



*United Nations ds*

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

22 March 1982

*Dear Mr. Sittari,*

Thank you for your letter of 12 March, about the United Nations General Assembly Second Special Session on Disarmament, to be held in New York in June.

As I said in the House last week, I hope to speak for the United Kingdom at the Plenary stage of the Session.

*Yours sincerely  
Margaret Thatcher*

The Rt. Hon. John Silkin, M.P.

*HL*

PRIME MINISTER

UN second Special Session on Disarmament

I attach a letter from John Silkin, M.P. seeking your assurance that you will be present at New York for the opening of this Session.

I know that when you last looked at the papers you were reluctant to commit yourself. But there is obviously some danger of a campaign building up. You will not want a decision on your part to appear to be a response to Opposition pressure. There may also be advantage in announcing your decision some time before the House of Commons debates Trident.

My own view is that it would be wise to go to New York. Otherwise the Opposition and the disarmers will try to make capital out of your absence throughout the summer. I also now think that it would be advantageous to announce that you are going. If you agree, we could arrange an announcement this week. And after a suitable delay you could then reply to John Silkin.

May I have a look at the  
draft? From memory  
it is just not possible  
to be used for the opening  
of the session.  
A.S.C.  
[Signature]

12 March 1982

THE RT. HON. JOHN E. SILKIN, M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

12 March, 1982

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,  
Prime Minister,  
10 Downing Street,  
London SW1

*Dear Prime Minister,*

You were present in the House when during my reply to John Nott's statement on Trident I asked whether you would be attending the opening of the U.N. Second Special Session on Disarmament in New York on 7 June. I received no reply from John Nott so I am writing to you instead.

I know you will be aware of the urgency of this Session and the need for heads of government from the N.A.T.O. powers and the Warsaw Pact to demonstrate that they really do believe in global disarmament. I will be glad to receive your assurance that you will be present at New York for the opening.

*Yours sincerely*  
*John Silkin*

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