Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference

Replies received by the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 3133 (XXVIII) on the World Disarmament Conference

1. On 18 December 1973, the General Assembly adopted resolution 3133 (XXVIII) on the question of a world disarmament conference, the operative paragraphs of which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

..."

"1. Decides to establish an Ad Hoc Committee to examine all the views and suggestions expressed by Governments on the convening of a world disarmament conference and related problems, including conditions for the realization of such a conference, and to submit, on the basis of consensus, a report to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session;

"2. Decides further that the Ad Hoc Committee shall 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;

"3. Invites the States possessing nuclear weapons to co-operate or maintain contact with the Ad Hoc Committee, it being understood that they will enjoy the same rights as the designated members of the Committee;

"4. Invites all States to communicate as soon as possible to the Secretary-General, for transmission to the Ad Hoc Committee, any views and suggestions they deem pertinent to present for the purpose defined in paragraph 1 above;"
5. Requests the Secretary-General to render all necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Committee in its work, including the preparation of summary records;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its twenty-ninth session the item entitled "World Disarmament Conference".

2. In a note verbale dated 21 February 1974 to all Member States, the Secretary-General referred to resolution 3183 (XXVIII) and the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee contained in paragraph 1 of the resolution and added that he would appreciate it if any views and suggestions that the Government might wish to communicate could be conveyed to him by 15 April 1974.

3. Replies have been received by the Secretary-General from the following Member States: Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, Guatemala, India, Kenya, New Zealand, Oman, Spain and United Arab Emirates. The substantive parts of these communications are annexed to the present document.

4. A letter dated 2 April 1974 from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General which referred to General Assembly resolution 3183 (XXVIII) was received and distributed as document A/9590.
Annex

BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

[Original: Russian]
[29 April 1974]

"The Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic invariably and consistently supports the practical solution of the problem of the arms race and the implementation of effective measures in the sphere of disarmament. A world disarmament conference would play a significant role in the attainment of these noble aims.

"The position of the Byelorussian SSR on the question of preparations for and the convening of a world disarmament conference has been set out in detail in the letter dated 16 August 1972 addressed to you by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Byelorussian SSR (A/8617) and in the statements by the delegations of the Byelorussian SSR to the twenty-sixth to twenty-eighth sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations (A/PV.1995, A/C.1/PV.1876 and A/C.1/PV.1951).

"The development and intensification of the process of détente in international relations at the present time make it imperative to take steps to convene as soon as possible such a world forum at which all States of the world without any discrimination and on an equal basis could participate in the consideration of questions relating to disarmament, and join efforts in the search for ways of further advancing a solution to this problem which is of vital importance to all peoples.

"The Byelorussian SSR considers that the Ad Hoc Committee established by the General Assembly of the United Nations at its twenty-eighth session and its practical activities will promote the attainment of this aim. The convening of a world disarmament conference would undoubtedly be in the interests of all peoples and contribute to the further improvement of the international climate, the expansion and intensification of the process of détente in the world, and the strengthening of peace and international security.

"As far as the Byelorussian SSR is concerned, it will make every effort to ensure the successful preparation and conduct of a world disarmament conference."

CYPRUS

[Original: English]
[8 April 1974]

"The Government of Cyprus supports the idea of the convening of a world disarmament conference provided that the five nuclear Powers should participate so that the conference may be fruitful."
CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Original: English
12 April 1974


"The developments in international relations in recent years have once more proved that the course towards convening a world conference on disarmament has been supported by a broad front of peace-loving States and corresponds to the present trend of détente in the world. This is being testified, inter alia, by the fact that an accelerated convening of the world disarmament conference was advocated by the participants of the Fourth Conference of Heads of State and Government of Non-Aligned Countries in Algiers, the participants of the World Peace Congress in Moscow and others. Deliberations of the latest sessions of the United Nations General Assembly, resolutions adopted by them as well as the deliberations of the Special Committee on the World Disarmament Conference have evidenced that the overwhelming majority of States agree and support the convening of the world disarmament conference and anticipate concrete results from it. The world public therefore expects the world disarmament conference to turn into a forum assisting the assertion of such fundamental political solutions that are needed to effectively move the disarmament deliberations forward.

"It is the opinion of the Czechoslovak Government that the present international situation not only offers a chance of convening the world conference on disarmament but, indeed, directly requires this step. Bearing in mind the tremendous importance of disarmament, the Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic therefore firmly hopes that the conference will be held, in concurrence with the positions of the overwhelming majority of States, as soon as possible, notwithstanding the unwillingness on the part of certain countries which, through their delaying tactics, are attempting to put off its convening.

