

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

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 28 (A/34/28)



UNITED NATIONS

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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. By its resolution 33/69 of 14 December 1978, the General Assembly requested the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference 1/ to maintain close contact with the representatives of the States possessing nuclear weapons in order to remain currently informed of their attitudes, as well as with all other States, and to consider any relevant comments and observations which might be made to the Committee, especially having in mind paragraph 122 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly (resolution S-10/2), and requested the Committee to submit a report to the Assembly at its thirty-fourth session.

2. The elected officers of the Ad Hoc Committee were as follows:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. Biyagama J. Fernando	(Sri Lanka)
<u>Vice-Chairmen:</u>	Mr. Carlos T. Alzamora	(Peru)
	Mr. Henryk Jaroszek	(Poland)
	Mr. Artémon Simbananiye	(Burundi)
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. Fermin Zelada	(Spain)

3. 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.

4. The Working Group established in 1974 2/ continued to function.

1/ By its resolution 3183 (XXVIII) of 21 December 1976, 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 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/ The composition of the Working Group is as follows: Burundi, Egypt, Hungary, India, Iran, Italy, Mexico, Peru, Poland and Spain (Chairman). Austria, the German Democratic Republic, Japan, Sweden, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and Yugoslavia participated in the Working Group as observers.

II. WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

5. In accordance with its mandate mentioned in paragraph 1 above, the Ad Hoc Committee held two sessions in 1979.
6. During the first session the Committee held two meetings on 10 and 11 April 1979. At the first meeting the representative of Iran informed the Committee that Iran did not wish to hold the chairmanship of the Committee, and recommended that H.E. Ambassador Biyagarage J. Fernando, the representative of Sri Lanka, be the new Chairman. The recommendation was seconded by the representative of Indonesia, and the Committee elected Mr. Fernando as its Chairman by acclamation.
7. At the two meetings several States members of the Committee made statements on the subject (see A/AC.167/SR.46 and 47), excerpts from which are included in the annex to the present report.
8. During the second session, the Committee held three plenary meetings between 10 and 14 September 1979. The Chairman and a number of Member States made statements (see A/AC.167/SR.48-50), excerpts from which are included in the annex to the present report.
9. Members of the Committee were fully aware of the positions previously expressed by the Governments of other States on the convening of a world disarmament conference.
10. The Working Group held three meetings on 12 and 13 September 1979, and it elaborated the draft of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee.
11. The Ad Hoc Committee, at its 50th meeting, considered and adopted its report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session.
12. The Ad Hoc Committee was conscious of the fact that the idea of holding a world disarmament conference was subject to consideration in other forums both within and outside the United Nations. These included, inter alia, the following:
 - (a) At its session held between 14 May and 8 June 1979, the Disarmament Commission adopted various recommendations on "Elements of a comprehensive programme of disarmament". Paragraph 17 of the recommendations reads as follows: 3/

"At the earliest appropriate time, a world disarmament conference should be convened with universal participation and with adequate preparation."
 - (b) In the Joint United States - Union of Soviet Socialist Republics Communiqué of the meetings of the President of the United States Jimmy Carter and the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Leonid I. Brezhnev, issued on 18 June 1979 at Vienna, the relevant paragraph reads as follows:

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/34/42), para. 17.

"The sides noted their support for a second special session of the UN General Assembly devoted to disarmament and for that session to be followed by the convocation of a World Disarmament Conference with universal participation, adequately prepared and at an appropriate time." 4/

(c) At its meetings held from 3 to 9 September 1979 at Havana, the Sixth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries adopted a Political Declaration. Paragraph 223 of the Declaration reads as follows:

"The Conference welcomed the decision to hold a second special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament in 1982 and called upon the non-aligned countries to take an active part in the preparation of that session in order to ensure the best results. It supported the proposal to call for a world disarmament conference at the appropriate time with universal participation and adequate preparation." 5/

13. In accordance with paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 33/69, the Ad Hoc Committee, through its Chairman, maintained close contact with the representatives of the States possessing nuclear weapons in order to remain currently informed of their respective attitudes and obtained the following summary of their positions:

China

The position of China remains unchanged and is reflected in the previous reports of the Ad Hoc Committee to the General Assembly.

