

COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/PV.208
31 March 1983
ENGLISH

FINAL RECORD OF THE TWO HUNDRED AND EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Thursday, 31 March 1983, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman:

Mr. A. SKALLI

(Morocco)

GE.83-60718

PRESENT AT THE TABLE

<u>Algeria:</u>	Mr. A. TAFFAR
<u>Argentina:</u>	Mr. R. VILLAMBROSA
<u>Australia:</u>	Mr. R. STEELE Mr. T. FINDLAY
<u>Belgium:</u>	Mr. A. ONKELINX Mr. J.M. NOIRFALISSE
<u>Brazil:</u>	Mr. C.A. DE SOUZA E SILVA Mr. S. DE QUEIROZ DUARTE
<u>Bulgaria:</u>	Mr. K. TELLALOV Mr. B. GRINBERG Mr. P. POPTCHEV
<u>Burma:</u>	U MAUNG MAUNG GYI U TIN KYAW HLAING U THAN TUN
<u>Canada:</u>	Mr. D.S. McPHAIL Mr. G.R. SKINNER Mr. M.C. HAMBLIN Miss C. de VARENNES
<u>China:</u>	Mr. LI LUYE Mr. TIAN JIN Mrs. GE YUYUN
<u>Cuba:</u>	Mr. P. NUNEZ MOSQUERA
<u>Czechoslovakia:</u>	Mr. M. VEJVODA Mr. A. CIMA Mr. J. JIRUSEK
<u>Egypt:</u>	Mr. I.A. HASSAN Miss W. BASSIM Mr. A.M. ABBAS

Ethiopia:

Miss K. SINEGIORGIS

Mr. F. YOHANNES

France:

Mr. J. DE BEAUSSE

Mr. B. D'ABOVILLE

German Democratic Republic:

Mr. G. HERDER

Mr. H. THIELICKE

Mr. M. NOTZEL

Germany, Federal Republic of:

Mr. F. ELBE

Mr. W. ROHR

Hungary:

Mr. I. KOMIVES

Mr. T. TOTH

India:

Mr. S. SARAN

Indonesia:

Mr. N. WISNOEMOERTI

Mrs. P. RAMADHAN

Mr. B. DARMOSUTANTO

Mr. I.H. WIRAATMADJA

Iran:

Mr. F. SHAHABI SIRJANI

Italy:

Mr. M. ALESSI

Mr. B. CABRAS

Mr. C.M. OLIVA

Mr. E. DI GIOVANNI

Japan:

Mr. R. IMAI

Mr. M. KONISHI

Mr. K. TANAKA

Kenya:

Mr. D.C.C. DON NANJIRA

Mexico:

Mrs. Z. GONZALEZ Y REYNERO

Mongolia:

Mr. D. ERDEMBILEG

Mr. S.O. BOLD

Mr. O. CHIMIDREGZEN

Morocco:

Mr. A. SKALLI
Mr. S.M. RAHHALI
Mr. M. CHRAIBI

Netherlands:

Mr. R.J. AKKERMAN

Nigeria:

Mr. A.N.C. NWAQZOMUDOH
Mr. J.O. OBOH
Mr. L.O. AKINDELE
Mr. A.A. ADEPOJU
Miss I.E.C. UKEJE

Pakistan:

Mr. M. AHMAD
Mr. T. ALTAF

Peru:

Mr. V. ROJAS

Poland:

Mr. J. ZAWALONKA
Mr. J. CIALOWICZ
Mr. T. STROJWAS
Mr. G. CZEMPINSKI

Romania:

Mr. T. MELESCANU
Mr. L. TOADER

Sri Lanka:

Mr. H.M.G.S. PALIHAKKARA

Sweden:

Mr. G. EKHOLM
Mr. H. BERGLUND
Mr. J. LUNDIN
Mrs. G. JONANG

Union of Soviet Socialist
Republics:

Mr. V.L. ISSRAELIAN
Mr. Y.K. NAZARKIN
Mr. M.F. TREPIKHALIN
Mr. Y.M. MALEV
Mr. G.V. BERDENNIKOV
Mr. V.F. PRIAKHIN
Mr. G.N. VASHADZE

United Kingdom:

Mr. L.J. MIDDLETON

Mr. B.P. NOBLE

Mrs. J.I. LINK

Miss J.E.F. WRIGHT

United States of America:

Mr. L.G. FIELDS

Mr. P. CORDEN

Ms. K. CRITTENBERGER

Mr. W. HECKROTTE

Mr. R.L. HORNE

Venezuela:

Yugoslavia:

Mr. K. VIDAS

Mr. M. MIHAJLOVIC

Zaire:

Mrs. ESAKI-EKANGA KABEYA

Secretary of the Committee on
Disarmament and Personal
Representative of the
Secretary-General:

Mr. R. JAIPAL

Deputy Secretary of the
Committee on Disarmament:

Mr. V. BERASATEGUI

The CHAIRMAN (translated from French): I declare open the 208th plenary meeting of the Committee on Disarmament.

