



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/S-15/AC.1/WG.III/7
13 June 1988

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE
FIFTEENTH SPECIAL SESSION
Working Group III
Agenda items 13 and 14

CONSIDERATION OF THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE FIELD OF DISARMAMENT AND OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE DISARMAMENT MACHINERY

UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF DISARMAMENT, INCLUDING MEASURES TO MOBILIZE WORLD PUBLIC OPINION IN FAVOUR OF DISARMAMENT

Proposals by Canada

1. Canada welcomes the attention of the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament will give to questions of United Nations arms control and disarmament machinery, and information and educational activities. These issues cut to the core of the place of the United Nations in the overall arms control and disarmament process. For this reason, these questions must be approached with a view to ensuring a direct and useful role for the United Nations in disarmament. This continuing effort to engage the international community in the disarmament process will produce greater stability over the long term. Such a multilateral approach will ensure that the many, and not just the few, have an active interest, and an active role in disarmament. At the same time, we must expand our visions beyond exclusively United Nations-related bodies, as national and regional disarmament bodies could prove necessary and useful in the future. In the mean time, however, we must acknowledge that the United Nations disarmament machinery requires continual fine-tuning and adjustment. The recognition of the need to reassess the functioning of United Nations machinery from time to time indicates a positive approach on our part to the role machinery plays in the arms limitation and disarmament process.

2. In this context, Canada would like to call the attention of the Working Group to the procedures of the First Committee of the General Assembly. As indicated by Canada's co-sponsorship of resolution 42/42 N on the rationalization of the work of the First Committee, Canada sees room for meaningful improvements in the procedures