France

France is always ready to act in favour of real and effective disarmament. The French Government has accordingly upheld the World Disarmament Conference. Such a project could effectively contribute to the global disarmament process, once all of the five nuclear-weapon Powers have made known their support. Although the objectives of either the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament held in 1978 or the one to be convened in 1982 are not identical to those of the World Disarmament Conference, these sessions must be taken into consideration.

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

The Soviet Union believes that the convening of a world disarmament conference is of great international importance. This forum specially devoted to one of the most urgent problems of the present should be a further step forward in combining the efforts of States in the field of disarmament, which would supplement what was expressed and agreed on at the tenth special session of the General Assembly.

The USSR is convinced that the World Disarmament Conference could elaborate effective decisions which would be a new incentive for all States for taking practical measures on halting the arms race. Universality of the World Conference would ensure the joint participation of all countries of the world in consideration of disarmament issues.

4/ A/34/414, p. 4.

5/ A/34/542, sect. I.

As appears from the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly and from the recommendations of the United Nations Disarmament Commission, the idea of holding a world disarmament conference continues to enjoy more and more broad support.

The Soviet Union is of the opinion that the time has come to take concrete steps which would help to start directly a thorough preparation for the Conference. Having this aim in mind it would be expedient to determine the date of convening the World Disarmament Conference and to establish a preparatory body for the Conference. A positive solution of these questions would be logical and timely. It would meet the interests of everybody who not in words but in practice aims at disarmament.

The task of convening the World Disarmament Conference would be facilitated, although not in full measure, in our view, by the adoption at the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly of the draft resolution entrusting the Ad Hoc Committee with starting preliminary preparatory work for the Conference. We are prepared to consider and approach in a constructive manner such a proposal.

The Soviet Union supported the idea of holding the first special session on disarmament and took the most active part in it. The USSR has also agreed to convening the second special session in 1982. We believe, however, that the World Disarmament Conference would become a unique forum and gain a historic meaning. Preparation and holding of the Conference would make it possible to concentrate the attention of Governments of all States of the world and world public on the solution of the question of how to halt the arms race and move forward on the way to real disarmament. Therefore the Soviet Union considers that the second special session of the General Assembly on disarmament should be followed by the World Disarmament Conference and that the thirty-fourth session of the Assembly should contribute to achieving this goal.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The United Kingdom takes the view that the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference should not undertake any substantive work until all the significant military States have indicated that in principle they support the convening of a World Disarmament Conference and would be prepared to participate in its work.

Although the United Kingdom recognizes that at an appropriate time, and if carefully prepared, the convening of a World Disarmament Conference would serve a useful purpose, we are not convinced that the condition outlined in the above paragraph has been fulfilled.

United States of America

The position of the United States on the matter of a world disarmament conference remains unchanged. It is the view of the United States that it premature to set a date and begin preparations for the convening of such a conference.

As noted in the views of the United States contained in the 1978 report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference to the General Assembly, 6/ we believe that there is insufficient political agreement on the issues which would presumably be addressed at such a conference and that this lack of agreement would probably hinder rather than assist efforts to reach concrete arms control agreements.

III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

14. In view of the latest developments in the field of disarmament deliberations and negotiations in different forums, as indicated in paragraph 12 of the present report, the Ad Hoc Committee reiterated that the idea of a world disarmament conference has received wide support by the membership of the United Nations, however, with varying degrees of emphasis and differences on conditions and certain aspects related to the question of its convening. No consensus with respect to the convening of a world disarmament conference under present conditions has yet been reached among the nuclear-weapon States, whose participation in a world disarmament conference has been deemed essential by most Members of the Organization.

15. Having regard for the important requirements of a world disarmament conference to be convened at the earliest appropriate time, with universal participation and with adequate preparation, the General Assembly may wish to decide that, after its second special session devoted to disarmament, a world disarmament conference would take place as soon as the necessary consensus on its convening has been reached.

16. The General Assembly may wish to renew the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee and to request it to continue to maintain close contact with the representatives of the States possessing nuclear weapons in order to remain currently informed of their attitudes, as well as with all other States, and to consider any relevant comments and observations which might be made to the Committee.

6/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 28 (A/33/28), p. 4.