The representative of Mexico has asked for the floor in her capacity as co-ordinator of the Group of 21. Mrs. Gonzalez, you have the floor.

Mrs. GONZALEZ Y REYNERO (Mexico) (translated from Spanish): The Group of 21 is -- convinced of the paramount need for urgent multilateral action on the cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament through the adoption of concrete measures. The Group of 21 considers that multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament should have started a long time ago: the fundamental prerequisite for their success is the political will of States, and in particular the nuclear-weapon States, to initiate such negotiation

The Group of 21 is convinced that the nuclear arms race thwarts efforts directed towards a greater relaxation of international tensions; that progress in the sphere of nuclear disarmament would help ensure international peace and security and improve the international climate, which would in turn facilitate further progress, and that all nations, whether or not they possess nuclear weapons, have a vital interest in nuclear disarmament measures because the existence of nuclear weapons in the arsenals of a handful of powers directly and fundamentally threatens the security of the entire world.

The Group of 21 is also convinced that doctrines of nuclear deterrence, far from contributing to the maintenance of international peace and security, are the source of the continual quantitative and qualitative escalation of nuclear armaments and lead to greater insecurity and instability in international relations. These doctrines, which start from the hypothesis of the possible use of nuclear weapons, cannot serve as the basis for the prevention of nuclear war, a war which would affect belligerents and non-belligerents alike. The competitive accumulation of nuclear weapons by the nuclear-weapon States cannot be justified on the ground that it is essential to their security.

This argument is patently false, for the increase in nuclear arsenals, far from helping to strengthen the security of all States, in fact weakens it and increases the danger of nuclear war. Furthermore, the Group of 21 considers it politically and morally unacceptable that the security of the entire world should depend on the state of the relations between the nuclear-weapon powers.

The Group of 21 firmly believes that the Committee on Disarmament, whose members include all the nuclear-weapon States as well as non-nuclear-weapon States, should continue and intensify its search for a common approach which will enable it to fulfil the tasks in the sphere of disarmament which have been entrusted to it by the United Nations General Assembly.

For all the above reasons, and with a view to the implementation of the resolutions adopted in this connection by the General Assembly, the Group of 21 reiterates the proposals it made in documents CD/180 and CD/341 regarding the setting up of an ad hoc working group to undertake negotiations on the cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament and of a further working group on the subject of the prevention of nuclear war, and we would therefore ask you, Mr. Chairman, kindly to hold informal meetings on this question as well as on that of the formulation of mandates for such working groups.

The CHAIRMAN (translated from French): I thank the representative of Mexico for the statement she has just made as co-ordinator of the Group of 21.

Does any other delegation wish to take the floor?

I see that that is not the case.

I suggest that we now consider the question of requests from non-member States to be allowed to participate in the Committee's work. In accordance with our usual practice, I shall take the 12 requests submitted by non-member States one after the other, in chronological order.

The first request, dated 22 October 1982, is from Norway; you will find a draft decision in this connection in Working Paper No. 83. I believe that there are no objections to the adoption of Working Paper No. 83. 1/

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN (translated from French): The second request, dated 14 January 1983, is from Finland, and you will find a draft decision in that connection in Working Paper No. 84. I believe that there are no objections to the adoption of Working Paper No. 84. 2/

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN (translated from French): The third request, dated 21 January 1983, is from Burundi, and you will find the relevant draft decision in Working Paper No. 85. If there are no objections, I shall consider that Working Paper No. 85 3/ is adopted.

It was so decided.

1/ "In response to the request of Norway (CD/359) and in accordance with rules 33 to 35 of its rules of procedure, the Committee decides to invite the representative of Norway to participate during 1983 in the discussions on the substantive items on the agenda at plenary and informal meetings of the Committee, as well as in the meetings of the ad hoc working groups established for the 1983 session.

"With reference to the agenda of the Committee for the 1983 session, the representative of Norway is invited to indicate in due course the particular concerns of Norway."

