



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 60th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ENKHTSAIKHAN (Mongolia)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.55 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 119: CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT ARTICLES ON MOST-FAVOURED-NATION CLAUSES: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/36/145, A/36/146)

1. Mr. POTOCKI (Poland) said that the most-favoured-nation clause was one of the most complex issues in international law, and in preparing the draft articles the International Law Commission had attempted to codify the various practices of States and to frame them as legal rules in the light of political and economic realities. The most-favoured-nation clause was one of the corner-stones of co-operation in international trade and its application promoted trade liberalization and the elimination of inequality and discrimination, as well as conducing to the liberalization of customs tariffs and the reduction of non-tariff barriers. The terminology of the draft articles was closely linked with that of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, which would be a most useful reference in the future application and interpretation of the draft articles.

2. Although the Commission had achieved a great deal, it had not been possible to incorporate into the draft articles all aspects of the various practices applied in international trade and in accordance with draft article 28, therefore, the draft articles would apply only to most-favoured-nation clauses incorporated into future treaties, while under article 29 contracting parties were left free to agree otherwise. That made the draft articles more flexible, and hence more acceptable. His Government considered that, without prejudice to the final form of those provisions, the various solutions proposed by the Commission could be the basis for further consideration. Special attention should be paid to the definition of the most-favoured-nation clause in draft article 4, and to the correct distinction between it and "most-favoured-nation treatment" in draft article 5. A particularly important provision was draft article 7, concerning the legal basis for granting the most-favoured-nation clause, which made it clear that reciprocal granting of the most-favoured-nation clause merely reflected the principle of State sovereignty. That idea was also dealt with in draft article 8, paragraph 1, concerning the sources of most-favoured-nation treatment.

3. In drafting the articles the Commission had taken into account existing differences in economic development, and his Government understood draft articles 23, 24 and 30 as giving support to the generalized system of preferences for the benefit of developing countries. However, there were some stipulations in the draft articles that his delegation found it difficult to accept, notably in articles 12 and 13 relating to "compensation" or "reciprocity" as conditions for granting the most-favoured-nation clause. Poland favoured an open trade policy and maintained relations of co-operation with States of different social and economic systems. It had always favoured trade liberalization, and the elimination of any form of discrimination and of all barriers to international trade. The conditional clause was inherently discriminatory; it promoted protectionism and introduced additional difficulties in trade relations because of the possibility that "reciprocity" might be open to different interpretations and might be implemented in different ways. Consequently the most-favoured-nation clause with "condition of reciprocity" could not be regarded as promoting international trade and would have the effect of depriving the most-favoured-nation clause in its

(Mr. Potocki, Poland)

traditional sense of its advantages. Since non-conditional most-favoured-nation clauses were widely applied in practice, the Polish Government saw no reason to include draft articles 12 and 13. Similarly, it was difficult to justify article 2, paragraph 1 (e) and (f), or articles 20 and 21, as they provided the option of introducing the conditional clause.

4. The foregoing remarks did not represent Poland's final position, since it was continuing to study the general question of the most-favoured-nation clause and the text of the draft articles. However, in compliance with General Assembly resolution 33/139 II, his delegation wished to state that the draft articles prepared by the Commission could serve as a solid basis for further consideration with a view to the conclusion of a convention on the subject.

AGENDA ITEM 111: DRAFT CODE OF OFFENCES AGAINST THE PEACE AND SECURITY OF MANKIND: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/36/416, A/36/535)

5. Mr. RASSOL'KO (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that, further to his Government's comments on the draft Code, reproduced in document A/35/210, his delegation felt that in the final stages of the preparation of the draft Code account should be taken of such new international legal instruments as the Definition of Aggression, the various international agreements relating to war crimes and crimes against humanity, and the obligations imposed on States by the disarmament agreements concluded over the past 20 years. Special attention should be given to the declaration, recently approved by the General Assembly, on averting a nuclear catastrophe, and to conventions and agreements designed to prevent such offences as genocide, racism and colonialism, together with the crimes punishable under the 1949 Geneva Conventions and the 1977 Additional Protocols thereto. The Code should not, however, impinge on the right of peoples to struggle for their independence against colonialism, aggression, racism and apartheid, since that right derived from the Charter of the Organization and numerous decisions and resolutions of the United Nations.

