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament and of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament showed an increase in activities directed towards disarmament. The Ad Hoc Committee, which was meeting immediately after the conclusion of the third session of the Preparatory Committee, need not fear any overlap with the latter's work, since disarmament was a complex question which had to be dealt with in a number of ways, through bilateral, regional and global action. The achievement of positive results in one disarmament forum promoted progress in others, and success in the Ad Hoc Committee would contribute to success at the special session and the conference itself.

The special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament and the world disarmament conference were not mutually exclusive, but complementary. If the work of the special session was successful, it would create better conditions for holding a world disarmament conference. It was therefore essential for the Ad Hoc Committee to continue its work and for the General Assembly to extend its mandate. There was general agreement that the special session should continue with the task of convening a world disarmament conference, and paragraph 18 of the progress report of the Preparatory Committee to the General Assembly recommended that the Ad Hoc Committee should be asked to submit a special report to the special session on the state of its work. He was in agreement with those who wished the report of the Ad Hoc Committee to contain the views of States possessing nuclear

weapons, as requested by General Assembly resolution 31/190, as well as appropriate references to the observations made by Governments since the last report of the Committee. (A/AC.167/SR.39)

MONGOLIA

The representative of Mongolia stated that it was becoming increasingly urgent to hold a world disarmament conference. The time had come for international action to halt the arms race and to clear the way for real disarmament. That would require the efforts of all nations, both large and small, both nuclear and non-nuclear. In that connexion, he recalled that a proposal had been made at the Fifth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries to include an item on the world disarmament conference on the agenda of the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. His delegation did not, of course, view the special session as a substitute for such a conference but as an important step in that direction.

His delegation attached great importance to the Ad Hoc Committee, which had already done much useful work. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 31/190, it must maintain close contact with the representatives of States possessing nuclear weapons and consider any comments submitted to it. Accordingly, his delegation supported the Soviet proposal that the Committee, when reporting to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session, should recommend the inclusion of the question of convening a world disarmament conference on the agenda of the special session as a separate item and that the General Assembly should entrust the Committee with preparing a report on that item. (A/AC.167/SR.37)

The representative of Mongolia held that his delegation believed that the problem of halting the arms race and achieving disarmament was particularly pressing, especially in view of the urgent need to supplement political détente with military détente and of the real danger of the appearance of more destructive weapons.

His delegation had already stated that the time had come for decisive international action to halt the arms race on a universal basis. The proposal to convene a world disarmament conference was widely supported, as was apparent from the replies of many States to the Secretary-General presenting their views concerning the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. His delegation felt that the report of the Ad Hoc Committee should reflect the views of States in favour of a world disarmament conference, as indicated in those replies.

At the April session of the Ad Hoc Committee, his delegation had stated that it was logical for the General Assembly to request the Committee to submit a report to the special session. The Preparatory Committee had already recommended that the General Assembly should ask the Ad Hoc Committee to submit a special report to the special session on the state of its work, and that proposal should be reflected in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee to the thirty-second session of the General Assembly.

The special session should constitute a major step forward towards the convening of a world disarmament conference. It should decide what practical

measures were to be taken to prepare and organize the conference. The Ad Hoc Committee could make a real contribution to that decision, particularly by proposing in its report to the special session a specific date for the convening of the conference and by giving its views on the establishment of a preparatory committee for the practical organization of the conference. His delegation deeply regretted that two nuclear Powers had not changed their well-known positions concerning a crucial measure aimed at preserving the security of mankind. (A/AC.167/SR.39)

POLAND

The representative of Poland recalled that, in opening the organizational session of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament, the Secretary-General had pointed out that the United Nations could hardly be expected to function on the basis of the Charter and of international law unless it succeeded in making major progress in the field of disarmament. Only then would it be possible to create a system of world order based on collective responsibility in a climate of international confidence. With the arms race constituting the single most massive obstacle to effective progress, the need for disarmament was becoming increasingly urgent.

