Ad Hoc Committee on the World
Disarmament Conference

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

(Submitted by its Working Group)

I. Introduction

1. By its resolution 32/89 of 12 December 1977, the General Assembly requested
the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference 1/

   (1) "to submit to the General Assembly at its special session devoted to
disarmament a special report on the state of its work and deliberations" and

   (2) "to maintain close contact with the representatives of the States
possessing nuclear weapons in order to remain currently informed of their
respective attitudes, as well as consider any relevant comments and observations
which might be made to the Committee and to report to the Assembly at its
thirty-third session."

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

   Chairman: Mr. Fereydoun Hoveyda (Iran)

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1/ By its resolution 3183 (XXVIII) 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 General 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.
Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Carlos T. Alzamora (Peru)  
Mr. Henryk Jaroszek (Poland)  
Mr. Artemon Simbananiye (Burundi)

Rapporteur: Mr. Juan Lopez-Chicheri and  
his successor Mr. Fermín 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.


II. Work of the Committee

5. In accordance with its mandate mentioned in paragraph 1 above, in 1978 the Committee held two sessions.

6. During the first session, which was devoted to the preparation and adoption to the special report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference to the General Assembly at its tenth special session, the Committee held three meetings between 13 March and 8 May, and the Working Group held eight meetings between 28 March and 3 May.

7. At its 43rd meeting, on 8 May 1978, the Ad Hoc Committee considered and adopted the special report, 3/ which included chapters I. Introduction, II. Work of the Committee, III. Summaries of positions of Governments on various aspects of a world disarmament conference, IV. Conclusions, observations and recommendations made from 1975 to 1977 by the Ad Hoc Committee, including those relating to its mandate, and V. Conclusions of the special report made by the Ad Hoc Committee, and an annex entitled "Comprehensive review of the positions of States as presented to the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference and to other forums".

8. The conclusions of the special report of the Ad Hoc Committee were as follows:

2/ The composition of the Working Group is as follows: Burundi, Egypt, Hungary, India, Iran, Italy, Mexico, Peru, Poland and Spain (Chairman). Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Japan, Mongolia, Sweden, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Yugoslavia participated in the Working Group as observers.

"The Ad Hoc Committee reiterates 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." and

"The Ad Hoc Committee considers that the General Assembly, at its special session devoted to disarmament, might wish to draw its conclusions on the subject in the light of this special report and taking into account the relevant sections of the report 4/ of its Preparatory Committee." 5/

9. During its second session the Ad Hoc Committee held ... meetings between 11 September and ... 1978, and reviewed the discussions that had taken place at the tenth special session on a world disarmament conference (see A/AC.167/SR.44 to ... ). Statements were made by a number of countries, excerpts from which are included in the annex to this report. Members of the Committee were also fully aware of the positions previously expressed by the Governments of other States on the convening of a world disarmament conference. 5/ The Working Group held ... meetings between 12 September and ... . The Ad Hoc Committee at its ... meeting considered and adopted its report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session.

10. The Ad Hoc Committee was conscious of the fact that at its tenth special session the General Assembly, on 30 June 1978, adopted resolution S-10/2, embodying the final document of the session in which the Assembly, inter alia, stated:

"At the earliest appropriate time, a world disarmament conference should be convened with universal participation and with adequate preparation." 6/


5/ For the views of Member States, see document A/8817 and Add.1; Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 28 (A/9628); ibid., Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 28 (A/10028 and Corr.1); ibid., Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 28 (A/31/28); ibid., Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 28 (A/32/28); ibid., A/32/PV.5-33; A/C.1/32/PV.7-38; ibid., Tenth Special Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/S-10/3 and Corr.1); ibid., A/S-10/PV.1-27 and A/S-10/AC.1/PV.4-16; General Assembly resolution S-10/2; and A/AC.167/SR.15-43.

6/ Final document of the tenth special session of the General Assembly embodied in resolution S-10/2, para. 122.
11. The Ad Hoc Committee also took into account that in the Declaration of the Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Non-aligned Countries held in Belgrade from 25 to 29 July 1978, the Ministers had noted "with approval the idea of convening a world disarmament conference at an appropriate time with universal participation and adequate preparation." [1]

12. In accordance with paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 32/89, the Ad Hoc Committee, through its Chairman, maintained close contact with the representatives of States possessing nuclear weapons in order to remain currently informed of their respective attitudes and through him, obtained the following summary of their positions:

**China:**
The position of China has not changed. According to that position a world disarmament conference can only be convened if certain prerequisites for the creation of conditions conducive to genuine disarmament are met. The convening of a world disarmament conference, or preparation for such a conference could only be acceptable if all the nuclear-weapon States, in particular the two nuclear-weapon Powers, would undertake an obligation: (a) not to be the first to use nuclear weapons, particularly against the non-nuclear-weapon States; and (b) to end all forms of military presence on the territory of other countries by those concerned. If such pre-conditions are met, a world disarmament conference can be convened with a clear aim, namely, to consider the question of complete prohibition and thorough destruction of all nuclear weapons.

**France:**
The holding of a special session of the United Nations General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament, the main objectives of which would be to define the general principles applicable in the matter of disarmament, to determine the main foci of efforts in that regard and to enhance the effectiveness of the existing negotiating machinery, does not in any way lessen interest of France in the convening of a world disarmament conference. It is hoped that the necessary prerequisites for such a gathering - in particular, endorsement by all the nuclear Powers - can be met in the near future.

**Union of Soviet Socialist Republics:**
In the opinion of the Soviet Union the time has come to take new steps to expedite a decision on the question of convening a world disarmament conference. The Ad Hoc Committee could proceed at once to include in its report a recommendation to the General Assembly to consider at its thirty-third session the question of setting a date for convening a world disarmament conference and establishing a preparatory committee for the conference. Such a recommendation would be particularly appropriate and necessary in the light of the fact that the special session of the United

Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament proposed the inclusion in the agenda of the thirty-third session of the General Assembly of an item entitled "Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session". It is obvious that this also implies consideration by the General Assembly of the question of convening a world disarmament conference.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:

There is no change in the position of the United Kingdom, which has been expressed on many occasions in the past. In the view of the United Kingdom, the participation of all militarily significant States, including all nuclear-weapon States, remains an essential element in convening a world disarmament conference.

United States of America:

The position of the United States has not changed. According to that position, the General Assembly could note by consensus that a world disarmament conference could play a role in the disarmament process at an appropriate time. However, under the circumstances it is not the lack of a suitable forum, but the lack of political agreement that constitutes the principal obstacle to progress in disarmament. A world disarmament conference would be unlikely to overcome this lack of agreement and thus would more probably hinder, rather than assist, efforts to reach concrete arms control agreements. It, therefore, would be premature at this time to convene, to set a date or to start preparations for a world disarmament conference.

III. Conclusions and recommendations

13. In the light of this report, especially of the conclusions contained in paragraph 8 thereof, and the relevant paragraphs of the final document adopted by the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, including in particular paragraphs 115, 122 and 126, the General Assembly may wish to consider taking any possible steps thereon, pursuant to the above paragraphs, as well as the renewal of the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee.