Note verbale dated 30 April 1974 from the Permanent Mission of the Polish People's Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

1. With reference to its reply to the note verbale of the Secretary-General of 2 May 1972 (A/6817) and in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 3183 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973, paragraphs 1 and 4, concerning a world disarmament conference, the Government of the Polish People's Republic wishes to re-emphasize its invariable support for all initiatives and efforts that seek to put into effect the fundamental purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, particularly those pertaining to the strengthening of international security and world peace, a cause to which the momentous idea of a world disarmament conference is intimately related.

Poland attaches special importance to steps that can contribute to the halting of the arms race and to disarmament, including its ultimate goal - general and complete disarmament. People's Poland, which this year celebrates her 30th anniversary under new socio-political conditions, has well-founded reasons to be proud of her consistent policy of support over that period for all efforts aimed at arms limitation and disarmament, as well as of her active involvement and part played in the elaboration of substantive agreements in this regard, whether at the United Nations, in the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament or elsewhere.

Poland stands ready to further contribute to the working out of new partial disarmament measures, including regional ones, which advancing the cause of general and complete disarmament would, at the same time, promote the lessening and elimination of the threat of military confrontation in the world, particularly on the continent of Europe.

2. Assessing favourably the development of the current international situation the Government of the Polish People's Republic welcomes with profound satisfaction the progress that has been made over the past few years in the consolidation of the principles of peaceful coexistence, reflected particularly in the further expansion of mutual relations of the USSR and the United States, as well as in the advanced state of political détente in Europe.

Poland welcomes with utmost gratification the extremely important Soviet-
American agreements concluded within the framework of SALT, as well as the agreement on the prevention of nuclear war. An eloquent testimony to the special responsibility of the nuclear Powers for the preservation of world peace, these agreements represent an important turning-point in the efforts to halt and contain the nuclear arms race and, indeed, in the implementation of the obligations contracted under article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

The Government of the Polish People's Republic is also highly appreciative of the continued efforts to identify the areas where the negotiation of further effective arms control and disarmament measures would be especially desirable. In this regard the Soviet initiative at the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly concerning the reduction of military budgets of States permanent members of the Security Council by 10 per cent and utilization of part of the funds thus saved to provide assistance to the developing countries clearly stands out. So does the equally important concept of non-use of force in international relations and permanent prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons, as embodied in General Assembly resolution 2936 (XXVII).

The extent of progress and the qualitative change in the political climate of Europe are exemplified by the results of the first and the course of the second phase of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, as well as the Vienna talks on the mutual reduction of armed forces and armaments and associated measures in Central Europe, which, rightly enough, are based on the principle of undiminished security of the parties concerned.

The Government of Poland is of the opinion that the strengthening and consolidation of that positive trend of political détente must be accompanied by corresponding military détente and that, consequently, the time is right to take a much broader, global view of the perspectives of disarmament negotiations.

However undeniable is the special responsibility of the big Powers for international security and world peace, the responsibility for disarmament must be shouldered by the entire international community. Hence, Poland holds the view that each State, irrespective of its military and economic potential, can and should make its contribution to the success of disarmament negotiations, thereby promoting the cause of détente in various regions of the world. A world disarmament conference would be the most appropriate venue in that respect.

Poland takes note with satisfaction of the progress in the preparations for such a conference which has been made since the proposal for its convocation was formally submitted by the USSR at the twenty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly. The most notable development in that regard was the decision of the twenty-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly, in resolution 2930 (XXVII), to set up a Special Committee to examine all the views and suggestions expressed by Governments on the convening of a world disarmament conference. By virtue of the mandate entrusted to him in that resolution, the President of the twenty-seventh session, after extensive consultations with all the regional groups and having taken due consideration of the necessity to ensure adequate political and geographical representation, appointed members of the
Special Committee, Poland being one of them. Directly stemming from General Assembly resolution 2930 (XXVII), which - as it will be recalled - was adopted by affirmative vote of 105 United Nations Member States, the President's action was the first practical step towards the implementation of the idea of a world disarmament conference.

Whereas, for reasons beyond its control, the Special Committee was not in a position to fully discharge its mandate the wide-ranging exchange of views held by the Committee played an important and useful role. The unquestioned conclusion reached had been the recognition of the need to convene at an appropriate time an adequately prepared world disarmament conference, with the participation of all States.

4. The Government of the Polish People's Republic is ratified that both the debate at the twenty-eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly on the subject of convening a world disarmament conference and the unanimous adoption of resolution 3183 (XXVIII) bear it out that there is a general recognition of the need and support for an early holding of such a conference. Poland stands ready to work actively to that end. At the same time, the Government of the Polish People's Republic wishes to express its ardent hope that the Ad Hoc Committee, continuing the task and having the benefit of experience of the Special Committee, will be able to register tangible headway in its endeavours. As one of the designated members of the Ad Hoc Committee, Poland is determined to contribute to its efforts by acting in such a spirit.

5. With reference to General Assembly resolution 3183 (XXVIII), whereby it invited all States to communicate as soon as possible to the Secretary-General, for transmission to the Ad Hoc Committee, any views and suggestions on the convening of a world disarmament conference, the Government of Poland wishes to restate the essential elements of its position, still valid as it is, which had been communicated to the Secretary-General in reply to his note verbale of 2 May 1972, namely:

(a) A world disarmament conference should be guided by two principal objectives - first, to ensure that all aspects of disarmament which are of interest to all States, both in the nuclear and conventional field, on a global and regional scale, are discussed and - second, to ensure constructive and equal participation of all States in the discussion of disarmament problems;

(b) In the view of the Government of the Polish People's Republic, the conference - for obvious reasons - could not be called upon to pursue negotiations of specific agreements nor seek to replace the existing organs and forms of disarmament negotiations. What it should do, however, is to make an over-all review of the present state of disarmament negotiations pursued in the existing bodies and to elaborate recommendations pertaining to the military, political, economic and social aspects of disarmament and finally, to set forth priorities, principles and guidelines for the future disarmament negotiations.

Striving to put into effect those objectives, a world disarmament conference would indubitably accelerate and add momentum to the substantive negotiations, thus
contributing to the elaboration of specific international disarmament agreements, especially by the Geneva Disarmament Committee.

Such a world conference would, at the same time, represent an outstanding manifestation of the durability and impact of the current process of international détente, which conforms with the best conceived interests of nations and constitutes the only acceptable alternative for the entire international community.