The world disarmament conference had been conceived to meet that need and, as a product of growing political détente, had been aimed at extending to the military sphere the global progress achieved in the political sphere. Those who opposed it did so on grounds of expediency rather than out of a desire to fulfil their countries' true aspirations.

The idea of convening a world disarmament conference had gained ground over the years, in spite of obstruction and delaying tactics, and had been given further impetus by the decision to hold a special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, which would help to ensure that adequate preparations were made for the conference.

The General Assembly, by requesting the Ad Hoc Committee to submit a report to the Assembly at its thirty-second session "in accordance with its established procedure" (resolution 31/190), had acknowledged that the mandate of the Committee had not diminished in scope, and, indeed, the current session of the Committee was both timely and necessary if the United Nations was to respond to the needs of the current international situation.

In organizing its work, the Ad Hoc Committee would have to bear in mind three major substantive aspects of its work: firstly, it was still operating with machinery for disarmament negotiations which had taken more than 25 years to establish and which needed an effective stimulus that could only be provided by a universal forum such as the world disarmament conference. That machinery involved bilateral, regional and global discussions and included the SALT negotiations and Vienna talks, which he was sure would succeed provided that they were based on the premise of the undiminished security of all the parties concerned. Their success would no doubt positively influence the efforts undertaken in global forums.

Secondly, the idea of convening a world disarmament conference had been the outcome of consistency of action, particularly on the part of the non-aligned

countries. Successive high-level meetings of those countries, culminating in the Fifth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries held at Colombo, had issued declarations and resolutions in support of a world disarmament conference. In addition, the socialist countries had voiced continuous support for such a conference, as could be seen from the documents of the meeting of the Political Consultative Committee of the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty, held at Bucharest in November 1976. In recent months, it had been the foreign policy of his own country to reaffirm the desirability and political utility of convening such a conference, as could be seen from a number of documents agreed upon during talks between its political leaders and those of other countries, including the non-aligned countries.

Thirdly, there was a close substantive and organizational link between the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament and the world disarmament conference. That link was inherent in the subject-matter of each of those gatherings and in the conviction that the special session should be regarded as an important stage in the process leading to the world disarmament conference. That relationship had also been reflected in General Assembly resolution 31/190 on the world disarmament conference, which had taken note of the decision to convene a special session devoted to disarmament, and in resolution 31/189 B on the special session devoted to disarmament, which had referred to the suggestion made by the Fifth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries at Colombo to the effect that the agenda of the special session should include the question of convening a world disarmament conference with a view to promoting general and complete disarmament under strict international control. Both the contents of those two resolutions and the consistent position of the non-aligned countries fully coincided with his own country's approach. (A/AC.167/SR.37)

The representative of Poland noted with satisfaction that only in recent days the leaders of Poland and Iran have reiterated in their joint communiqué that the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament should be a significant step along the road to convening a world disarmament conference. He stressed that, thanks to the persistent efforts of numerous States, including those of the socialist community, the idea of a special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament and that of a world disarmament conference had become closely associated. While the proposal for a conference had contributed to the decision to hold a special session, the special session would in turn be a major preparatory stage for the conference.

Only the world-wide enforcement of truly binding decisions adopted by a universal forum like the world disarmament conference could provide the prompt, effective measures for disarmament which today were more necessary than ever. The international community could no longer afford half-measures, beginning and ending with solemn declarations.

The lack of more substantial progress in disarmament was seriously hampering the process of détente. Political détente alone would not suffice in the long run; it must be accompanied by similar developments in the military sphere.

Ineffective efforts at disarmament merely encouraged States to perfect their instruments of destruction. There were constant new reminders of the growing threats which the world was facing. A world disarmament conference would help to

dispel many of mankind's worst fears and would offer a new stimulus to efforts to prove that détente was an irreversible and a lasting process.

As a result of the work of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament, the organic link between the world disarmament conference and the special session had been further strengthened. His delegation hoped that the special session would decide on a specific date for the convening of the conference, adopt a recommendation concerning its substantive terms of reference and establish a properly mandated preparatory committee for the conference.

