Attached is a copy of the statement I made by way of concluding remarks at the plenary session of the International Conference today, 11 September 1987.

I would be grateful if this statement could be issued as a document of the Conference.

(Signed) Richard BUTLER
Ambassador for Disarmament.
Annex

STATEMENT BY THE HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF AUSTRALIA AT
THE FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE,
ON 11 SEPTEMBER 1987

I want to thank the representatives of non-governmental organizations who have stayed with us throughout this Conference and have made a material contribution to its success.

We came to this Conference with considerable differences. Indeed that those differences existed and that their scope was large was illustrated by the fact that not all States came to this Conference.

But we have bridged those differences and we have found consensus. This achievement is remarkable and its effects go well beyond the subject of this special Conference. The consensus that we have achieved here today will strengthen the community of nations as a whole.

This Conference dealt with two of the great challenges of our age: disarmament and development. Simply, we live today in the most heavily armed age and the desperate need for development, in the fullest sense of the word, grows daily.

Both disarmament and development must be pursued in their own right. The one should not be hostage to the other. But the question we faced at this Conference was that of the relationship between disarmament and development and we reached a fundamental agreement about that relationship.

We agreed that there is a direct and positive relationship between the process of disarmament and the process of development. We agreed that the relationship can be expanded. We agreed that the prospect for such expansion will be the greater in conditions of peace and security.

On the basis of this fundamental agreement, we went on to make clear our common view that disarmament is urgently required for the maintenance of peace and security and that greater measures of disarmament will release resources to more productive purposes than expenditure on arms, that a portion of those additional resources should be devoted to development, and that as this process of disarmament and development in positive interaction grows, it will also contribute to the removal from the global economy of the gross and damaging distortions with which it is now afflicted.
We will all benefit from this process, North, South, East and West, developed and developing country alike.

The Final Document of this Conference is simply a landmark. It signals a new approach, a fresh start to our gravest problems and it conforms perfectly to the deeply held Australian view that every human person has the right to pursue a decent standard of living and live in a framework of peace. So, let this Document prove to be a beginning. It is not to be consigned to the archives. Let it be a beacon showing the way ahead to new policies to a new measure of international co-operation and let all of us implement it, including those who were not able to be with us at this Conference.