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Chairman: Mr. GOLOB (Yugoslavia)

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The meeting was called to order at 11.00 a.m.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF HIS EXCELLENCY MR. MOHAMED ANWAR AL-SADAT, PRESIDENT OF EGYPT

The CHAIRMAN: I should like representatives to permit me to begin this session by expressing a tribute to the memory of His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Anwar Al-Sadat, the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt. I should like, as Chairman of this Committee, to ask the delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt to transmit our expressions of deep sympathy and condolences to the people and to the Government of Egypt, and I should like to ask representatives to observe a minute of silence in memory of President Sadat.

The representatives, standing, observed a minute's silence.

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN: I should like to begin by expressing the sentiments of the entire Committee in extending a most cordial and friendly welcome to the 155th and 156th Members of the United Nations, the Republic of Vanuatu and Belize. We are all confident that the new Members will make a significant contribution to the work of the United Nations and to the realization of the principles of the United Nations Charter. I should like to greet the representatives of Vanuatu and Belize and to present to them our best wishes for peace and prosperity for their countries.

I should like to express my most profound appreciation to all Members of the United Nations for the honour and privilege which they have conferred upon me and my delegation by electing me as Chairman of this important body.

I wish to express my appreciation of the very kind and generous words uttered by our eminent Chairman of last year, Ambassador Niaz Naik of Pakistan, in nominating me for election at the first meeting of this Committee. I also value the good wishes he has expressed for the speedy recovery of my colleague Ambassador Komatina, to whom I shall convey the kind sentiments expressed by Ambassador Naik.

(The Chairman)

I am certain that I am expressing the sentiments of all members of the Committee when I extend to Ambassador Naik our congratulations and our gratitude for the exemplary manner in which he conducted our deliberations last year as well as for his outstanding contribution to the outcome of our work.

As I assume the chairmanship of this Committee, I wish to assure representatives of my determination to act in a spirit of dedication leavened by impartiality and responsibility.

I intend to join all members of the Committee in the search for constructive answers to the questions on the agenda. Members can be sure that I will do my best to stimulate, assist and participate in that search. I do hope that I will meet with full support from all representatives.

I am certainly looking forward to co-operating with the officers of the Committee about to be elected, and I do hope they will give me the opportunity of drawing upon their experience. I am counting on the assistance of the able secretary of the Committee, Mr. Naeem Rathore. I believe that I shall benefit from the accumulated knowledge of Mr. Viacheslav Ustinov, who has recently assumed the functions of Under-Secretary-General for Political and Security Council Affairs and by Mr. Jan Martenson, whom we all know as the Assistant Secretary-General for the Centre for Disarmament. I extend a very warm welcome to Mr. Ustinov and Mr. Martenson.

Our agenda for today's meeting concerns the election of a Vice-Chairman and a Rapporteur, and the organization of our work.

If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the agenda is adopted by the Committee.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: Before taking up the items on our agenda, I should like to draw the attention of the members of the Committee to the decisions of the General Assembly taken at its 1935th meeting on 22 September 1971

(The Chairman)

concerning the procedure regarding the election of officers of the Main Committees. According to that decision, the nomination of candidates should be limited to one statement for each candidate, after which the Committee should immediately proceed to the election. The Committee will follow that procedure in regard to the items on our agenda for today.

ELECTION OF A VICE-CHAIRMAN

Mr. OYONO (Republic of Cameroon) (interpretation from French): Sir, allow me first of all to extend to you my warmest congratulations on your election to the Chairmanship of the First Committee. That election does honour to your person and, over and above that, to your country, Yugoslavia, a founding member of our great non-aligned family. We appreciate the active and decisive role your country has played in strengthening international peace and security.

(Mr. Oyono, United Republic of Cameroon)

We are convinced that under your leadership our work will surely be successful. It is my pleasure to assure you of my delegation's wholehearted co-operation.

Our thoughts also go out to our colleague, Ambassador Komatina, whom we wish a speedy recovery.

Permit me to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to Ambassador Naik, of Pakistan, your predecessor as Chairman, for the way in which he conducted our proceedings during the thirty-fifth session.