"As stated already by the Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic in the above-mentioned reply of 1972, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic envisages the conference as a permanent body open to all countries of the world, which would meet at regular sessions lasting one or two months every two or three years, according to possibilities. As far as the agenda of the conference is concerned, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic maintains a flexible, practical position. It stands ready to participate in a constructive discussion on a broad scope of questions pertaining to disarmament, beginning with the general and complete
disarmament, which it continuously views as the final goal of the disarmament efforts, to various partial measures which may lead to this aim. Key importance is, of course, attached to the questions of nuclear disarmament.

"Since disarmament affects all States of the world, the Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic expects that all countries, particularly all nuclear Powers bearing the primary responsibility for maintaining world peace and security will participate in the solving of the question of disarmament, including preparations for and the convening of the world disarmament conference. The preparatory work for opening the conference may, however, be commenced, even if some of the nuclear Powers still take a reluctant attitude with regard to its convening.

"The reaching of agreement and co-operation among States possessing nuclear weapons would, to a decisive degree, predetermine the successful work of the world conference on disarmament. In this connexion, the Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic fully supports direct negotiations between the nuclear Powers, as well as the idea of a conference of the nuclear Powers. It highly appreciates the continuing negotiations held between the Un' on of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America on the limitation of strategic arms which testify that, given a constructive and realistic approach, agreements on disarmament measures between nuclear Powers are feasible.

"Upon instruction of the Czechoslovak Government, the delegation of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic has actively participated in the deliberations of the Special Committee on the World Disarmament Conference, whose activities in 1973 yielded certain useful results, in spite of obstacles artificially placed in its way. The Committee, following its enlargement, is to continue this year in the task it has begun. The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic will spare no effort so that the deliberations of the Committee take place in a constructive atmosphere in order that, on the basis of the recommendation of the Committee, the twenty-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly may adopt further decisions related to the concrete preparations for the convening of the world conference on disarmament as soon as possible."

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Original: English
9 April 1974

"In the opinion of the Federal Government a world disarmament conference could be an appropriate forum to stimulate the world-wide endeavours towards disarmament and arms control through exchanges of opinion and a general review of the pertinent problems.
"The work of the Ad Hoc Committee should indicate whether such a conference can be expected to produce concrete results.

"The conference itself would have to be carefully prepared. The Federal Government would be ready to take part in these preparations and in working out possible agenda items.

"As disarmament measures in the field of nuclear weapons are likely to be one of the most important topics of the conference, it seems to be necessary to secure the participation of the five nuclear Powers already at its preparatory stage.

"There ought to be agreement that the conference should not impair the current bilateral and multilateral negotiations in the field of disarmament and arms control."

FINLAND

[Original: English]

2 May 1974

"The Government of Finland firmly supports all measures that further the cause of disarmament and consequently gives its full backing to the convening of a world disarmament conference. The Government of Finland believes that a distinct opportunity exists for successful disarmament negotiations.

"The progress made in the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks between the United States and the Soviet Union, the Treaty of Bacteriological and Toxin Weapons and some regional developments, especially the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe and the negotiations on mutual reduction of forces and armaments in Central Europe have, inter alia, contributed to the prevailing favourable atmosphere. The process of détente in international relations provides new opportunities for making progress in the field of disarmament and arms control.

"The world disarmament conference would give the international community an opportunity to rededicate itself to the aims of general and complete disarmament under effective international control which remains the ultimate goal of all disarmament efforts. In world-wide efforts to achieve disarmament, special emphasis should be given to mass destruction weapons, particularly nuclear weapons, as well as to the reduction of conventional armed forces and armaments to the level necessary for the maintenance of internal order and international peacekeeping. These questions ought to be given due priority also at the conference.

"In addition to the general goals of disarmament, the Finnish Government considers all measures that are aimed at regional limitation of armed forces and
armaments useful for the promotion and realization of disarmament. In this connexion the Finnish Government should like to recall the idea launched by President Kekkonen in 1963. This concept was based on the conviction that, if a nuclear-free zone comprising the Nordic countries were to be established, this would confirm the existing situation without impairing the security of the Nordic countries or the balance of power generally. Accordingly, the denuclearization of this region would disengage the Nordic countries from strategic speculations of the different military alliances and further peace and security in Europe. Recent developments in Europe give added topicality to this thought and warrant that it should be kept in mind also in the context of the world disarmament conference.