ANNEX

Excerpts from summary of statements made by the Chairman of the Committee and representatives of Member States in the general debate of the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference (A/AC.167/SR.46-49)

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CHAIRMAN OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE
(Ambassador B. J. Fernando of Sri Lanka)

The Chairman stressed that the most effective assurance against the use or threat of the use of nuclear weapons was nuclear disarmament and the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons. Furthermore, the arms race was incompatible with the efforts directed towards the establishment of a new international economic order. He noted that the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, devoted to disarmament, had called for the convening of a World Disarmament Conference with universal participation and adequate preparation. Furthermore, the Joint United States-Soviet Communiqué issued on 18 June 1979 in Vienna (A/34/414, annex) had stated that the two nations supported a second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament and the convening of a World Disarmament Conference to be held at an appropriate time following that session with universal participation and adequate preparation. The recent Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries held at Havana had also expressed support for the proposal (A/AC.167/SR.48).

BULGARIA

1. The representative of Bulgaria said that disarmament was a complicated and difficult process involving protracted and sometimes painful discussion. Discussing the problems of disarmament within the framework of the United Nations, particularly at special sessions, contributed to clarifying and bringing together the viewpoints of the States concerned. Accordingly, Bulgaria had participated actively in the tenth special session of the General Assembly and would continue to work for the successful conduct of the second special session devoted to disarmament in 1982. It was of the opinion that the convening of the World Disarmament Conference would not supersede the special sessions but would represent an absolutely necessary independent stage.

2. The process of bringing views on separate issues of disarmament closer should find its logical completion in concrete, legally binding instruments. That final stage might be left to the Committee on Disarmament in Geneva, as was the prevailing practice. However, the World Disarmament Conference could serve as a powerful accelerator to the negotiations on the various measures for disarmament. From a purely technical point of view, the Conference would allow negotiations to be conducted concurrently on a wide range of problems, with the participation of high-level experts, and would provide an opportunity to negotiate treaties and agreements. From a political point of view, the Conference would undoubtedly stimulate the element of political will, which was essential to success in the field of disarmament.

3. The interrelationship between the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament and the World Disarmament Conference was acknowledged by the overwhelming majority of States. The special session had recognized the need to convene a world disarmament conference, the two basic requirements for which were universal participation and adequate preparation. Preparations should therefore begin well in advance. In that connexion, Bulgaria strongly supported the Soviet proposal that the Ad Hoc Committee should recommend in its report that the General Assembly should discuss at its thirty-fourth session the date for the convening of the World Disarmament Conference and the setting up of a preparatory body (A/AC.167/SR.47).

4. With regard to the Committee's report, his delegation felt that it must take into account the provisions of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, in particular paragraph 122, which unambiguously called for the convening of the World Disarmament Conference in the near future with universal participation and adequate preparation. The World Disarmament Conference was the only forum which could organize and channel the efforts of all States towards the achievement of practical measures in the field of disarmament. It was now high time for the Committee to include in its report specific recommendations on the commencement of preparatory activities for the Conference. His delegation therefore supported the idea that the General Assembly, at its thirty-fourth session, should set a date for the Conference and establish a preparatory body for it (A/AC.167/SR.48).

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

1. The representative of Czechoslovakia said that, apart from the progress made in mutual disarmament talks by the major nuclear Powers, positive results had also been achieved in multilateral negotiations, both within and outside the United Nations. Of particular importance was the 1978 special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament. In that connexion the idea of a world disarmament conference and its early convocation had gained wide support in many international forums, governmental and non-governmental, multilateral and bilateral. The socialist States, both individually and as a group, were permanently and actively committed to the early convocation of a world disarmament conference, as had been stated at the most recent meeting of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty States. The conference would provide a universal forum which could consider a number of specific disarmament measures and further expand and elaborate political and other principles of disarmament; it could thus follow up, and in some respects even finalize, the work of other multilateral disarmament negotiations. The Conference would be an active component in the process of détente and would provide an opportunity for extending détente into the military sphere as well. The convening of the conference should not be prevented by obstacles raised in a demagogic manner by States which, while hiding behind slogans of peace, pursued their own expansionist and nationalist objectives of power that were totally alien to peace.