A world disarmament conference would appraise the implementation of the decisions of the special session and be empowered to adopt practical and binding disarmament measures. It could become a powerful stimulus to, and a highly authoritative forum for, international disarmament efforts. (A/AC.167/SR.38)

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that the Soviet Union favoured convening a world disarmament conference so as to enable all countries to present their views on the full range of disarmament problems. He recalled that his country had presented at the thirty-first session of the General Assembly a series of specific proposals for curtailing the arms race which reflected the views of many other countries. Efforts to curb the arms race had to be universal, and must therefore be discussed in the broadest possible forum, namely a world disarmament conference, which could adopt effective decisions. That proposal had the support of the overwhelming majority of States, and the task of convening such a conference was therefore one of the most urgent ones facing the international community.

With regard to the Committee's practical work, his delegation felt that the Chairman, with the aid of the other officers, should continue to maintain contact with the nuclear Powers. Information deriving from such contacts could be presented at subsequent meetings of the Committee and reflected in the latter's report to the General Assembly. He also proposed that the Committee recommend in its report that the Assembly include the question of a world disarmament conference as a separate item on the agenda of the special session devoted to disarmament. Such a recommendation would be fully in keeping with the Committee's mandate and would also be a practical way of indicating the connexion between the world disarmament conference and the special session called for in General Assembly resolution 31/190. It would also be fully in keeping with the position of the non-aligned countries at the Fifth Conference of Heads of State or Government held at Colombo.

He further proposed that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that the latter instruct it to prepare a report for the special session on the convening of a world disarmament conference. The Committee already submitted reports to the regular sessions, which had the world disarmament conference on the agenda, and it was all the more important to do the same for the special session devoted exclusively to disarmament. What was intended, of course, was an interim report of the Committee, which would subsequently pursue its work on the conference in the light of the results of the special session. (A/AC.167/SR.37)

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that it was appropriate that the Ad Hoc Committee should begin its work immediately after the session of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament. That attested to the grave concern of States at the arms race and showed their desire to take effective measures to halt it.

The Soviet Union worked consistently for peace and disarmament. For that reason, it favoured convening a world disarmament conference, where States could express their opinions on all aspects of the arms race and adopt a programme of practical measures for halting it. The 1978 special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament could be an important stage in the preparations for such a conference.

Progress in the struggle for peace depended primarily on the concerted efforts of all countries. The proposal to convene a world disarmament conference commanded overwhelming support: the heads of delegations of nearly 40 countries had endorsed it at the thirty-first session of the General Assembly. The Ad Hoc Committee was doing useful work in analysing views and proposals on that subject and should certainly go on with its task.

The mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee was twofold: to maintain close contacts with the representatives of the States possessing nuclear weapons in order to remain currently informed of their respective attitudes, and to consider any relevant comments and observations which might be made to the Committee. The Chairman of the Committee had done considerable work pursuant to the first part of that mandate. It was, however, unfortunate that two of the nuclear Powers had still not changed their positions on the question of a world disarmament conference.

The inclusion of the question of a world disarmament conference in the agenda of the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament and the recommendation of the Preparatory Committee that the Ad Hoc Committee should prepare a report for the special session, in line with the Soviet proposal to the Ad Hoc Committee made on 4 April 1977, were both important and useful decisions. The Ad Hoc Committee should now recommend to the General Assembly that the Committee be instructed to submit a report on the world disarmament conference to the special session. That would, of course, be an interim report by the Committee, which would continue its work in the light of the discussions held at the special session. The report should be prepared by the working group and should reflect the views presented by States on the convening of a world disarmament conference since the submission of the Committee's report to the thirty-first session of the General Assembly.

The Soviet Union's position on the need for a world disarmament conference was based on its deep interest in the adoption of effective measures for the limitation of the arms race and the achievement of a break-through in dealing with the problems of disarmament. (A/AC.167/SR.38)

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