6. The draft Code should incorporate the principle, embodied in the Charter and the judgement of the Nürnberg International Military Tribunal, that offences against the peace, war crimes and crimes against humanity were international offences for which individuals could be held accountable. That notion had been developed in many international instruments and become a generally accepted principle of international law. It was regrettable that some delegations still sought to hold States exclusively responsible for actions prohibited by international law. Of course States could and should be held responsible for their actions, but the individuals guilty of such actions must also be liable to criminal proceedings.

7. Although it needed further work, the draft Code formed an acceptable basis for further work by the Committee. The task was now to decide how best to move ahead. The eventual Code must be a far-reaching political and legal document from which all States in the international community could derive guidance. The fact that, during the Committee's discussions at the thirty-fifth session, the overwhelming majority of States had requested that the draft Code be accelerated, and that the resolution on the issue had been adopted by consensus, were

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(Mr. Rassol'ko, Byelorussian SSR)

convincing arguments in favour of proceeding with the finalization of the Code in an open-ended working group of the Sixth Committee; the matter should be debated at the thirty-seventh session as a matter of priority.

8. Mr. BRUNO (Uruguay) said that certain changes would have to be made in the original draft Code of Offences against the Peace and Security of Mankind, drawn up by the International Law Commission in 1954, because of subsequent developments in international law. His delegation adhered to the view it had expressed at previous sessions, namely that the draft should be referred back to the Commission for further study and amendment. The Commission would then report back to the General Assembly, indicating whether it was worth while adopting a new legal text in the light of suggestions by Member States, the discussions in the Sixth Committee, and the codification work on international crimes that had taken place over the years.

9. The final text must be adopted unanimously and must establish effective application procedures based solely on the concern to defend justice and the law.

10. According to article 1 of the Uruguayan Penal Code, an "offence", was an action or omission explicitly specified in the penal law, which must contain both a rule and a penalty. Criminal offences involved three basic elements: typicality, illegality and culpability. The draft Code was, in his delegation's view, incomplete, for it lacked several of the essential elements of penal law, and therefore ran the risk of becoming inoperative. It was of cardinal importance to draw up standard legal procedures for the implementation of the substantive provisions of the draft Code. As his delegation had observed at the preceding session, the draft did not provide for the imposition of penalties, on offenders, failed to establish a competent court and provided no clear definition of offences such as aggression, terrorism and hostage-taking. The Code finally adopted must identify clearly the judicial organ that would try and pass judgement on acts already defined in the same Code, as otherwise it would amount to no more than a series of high moral standards for the international community.

11. The question of the judicial organ that would be competent to try offences under the Code, and its terms of reference was a very delicate one, to which the International Law Commission should pay particular attention. The judicial organ would undoubtedly have to operate autonomously and independently so that its activities were not in any way hampered by considerations alien to its jurisdictional functions.

12. An incidental question, but one of vital importance to the establishment of the aforementioned judicial organ was that of the establishment of compulsory international criminal jurisdiction for States and individuals. Only by making such a jurisdiction compulsory would it be possible to ensure that the eventual Code would be completely effective.

13. Mr. BALANDA MIKWIM (Zaire) praised the analytical paper presented by the Secretariat (A/36/535) and said that it would be useful if similar papers could be prepared on other items dealt with at several sessions of the General Assembly. He recalled that the idea of a draft code of offences against the peace and security

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of mankind had originated at the end of the Second World War. There were still some who doubted the usefulness of such a code or the possibility of agreeing on one. In their view there were many questions which would have to be settled first, including the problems of definitions, penalties and the authority empowered to pass judgement.

14. As to whether or not a code was still necessary, he pointed out that mankind was currently threatened by acts that could lead to its extinction through the use of nuclear weapons. Furthermore, the struggle for human rights made the drafting of such a code highly relevant. In that connexion he referred to the Declaration of the Conference of Foreign Ministers of Non-Aligned Countries held in New Delhi in February 1981.

15. The common denominator in the situation threatening mankind was the use of force, of which war was only the most open manifestation. Whenever selfish interests came into conflict, there was a danger that force would be used. Obviously mankind must be protected from the threat of extinction, and that was one of the aims the General Assembly had had in mind in asking the Commission to draft a code of offences against the peace and security of mankind.