2. Noting that the Ad Hoc Committee had already completed the important preparatory stage of its work for the Conference, he expressed the view that the time had come for the Ad Hoc Committee to recommend to the General Assembly at its next session that it should consider the question of determining the date for the holding of the World Disarmament Conference and at the same time establish a preparatory committee for the Conference (A/AC.167/SR.46).

3. His delegation had not changed its opinion and considered that the positive, concrete and constructive progress recorded in the decisive disarmament negotiations, particularly those at the highest level between the Soviet Union and the United States, provided an opportunity to consider the question of convening the Conference in specific terms. His delegation welcomed the fact that the idea had been consistently supported at the recent summit conference of non-aligned States at Havana.

4. His delegation also considered that the World Disarmament Conference should follow immediately after the second special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament and that the time had now come to make definite arrangements for the preparation of the agenda and the organization of the Conference. It therefore recommended that the Committee's report should contain a proposal requesting the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session to set the date for the convening of the World Disarmament Conference and to arrange for the preparations (A/AC.167/SR.49).

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

1. The representative of the German Democratic Republic said that developments in the past few months underlined still further the need to prepare and convene the World Disarmament Conference. The participants in the summit conference of non-aligned States, which had just completed its work in Havana, had expressed concern over the continuation of the arms race. In that regard, the signature at Vienna of the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty and other agreements by representatives at the highest level of the Soviet Union and the United States was of primary importance. The ratification and entry into force of SALT II would have a positive influence on the continuation of negotiations on arms limitation and disarmament.

2. In the Joint Communiqué signed in Vienna by the General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, Mr. Brezhnev, and the President of the United States of America, Mr. Carter, mention was made of the convening of the World Disarmament Conference (see A/34/414, annex, sect. II). His delegation believed that it was altogether essential that all States, especially the nuclear-weapon States and the great military Powers, should participate in that conference. No one who had the political will to bring about disarmament could deny that.

3. The preparation in May and June 1979 by the United Nations Disarmament Commission of the comprehensive programme for disarmament was another major development. The recommendations in the report of the United Nations Disarmament Commission, which dealt also with the question of convening as soon as possible the World Disarmament Conference, had been adopted by consensus and would be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session. a/

4. After outlining various attempts being made to revive the arms race and, in particular, the plans of certain military circles to introduce new types of dangerous weapons, he said that no one should be allowed to delay further the convening of the World Disarmament Conference, and he supported the proposal to request the General Assembly to set a date at its next session for the convening of the Conference and to entrust the preparations to the Ad Hoc Committee or some other body (A/AC.167/SR.49).

a/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/34/42).

HUNGARY

1. The representative of Hungary said that his Government continued to believe that the most suitable forum for the promotion of effective action in the field of disarmament would be the World Disarmament Conference, and it was gratified to learn that the Governments of most Member States shared that view. The special session had advocated that a world disarmament conference should be convened at the earliest possible time, and subsequently the General Assembly had unanimously adopted its resolution 33/69, renewing the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee. That wide support should convince the Committee that the existing difficulties could be overcome, thus providing further stimulus to its work.
2. His delegation had repeatedly expressed its conviction that improvements in the international climate, progress in disarmament and the strengthening of international security were mutually reinforcing and created conditions conducive to the convening of a world disarmament conference. Members of the Committee should not remain passive observers of those developments, but should help to contribute to their realization. Hungary would use the possibilities of the Committee to the fullest to advance the cause of the World Disarmament Conference and to impress the usefulness of the undertaking upon those who doubted. In view of the growing support for disarmament and also the growing sense of urgency regarding effective action, it would be increasingly difficult to oppose the convening of the Conference. His delegation was convinced of the need to keep the option of the World Disarmament Conference open and to have the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee extended by the General Assembly. It would resolutely support a draft resolution to that effect (A/AC.167/SR.47).
3. It had to be acknowledged that the progress achieved in the field of disarmament was very slow, despite the efforts made and the successes won in the course of the present year, the most outstanding of which was the signature of the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Accordingly, what was needed was a redoubling of efforts and patience and perseverance. That was also true with respect to the convening of a world disarmament conference. If there was not unanimity on that matter, it was nevertheless obvious that in the General Assembly, in the United Nations Disarmament Commission and in bilateral negotiations, many were of the opinion that such a conference was necessary. His delegation believed that the Conference would provide the most appropriate forum in which to take effective measures on disarmament.
4. The report to be prepared in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 33/69 should contain a specific recommendation to the Assembly requesting it to set a date for the Conference, which could be held after the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, namely after 1982. Such a decision would have a definite mobilizing effect. The report should also record the tremendous support expressed so far in favour of the convening of a world disarmament conference (A/AC.167/SR.49).