I cannot refrain from sharing with the Committee my delegation's profound emotion at the death of Mr. Mohamed Anwar al-Sadat, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt. This tragic loss is a matter of great grief not only to Egypt but to the whole of Africa, as well as to the non-aligned countries and all peace-loving nations and peoples. I hope that the Egyptian delegation will be good enough to accept our heartfelt condolences.

Our agenda contains an item on the election of a Vice-Chairman of our Committee. It is thus an honour and a privilege for me to nominate Mr. Alejandro Yango, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Philippines, for this post.

Ambassador Yango is a well-known figure among members of our Organization and is a familiar figure at international conferences, where his smiling authority, his experience, his competence and his tact have earned him so many friends. His biography, as will be seen, is particularly rich and tells a great deal about his exceptional qualities, making him a prime candidate for the vice-chairmanship of this Committee.

Ambassador Yango is, first of all, a jurist, but also a highly experienced diplomat. His curriculum vitae may be divided into two parts. With regard to his law career, he graduated from the Faculty of Law of the University of the Philippines. Subsequently, he was appointed as a senior member of the civil service.

(Mr. Oyono, United Republic of Cameroon)

His diplomatic career began in 1946. Following a stint in the Foreign Ministry of his country, he served for a time at the State Department, in Washington. Because of his qualities and his intelligence, he was chosen for consular responsibilities, first at Sidney, and then at Hong Kong, Tokyo and Honolulu.

He became a Minister at the Permanent Mission of the Philippines in New York in 1966 and served as Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations in 1967, and again in 1972. From 1974 to July 1977, he occupied the post of Ambassador Plenipotentiary and Extraordinary, and has served as Ambassador and Permanent Representative of his country to the United Nations since June 1979.

Ambassador Yango has taken part in many important international conferences. He served as a member of his country's delegation uninterruptedly from the twenty-first to the thirty-second regular sessions of the United Nations General Assembly. He was a member of his country's delegation at the sixth and seventh special sessions of the General Assembly. He was a member of his country's delegation and deputy representative at the conference on non-nuclear weapons held in Geneva in 1968, and he was a member of his country's delegation and deputy representative at the INTELSTAT Conference in Washington in 1969. He was a member of his country's delegation in the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-bed, and he was a member of his country's delegation at the non-aligned Conference at Colombo in 1976.

(Mr. Oyono, United Republic
of Cameroon)

As representatives can see, all these qualities, and his impressive experience in the international field, make Ambassador Yango a most suitable candidate for a vice-chairmanship of our Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of the United Republic of Cameroon for his nomination of Ambassador Alejandro D. Yango for a vice-chairmanship. I also thank him for his kind remarks addressed to me, and I am sure that I am expressing the sentiments of all the members of this Committee when I thank him for his delegation's important contribution to the work of the Committee as Vice-Chairman of last year's session.

As there is no other nomination, I take it that, in accordance with rule 103 of the rules of procedure and with established practice, the Committee wishes to dispense with the secret ballot and to declare Ambassador Alejandro D. Yango of the Philippines elected Vice-Chairman of the First Committee by acclamation.

Mr. Alejandro D. Yango (Philippines) was elected Vice-Chairman of the
First Committee by acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN: I should like to express to our Vice-Chairman my warm and sincere congratulations on the distinction that has been conferred upon him and to assure him of my confidence that we shall co-operate in a harmonious manner so that we can jointly discharge the responsibilities incumbent upon us.

The election of the second Vice-Chairman will be deferred, as consultations on the subject are still in progress. I appeal to the members of the Committee that belong to the regional group which is expected to submit a nomination for the other vice-chairmanship to endeavour to do this in the shortest possible time, which would enable us to complete the appointment of officers of the Committee.

ELECTION OF THE RAPPORTEUR

Mr. KENSMIL (Suriname): I wish first of all, Sir, to take this opportunity to offer you my delegation's sincere congratulations on your election to the chairmanship of this Committee. That election was not only

a tribute to you personally, but also to your country as one of the driving forces for the enhancement of peace and security in the world. We are convinced that, with your skill, you will guide our work to fruitful results at this crucial session. I can assure you of my delegation's co-operation in that endeavour.

I also wish to express my congratulations to the Vice-Chairman, Ambassador Yango of the Philippines, on his election, and to wish him success in carrying out his responsibilities.

