

COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT

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3 August 1982

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LETTER DATED 3 AUGUST 1982 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT IN CONNEXION WITH THE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF THE SECOND SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEVOTED TO DISARMAMENT.

I have the honour to draw your attention to the following paragraphs of the Concluding Document of the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, which are of direct relevance to the work of the Committee on Disarmament:

1. In paragraph 55, the General Assembly notes that the exchange of views on the question of machinery "focused on the enhancement of the effectiveness of the Committee on Disarmament. With that objective in mind, suggestions to expand the membership of the Committee in a limited and balanced manner, consistent with the need to enhance its effectiveness, received wide support. Several suggestions were also made:

- "(a) That the Committee meet for a period of eight months or all year round;
- "(b) That a pledge be obtained from its members, in particular from the nuclear-weapon States, not to use the practice of consensus to obstruct the adjustment of the structure of the Committee, in particular the establishment, as appropriate, of new ad hoc working groups;
- "(c) That the Committee's name be changed to 'Standing Conference on Disarmament' in order to reflect properly its present status."

2. In paragraph 56, the General Assembly states that "in the views concerning aspects of secretariat support, general satisfaction was expressed with the work of the Centre for Disarmament and the need for strengthening the Centre including the strengthening of the support for the Committee on Disarmament, was recognized"

3. In paragraph 62, the General Assembly stresses "the need . . . to enhance the effectiveness of the Committee on Disarmament as the single multilateral negotiating body. In this regard the Committee on Disarmament is requested to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session on its consideration of an expansion of its membership; consistent with the need to enhance its effectiveness".

4. In paragraph 63, the General Assembly refers back to the Committee on Disarmament the draft Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament, together with the views expressed and the progress achieved on the subject at the special session. In addition, the General Assembly requests the Committee on Disarmament to submit a revised draft Comprehensive Programme on Disarmament at the Assembly's thirty-eighth session.

(Signed) Javier Perez de Cuellar
Secretary-General

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