AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE

Replies of the nuclear-weapon States to the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference in pursuance of paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 34/61

China

... The position of the Government of the People's Republic of China on the question of the World Disarmament Conference remains unchanged.

France

While France's position in the past was one of favouring in principle the idea of a World Disarmament Conference which, after a suitable period of preparation, would be attended by, among others, the five nuclear-weapon Powers, it, nevertheless, realizes that the present international situation is not conducive to meaningful planning of such an undertaking.

France points out, moreover, that a proposal of this kind cannot be considered in isolation from the achievements of the first special session of the United Nations General Assembly to be devoted to disarmament, held in 1978, and the planned second session in 1982.

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

The Soviet Union has consistently and persistently come out for the World Disarmament Conference, believing that its convening would be of great international importance. This forum specially devoted to one of the most urgent problems of the present should be a further step forward in combining the efforts of States in the field of disarmament, which would supplement what was expressed and agreed on at the sessions of the United Nations General Assembly, including the special session devoted to disarmament.

The USSR is convinced that the World Disarmament Conference could elaborate effective decisions which would be a new incentive for all States for taking practical measures on halting the arms race and on achieving disarmament.
Universality of the World Conference would ensure the joint participation of all
countries of the world in consideration of disarmament issues. The Soviet Union
sees the value and usefulness of this forum in the fact that on the basis of the
agreement among its participants there can be ensured a mandatory nature of the
decisions taken by it.

It appears from the Final Document of the special session on disarmament,
other documents of the General Assembly as well as from the documents of the
non-aligned States, in particular, the Havana Declaration of Heads of States and
Governments of these States that the idea of holding a World Disarmament Conference
continues to enjoy an ever wider support.

In the light of the recommendations of the General Assembly special session
on disarmament concerning the convocation of a World Disarmament Conference at
the earliest appropriate time as well as the provision of the resolution adopted
by the thirty-fourth session on the possibility of convening such a conference
after the second special session on disarmament, the Soviet Union is of the opinion
that the time has come to take concrete steps which would help to start directly a
thorough preparation for the Conference. Having this aim in mind it would be
expedient to determine the date of convening the World Disarmament Conference and
to establish a preparatory body for the Conference. A positive solution of
these questions would be logical and timely.

The Ad Hoc Committee would considerably facilitate the convocation of the
World Disarmament Conference by submitting to the second special General Assembly
session devoted to disarmament a report on concrete issues of convening of the
Conference, in particular, on the issue of the role the Conference might play
after the second special session on disarmament. That is why the General Assembly
at its thirty-fifth session should adopt a resolution authorizing the Ad Hoc
Committee to start the preparation of the report for the second special session on
disarmament.

The Soviet Union supported the idea of holding the first special session on
disarmament and took most active part in it. It has also supported the proposal to
convene the second special session in 1982. We believe, however, that the World
Disarmament Conference would become a unique forum and gain a historic meaning.
Preparation and holding of the Conference would make it possible to concentrate
the attention of Governments of all States of the world and world public opinion
on the solution of the question of how to halt the arms race and move forward on the
way to real disarmament. Therefore the Soviet Union considers that the second
special session of the General Assembly on disarmament should be followed by the
World Disarmament Conference and the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly
should contribute to achieving this goal.

United Kingdom

The Government of the United Kingdom believes that, given recent international
events, it is not useful to continue to consider for the time being the idea of a
World Disarmament Conference. Accordingly the United Kingdom doubts the usefulness

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