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Chairman: Mr. Radha Krishna RAMPHUL
(Mauritius).

AGENDA ITEMS 26, 27, 30, 31, 32, 33 AND 34

World Disarmament Conference: report of the Secretary-General (<i>continued</i>) (A/8654, A/8668, A/8681, A/8693, and Corr.1, A/8757, A/8817 and Add.1, A/C.1/L.618)	
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(a) Report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (A/8818);	
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- (a) Report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (A/8818);
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General (A/8807)

Implementation of General Assembly resolution 2830 (XXVI) concerning the signature and ratification of Additional Protocol II of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Treaty of Tlatelolco): report of the Secretary-General (*continued*) (A/8653, A/8808, A/C.1/L.619)

Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace: report of the Secretary-General (*continued*) (A/8809)

1. The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will resume consideration of item 27, on the implementation of the results of the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States. A revised version of draft resolution A/C.1/L.617, sponsored by 14 delegations, has been circulated. As no delegation wishes to speak on the draft resolution or to explain its vote before the vote, the Committee will proceed to vote on draft resolution A/C.1/L.617/Rev.1.

The draft resolution was adopted by 89 votes to none, with 10 abstentions.

2. The CHAIRMAN: We have thus concluded consideration of item 27.

3. In accordance with several statements I have made, the next item we shall consider will be item 30, but as the General Assembly will be discussing the item on the non-use of force again this afternoon, and as a Security Council meeting also is scheduled this afternoon, it would be my intention to adjourn this meeting as early as possible without entering into a discussion of the two draft resolutions and amendments that have been submitted under that item. However, I understand that the representative of Kenya wishes to clarify the situation in respect of the amendments proposed by him yesterday and circulated this morning in document A/C.1/L.625.

4. Mr. ADALA (Kenya): We did mention yesterday when introducing our amendments in document A/C.1/L.625 that we were submitting them in order to reflect the realities of the situation as set forth in the Secretary-General's report on napalm. I believe that the majority of us have read that report and that all of us are equally concerned with the harm caused by the use of napalm and other incendiary weapons on human beings in the course of war.

5. The sponsors of the amendments in document A/C.1/L.625 have had contact with the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/L.616/Rev.1, and for the purpose of achieving unanimity and conciliation we have agreed to make the following changes in our amendments. We have agreed to withdraw our proposal to include in the fourth preambular paragraph the words “noted that the use of chemical and biological means of warfare, including napalm bombing.” We have done this because we were given to understand that experts have not yet agreed that napalm and other incendiary weapons can be given the tag of “chemical weapons”. This is a technical point and we will go along with it.

6. We would, however, like to retain our proposed operative paragraph 3, which reads:

“*Deplores* the use of napalm and other incendiary weapons in all armed conflicts”.

Again, for obvious reasons, we believe that those who are familiar with the circumstances and the situation as explained in the Secretary-General’s report will agree that the use of napalm and incendiary weapons in warfare is a gross violation of human rights and inflicts deep sufferings on all human beings.

7. For that reason we feel very strongly about the retention of this paragraph. We do not think that it is as strongly worded as we would have wanted. However, we understand that at the present stage we are merely dealing with procedural draft resolutions rather than with a substantive draft resolution, and also we take note of paragraph 2 of the report of the Secretary-General which states that the objectives of the report are to provide information to peoples and Governments on the effects of napalm and other incendiary weapons. It also envisages that it could facilitate subsequent action by the United Nations with a view to curtailing or abolishing such uses of the weapons in question as might be established as inhumane. The operative paragraph 4 that we propose is in this regard probably more substantive and could not stand at this preliminary stage.

8. We agree with the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/L.616/Rev.1 that the report should be commended to the attention of Governments by the Secretary-General and their comments solicited. We do hope and believe that all Governments will deem it necessary to react to the request of the Secretary-General and give this Committee and the General Assembly something substantive to work on, so that at a later date my delegation and the sponsors, and any other delegation which in the future may so wish, could introduce more substantive proposals on any subsequent draft resolutions.

9. Before I finish, may I say that I believe that this move will meet with the approval of all the sponsors of draft

resolution A/C.1/L.616/Rev.1, and we are still open to any other suggestions that may be to the benefit of us all.

10. Mr. ECKERBERG (Sweden): In response to the statement just made by the representative of Kenya I should like to make some brief comments on draft resolution A/C.1/L.616/Rev.1, with particular regard of course to the proposed amendments thereto.

11. The draft resolution which deals with the Secretary-General’s report on napalm and other incendiary weapons was originally presented by the delegations of Mexico and Sweden. After that it received the welcome support of a large number of sponsors. Two amendments to the original text were made last week in response to suggestions put forward by other delegations. On 2 November the head of the Swedish delegation, Mrs. Myrdal, formally introduced the draft resolution. She made it very clear, I think, as she then discussed the possible and desirable legal restraints in regard to the use, production and stockpiling of the specially cruel and indiscriminate weapons, that the Swedish Government attaches the utmost importance to this item on our agenda. My delegation feels that draft resolution A/C.1/L.616/Rev.1 would form a valuable basis for a serious consideration of this matter.

12. Governments of Member States should at this stage have an opportunity to comment on the Secretary-General’s report and thus provide next year’s session of the General Assembly with a broad and solid basis for a decision on the further handling of the issues spelled out by the experts in the report.

13. I have listened with attention to the statement just made by the representative of Kenya. I welcome the constructive spirit in which his statement was made and my delegation has sympathy with the objective of that statement.

14. As regards the views of the other sponsors of the draft resolution, I am not in a position to speak for them as I have not had an opportunity to consult them. I can speak only for the Swedish delegation at this meeting. For its part, the Swedish delegation would support the proposed addition to the operative part as spelled out in document A/C.1/L.625—the new operative paragraph 3 referred to by the representative of Kenya—and we will vote for it. I should like, however, to ask the representative of Kenya and the other sponsors of the amendment if they could perhaps accept the following wording for that particular operative paragraph: “*Deplores* the effects of the use of napalm and other incendiary weapons in all armed conflicts”. In other words we would add to that proposed amendment the words “the effects of”.

The meeting rose at 4 p.m.