AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE WORLD
DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

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1. In a note of 13 September 1972, sent in reply to the note of the Secretary-General of 2 May 1972 referring to General Assembly resolution 2833 (XXVI), the Government of Austria expressed the view that the following should be the main tasks and objectives of the World Disarmament Conference:

   (a) To provide an opportunity to discuss all aspects of disarmament, arms limitations and arms control;

   (b) To lead, if possible, to concrete agreements;

   (c) To impart a positive momentum to further negotiations in the various fields of disarmament. Since such further negotiations may, for practical reasons, again take place in smaller bodies, one of the tasks of the conference could be the discussion of the most appropriate form and composition of such a body or bodies.

2. In the view of the Government of Austria all these points continue to be valid. In addition, however, the Government of Austria wishes to recall various suggestions made during the last years in the course of discussions on the holding of a World Disarmament Conference.

3. On several occasions Austria has drawn attention to the proliferation of bodies within and outside the United Nations concerned mainly or exclusively with questions of disarmament. Apart from CCD, a number of committees or groups have been created to deal i.e. with the reduction of military budgets, the establishment of a peace zone in the Indian Ocean, napalm and other incendiary weapons, the establishment of nuclear free zones, and with peaceful nuclear explosions. Outside the framework of the United Nations, the most notable such bodies are the strategic arms limitation talks (SALT) conducted in Geneva and the negotiations on the mutual reduction of forces and armaments and associated measures in Central Europe held in Vienna. Obviously, the necessity of some co-ordinating measures arises from such a situation. In the opinion of the Government of Austria, therefore, the World Disarmament Conference could well discuss the question of appropriate co-ordination.

4. One of the most important objectives, that of universality, has to be achieved at the very beginning of the World Disarmament Conference by ascertaining the participation not only of all nuclear weapon States or all militarily important States but also of all other States who of necessity are affected by the arming or disarming of others.

5. A specific example for the necessity of both nuclear and non-nuclear universality is the question of non-proliferation, where an increasing division between signatories to the non-proliferation treaty and non-signatories has begun to appear over the last years. There is, besides the General Assembly of the
United Nations itself, no appropriate body for the discussion of problems common to both groups of countries, a lack particularly deplorable in view of the above-mentioned development.

6. If progress in disarmament is to be achieved and if a new approach to this question is to be adopted, new methods to create and mobilize political will must be applied. It is apparent that such a large-scale effort, necessary to achieve a major new impact on disarmament, cannot be achieved by the method of technical negotiation in small bodies, indispensable as it is for the elimination of concrete measures. A conference on a world scale, involving the whole of the international community, could be an instrument, however, to put dramatic focus on developments in the field of armaments and the relative ineffectiveness of measures taken since the creation of the United Nations to achieve disarmament so far.

CUBA

[Original: Spanish]
[16 July 1975]

The Revolutionary Government of the Republic of Cuba once again confirms its unqualified support for the holding of a World Disarmament Conference in which all States of the world, whether Members of the United Nations or not, whether large or small, whether they have nuclear weapons or not, would participate under conditions of equality and with the same rights.

The holding of a World Disarmament Conference as soon as possible is of crucial importance for the realization of the aspirations of the progressive and peace-loving peoples in the matter of general and complete disarmament.

In recent years the General Assembly has repeatedly endorsed the holding of the World Disarmament Conference, meetings of non-governmental organizations have also expressed support for the Conference, and on a number of occasions the non-aligned countries have called for this important world event to take place as soon as possible.

The Revolutionary Government of the Republic of Cuba endorses the following statements contained in the Final Declaration of the meeting of the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Countries held at Havana on 17-19 March 1975:

"The Bureau has reviewed the present situation with respect to problems of disarmament, reiterating the goal of achieving general and complete disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and it also supported the holding of a World Disarmament Conference as soon as possible.

Efforts to reduce the enormous expenditure on armaments and utilization of the resources released for the provision of assistance to the developing countries have acquired fresh importance in the context of the economic crisis."
"The Co-ordinating Bureau appeals for the continuation of negotiations, primarily within the framework of the United Nations, with a view to adopting measures to halt the arms race, prohibit chemical weapons and nuclear tests for military purposes and, in particular, make greater use of nuclear energy in the development of the developing countries."