I wish to convey to the delegation of Egypt my delegation's deepest feelings of sympathy on the death of President Mohamed Anwar Al-Sadat. The people of Suriname share the grief of the Egyptian people at the loss of this great leader.

I now have the honour to nominate as Rapporteur of this Committee at its current session Mr. Alemayehu Makonnen of the delegation of Ethiopia. Mr. Makonnen is well known to most if not all, of the members of this Committee.

Born in Addis-Ababa, Mr. Makonnen holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in geography and public administration from the University of Addis-Ababa. In 1972, he graduated as Master of Arts in international relations from Rutgers University in New Jersey; he also holds a Master's degree in economic geography granted in 1973 by that same University.

Mr. Makonnen's professional experience goes back to 1967, when he joined his country's Ministry of Land Reform as an expert, in which post he remained until 1970. From 1970 to 1976 he was the senior expert in the Ministry of the Interior of Ethiopia, and in 1976 he joined his country's foreign service and was assigned in 1977 as Counsellor to the Permanent Mission of Ethiopia to the United Nations. Mr. Makonnen has been a member of the Ethiopian delegation from the thirty-second to thirty-fifth sessions of the General Assembly, as well as to a number of special sessions, including the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

In view of his excellent academic background and his professional experience, in and outside the United Nations, I most warmly recommend the election of Mr. Alemayehu Makonnen of the delegation of Ethiopia to the post of Rapporteur of this Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Suriname for his nomination of Mr. Makonnen of Ethiopia for election to the post of Rapporteur of the First Committee. I should also like to thank him for his words of appreciation relating to the international activities of my country, and for his kind words addressed to me personally. I am certain that I am expressing the sentiments of the entire membership of this Committee when I offer our thanks to Mr. Ronald Listeri Kensmil for his important contribution to the work of the Committee during the last session.

As Mr. Makonnen is the only candidate for the post of Rapporteur, I take it that the Committee wishes again to dispense with the secret ballot and to declare Mr. Alemayehu Makonnen elected Rapporteur of the First Committee by acclamation.

Mr. Alemayehu Makonnen (Ethiopia) was elected Rapporteur of the First Committee by acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN: I should like to express my most cordial and sincere congratulations to Mr. Makonnen on his election as Rapporteur of the First Committee. I invite him to take his place on the podium.

I now call on the representative of Pakistan, Ambassador Niaz Ahmed Naik, Chairman of the First Committee during the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

Mr. NAIK (Pakistan): Mr. Chairman, you have already expressed on behalf of the Committee deep condolences over the tragic and untimely death of President Anwar Al-Sadat. I wish to take this opportunity to convey to our Egyptian brothers my delegation's feelings of profound sorrow over this tragic event. We share their grief over their grievous loss.

A few days ago I had the honour of nominating you, Mr. Chairman, and today it is a cause of special pleasure for me to extend my warmest congratulations to you on your election as Chairman of the First Committee for the current session of the General Assembly. Your election to this office is not only a tribute to your personal eminence in the field of disarmament, but a testimony to the outstanding contribution which your great country has been making in advancing the cause of disarmament. I also wish to extend our warm congratulations to Ambassador Yango of the Philippines on his election as Vice-Chairman of the Committee. I have had the pleasure of knowing Ambassador Yango as a friend and colleague for many years. His important contribution as head of his delegation in the Security Council speaks for his admirable personal qualities and diplomatic skills. I also wish to congratulate our new Rapporteur, Mr. Makonnen, whose well-deserved election to that post is an acknowledgement of his deep knowledge and the significant contribution of his country in the field of disarmament. We are greatly and deeply gratified to see as officers of the Committee for this session such outstanding personalities in the field of disarmament and it is my sincere hope that the other Vice-Chairman of the Committee will be a personality of equal eminence and experience in the field of disarmament.

As was succinctly described by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in his annual report, the arms race is a central problem of the contemporary era, with its evident risks for the future of all mankind. The advent of the 1980s has been characterized by new tensions in East-West relations and a new intensification in the arms build-up.

(Mr. Naik, Pakistan)

The colossal expenditure of nearly \$500 billion every year on the production of means of death and destruction portends a frightening prospect for the future of human civilization. In this grave situation there is no other rational and sane option for us but to exert all our energies and moral pressures to bring about an end to the spiralling arms race, particularly the nuclear arms race, before it leads to a global catastrophe.