16. Objections to the draft Code because of the problems of definition, application and penalties were based on a tendency to apply too literally in the international field the principles that applied in internal law. But there was a basic difference between a hierarchical national society and an international society consisting of sovereign States. For example, there could be no question of building international prisons in which offenders against the Code could serve their sentences. Therefore a new approach was required in line with the nature and needs of the international community. At the end of the Second World War, the international community, in dealing with crimes against humanity, had not hesitated to accept the principle of the international responsibility of individuals, who were not normally the subjects of international law. The problem of legislation that was applied retroactively, as it had been at the Nürnberg and Tokyo Tribunals, had not prevented the victors in the Second World War from achieving their aim of punishing the major war criminals. Moreover, the legal basis of those two tribunals constituted an exception to the principle that only competent national organs established in accordance with the law were invested with the power of passing judgement, a principle which was still firmly embedded in the internal law of the victors. Furthermore, internal law itself had changed in response to the new needs and concerns of various societies. For example, the new French penal code provided that juridical persons could be the subject of criminal prosecutions. Thus, penalties inflicted on juridical persons were indeed penalties and not merely measures of reparation. In Zaire the prosecution of SOCOBANQUE and DIFCO had led to fines which the companies concerned could not pay; consequently, they had both been taken over by the State.

17. It appeared that the evolution that had been accepted in internal law, and that had indeed been initiated in international law by the establishment of war crimes tribunals, was less acceptable at the international level when it came to establishing the criminal responsibility of States or other juridical persons which

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might commit offences under the future Code, although the international community was all too well aware that reprehensible acts could be committed directly or indirectly by States or by groups of individuals. Legal consideration should not prevent the authors of such actions from receiving the punishment they deserved, since the basic function of all law was to ensure order in the social relations of those to which it applied.

18. The codification of State responsibility being undertaken by the International Law Commission also represented a new stage in the development of international law in line with new conditions. Why, then, should there be reluctance to take the further step of defining the criminal responsibility of States? Such reluctance might indicate that the States concerned were contemplating some attack on the peace and security of mankind and were accordingly reluctant to support the preparation of a legal instrument that would condemn the activities they envisaged. Any such State would hardly be in a position to require others to comply with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter.

19. Another argument advanced against the preparation of a draft code concerned the nature of the jurisdiction that might be created in order to apply its provisions. Some delegations thought that that competence should be left to national courts, while others supported the idea of an international court. With regard to the first alternative, it should be noted that national judicial systems might permit the judgement of authors of acts considered as offences under the proposed Code. However, if the acts concerned had been committed by a State itself or one of its organs, the matter would be more complicated, since the national judicial authorities called on to prosecute and try the offences might not have sufficient independence to ensure their impartiality. Moreover, if States themselves urged or ordered certain persons to undertake actions that were forbidden in the proposed Code, it was unlikely that they would be prosecuted. That would lead to the same situation, in which offences under the Code could be committed with impunity.

20. In view of the difficulties involved, one possible course of action would be to give up the idea of preparing a draft code, but that was tantamount to accepting the idea of a world beset by violence of every kind, in which the altruistic side of mankind could no longer exist. If humanism was to prevail, mind must be exalted over matter. Every effort must be made to protect mankind from the threat of extinction, and such efforts should include the drafting of a Code of Offences against the Peace and Security of Mankind whose provisions were fully in harmony with the nature of international society. States must first jointly recognize the desired aim, i.e. the need to provide the international community with an effective instrument to preserve the peace and security of mankind. Then they must jointly seek to reach that goal through a new approach, based on the contemporary structure of international society, that avoided transferring to international relations the rigid reasoning that applied in internal law. Thus the approach to the question of which acts would fall into the category of offences against the peace and security of mankind should not be based on the penal codes of States; the nature of the acts themselves should be the main consideration. The concept of cultural genocide should also be included. The acts that might be considered as crimes against humanity should be accepted as grave crimes by reason

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of their very nature; that would be a positive contribution to the evolution of international law. Moreover, the proposed Code should construe the concept of security in its broadest sense; in other words, it should include political, economic, social and even ecological security.

