AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE WORLD
DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE

Draft report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference
to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session

I. INTRODUCTION

1. By its resolution 36/91 of 9 December 1981, the General Assembly, inter alia,
requested the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference 1/ to maintain
close contact with the representatives of the States possessing nuclear weapons in
order to remain currently informed of their attitudes, as well as with all other
States, and to consider any possible relevant proposals and observations which
might be made to the Committee, especially having in mind paragraph 122 of the
Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly (resolution
S-10/2). The Assembly also requested the Committee to submit a report to the
Assembly at its second special session devoted to disarmament and at its
thirty-seventh session.

2. The elected officers of the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament
Conference were as follows:

Chairman: Mr. Ignatius Benedict Fonseka (Sri Lanka),

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Juan José Calle y Calle (Peru),
                Mr. Ryszard Krystosik (Poland),

Rapporteur: Mr. Fermín Zelada (Spain) and his successor,
             Mr. Arturo Laclaustra (Spain).

3. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics participated in the work of the
Committee by virtue of paragraph 3 of resolution 3183 (XXVIII). Under the same
provision, China, France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
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.

4. The Working Group established in 1974 continued to function, 2/
II. WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

5. In accordance with its mandate mentioned in paragraph 1 above, the Ad Hoc Committee held two sessions in 1982.

6. During the first session which was devoted to the preparation and adoption of the special report of the Ad Hoc Committee to the General Assembly at its Twelfth Special Session, the Committee held three meetings from 5–8 April and the Working Group held two meetings on 7 April under the chairmanship of Mr. Fermín Zelada, during which it prepared the report to the General Assembly at its twelfth special session.

7. At the first meeting, the Ad Hoc Committee was informed that Mr. Ryszard Frelek (Poland) and Mr. Artemon Simbananiye (Burundi) have completed their mission in New York and thus were unable to continue in their functions as Vice-Chairman. The Committee elected by acclamation Mr. Ryszard Krystosik (Poland) as a new Vice-Chairman. The other post of Vice-Chairman, however, remained vacant. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the contribution made to its work by Mr. Frelek and Mr. Simbananiye.

8. At its 63rd meeting, on 8 April, the Ad Hoc Committee considered and adopted the report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its twelfth special session which included the sections entitled "Introduction", "Work of the Committee" and "Conclusions and recommendations made from 1978 to 1982 by the Ad Hoc Committee, including those relating to its mandate".

9. (a) The report of the Ad Hoc Committee was before the twelfth special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 12, entitled "Enhancement of the effectiveness of machinery in the field of disarmament and strengthening of the role of the United Nations in this field, including the possible convening of a World Disarmament Conference" (document A/S-12/10).

(b) During the general debate of the General Assembly at its twelfth special session, a number of Member States made reference in their statements to a World Disarmament Conference.

(c) On 28 June 1982, at the 9th meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly, the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference introduced its report (A/S-12/4). 4/

(d) Although the General Assembly at its twelfth special session did not make any recommendations on the question of a World Disarmament Conference, in its report to the General Assembly at its twelfth special session, the Ad Hoc Committee of the special session recommended that the items on which the special session had not reached decisions should be taken up at the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly for further consideration. 5/

10. During its second session, the Ad Hoc Committee held ... meetings, on ... August 1982 and the Working Group held three meetings on 24 and 25 August 1982 with the purpose of preparing the report of the Ad Hoc Committee to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session.
11. At its first meeting, the Committee was informed that Mr. Fremín Zelada (Spain) had completed his mission in New York and thus was unable to continue his function as Rapporteur. The Committee, therefore, elected by acclamation Mr. Arturo Laclaustra (Spain) as the new Rapporteur. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the contribution made to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee by Mr. Zelada.

12. The Ad Hoc Committee, at its ... meeting, on ... August, considered and adopted its report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session.

13. During the two sessions, the Chairman and the representatives of the following States members of the Ad Hoc Committee made statements: ... and the following observers also made statements: ... Furthermore, the USSR made statements.

14. Members of the Committee were fully aware of the positions previously expressed by the other States on the convening of a World Disarmament Conference, including those which referred to this subject in their statements made during the twelfth special session of the General Assembly.

15. In accordance with paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 36/91, the Ad Hoc Committee, through its Chairman, maintained close contact with the representatives of the nuclear-weapon States in order to remain currently informed of their attitudes and obtained the following updated indications of their positions: China, France, the USSR, the United Kingdom and the United States.

III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

16. The Ad Hoc Committee reiterated 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, including aspects related to the deteriorating international situation. It was also evident from the updated indications of positions of the nuclear-weapon States, as reflected in paragraph 15 of this report, some of which confirm certain elements requiring careful consideration by the Ad Hoc Committee, that no consensus with respect to the convening of a world disarmament conference under the present conditions has yet been reached among the nuclear-weapon States whose participation in such a conference has been deemed essential by most States Members of the Organization.

17. Having regard for the important requirements of a world disarmament conference to be convened at the earliest appropriate time, with universal participation and with adequate preparation, the General Assembly in accordance with paragraph 64 of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Twelfth Special Session 6/ should take up the question at its thirty-seventh regular session for its further consideration, bearing in mind the relevant provisions of resolution 36/91, adopted by consensus, in particular paragraph 1 of the said resolution.
18. The General Assembly may wish to renew the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee and to request it to continue to maintain close contact with the representatives of the nuclear-weapon States in order to remain currently informed of their attitudes, as well as with all other States, and to consider any relevant comments and observations which might be made to the Committee.

Notes

1/ By its resolution 3183 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973, 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 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.

2/ The composition of the Working Group is as follows: Burundi, Egypt, Hungary, India, Iran, Italy, Mexico, Peru, Poland, Spain (Chairman) and Sri Lanka. Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Netherlands, Nigeria, Romania, the USSR and Venezuela participated in the Working Group as observers.

3/ A/S-12/4.

4/ See A/S-12/AC.1/PV.9.


6/ A/S-12/32.