

1982

## Appeal to the Second Special Session of the U.N. General Assembly on Disarmament, 1982

Moscow Conference

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/ree>

 Part of the [Christianity Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Conference, Moscow (1982) "Appeal to the Second Special Session of the U.N. General Assembly on Disarmament, 1982," *Occasional Papers on Religion in Eastern Europe*: Vol. 2: Iss. 4, Article 6.

Available at: <http://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/ree/vol2/iss4/6>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @ George Fox University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Occasional Papers on Religion in Eastern Europe by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ George Fox University.

APPEAL TO THE SECOND SPECIAL SESSION OF THE U N  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON DISARMAMENT, 1982

(from the Moscow conference)

We make this appeal to you, leaders and responsible delegates of nations at the second SSUNGAD (Special Session of the UN General Assembly on Disarmament) from the World Conference: Religious Workers for Saving the Sacred Gift of Life from Nuclear Catastrophe convened in Moscow from May 10th to 14th, 1982. We are Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Jews, Muslims, Shintoists, Sikhs and Zoroastrians from 90 countries of all six continents of the world. We are ministers of religion, scientists, philosophers, physicians, surgeons, social workers, teachers, politicians, statesmen and people from many other walks of life. As believers we are united in our consciousness that the gift of life is sacred and should not be allowed to perish.

On behalf of the hundreds of millions of religious people whom we represent, we make this appeal to you to act resolutely to stop the arms race, to cleanse our earth from the blight of nuclear weapons and to devote the enormous resources now wasted on armaments to the building of a world without war, with peace and justice, and assuring for all a life worthy of human persons. Some of us were present at the First Special Session of the UN General Assembly on Disarmament (1978), as representatives of non-governmental organizations and applauded and supported the magnificent declaration and program of action drawn up by that memorable session which kindled the hopes of humanity in no small measure by providing a good basis for concrete steps towards disarmament. Some of us will be present also at the Second Special Session, which we hope will bring to fruition the triumph of the idea and program of general and complete disarmament. Our forum here pledges the support of religious people everywhere in your continuing struggle against militarism and for a world without the threat of war.

We appeal to you, to all states and to alliances, groupings and blocs of states, first to renounce more resolutely the policy of confrontation and hostility, to embark with more determination and effectiveness on the path of mutual cooperation and the settlement of conflicts by peaceful means alone. We appeal to you as responsible leaders of humanity, to act decisively, to see that the good triumph over evil in international relations, to take daring and effective decisions to rid the world of the menace of nuclear weapons and to lay the foundations of a world in which the security of each is assured by all without recourse to arms, and in which the resources, both human and material, of the whole of humanity are deployed for providing for all peoples and nations a life worthy of humanity.

More specifically, we appeal to you:

- a) to call a halt to the mad arms race by agreeing to an instant freeze on the present level of weapons of mass destruction as a first step towards general and complete disarmament.
- b) to devise an effective machinery for conducting and implementing negotiations for resolute steps to limit, reduce and finally eliminate the existing arsenal of nuclear and radiological weapons, starting with the immediate destruction and disposal of a substantial part of that arsenal;
- c) to encourage taking unilateral, bilateral and multilateral steps to create an atmosphere of mutual confidence in international relations, by abjuring all hostile rhetoric, by ratifying and implementing the SALT II agreement, by immediate resumption of talks for the reduction of strategic and tactical arms, by deliberate pursuit of the languishing Vienna Talks on the reduction of conventional forces and arms, by the abolition and dismantling of nuclear

- bases everywhere and by all other such means as are at our disposal;
- d) to decide on the convening of a World Conference on Disarmament where the nations and states can effectively begin to implement the disarmament program already approved;
  - e) to negotiate, devise, ratify and implement a convention to outlaw and banish all nuclear, radiological and chemical weapons beginning with an international convention for banning the use of all nuclear weapons;
  - f) to devise and implement a massive and well-financed program to mobilize public opinion in favor of disarmament and for deploying the enormous resources now spent on arms to healing all the ills of humanity like poverty, hunger, malnutrition, disease, ignorance and unemployment;
  - f) to examine carefully the reasons why so few of the measures decided upon in the First SSD have so far been implemented, and to devise new and effective measures for the implementation of the agreed program of action; to revise the program of action by setting it in a definite time-frame for the implementation of its various stages by pre-determined dates.

Humanity is today at one of the most decisive crossroads of history. If we fail to act now, the inexorable logic of our past actions will push us along the road to nothingness, to destruction and despair, to the howling wilderness of death for all. You hold an important responsibility for the destiny of humanity. If you hesitate to take decisive and courageous action now, humanity will be plunged into sorrow and cynicism! If, on the other hand, as we fully hope and trust, you take deliberate and well-calculated risks for reducing tension and marching boldly forward, humanity will ever be grateful and remember your historic session always with praise and thanksgiving. As religious people we pray for the success of your noble endeavors. As citizens of so many nations we pledge to you our humble support as well as the support of hundreds of millions of religious people all over the world, in your exalted mission on behalf of humanity. We invoke upon your session every divine blessing.