MONGOLIA

1. The representative of Mongolia said that his delegation continued to believe that a world disarmament conference was a suitable forum for effective deliberations on a problem of world importance such as disarmament; it therefore advocated the speediest possible convening of the Conference. His delegation's view was prompted by its concern over the continued escalation of the arms race and military build-up and the unceasing conflict situations in different parts of the world. In that connexion he cited the actions of military-industrial circles in the NATO countries and allied countries, which were intensely engaged in strengthening their war potential in order to achieve their expansionist aspirations and great-Power hegemonistic ambitions. He also referred to the armed aggression recently launched by China against the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. All of those factors demonstrated the need for the most effective and immediate measures to remove the threat of a new world war, to stop the arms race and to bring about genuine disarmament. It was his delegation's belief that a world disarmament conference would represent one of the significant events of the second Disarmament Decade and would play an important role in the formulation and implementation of its purposes and objectives. There was, furthermore, a close link between disarmament and development; and all aspects of disarmament, including its economic and social results, should be dealt with in depth in a forum of universal scope such as a world disarmament conference. It was the view of his delegation that the Ad Hoc Committee should now proceed to work out specific measures for the convening of a world disarmament conference and make specific recommendations as to the date and other organizational matters concerning the convening of the Conference (A/AC.167/SR.46).

2. Her delegation urged that the World Disarmament Conference should be held as soon as possible, because the Conference, as a universal forum, would be able to take effective disarmament measures. It believed that the time had come to set a date for that Conference. Moreover, both the decisions of the tenth special session of the General Assembly, devoted to disarmament, and the components of the comprehensive programme for disarmament prepared during the session of the Disarmament Commission reflected the idea of the urgent convening of a properly prepared World Disarmament Conference. In that regard, she welcomed the fact that the Soviet Union and the United States, during the Vienna meeting in June 1979, had given favourable consideration to the idea that the Conference should follow the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. It was also encouraging to note that the proposal had been favourably received at the Sixth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned States, which had just completed its work in Havana. Her delegation shared the view that the General Assembly, at its forthcoming session, should set a date for the convening of the Conference and should entrust the preparations to the Committee (A/AC.167/SR.49).

POLAND

1. The representative of Poland said that there were numerous adverse factors impeding progress in the crucial field of curbing the arms race. They included the blatant use of force, such as the recent aggression against the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam by a permanent member of the Security Council, the intensification of the arms race by the NATO States and attempts at destabilization in different parts of the world. At the same time vast material and human resources were being wasted on armaments, thereby giving rise to negative economic and social repercussions, including galloping inflation. It was clear that the main opposition to a world disarmament conference came precisely from those quarters which bore a substantial share of responsibility for the existing evils in world affairs.

2. Conscious of the need to take measures and pursue policies which strengthened international peace and security and built up confidence among States, Poland had undertaken a political initiative in the United Nations, which had resulted in the adoption by the General Assembly, at its thirty-third session, of an unprecedented document, namely the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace, b/ which his delegation believed would become an instrument for the active promotion of global détente and further progress in disarmament. In conclusion, he announced his delegation's willingness to join in the preparation of a recommendation to be included in the Ad Hoc Committee's report to the General Assembly to the effect that the Ad Hoc Committee should be transformed into a preparatory committee for the World Disarmament Conference (A/AC.167/SR.46).