2/ "In response to the request of Finland (CD/360) and in accordance with rules 33 to 35 of its rules of procedure, the Committee decides to invite the representative of Finland to participate during 1983 in the discussions on the substantive items on the agenda at plenary and informal meetings of the Committee, as well as in the meetings of the ad hoc working groups established for the 1983 session.

"With reference to the agenda of the Committee for the 1983 session, the representative of Finland is invited to indicate in due course the particular concerns of Finland."

3/ "In response to the request of Burundi (CD/361) and in accordance with rules 33 to 35 of its rules of procedure, the Committee decides to invite the representative of Burundi to participate during 1983 in the discussions on the substantive items on the agenda at plenary and informal meetings of the Committee, as well as in the meetings of the ad hoc working groups established for the 1983 session.

"With reference to the agenda of the Committee for the 1983 session, the representative of Burundi is invited to indicate in due course the particular concerns of Burundi."

The CHAIRMAN (translated from French): The fourth request, dated 24 January and 16 February 1983, is from Spain, and you will find a draft decision in that connection in Working Paper No. 86. If there are no objections on your part, I shall consider that Working Paper No. 86 4/ is adopted.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN (translated from French): The fifth request, dated 24 January 1983, is from Turkey, and you will find the relevant draft decision in Working Paper No. 87. If there are no objections on your part, I shall consider that Working Paper No. 87 5/ is adopted.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN (translated from French): The sixth request, dated 28 January 1983, is from Senegal, and you will find the relevant draft decision in Working Paper No. 88. If there are no objections, I shall consider that Working Paper No. 88 6/ is adopted.

It was so decided.

4/ "In response to the requests of Spain (CD/362 and CD/363) and in accordance with rules 33 to 35 of its rules of procedure, the Committee decides to invite the representative of Spain to participate during 1983 in the discussions on the substantive items on the agenda at plenary and informal meetings of the Committee, as well as in the meetings of the ad hoc working group on chemical weapons and any other working groups established for the 1983 session.

"With reference to the agenda of the Committee for the 1983 session, and in addition to the item dealing with chemical weapons, the representative of Spain is invited to indicate in due course the particular concerns of Spain."

5/ "In response to the request of Turkey (CD/364) and in accordance with rules 33 to 35 of its rules of procedure, the Committee decides to invite the representative of Turkey to participate during 1983 in the discussions on the substantive items on the agenda at plenary and informal meetings of the Committee, as well as in the meetings of the ad hoc working groups on a comprehensive programme of disarmament and on a nuclear test ban established for the 1983 session."

6/ "In response to the request of Senegal (CD/365) and in accordance with rules 33 to 35 of its rules of procedure, the Committee decides to invite the representative of Senegal to participate during 1983 in the discussions on the substantive items on the agenda at plenary and informal meetings of the Committee, as well as in the meetings of the ad hoc working groups established for the 1983 session.

"With reference to the agenda of the Committee for the 1983 session, the representative of Senegal is invited to indicate in due course the particular concerns of Senegal."

The CHAIRMAN (translated from French): The seventh request is dated 31 January 1983 and is from Portugal. You will find a draft decision in this connection in Working Paper No. 89. If there are no objections, I shall consider that Working Paper No. 89 7/ is adopted.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN (translated from French): The eighth request, dated 2 February 1983, is from Greece, and you will find a draft decision in that connection in Working Paper No. 90. If there are no objections, I shall consider that Working Paper No. 90 8/ is adopted.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN (translated from French): The ninth request, dated 2 February 1983, is from Austria, and you will find a draft decision in this connection in Working Paper No. 91. If there are no objections on your part, I shall consider that Working Paper No. 91 9/ is adopted.

It was so decided.

7/ "In response to the request of Portugal (CD/366) and in accordance with rules 33 to 35 of its rules of procedure, the Committee decides to invite the representative of Portugal to participate during 1983 in the discussions on the substantive items on the agenda at plenary and informal meetings of the Committee, as well as in the meetings of the ad hoc working groups on a comprehensive programme of disarmament and on chemical weapons established for the 1983 session."

8/ "In response to the request of Greece (CD/367) and in accordance with rules 33 to 35 of its rules of procedure, the Committee decides to invite the representative of Greece to participate during 1983 in the discussions on the substantive items on the agenda at plenary and informal meetings of the Committee, as well as in the meetings of the ad hoc working groups established for the 1983 session."

"With reference to the agenda of the Committee for the 1983 session, the representative of Greece is invited to indicate in due course the particular concerns of Greece."

