Letter dated 8 March 1979 from the Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid addressed to the Secretary-General

Working paper: Non-aligned countries

1. The item was included in the agenda of the Commission at its first substantive session in 1979 as a result of the letter addressed to the Secretary-General from the Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid transmitting to the Disarmament Commission the report of the United Nations seminar on Nuclear Collaboration with South Africa held in London in February 1979. The Commission discussed the item at its substantive session in 1979 and 1980.

2. In consideration of the item the Commission notes with grave concern the danger which the nuclear capability of South Africa poses to the security of African States. It believes that that danger is not only to the African continent but threatens ominously international peace and security.

3. Overt evidence manifested already in the two nuclear events of July 1977 and 22 September 1979 and other new data points to the fact that South Africa's nuclear capability which has been put at the service of the obnoxious policy of apartheid, a crime against humanity, and a challenge to international conscience, has been achieved through the active collaboration and collusion of certain countries on the altar of economic advantage and in utter defiance of the international community.

4. The UNDC in fulfilment of its mandate considers it its responsibility to alert the General Assembly on the deleterious consequences of South Africa's nuclear build-up which runs counter to the purposes of curbing the nuclear-arms race in general as well as the non-proliferation régime and the collective aspiration of the African continent to declare the continent of Africa a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

5. The UNDC considers it exceptionally unhelpful and at variance with the declared principles of international law relating to the friendly relations and co-operation among States to allow South Africa to continue the destabilization of the continent.
6. The UNDC recommends to the General Assembly to call upon all countries once again to desist forthwith from further collaboration in the nuclear field with the racist régime of South Africa in line with their Charter obligations in favour of peace and disarmament.

7. The UNDC further requests the General Assembly to call upon South Africa to respect international concern for peace and stability in Africa by terminating forthwith its nuclear blackmail, and its frustration of the objective of a demilitarized Africa.

8. In view of South Africa's continued policies of apartheid against the African peoples which are enhanced by its nuclear activities, and in view of South Africa's continued refusal to heed the calls of both the General Assembly and the international community, the Commission considered that the question should remain on its agenda for continued review and discussion.