21. If all delegations approached the drafting of a code of offences in a new spirit, without prejudice, and regardless of material or selfish considerations, it would not be difficult to solve the problems involved. The Committee should not give up the effort to provide the international community with a code of offences that would complement what already existed, in order to safeguard not only human rights, but mankind itself. The preparation of such a code would provide an opportunity to confirm and realize more effectively the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter. Moreover, it would be a useful contribution to the codification and progressive development of international law.

22. The newly enlarged International Law Commission was the most appropriate body to continue the work, in the light of the views expressed by States in the Sixth Committee. Zaire did not consider that a working group on the subject would be useful or practical; since all delegations would wish to participate, the group was likely to become merely a duplicate Sixth Committee and would not be an appropriate body for the rapid finalization of a draft code.

23. It must be remembered that no legal instrument was sufficient in itself; the important factor was determination to respect its provisions and behave in accordance with the commitments made. Consequently, only those who subscribed to such a code could ensure its success.

24. Mr. GÖRNER (German Democratic Republic) said that the continuation and successful conclusion of work on the draft Code of Offences against the Peace and Security of Mankind was an important and topical task, especially in view of the current threats to international peace. October 1981 had marked the thirty-fifth anniversary of the Nürnberg Principles, which had been reaffirmed by the General Assembly in resolution 95 (I) and were duly reflected in the draft Code prepared by the International Law Commission in 1954. The draft Code constituted an acceptable basis for further work, but it needed to be updated and supplemented in the light of the progressive development of international law since 1954. His delegation had submitted proposals to that end, which were reflected in documents A/35/210/Add.1 and A/36/416.

25. The draft Code should concentrate on the most serious offences and define them as clearly and precisely as possible. The proposal made by the Soviet delegation at the current session to declare the first use of nuclear weapons the gravest crime against humanity was of capital importance to future work on the draft Code. His delegation also supported the proposal to include in the Code provisions expressly prohibiting propaganda for war and hatred against other nationalities and races, which was aimed at preparing new generations psychologically for committing grave international crimes.

(Mr. Görner, German Democratic Republic)

26. The draft Code, like the Nürnberg principles, was based on the concept of individual criminal responsibility for international offences. Holding individuals responsible should not, however, replace the responsibility under international law of a State which organized, committed or supported such crimes. In connexion with the enforcement of individual criminal responsibility, States were obliged under international law to take appropriate measures and enact legislation ensuring the prosecution and punishment of persons guilty of international offences. No protection under State sovereignty could be claimed for acts which could be characterized as grave international offences. It was therefore necessary to establish a universal duty to prosecute offences, which included the obligation of States to co-operate in combating international offences. In addition, the draft Code should include a clear provision on the non-applicability of the statute of limitations to such offences.

27. Work on the draft Code should proceed without delay, taking into account the constructive proposals of a number of States for its revision and updating. The Sixth Committee was the appropriate forum for that purpose; it possessed sufficient experience in that field, having prepared several international conventions on the prevention and punishment of crimes that posed a particularly serious threat to peaceful co-operation among States. His delegation could also agree to the proposal to entrust the International Law Commission with the revision and completion of the draft Code, provided that it gave assurances that it would accord high priority to that task and would endeavour to complete it as soon as possible, and, in any event, within five years. It should be decided at the thirty-seventh session whether the International Law Commission could, in fact, do so. The analytical paper prepared by the Secretariat, in response to resolution 35/49 (A/36/535) was an important asset for the further consideration of the draft Code and deserved due attention.

28. Mr. LAMAMRA (Algeria) said that the time was particularly propitious for the International Law Commission to resume its work on the draft Code of Offences, since substantial progress had been made in international law since 1954 and the increase in the Commission's membership, the election of new members and the completion of its work on certain topics, created conditions conducive to further advances in the progressive development and codification of international law. Moreover, the Sixth Committee's heavy programme of work for future sessions would not allow it to carry out a detailed review of the draft Code in a working group. Thus, in accordance with article 23 of the statute of the International Law Commission, his delegation considered that it would be useful to refer the draft Code of Offences back to the Commission, which would doubtless submit a preliminary report to the Sixth Committee at an early date enabling it to lay down specific guidelines on the scope and substance of the draft Code. Even though that procedure would not settle the substantive problems entailed in the preparation of the draft Code, it would help to end the inertia that had set in owing to a loss of interest on the part of those who had originated the idea.