"According to the Finnish view the conference should be arranged under the auspices of the United Nations. In view of the prevailing favourable political atmosphere, efforts should be made to realize the conference as soon as possible. At the same time it must be recognized that the success of the proposed disarmament conference presupposes the participation of all the permanent members of the Security Council, as well as all the significant military Powers. Furthermore, the conference should be universal in character."

GUATEMALA

[Original: Spanish]

[2 April 1974]

"... I should like to inform you that the Government of Guatemala, desiring to maintain a balanced attitude with respect to the decisions adopted by those countries which, thanks to their position of leadership at the present time, are in the forefront of activities relating to matters of world interest, considers the following to be of importance:

"(a) That the policy of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons should remain in force;

"(b) That general and complete disarmament is a compelling necessity today, particularly since the conclusion has been reached that the arms race has not led to the solution of the most enormous world problems.

"Furthermore, the Government of Guatemala will support the resolutions which the General Assembly may take with respect to this question, and reiterates its fervent desire to see problems between countries solved by the intervention of the international bodies which have been set up by common agreement."
INDIA

[Original: English]
[23 April 1974]

"The views and suggestions of the Government of India on the question of a world disarmament conference have already been communicated on 8 September 1972, in response to a similar request in the context of the UN General Assembly resolution 2833 (XXVI) of 16 December 1971. These views have been reproduced in the UN General Assembly document A/8817, dated 25 September 1972, pages 30-32. The Government of India continues to hold those views.

"It is the deep conviction of the Government of India that a world disarmament conference, held after adequate preparation and with the participation of all States, would promote the cause of general and complete disarmament, particularly the highest priority objective of nuclear disarmament, under effective international control."

KENYA

[Original: English]
[16 April 1974]

"(a) Objectives of the world disarmament conference

"The Government of the Republic of Kenya, desirous to promote and maintain international peace and security, has continually supported all measures that aim to eliminate the threat posed by the possession of nuclear weapons. In line with these hopes and aspirations, the Government of Kenya became a party to the nuclear test ban treaty in 1963, the Statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency of 1956 and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons of 1968. Kenya has also continually supported all United Nations General Assembly resolutions which seek to eliminate all factors that pose a threat to international peace and security. It similarly supported General Assembly resolution 2833 (XXVI) concerning the convening of a world disarmament conference. In the view of the Kenya Government, therefore, the following should form the main objectives of the world disarmament conference.

"1. Finding ways and means of achieving an understanding on general and complete disarmament.

"2. Getting an assurance from the nuclear-weapon Powers that they will work towards the cessation of the arms race and the manufacture of nuclear weapons, and the limitation of strategic weapons systems.

"3. Seeking the pledge of the nuclear-weapon Powers to agree to the limitation of offensive strategic nuclear weapons delivery systems of defence against ballistic missiles."
"(h) Exploring the peaceful uses of atomic energy through International Atomic Energy Agency.

"5. Establishing ways and means of channelling the funds hitherto used for the building up of nuclear weapons in the advancement of developing nations. Furthermore, to ensure that all contributions of nuclear technology are examined for the advancement of developing nations.

"6. Ensuring the elimination from the international waters together with the air space above and the ocean floor thereof, of all forms of military installations and logistical supply facilities, the disposition of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction and any manifestation of great Power military presence in the international waters conceived in the context of great Power rivalry.

"7. Devising a system whereby appropriate arrangements are made to give effect to any international agreement that may be reached for the maintenance of the international waters as free zones.

"(b) Some items for inclusion in the provisional agenda

"In line with the objectives of the world disarmament conference outlined above, the Government of the Republic of Kenya feels that the following items should be included in the agenda of the world disarmament conference:

"1. Ways and means of establishing measures for general and complete disarmament.

"2. Effective measures for the cessation of the arms race, the prevention of further proliferation of nuclear weapons and nuclear armaments.

"3. Programmes for co-operation in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

"(c) Site favoured

"Any place convenient and/or agreeable to the majority.

"(d) Date and contemplated duration

"The conference could be held at a date acceptable to the majority of States interested in its convening. The meeting should last at least two months. The report of the conference should then be forwarded to the next session of the General Assembly. Extensive and thorough consultations must precede any decision for the final date of the conference.
"(e) Procedures for carrying out preparatory work

"A working committee of experts should be formed to explore all the different aspects of the disarmament issues and prepare working papers as well as the agenda for the world disarmament conference. The Member States would submit their views and recommendations to the committee of experts, if and when requested. The membership of the committee should be based on regional distribution. The participation of representatives of all countries currently manufacturing or possessing nuclear weapons is essential.

