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*Le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
à la délégation au Comité sur le désarmement*

*Secretary of State for External Affairs
to Delegation to Disarmament Committee*

TELEGRAM N-274

Ottawa, August 24, 1962

CONFIDENTIAL. OPIMMEDIATE.

Reference: Your Tel 1430 August 23.†

Repeat for Information: London, Rome, NATO Paris, Paris, Washington (OpImmediate),
Permis New York, Bonn, CCOS (JS/DSS) (Priority).

By Bag Moscow.

DISARMAMENT: 17TH UNGA

Thank you for your reference telegram. We look forward to receiving your comments on preparations for the 17th UNGA. Following paragraphs give our views on procedure and tactics for the Assembly and related problems.

*Report to the UN Disarmament Commission and Inscription of UNGA Item on
Disarmament*

2. It is clear from discussions in the ENDC that it is generally assumed there will be a second progress report to the Disarmament Commission and that this and the earlier report will be made available to the UNGA. As to the form of the report, it will be important to avoid (as we were able to do with the first report) a dispute which could disrupt the last two weeks' work in the Committee and impair the chances of constructive debate at the UNGA. Accordingly I wish you to try to head off any debate over the inclusion in the report of controversial issues in dispute between the two sides, and to press for a report which would give a straightforward account of progress since July and emphasize that the Committee will resume its efforts in November to reach agreement on a disarmament programme.

3. With regard to the best way of transmitting ENDC reports to the UNGA there appear to be two main possibilities:

(a) The UN Disarmament Commission could meet and agree to transmit the reports to the Assembly;

(b) Padilla-Nervo himself could, after consultation by letter with the members of the Commission, request the Secretary-General to circulate the reports as Assembly documents. The second alternative would be simpler and would avoid the possibility of a debate in the Commission which would anticipate prematurely the discussion of disarmament which is expected in any case at the 17th UNGA. Moreover, it might be difficult to arrange for a meeting of the Commission in the brief period between the adjournment of the ENDC and the start of the Assembly. As a result of these considerations, I consider it would be best to follow the second alternative, unless you and your colleagues can see an advantage in a meeting of the Commission. If it were later decided that there would be some merit in convening the Commission, we might suggest that a brief meeting be held as soon as possible after the UNGA begins and before the commencement of the disarmament debate in the first committee.

4. There is also a procedural question which arises in connection with the discussion of disarmament at the 17th UNGA. As your reference telegram points out, although there are items on the agenda dealing with nuclear weapons tests and prohibition of use of nuclear weapons, there is no item on disarmament proper. Accordingly, in discussing procedural