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UN Special Sessions on Disamament

UNITED NATIONS

Pt 1: february 1982

PT2: February 1988

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LONDON SWIA 2AA

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From the Private Secretary

28 February 1988

De dyn,

UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT

Thank you for your letter of 26 February about the invitation to the Prime Minister from the UN Secretary General to open the Third UN Special Session on Disarmament. The Prime Minister does not propose to lead our delegation on this occasion and would be grateful if the Foreign Secretary could speak in her place.

Powell Powell

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.
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London SWIA 2AH

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Dear Charles, for your Agree that he foreign

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UN Special Session on Disarmament Stand type ?

In your letter of 5 February, you asked about a telex to the Prime Minister from the UN Secretary General, urging her to attend the Third UN Special Session on Disarmament (UNSSD III), due to take place in New York from 31 May to 25 June 1988. Similar invitations have been sent to all UN Member States.

At both previous Special Sessions the UK delegation
was led by the Prime Minister. The First Special Session
(UNSSD I) in 1978 agreed an unrealistic Final Document
with a markedly anti-nuclear bias, which remains for the
non-aligned the seminal text on disarmament. At the Second
Special Session (1982) some NNA countries, frustrated by
what they saw as the failure of the major powers to live up
to the promises of UNSSD I, tried to impose a legally
binding Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament with a
detailed timetable. This inevitably failed and UNSSD II
ended without a substantive Final Document.

At the UNSSD III our aim will be to discourage unrealistic ambitions among the NNA and to concentrate attention on concrete and realistic arms control measures such as transparency of military budgets. There will be a lot of NNA rhetoric, and the Soviet Union will push some of its propagandistic "peace" initiatives. But there are some grounds for hoping that the mood and outcome will be more sensible than in the past.

All our major partners and allies have addressed previous meetings of UNSSD at either Head of Sate/Government or Foreign Minister level. They will no doubt do likewise this time. The Foreign Secretary does not regard it as necessary for the Prime Minister herself to speak on this occasion; but he considers it essential that one of them should do so.

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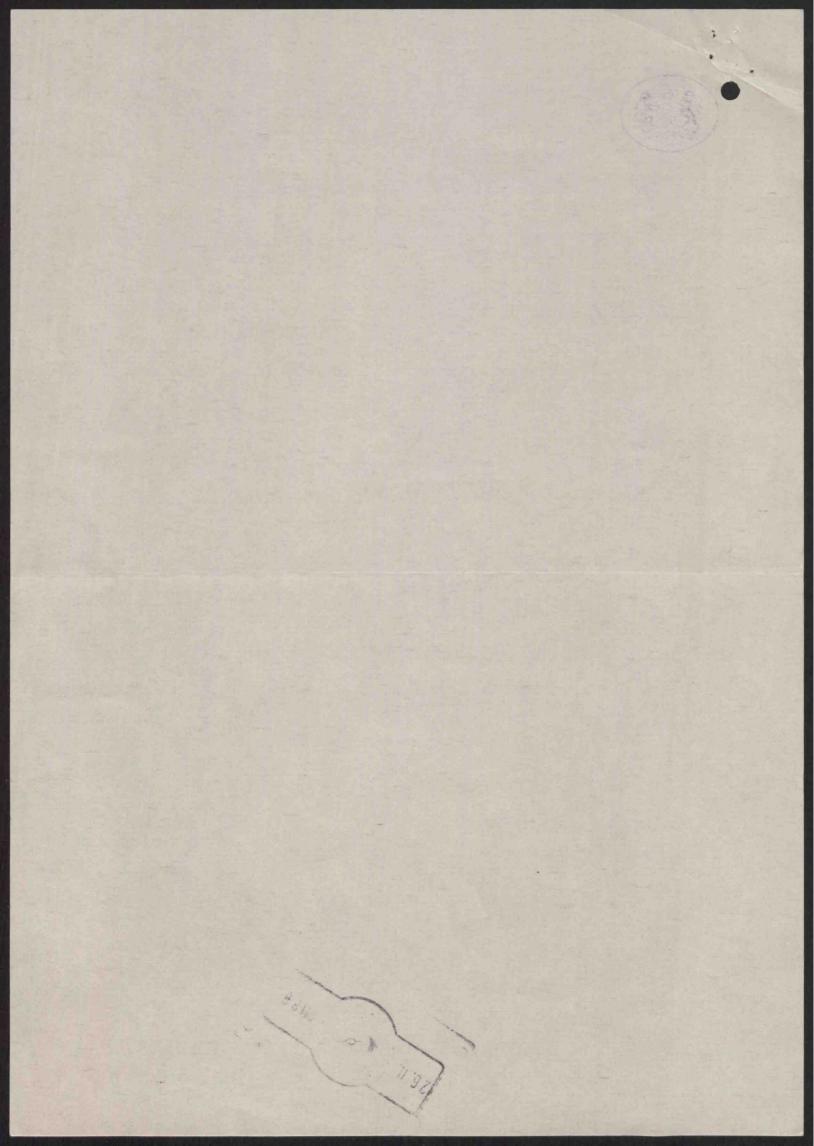
The general debate will run from 1 - 14 June. The peak period for general statements will be 1 - 3 June. Unfortunately, as these dates have only recently been fixed, both the Prime Minister's and Foreign Secretary's diaries are already heavily committed. The Foreign Secretary would however, with some difficulty, be able to visit UNSSD at the beginning of its second week (6 or 7 June).

UNSSD III will be an opportunity to get across to a wide international audience the essentials of HMG's approach to arms control, and in particular the need for a realistic and concrete agenda of balanced and verifiable measures. I should be grateful to know whether the Prime Minister would wish to address UNSSD III herself, or would be content for the Foreign Secretary to do so.

Your Ewor

(L Parker) Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq 10 Downing Street



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LONDON SWIA 2AA

From the Private Secretary

Lenclose a copy of a telex which the

I enclose a copy of a telex which the Prime Minister has received, apparently from the United Nations Secretary General.

I should be grateful if you would confirm that this is genuinely from Mr. Perez de Cuellar, and ascertain the reasons for the invitation to the Prime Minister.

Charles Powell

Lyn Parker, Esq., Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

PKD

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HER EXCELLENCY

THE RT. HON. MARGARET THATCHER

PRIME MINISTER OF UNITED KINGDOM

LONDON

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EARNESTLY HOPE THAT YOU WILL FIND IT POSSIBLE TO CONTRIBUTE PERSONALLY YOUR WISDOM AND THE WEIGHT OF YOUR OFFICE TO THE SESSION BY ADDRESSING IT IN EARLY JUNE.

PLEASE ACCEPT, YOUR EXCELLENCY, THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR
SECRETARY-GENERAL
UNITED NATIONS

COL SECRETARY-GENERAL

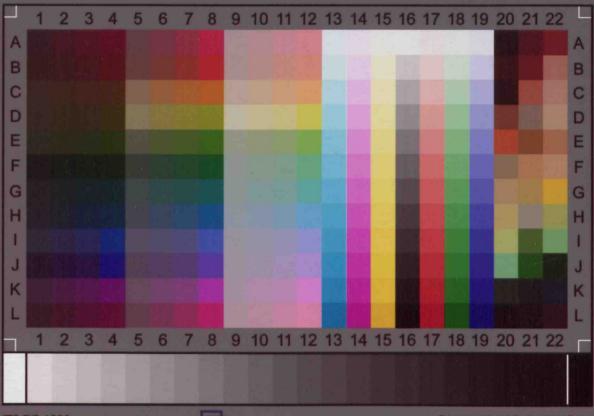
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