In the United Nations, the First Committee of the General Assembly represents the expression of the international community's awakening to the danger of the arms race. As we are about to embark on our deliberations for this session, I am reminded of my own experience in the Committee and the gravity of the challenge which faces us in the accomplishment of the objectives aspired to by this Committee. Once again the Committee has a very heavy agenda. We have to address ourselves to several important items which have remained on the agenda of the Committee for a number of years. In addition, some new items have been included on the agenda this year whose significance and relevance to the goals of disarmament are evident.. We are full of confidence in your ability, Mr. Chairman, to guide our work in response to these challenges. As I said earlier, your great country is one of leading developing non-aligned countries which has consistently and dedicatedly endeavoured to advance the cause of peace and disarmament. The initiatives taken by Yugoslavia, particularly for the reduction of nuclear armaments and the prohibition of the nuclear arms race have won international acclaim. Your personal involvement with these important initiatives and your understanding of the disarmament issues will, in my view, ensure that the work of the Committee for this session will be accomplished with distinction and success.

I wish to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude for the help and assistance extended to me by the officers of the First Committee during the last session and by the Secretariat when I had the privilege of presiding over the work of the First Committee.

(Mr. Naik, Pakistan)

I found the advice of the former Under Secretary-General, Mr. Sytenko, our Assistant Secretary-General, Mr. Martenson and the Secretary of the Committee, Mr. Vicente Berasategui most timely and extremely useful. With their co-operation, the Committee was able to take decisions in respect of many complicated matters.

I would also wish to welcome our new Under Secretary-General, Mr. Ustinov. He has brought with him vast experience and knowledge of disarmament issues and a deep understanding of international affairs, particularly security questions. His presence at the head of the division in the United Nations Secretariat dealing with political and security affairs, including disarmament, will be a most valuable asset to this Committee.

I also welcome the new Secretary of the Committee, Mr. Naeem Rathore, whom I have known for many years and whose personal qualities I have come to respect, as well as his deep understanding of disarmament issues. I am confident that in his new capacity he will be able to make a positive contribution to the work of the Committee.

Lastly, Mr. Chairman, I wish to pledge to you the total support and co-operation of my delegation in the important tasks which lie before you. I hope you will permit me to conclude on a personal note by expressing my deep appreciation for the very kind and warm sentiments which you and other colleagues have addressed to me on my modest contribution to the work of the First Committee during the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

The CHAIRMAN: On behalf of the officers of the Committee as well as on my own behalf, I should like to thank the representative of Pakistan, Ambassador Niaz Naik, for his kind words addressed to the Vice-Chairman, to the Rapporteur and to me personally and I should like to express my appreciation for the words he used in describing my country's foreign policy and activities in the international field.

(The Chairman)

I should like to say that I do appreciate, as we all do, the extension of your delegation's co-operation, and I particularly value the assurance of your personal co-operation, which I shall certainly need in the discharge of my responsibilities.

Mr. YANGO (Philippines): First of all, I should like to extend to you, Sir, my sincere felicitations on your election to the chairmanship of this Committee. I have known you for a number of years in the United Nations and I have no hesitation whatsoever in saying that the Committee will be in very able hands.

I also extend congratulations to the new Rapporteur of our Committee and wish him success in the important responsibility that has been placed on his shoulders.

I should like to express my thanks and deep appreciation to all members of the First Committee for electing me a Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly. I acknowledge the very kind and generous words of my friend, Ambassador Oyono of Cameroon, when he nominated me. I am also grateful to my friend, Ambassador Naik of Pakistan, for his very kind references to me.

I consider it an honour and a privilege to serve under your leadership, and I assure you of my full co-operation in giving direction to our work in order to enable the Committee successfully to complete its mandate. We shall be working hard together in the weeks ahead, and it is my fervent hope that we shall achieve co-operation, harmony and unity. I shall contribute my best endeavours to that end.

Before concluding I should not fail to express my delegation's deepest sympathy and profound condolence to the delegation of Egypt on the tragic loss of the President of Egypt, His Excellency Anwar Al-Sadat. May he rest in peace.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank Ambassador Yango, Vice Chairman of the Committee, for his kind words addressed to me. As a personal note I should like to say that I share the views that he has expressed about our future co-operation and I look forward to relying upon your vast experience in the field. I now call on the representative of Ethiopia, Mr. Makonnen.