3. Real and effective disarmament combined with the political goodwill of States constituted one of the most important elements in the process of preparing societies for life in peace, and the World Disarmament Conference should be seen precisely in that context. His delegation had therefore been gratified to note that the Joint Soviet-United States Communiqué issued in June 1979 at Vienna contained explicit supportive reference to the World Disarmament Conference. On the basis of that reference and other recent references in favour of the Conference, including especially those made at the Havana summit meeting of the non-aligned countries and in the report of the Disarmament Commission, there was good reason to support the idea that the Committee should become the preparatory body for the Conference. His delegation was ready and willing to join in working out mutually acceptable conclusions to that effect for inclusion in the Committee's report to the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly (A/AC.167/SR.48).

b/ General Assembly resolution 33/73.

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

1. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics said that one of the major achievements of the special session had been the recognition of the fact that the question of disarmament was universal, affecting the vital interests of all peoples and States, and could therefore be resolved only by the combined efforts of all parties. The fact that the special session had been held was evidence of the need for world-wide discussions on disarmament. The Soviet Union had supported the idea of holding both the first special session and a second one in 1982; but it would be unjustified to confine efforts to the discussion of disarmament at special sessions, and for that reason the Soviet Union continued to advocate a world disarmament conference, which it considered to be a logical step forward in disarmament attempts, supplementing, and not conflicting with, any achievements made during General Assembly sessions.

2. Long experience had shown that the cause of disarmament could not be advanced by recommendations alone. States must make specific commitments to take practical steps. The Soviet Union believed that a world disarmament conference would be an appropriate forum: it could organize its work so that the decisions it took went beyond recommendations and were binding on all States. Universal participation in the Conference would ensure that all States took part in the discussion of disarmament problems. The Conference could be so organized that the States directly involved played a leading part in the consideration of specific problems, thereby making it possible to reach mutually acceptable solutions most effectively. A combination of different methods of work would facilitate progress. If delegations participating in the Conference were given the necessary authority, suitable documents could be prepared with the assistance of qualified experts, if necessary.

3. The idea of holding a world disarmament conference continued to enjoy wide support among the Warsaw Pact Countries, the non-aligned countries and other States of various regions and political groups, and was also being considered in bilateral talks. In the light of the recommendations made at the special session, to the effect that a world disarmament conference should be convened at the earliest possible date, his delegation considered that the time had come to take new measures to hasten the convening of the Conference. The Ad Hoc Committee had done useful work and created a solid base from which to move directly to preparations for the holding of the Conference. His delegation considered, therefore, that in its report to the General Assembly the Ad Hoc Committee should include a recommendation to the effect that the dates for the World Disarmament Conference and the establishment of a preparatory body should be discussed at the thirty-fourth session of the Assembly (A/AC.167/SR.46).

4. The Soviet Union felt that one of the most effective and significant measures to enhance the mobilization of States' efforts to achieve disarmament would be the convening of a world disarmament conference. The idea of convening such a conference enjoyed widespread support, as could be seen from the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the recommendations adopted at the recent session of the Disarmament Commission and the final document of the recent Havana summit meeting of the non-aligned countries. Furthermore, in the Joint Soviet-United States Communiqué signed on 18 June 1979 in Vienna, the two parties had urged that the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, to be held in 1982, should be followed by the convening of the World Disarmament Conference.

5. The time had come to take specific steps aimed directly at preparing the Conference. His delegation was convinced that it was now possible to fix the date for the Conference and establish a preparatory body. The Committee should make specific recommendations on the subject to the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly (A/AC.167/SR.48).

6. The statements made in the Committee and the animated discussion in the Working Group among the representatives of various socialist, non-aligned and Western States indicated the serious consideration given to the question of the possibility of and conditions for convening a world disarmament conference. The report, in which reference was also made to international documents adopted in various forums, reflected wide support for the idea of convening the Conference. The socialist States were ready to make every effort to ensure that the Conference was as productive as possible. The conclusions and recommendations set forth in the report, although not as far-reaching as his delegation would have wished, reflected the important task facing the Chairman and the Committee as a whole. His delegation hoped that the Committee's work would lead to even more significant results in the coming year (A/AC.167/SR.50).

كيفية الحصول على منشورات الأمم المتحدة

يمكن الحصول على منشورات الأمم المتحدة من المكتبات ودور التوزيع في جميع أنحاء العالم . استلم منها من المكتبة التي تتعامل معها أو أكتب إلى : الأمم المتحدة ، قسم البيع في نيويورك أو في جنيف .

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