

Introduction

The First UN Special Session on Disarmament in 1978 produced an excellent Final Document, which gave the world hope. Unfortunately, the only part implemented was the new machinery for disarmament negotiations: adding more non-aligned nations to the Committee on Disarmament, directing the First Committee to deal exclusively with disarmament, etc.

The reason for non-implementation is obvious: the general worsening of East-West relations, which began in 1979 (Soviet invasion of Afghanistan). It was this same deterioration of relations (which has been called "The Second Cold War") which doomed the Second UN Special Session on Disarmament in 1982. In spite of a spectacular peace walk of close to 1 million people in New York at its opening, UNSSOD II barely managed to reaffirm the Final Document of 1978 and launch the World Disarmament Campaign (a public education effort by the UN, governments, and NGOs). No progress was made on the Comprehensive Program for Disarmament (an attempt to pin down a timetable for definite sequential disarmament steps) or any other matter. Now we are anticipating a Third UN Special Session on Disarmament, from May 31 to June 25, 1988. The international atmosphere has changed for the better, with an INF Treaty and a successful summit meeting between US and USSR. What can we expect from UNSSOD III?

In order to prepare for answering that question, this article reviews peace proposals that have been made in the interim period, 1982 - 1988. By "peace proposals" we mean, in this connection, proposals that have to do with disarmament and arms control, or with strengthening the United Nations, since these are the two main pillars of peace. We will take into account both governmental and non-governmental proposals; those implemented or merely proposed; unilateral, bilateral, and multilateral plans; long-range and short-range; and