Mr. MAKONNEN (Ethiopia): Mr. Chairman, I should like to extend my personal congratulations to you on your election as Chairman of this important Committee. It is a distinct privilege indeed, an honour and a great pleasure for me to work with you.

(Mr. Makonnen, Ethiopia)

I should also like to express my most sincere gratitude to my friend and colleague, Mr. Ronald Kensmil, the representative of Suriname, for his kind words in nominating me for the post of Rapporteur of the First Committee.

I also wish to express my deep gratitude to the Permanent Representative of Pakistan, Mr. Naik, for the very kind words he addressed to my country and to myself.

I am also very grateful to the members of this Committee for the confidence they have placed in me. Any election is at once a burden and an honour. I shall regard the honour as going to the delegation of Ethiopia and the burden to myself. I can only say that I will do my best to fulfil my duties and to be worthy of the trust all members have reposed in me.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the Rapporteur of the Committee for his generous remarks and for his expression of willingness to co-operate with me and the others officers of the Committee. I am confident that I am expressing not only my own view, but also the view of the Vice-Chairman when I say that we are all looking forward to close co-operation with him during the session.

We have now concluded consideration of the first two items on our agenda for today, namely, the election of a Vice-Chairman and the election of the Rapporteur of the Committee.

I now call on the representative of Egypt.

Mr. RAMZY (Egypt): On behalf of the Government and people of the Arab Republic of Egypt I should like to express our deep appreciation to you and to the delegations of Cameroon, Suriname, Pakistan and the Philippines for their kind words of sympathy and condolence. We should also like to thank the other members of the Committee who share in our grief at the loss of President Mohamed Anwar Sadat.

(Mr. Ramzy, Egypt)

With the sad and tragic loss of President Mohamed Anwar Sadat, not only Egypt but the entire world community have lost one of its foremost statesmen and main architects of peace. The people and Government of Egypt grieve and mourn this enormous loss.

I should like to assure the Committee that the principles of justice, peaceful coexistence and friendly relations among nations to which President Sadat devoted himself will continue to guide the people and the Government of Egypt in their policies. Egypt remains resolute in its commitment to peace, a just peace.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The CHAIRMAN: With regard to the organization of work I should like to draw members' attention to document A/C.1/36/1, dated 21 September 1981, and A/C.1/36/1/Add.1, dated 6 October 1981, which contain the letters addressed to me from the President of the General Assembly dated 19 September and 6 October, respectively, informing me that at its fourth and its twenty-eighth meetings the General Assembly decided to allocate 22 items to the First Committee.

In order to be able to submit a programme of work to the First Committee, subject to approval by all members, I have taken particular account of the time constraints which the Committee faces. In my endeavour to formulate the programme of work, I was limited to a certain extent by the fact that all the officers of the Committee have not yet been elected. According to established practice, as the Committee is all aware, the First Committee will begin its substantive work only after the conclusion of the general debate in the General Assembly which this year is scheduled for 9 October.

As members are also aware, the Preparatory Committee for the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament began its session on 5 October, and it will end it on 16 October 1981. I have held extensive consultations on the subject of the date for the beginning of the general debate in the First Committee. During those consultations, it was made known to me that simultaneous meetings of the Preparatory Committee and the First Committee would impose undue pressure and difficulties upon a substantial number of delegations, in particular the smaller delegations which happen to form the majority of the Assembly and of this Committee. A suggestion was made to me that our general debate might begin during the week beginning 12 October, but the great majority of those consulted expressed themselves in favour of 19 October. On the other hand, the Committee should, insofar as possible, not go beyond the cut-off date suggested by the President of the General Assembly, which is 4 December 1981.

(The Chairman)

These limitations leave the Committee with a period extending from 19 October to 4 December 1981, during which time it should be able to complete its rather heavy workload for the current session. As members are aware, the Committee has before it more than 20 items and more than 20 sub-items, which does represent an impressive workload. If the Committee agrees to begin its general debate on 19 October, we will have at our disposal a maximum of 68 meetings in which to consider all the items before us.