9/ "In response to the request of Austria (CD/368) and in accordance with rules 33 to 35 of its rules of procedure, the Committee decides to invite the representative of Austria to participate during 1983 in the discussions on the substantive items on the agenda at plenary and informal meetings of the Committee, as well as in the meetings of the ad hoc working groups established for the 1983 session."

"With reference to the agenda of the Committee for the 1983 session, the representative of Austria is invited to indicate in due course the particular concerns of Austria."

The CHAIRMAN (translated from French): The tenth request, dated 8 February 1983, is from Switzerland. You will find the relevant draft decision in Working Paper No. 92. If there are no objections on your part, I shall consider that Working Paper No. 92 10/ is adopted.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN (translated from French): The eleventh request is dated 17 February 1983 and is from Ireland. You will find a draft decision in that connection in Working Paper No. 93. If there are no objections on your part, I shall consider that Working Paper No. 93 11/ is adopted.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN (translated from French): The twelfth and last request is dated 21 February 1983 and is from Tunisia. You will find a draft decision in that connection in Working Paper No. 94. I believe that there are no objections to the adoption of Working Paper No. 94. 12/

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN (translated from French): As regards the statement made by Ambassador Herder, the representative of the German Democratic Republic, at the Committee's 196th plenary meeting, on 22 February, my successor will continue the consultations which have so far been held in this connection. I now give the floor to Ambassador Herder, the representative of the German Democratic Republic.

10/ "In response to the request of Switzerland (CD/369) and in accordance with rules 33 to 35 of its rules of procedure, the Committee decides to invite the representative of Switzerland to participate during 1983 in the discussions on agenda item 5, 'Chemical weapons', at plenary and informal meetings of the Committee, as well as in the meetings of the ad hoc working group on that item established for the 1983 session."

11/ "In response to the request of Ireland (CD/370) and in accordance with rules 33 to 35 of its rules of procedure, the Committee decides to invite the representative of Ireland to participate during 1983 in the discussions on the substantive items on the agenda at plenary and informal meetings of the Committee, as well as in the meetings of the ad hoc working groups established for the 1983 session."

"With reference to the agenda of the Committee for the 1983 session, the representative of Ireland is invited to indicate in due course the particular concerns of Ireland."

12/ "In response to the request of Tunisia (CD/371) and in accordance with rules 33 to 35 of its rules of procedure, the Committee decides to invite the representative of Tunisia to participate during 1983 in the discussions on the substantive items on the agenda at plenary and informal meetings of the Committee, as well as in the meetings of the ad hoc working groups on a comprehensive programme of disarmament and on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons established for the 1983 session."

Mr. HERDER (German Democratic Republic): Mr. Chairman, in connection with the decisions just taken by the Committee concerning the participation of non-member countries in its work, I would like to make the following statement on behalf of the group of socialist countries.

The socialist States highly appreciate the contribution non-member countries can make to the accomplishment of the tasks of the Committee on Disarmament. Thus we fully understand the interest expressed by many States in participating in the work of the Committee. In this regard we fully take into account the relevant provisions of paragraph 120 of the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

Accordingly, the socialist States determine their position on these questions fully taking into account the substantive contribution the respective country is in a position to make to the deliberations of the Committee. Such a contribution cannot be a question of delivering statements of a general political nature which sometimes, as we have experienced in the past, even touch upon questions not related to the agenda of the Committee on Disarmament. In this regard full account must be taken by all, including the non-member States requesting participation in the Committee's work, of the provisions of rules 33 and 34 of the rules of procedure of the Committee on Disarmament. The group of socialist States firmly believes that contraventions of these rules should not be tolerated.

In the consideration of the participation of non-member States the socialist countries proceed from the assumption that there should be no discrimination against States which are in a position to advance our work. This will also apply, of course, to the proposal supported by the socialist group to invite a non-member State to make a substantive statement relating to the prohibition of chemical weapons, in accordance with rules 34 and 35 of the rules of procedure, if rejected. It has to be recalled that this would not be the first time that discrimination is displayed towards the socialist States. Unfortunately, this has happened in the past, too.

In concluding, I would like to add that at the same time, the mere fact of participation in the work of the Committee on Disarmament does not of itself constitute a basis for consideration of the question of the review of the Committee's membership. In this regard the need for a politically balanced composition of the Committee will and must play a most important role.

The CHAIRMAN (translated from French): I thank Ambassador Herder, the representative of the German Democratic Republic, for his statement.

I now give the floor to the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General and Secretary of the Committee, Ambassador Jaipal, who wishes to make a statement concerning communications received from non-governmental organizations.