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Agenda items 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS  
ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION

CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME OF  
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ENHANCEMENT OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF MACHINERY IN THE FIELD OF  
DISARMAMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF THE UNITED  
NATIONS IN THIS FIELD, INCLUDING THE POSSIBLE CONVENING OF A  
WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE

MEASURES TO MOBILIZE WORLD PUBLIC OPINION IN FAVOUR OF DISARMAMENT

Letter dated 10 July 1982 from the Permanent Representative  
of Hungary to the United Nations addressed to the  
Secretary-General

It gives me great pleasure to forward to you herewith a statement by the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the German Democratic Republic, the Hungarian People's Republic, the Mongolian People's Republic, the Polish People's Republic, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

I have the honour to request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the twelfth special session of the General Assembly under agenda items 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13.

(Signed) Pál RACZ

ANNEX

Statement by the delegations of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the German Democratic Republic, the Hungarian People's Republic, the Mongolian People's Republic, the Polish People's Republic, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

In connection with the completion of the second special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament the delegations of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the German Democratic Republic, the Hungarian People's Republic, the Mongolian People's Republic, the Polish People's Republic, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics deem it necessary to make the following statement :

1. The joint approach of the socialist countries to the central tasks of the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament is based on their conviction that it is necessary to adopt such decisions which in practice will lead to the elimination of the threat of nuclear war and to a turn towards ending the arms race and towards disarmament, and are capable of giving further impulse to negotiations on those questions.

2. In 1978, at the first special session on disarmament the socialist countries contributed in a constructive manner to the elaboration and adoption of the objectives, principles and priorities of disarmament negotiations, as well as a programme of action in the field of disarmament, as contained in the Final Document of that session. In the last four years they have consequently lived up to their commitments. In the course of their preparations for, and also at the second special session, the socialist countries continued to work for and contribute to the success of the session on the basis of the Final Document. They believed that the special session would offer a good opportunity for all States,

regardless of size, military potential or geographical situation, to contribute actively to solving the problems of arms limitation and disarmament.

3. The deterioration of the international situation as a consequence of the escalation of the arms race by imperialist circles striving to achieve military superiority, and the enunciation of the doctrine of a "limited nuclear war" and of other doctrines, predicated on the use of nuclear weapons, have placed on the special session particularly urgent and important tasks, first and foremost, the task of adopting most urgent measures to prevent nuclear war.

4. The proposals with which the socialist countries came to the session were designed to achieve that particular task. The statement of the Soviet Union, contained in the message by the Head of the Soviet State, Leonid Brezhnev, concerning the Soviet Union's unilateral obligation not to use nuclear weapons first, reflected their profound concern for the destiny of the world and the survival of civilization as well as their high sense of responsibility for ensuring lasting peace on Earth. The socialist countries believe that the Soviet Union's decision should be followed by reciprocal steps by the other nuclear-weapon States. They are convinced that the adoption by the other nuclear-weapon States of an obligation not to be the first to use nuclear weapons would be tantamount in practice to a total ban on the use of nuclear weapons.

5. The socialist countries have submitted at the special session a set of constructive proposals aimed at strengthening peace, preserving détente, ending the arms race and promoting international co-operation. Their initiatives cover a wide range of top priority issues of curbing the arms race and disarmament, such as a nuclear disarmament programme, a ban on all nuclear-weapon tests, the prohibition of the nuclear neutron weapon, the prohibition and destruction of chemical weapons. In that context, the socialist countries have proposed a number of new important elements which take into account the views of other States, and which are aimed at achieving mutually acceptable agreements as early as possible.

The socialist countries have strongly supported the intensification of the work of all international fora where negotiations on arms limitation and disarmament are or should be conducted. They declared the interest of their Governments in resuming all those negotiations which have been broken off, and their willingness to promote the successful completion of all such negotiations.

6. At the session the socialist countries have advocated positions which respond to the aspirations of the overwhelming majority of countries. It has been confirmed throughout the session that on the question of the prevention of nuclear war and on other key issues of disarmament the positions of the socialist and the non-aligned countries are identical or similar.

7. The session has shown that the question of the prevention of nuclear war is in the focus of attention of the General Assembly. It was extensively considered both in the general debate and practically in all the working bodies, above all in the special group established on the initiative of the socialist countries. Widely recognized has been the need for urgent measures to remove the threat of nuclear war, as well as to freeze and reduce nuclear arsenals, and eventually eliminate them for good. Expressing the profound preoccupation of the peoples of the world over the increased danger of nuclear war, the General Assembly reaffirmed that the prevention of nuclear war remains the most acute and urgent task of the present time, and urged all States to consider as soon as possible the proposals submitted at the session, designed to avoid nuclear catastrophe.

8. It has been impossible to take action on concrete measures of nuclear disarmament and other important matters as a consequence of the obstructionist position of the United States and some other NATO countries, which blocked the adoption of decisions in sheer disregard of the demands of peoples. The special session has proved that those countries were guided not by concern for peace and achieving disarmament, but by an intention not to allow decisions to be taken which would impede their policy aimed at further arms build-up, in order to be able to impose their will on other countries and peoples from a position of superior military strength. They did not make a single concrete proposal on the major questions of concern to the peoples of the world today; on the contrary, they tried everything to hinder businesslike deliberations. That attitude, fraught with danger to the cause of peace, has been disavowed at the session by the overwhelming majority of delegations.

9. Under present conditions the cohesion and co-operation of all the peace-loving forces assume ever greater importance. The socialist countries express their full solidarity with the anti-war movement of the popular masses, which acquired unprecedented dimensions on the eve and in the course of the special session. That movement is a powerful force against the attempts of the imperialist circles, which are bound to bring the world closer to a nuclear catastrophe. The unity of all peace-loving forces is a mighty factor for the triumph of the cause of peace.

10. The socialist countries are convinced that today the most urgent task is to stop the arms race immediately, and to proceed without delay to measures of real disarmament, first of all nuclear disarmament. That task must be completed if the military confrontation and the danger of war are to be eliminated, if the process of détente is to be maintained and strengthened, and if co-operation among countries is to be developed.

The socialist countries reaffirm once again their invariable willingness to enter into agreements for the limitation, reduction or prohibition of weapons of any kind on a just and reciprocal basis. This applies not only to nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction but also to conventional armaments. They declare their full readiness to co-operate with every other country and with every people of good-will in the world-wide struggle for peace and security.

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