After a series of informal consultations, I should like to suggest the following time-table and programme of work: the Committee would first take up the items relating to disarmament - items 39 to 56, item 128 and item 135 - which the General Assembly has allocated to it. Agenda item 135 is the item entitled "Prevention of nuclear catastrophe." With respect to those items, I should like to state that it is my intention to follow the practice that has been accepted by the Committee in its past sessions. The delegations may wish to address themselves to each, to some or to all of the disarmament items in the order they deem appropriate during the general debate. Any delegation may begin with any of the agenda items on disarmament, regardless of the order in which they appear in the agenda of the First Committee. Delegations may not only speak on the items in the order in which they want, but they may also make more than one statement. As members of the Committee are well aware, this has been the practice followed in the past, and the Chair would recommend that we follow it at this session as well. I believe that this practice will again prove to be most useful in the conduct of our deliberations. If this is acceptable to the Committee, I would propose the allocation of 56 meetings for the consideration of disarmament items during the period from 19 October to 25 November, which would, I believe, be a reasonable amount of time for their consideration.

(The Chairman)

Of those 56 meetings, during the period from 19 October to 4 November 26 meetings would be allotted to the general debate, and the remaining 30 meetings from 5 to 25 November would be allotted to consideration and action upon all draft resolutions under those items.

The deadline for the submission of draft resolutions will be announced at an appropriate time after the Committee has begun its substantive work. However, as has been the practice, delegations are invited to submit draft resolutions with financial implications at the earliest possible date in order to enable the Secretariat, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the Committee on Conferences and the Fifth Committee to take action on them.

With regard to agenda items 57 and 58, I should like to suggest that the Committee begin its general debate on agenda item 57 on 27 November, and as soon as the list of speakers on that item is exhausted, the Committee would then proceed to agenda item 58 and conclude the general debate on both items on 3 December 1981.

On 4 December, which will be the Committee's last working day, the Committee will take a decision on any draft resolutions under agenda items 57 and 58 and conclude its work for the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

Thus, I believe, the Committee will be able to dispose of all the items allocated to it within the time allocated.

Mr. ISSRAELYAN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Mr. Chairman, first of all permit me to congratulate you on your election to the chairmanship of the First Committee for the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly and to wish you success in your extremely important and responsible work. Yugoslavia has made a major contribution in the resolving of questions concerning the limiting of the arms race and disarmament, and we hope that in the future the role of the country you represent will continue to be as important as it has been in the past. I should like also to congratulate Mr. Yango and Mr. Nakonnen on their election as Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of the Committee respectively and also to wish them success.

This year we are certainly facing some very important work in circumstances of increasing tension and a further escalation in the arms race and we have to consider and, if possible, provide positive solutions for a large number of disarmament questions. You have quite rightly pointed out, Mr. Chairman, that the agenda contains 20 items and about 20 sub-items, but, as we are well aware, each **sub-item is an** independent problem and we shall have to take decisions on each of them. In the light, on the one hand, of the tense international situation and the concern of world public opinion with regard to the arms race and, on the other, the increasing number of items on our agenda, the Soviet delegation proposed that we follow the practice which is traditional in the General Assembly and which has been followed by it in the organization of the work of the First Committee, that is to say, that we begin the work of the First Committee immediately after the conclusion of the general debate in plenary. We note your **statement that** you have held consultations and that a rather large number of delegations, particularly of the small countries which have a limited number of representatives in New York, have stated that they are in favour of beginning the Committee's work, instead of next week, a week later, that is, on 19 October. We continue to prefer an earlier beginning of the Committee's work, but, acting in a spirit of co-operation and understanding of the position of the majority of delegations that have expressed their views to you on this matter, the Soviet delegation will not object to the proposal you have made regarding the organization of our work, in particular that the Committee's work should begin on 19 October.

The CHAIRMAN: I wish to thank the representative of the Soviet Union for his words of appreciation concerning the foreign policy of my country. I fully appreciate his comments, and they will be reflected in the records of the meeting.

Mr. ESPECHE GIL (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): Mr. Chairman, my delegation associates itself with the expressions of condolence to the people and Government of Egypt that have been made through you.

I would take this opportunity to congratulate you on your assumption of the chairmanship. Your election is a tribute to your personal qualities and to the country you represent. My delegation will provide all assistance in the carrying out of the tasks of the Chairman and the other officers of the Committee. We also wish to state our admiration for Ambassador Naik's record as Chairman of the Committee last year.