29. It might seem unrealistic to advocate a strengthening of the criminal law provisions for punishing offences against the peace and security of mankind at a time when the precarious balances on which international relations had been based since 1945 were beginning to show their short-comings and limitations. It was

(Mr. Lamamra, Algeria)

suggested that the adversary relationship between the Powers was such that it was illusory to hope for a universal era of peace based on the rule of law. Thus, appeals to realism contained within them an invitation to resignation. For its part, his delegation did not believe that only the periods immediately following wars were conducive to inspiration and that what had been regarded as useful in the aftermath of a devastating world conflict had lost all relevance for contemporary times. Indeed, the haste with which the International Law Commission had been requested to prepare a draft code of offences and the diligence with which the draft Code had been prepared were proof of the resolve which existed to prevent and punish acts endangering the peace and security of mankind. The threatening developments of the current time called for a similar reaction. A code of offences was more necessary than ever in view of the build-up of weapons of mass destruction and the apparent willingness to embark upon a military adventure that would be suicidal for all mankind. While feverish preparations for a major conflict proceeded apace, many regions of the third world were torn by war and oppression. The denial of the right of peoples to self-determination, aggression, the occupation of territories by force, annexation, destabilizing manoeuvres and the use of mercenaries against sovereign States and national liberation movements, created and perpetuated centres of tension and fuelled insecurity and instability. The odious system of apartheid, which had been proclaimed a crime against humanity, continued to hold millions of human beings in subhuman conditions in the name of an alleged hierarchy of races, subjugating an entire people in its own homeland.

30. Apart from such facts, which highlighted the urgent need for a codification of crimes against the peace and security of mankind, the availability of materials would determine the progress that could be made in completing the task. There were numerous international legal instruments and declarations of the General Assembly which should guide the updating and refinement of the draft Code. The work of the International Law Commission itself, in particular on the principles of international law recognized by the Charter of the Nürnberg Tribunal and on State responsibility, was a valuable reference and source of inspiration.

31. The Code should not be a mere compilation of offences. In order to preserve the specificity of crimes against peace and the security of mankind, the Code should be applicable only to internationally unlawful acts of exceptional seriousness which caused substantial damage, such as genocide, apartheid, aggression and colonialism, to mention only a few unlawful acts prohibited by contemporary international law. The inductive method should be adopted.

32. The complexity and the real or supposed difficulty of the task should not serve as a pretext for lack of progress when what was at stake was the protection of international peace and security. Every effort must be made to strengthen international law, especially international criminal law, which served as a deterrent, with a view to bringing about genuine peace and security. Even though a code of offences against the peace and security of mankind was not a panacea for the ills besetting international society, it had its place in a new legal order. Accordingly, new impetus should be given to the preparation of the draft Code and the International Law Commission seemed particularly well suited to that task.

33. Mr. LARES (Finland) said that, on the basis of the comments received so far from Governments, the conceptual framework for the preparation for the draft Code of Offences against the Peace and Security of Mankind could be identified. In that connexion, the most relevant issues seemed to be the definition of an international crime, the state of customary international law and the status of several United Nations declarations concerning offences against the peace and security of mankind, the role of certain relevant conventions, the problem of the responsibility of individuals as distinct from the international responsibility of States, and the question of ensuring the effectiveness of the proposed Code. The most important procedural issues to be settled were to determine what procedure should be followed in drafting the proposed Code, what priority should be accorded to it, what final form it should take and what legal status it should have.

34. The analytical paper prepared by the Secretary-General (A/36/535), which covered all the issues to which he had referred, showed that it was extremely difficult to identify those issues on which general agreement could be reached and separate them from those on which there were serious differences of opinion. There was therefore a need to go beyond general statements and to identify more specific rules of law which could form the basis of a codification. His delegation, among others, had proposed that the draft Code should be referred to the International Law Commission for further consideration.