"(f) Relationship to the United Nations

"The world disarmament conference should be held under the auspices of the United Nations. The secretariat of the working committee of experts should co-ordinate its work with the United Nations Secretariat, and the final report of the world disarmament conference should be submitted to the United Nations."

NEW ZEALAND

[Original: English]
[24 April 1974]

"New Zealand welcomes the decision of the General Assembly which allowed for the creation of a committee to prepare the way for the convening of a world disarmament conference. New Zealand provided comments on the previous year's resolution on this subject (A/8817), and these are still pertinent.

"It has become increasingly apparent that the easing of tensions among nations has created new expectations of progress in the disarmament field and that such progress is, in turn, essential to help underpin détente. In a vastly over-armed world, disarmament could release much needed resources, both human and financial, to grapple with the grave developmental and economic problems with which the international community is confronted. It is time to bring reason to bear on the fact that the present situation represents an intolerable burden in terms of the resources it absorbs, the uncertainty it creates and the threat it poses to present and future generations.

"It is hoped that the Committee can help bring a renewed sense of urgency and commitment to the whole question of arms limitation. Its mandate offers a welcome opportunity to enlist the co-operation of the nuclear Powers that have in the past remained outside the United Nations work in this field, to its detriment. The preparations for a world disarmament conference and the conference itself also provide a focus for the efforts of the smaller nations which are not members of existing forums.

"In the New Zealand view the Committee's first task would be to study the positions of the militarily significant States, bearing in mind the commitments
made towards arms control, some in binding legal form, with a view to identifying the common ground and to making suggestions for ways in which conflicting attitudes could be reconciled. On the contrary it should be seen as an endeavour to assist the process of translating commitments of principle into concrete measures. Depending on the progress made, the Committee might move towards a declaration of objectives to be put before a world conference.

"Out of such a study the Committee may wish to make recommendations as to whether existing negotiating forums should be revised or whether new machinery would be appropriate.

"In the course of its work it is hoped that the Committee will also have in mind the relevance that various regional arrangements or proposals under study have to the pursuit of global stability and security and seek to promote the necessary international backing for such endeavours."

OMAN

Original: English
9 April 1974

"The Permanent Mission of Oman to the United Nations has been asked to communicate to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the importance the Government of the Sultanate of Oman attaches to such a conference, and also that the Government of the Sultanate of Oman will fully support the convening of a conference on world disarmament and related problems."

SPAIN

Original: Spanish
25 April 1974

"The Government of Spain continues to believe in the advisability of convening as soon as possible a world disarmament conference open to the participation of all States.

"The objectives of the conference should not be confined to the discussion of the various views expressed or to the definition of the most effective means for subsequently achieving effective disarmament, but should include the formulation of a solemn joint declaration of readiness to accept and put into practice specific and properly programmed and supervised disarmament measures.

"The Government of Spain, as its delegation had occasion to state in the First Committee of the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session, takes the view that the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference may work effectively, within the terms of reference assigned to it by the General Assembly, by carrying
out a study of the views expressed in various forums and at various times by the Governments of all countries.

"In order to enable the Ad Hoc Committee to make progress in discharging its mandate, it is necessary, in the view of the Spanish Government, not to lose sight at any time of the need for the rational programming of the various stages leading up to the final, unanimously proclaimed objective. On the other hand, the need for such programming should not be used as a pretext for the systematic postponement of the earlier stages.

"The last preambular paragraph and paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 3183 (XXVIII) prescribe, as the subject of the work assigned to the Ad Hoc Committee, the study of conditions for the realization of the world disarmament conference, on the basis of the views expressed by Governments. In the view of the Spanish Government, one of the conditions which the Ad Hoc Committee should study as a matter of particular urgency, seeking for that purpose the co-operation of the States possessing nuclear weapons, is the establishment of a system of consultations and co-ordination among the three levels of which negotiations for disarmament are being undertaken, namely, the bilateral level, the regional level - both general and as between alliances - and the international level, principally in the United Nations. Once such a system of consultations and co-ordination has been established, it will be easier to proceed to the following stage, at which discussions would be held, in the appropriate forum, on the preparatory measures for the convening of the world conference.

"Spain is ready to participate actively in the important work assigned to the Ad Hoc Committee and to co-operate with a view to achieving a consensus that would enable the General Assembly to be properly informed at its twenty-ninth session."

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

[Original: English]
[25 July 1974]

"The United Arab Emirates, which condemns the use of force and the aggrandizement of arms and which supports the resolution of disputes by peaceful means, has nothing to add, in terms of views or specific suggestions, relating to the convening of a world disarmament conference and related problems."