



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/S-15/AC.1/WG.III/5
10 June 1988

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE
FIFTEENTH SPECIAL SESSION
Working Group III
Agenda item 14

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

Working paper submitted by Canada

Canada views discussion of this agenda item as important to the fostering of a constructive and fruitful dialogue on disarmament among and between the international public and their respective governments. Canada applauds the Secretary-General's reaffirmation of the importance of such activities as expressed in his address of May 31, 1988 to the UNSSOD III plenary. The following are specific proposals forwarded by Canada for consideration:

1. The Department for Disarmament Affairs should undertake to develop an NGO orientation programme designed to promote and improve the NGO community's understanding of the role of the United Nations and other fora in the field of disarmament.
2. In view of the commendable work being carried out by the Department for Disarmament Affairs in the field of information and education, its budget and current staffing level must be maintained.
3. The World Disarmament Campaign has suffered from a lack of firm political and financial commitment from the international community. Canada challenges other Member States to make such a commitment at the Third Special Session. If such a commitment is not forthcoming, the Special Session should call for an assessment of the continuing viability of the WDC.
4. All states should be encouraged to appoint Ambassadors for Disarmament and to institute arms control and disarmament public consultation and information programmes.