35. When embarking on the consideration of the draft Code, the International Law Commission would unavoidably be faced with the task of defining acts constituting offences against the peace and security of mankind. According to the Charters of the International Military Tribunals of Nürnberg and Tokyo, there were three classes of such acts: crimes against peace, crimes against humanity and war crimes. In addition, international customary law, together with several United Nations declarations, had created certain obligations the breach of which would constitute an offence against the peace and security of mankind. However, divergent views existed as to the legal status and nature of those obligations, and many of them had been formulated in such general terms that they did not lend themselves easily to codification. Even the Definition of Aggression was not without ambiguity in that respect. The Commission's first task would be to draw up a tentative list of all acts constituting offences against the peace and security of mankind. Article 2 of the 1954 draft Code would seem to be a good basis for such a list. Such crimes as hijacking, the hostile use of the physical environment, and grave offences against diplomatic and consular representatives should also be considered in that connexion.

36. Difficult conceptual problems arose in connexion with the responsibility for such offences. Whereas it was clear that individuals committing offences against the peace and security of mankind should be responsible and duly convicted for their acts, it was much more difficult to establish State responsibility. A parallel should be drawn between the draft Code and the Commission's work on State responsibility, especially with regard to the attribution to a State of an act committed by an individual. It should be determined whether the rules of imputation laid down in the draft articles on State responsibility as they stood also applied to offences against the peace and security of mankind. The relationship between article 19 of the draft articles on State responsibility and the draft Code should also be considered.

(Mr. Lares, Finland)

37. The successful outcome of work on a code of offences hinged on efforts to define individual responsibility for such offences. However, provisions on individual responsibility should be coupled with the obligation of States effectively to punish persons acting under their jurisdiction in breach of the provisions of the Code.

38. Finally, the draft Code should provide for effective enforcement of its provisions. Since an international tribunal apparently would not meet with the acceptance of all Member States, enforcement should be left to the national courts. Several procedural problems would have to be solved in that connexion. The proposed Code should be drafted in such a way as to make it possible for States to incorporate its provisions into national penal legislation. That meant that the questions of jurisdiction, choice of court, procedural rules to be followed and prosecution should be discussed. The International Law Commission should decide at the outset on the direction it would take in drafting the provisions relating to the national implementation of the Code. To ensure effective national implementation, a reporting system might also be considered.

39. Mr. DANELIUS (Sweden) said his delegation felt that the time had come to resume substantive work on the draft Code of Offences: the Definition of Aggression having been completed, there was no reason for further delay. With regard to the procedure to be followed in working on the draft Code, his delegation doubted very much that the Sixth Committee would be able, at least at the current stage, to deal with the work effectively. The matter was complicated and delicate, and the Committee did not have the capacity to undertake a task of that type and magnitude. There were, however, strong arguments in favour of referring the matter to the International Law Commission. It seemed natural to ask the Commission to revise its own draft in the light of legal developments since 1954, taking suggestions made by Governments in writing or during the debates in the Sixth Committee into account. The draft Code of Offences was to some extent related to the Commission's current work on State responsibility, and the Commission would be well placed to ensure that there was no contradiction or inconsistency between the two texts.

40. Completion of the draft Code could hardly be said to be a matter of any special urgency. At least some of the other items on the agenda of the International Law Commission should be accorded the same or higher priority.

41. It was important for the Commission to draft provisions sufficiently clear and well defined to form the basis for criminal prosecution and conviction. The ability to tell whether a certain act would constitute a criminal offence was a fundamental principle of penal law.

42. Special attention should be devoted to the question of implementing the eventual Code, whose effectiveness would depend to a large degree on the implementation system established. The goal should be to establish an international tribunal to try the offences covered by the Code. He realized it was unlikely that an agreement on international adjudication would be reached in the near future, but hoped that the International Law Commission would devote special attention to the problems of implementation so that the Code, when adopted, became an effective instrument and not merely empty rhetoric.

43. Mr. MAKAREVICH (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that, given the difficult nature of the current international situation, it was very important to adopt an instrument such as a code of offences against the peace and security of mankind. The basis for such an instrument could be found in the draft Code prepared by the International Law Commission in 1954, and in the Charter and judgement of the Nürnberg Tribunal. Since the Commission had produced that draft Code, however, international law had undergone a number of positive changes which were reflected in numerous United Nations resolutions and international agreements. Those developments must be taken into account in producing a new version of the draft so as to create a universal international instrument defining offences against the peace and security of mankind and establishing criminal liability for them. His Government's views on the subject had been set out in greater detail in its reply to the Secretary-General's questionnaire and previous statements to the Sixth Committee.

44. The Sixth Committee should continue its discussion of the item at the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly in an open-ended working group.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.