

PART 2

CONFIDENTIAL FIUNA.

UN Special Sessions on Disarmament

UNITED NATIONS

PT1: February 1982

PT2: February 1988

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
	28.2.88						
/// CLOSED		PREM 19/2562					

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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

28 February 1988

Dear Lyn,

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.

Yours sincerely,

C. D. Powell

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister

This is not where the action on disarmament is taking place; and the dates are virtually impossible

26 February 1988

Dear Charles, for you.

Agree that the Foreign Secretary should speak this time?

UN Special Session on Disarmament

CDP 26/2

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.

Yes - it is not possible for me to attend this time

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 State/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.

Yours ever

L Parker
(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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From the Private Secretary

No ack 5 February 1988

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

BF || 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.

DTB

PART 1 ends:-

AJC to fco 19.10.83

PART 2 begins:-

Perlez du. OSUAR to 7m 4.2.88



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