1. In history, naval forces were an important means by which colonialists and imperialists conquered and enslaved the weak and small countries and nations. At present, naval forces still play a big role in some events of encroachment on other countries' sovereignty and interference in their internal affairs. The notorious "gunboat policy" is still being practised from time to time. Such instances constitute gross violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, and they have naturally met with strong opposition from all the peace-loving countries and peoples of the world.

2. The rapid development of military technology and weaponry, particularly the introduction of nuclear weapons into naval systems, has given modern naval forces enormous mobile capabilities and destructive power never known before. Notwithstanding all this, the two biggest naval Powers are still locked in an intense arms race, causing deep anxiety among the people.

3. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America are now the only two countries possessing world-wide navies. Having gone all out in developing their conventional naval armaments, they now each possess a naval force far exceeding that of any other country and are capable of fighting combats, interfering in the internal affairs of other countries and flaunting their might in all waters around the world. The absolute majority of the world's total submarine-launched ballistic missiles are installed in the ballistic missile submarines of the Soviet Union and the United States, constituting important components of their strategic nuclear forces. The possibility of their using nuclear weapons and their capacity for intervention against other countries have caused anxiety among many small and medium-size coastal countries. For years, the
two countries have been fiercely competing with each other for supremacy in combat effectiveness and survivability of their naval forces. Such a rivalry not only contributes to the tension in their bilateral relations, but also seriously jeopardizes international security, freedom on the high seas, international shipping routes and the exploitation of marine resources to the detriment of the interests of all countries.

4. In the face of the global-scale naval arms race and the widespread threat it poses to security, it is totally justified for other coastal countries, particularly the developing countries among them, to strive to develop their own naval forces in order to guard against outside aggression and protect their maritime rights and interests. Their efforts in this respect are fundamentally different from the naval arms race of the big Powers.

5. In view of the above, the Soviet Union and the United States, being the biggest naval Powers, should also assume major responsibilities and take the lead in naval arms reductions as in the other areas of disarmament. They should in particular take the lead in limiting and reducing their ocean-going nuclear and conventional offensive forces.

6. The reduction of naval nuclear forces falls within the framework of nuclear disarmament. Consequently, the reduction and eventual elimination of naval nuclear weapons should follow the general approach of nuclear disarmament, i.e., it is incumbent upon those countries with the largest nuclear arsenals to take the lead in halting the testing, production and deployment of nuclear weapons and in drastically cutting back their nuclear weapons of all types deployed both in their own territories and abroad. When this is achieved, the other nuclear-weapon States should participate in common nuclear disarmament.

7. The reduction of non-nuclear naval forces is within the scope of conventional disarmament, the general approach of which should be that the countries with the largest conventional arsenals take the lead in drastically reducing their conventional armaments, first and foremost the heavy and offensive conventional weapons, before the other militarily significant countries should join in the process of conventional disarmament. As far as the conventional naval forces are concerned, the countries possessing the largest conventional arsenals should be the first to cut back substantially their ocean-going offensive forces, and then other major naval Powers should start the reduction. Should coastal conventional naval forces exceed the reasonable needs of defence, their reduction also has to be effected. As this question does not have global significance, its solution should be sought in a smaller scope within the region concerned or among the countries concerned.

8. The establishment of peace zones with oceans as primary constituents is an effective way to control the naval arms race and avert the use of naval forces for intervention and aggression. Hence, the Indian Ocean, the Mediterranean Sea and other sea areas as zones of peace are worthy objectives, and efforts should be made towards their attainment.

9. All nuclear-weapon States, particularly those with major nuclear arsenals, should fully respect the already established nuclear-weapon-free zones, including the sea areas within them.