Mr. Chairman, we have listened with interest and attention to your proposals regarding the organization of our work and we are prepared to support them in the terms in which you put them. We should like to say also that we are very grateful to those delegations which, while preferring that our work begin immediately after the conclusion of the general debate in plenary, are nevertheless prepared to go along with the idea of beginning the Committee's work on 19 October because of the difficulties faced by some delegations, such as mine, in dividing ourselves between two important disarmament bodies at the same time. Thus we support your suggestion and we thank those delegations that have been accommodating enough to accept it.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Argentina for his kind words concerning the other officers of the Committee and myself.

I should like to say that I appreciate very much the fact that we have made good headway at the 2nd meeting of the Committee and that we are finishing the meeting on a note of mutual understanding

(The Chairman)

and compromise. I look forward to the continuance of this spirit and the demonstration of this sense of mutual understanding and compromise in the weeks to come.

If there is no objection, I shall take it that the Committee agrees with the suggested programme of work and time-table.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: The time-table which has just been adopted by the Committee foresees that our deliberations will demand the full utilization of the time available. In that connexion, I should like at this stage to call upon members of the Committee to submit draft resolutions pertaining to the different items as far in advance as is feasible so as to provide sufficient time for necessary consultations. In order to avoid any possible misunderstanding, the Secretariat has asked me to request that draft resolutions, amendments, sponsorships and requests for accommodations for group meetings be given to the Secretariat in writing.

I should like to point out as well that the General Assembly has over the years adopted a number of resolutions on the control and limitation of documentation containing measures designed to make the most effective and economical use of that vital but very expensive element of the services. Those rules have been summarized in document A/INF/136/Rev.1.

I was asked particularly to appeal to members to take those provisions into account and strictly to limit any requests for additional documents. That is necessary, as representatives are all aware, because of the pressures on the Secretariat during the General Assembly as far as the preparation, translation and distribution of documents are concerned.

I wish to draw the attention of the Committee to General Assembly decision 34/401, particularly its provisions dealing with explanations of vote, rights of reply, budgetary and financial questions and the work of the Main Committees, which I intend to apply with the co-operation of all members.

In order fully to utilize the time available to the Committee, and to avoid the loss of time arising from late starting or early ending of meetings, I should like, with the co-operation of all members of the Committee, to start the meetings of the First Committee punctually. That will enable us to avoid unnecessary delays in meeting the target date for the conclusion of the work of the Committee for the current session. Therefore, I shall open the meetings of the Committee at 10.30 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. sharp and shall endeavour to adjourn the meetings at 1.00 p.m. and 6.00 p.m.

(The Chairman)

The meetings of the Committee should be convened only when there are a sufficient number of speakers. As a general rule, I propose that we should have no less than four speakers inscribed for a particular meeting, so that we can use our time and resources in the most efficient manner.

Resources allocated to a meeting cancelled at an appropriate time may be released for other meetings held within or outside the framework of the First Committee.

In order to give ample time and to avoid a last-minute rush, I am opening the list of speakers as of today so that members of the Committee may inscribe their names for statements on any item. I should like to inform representatives the the list of speakers for the general debate on disarmament will be closed on 21 October 1981 at 6.00 p.m. Therefore, I would urge delegations to inscribe their names on the list of speakers before the Committee begins its substantive work on Monday, 19 October.

It would also be appreciated if delegations could provide the conference officers with 12 copies of a speech when a prepared text is to be delivered. I also invite members of the Committee to communicate to the Secretariat the list of their representatives attending the present session of the First Committee as soon as that is possible. Such information would be helpful not only to the Secretariat, but also the members of the Committee.

Finally, I should like to draw the attention of representatives once again to rule 110 of the rules of procedure, which reads as follows:

"Congratulations to the officers of a Main Committee shall not be expressed except by the Chairman of the previous session -- or, in his absence, by a member of his delegation -- after all the officers of the Committee have been elected."

I hope that this rule, as well as other rules pertaining to the Committee's work and proceedings, will be strictly observed by all representatives.

We shall meet as decided on 19 October at 10.30 a.m. sharp in this room.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.