

CD/PV.1  
24 January 1979  
ENGLISH

FINAL RECORD OF THE FIRST MEETING  
held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva  
on Wednesday, 24 January 1979 at 11 a.m.

Chairman:

Mr. M.A. BOUTEFLLKA

(Algeria)

## PRESENT AT THE TABLE

Algeria:

Mr. M.A. BOUTEFLIKA

Mr. R. BOUDJAKDJI

Mr. A. BENKALI

Mr. A. FASLA

Mr. A. BENSMAIL

Mr. N. KERROUM

Argentina:

Mr. D.C. ORTIZ DE ROZAS

Mr. F. JIMENEZ DÁVILA

Mr. A.N. MOLteni

Australia:

Mr. A. SHARP PEACOCK

Mr. L.D. THOMSON

Mr. A.J. BEHM

Ms. H.S. WICKES

Belgium:

Mr. H. SIMONET

Mr. J.A.R. SCHOUAKER

Mr. P. NOTERDAEME

Mr. P. BERG

Mr. G. VAN DUYSE

Brazil:

Mr. G.A. MACIEL

Mr. L.P. LINDENBERG SETTE

Mr. A. CELSO DE OURO PRETO

Mr. C.A. SIMAS MAGALHAES

Bulgaria:

Mr. P. VOUTOV

Mr. I. PETROV

Mr. I. SOTIROFF

Burma:

U SAW HLAING

U THEIN AUNG

U THAUNG HTUN

Canada

Mr. R. HARRY JAY  
Mr. J.T. SIMARD  
Mr. G.A.H. PEARSON

Cuba:

Mr. P. TORRAS  
Mr. L. SOLA VILA  
Mr. F. ORTIZ RODRIGUEZ  
Mrs. V. BROWDOSKY JACKIEWICH  
Mr. C. PAZOS BECEIRO  
Mr. R. VALIENTE  
Mr. R. LOPEZ GARCIA

Czechoslovakia:

Mr. M. RUŽEK<sup>OV</sup>  
Mr. V. TYLNER  
Mr. J. JIROUSEK<sup>OV</sup>

Egypt:

Mr. O. EL-SHAFEI  
Mr. F. EL IBRASHI  
Mr. M. EL-BARADEI

Ethiopia:

Mr. T. TERREFE  
Mr. G. ALULA

German Democratic Republic:

Mr. G. HERDER  
Mr. S. KAHN  
Mr. M. GRACZYNSKI

Germany, Federal Republic of:

Mr. G. PFEIFFER  
Mr. H. SCHNEPPEN  
Mr. J. PÖHLMANN  
Mr. H. MÜLLER

Hungary:

Mr. M. DOMOKOS  
Mr. C. GYORFFY  
Mr. A. LAKATOS

France:

Mr. J. FRANCOIS-PONCET  
Mr. P-C. TAITTINGER  
Mr. F. DE LA GORCE  
Mr. Y. PAIGNIES  
Mr. J. RIGAUD  
Mr. J. BLOT  
Mr. J-L. GERGORIN  
Mr. F. BEAUCHATAUD  
Mr. M.S. HESSEL  
Mr. J. FEVRE  
Mr. L. DELAMARE  
Mr. BRESSOT

India:

Mr. C.R. CHAREKHAN  
Mr. S.T. DEVARE  
Mr. S. SOBHARWAL

Indonesia:

Mr. A. SANTI  
Mr. A. KAMIL  
Mr. M. SIDIK  
Mr. I. DAMANIK

Iran:

Mr. M. FARTASH  
Mr. D. CHILATY  
Mr. D. AMERI

Italy:

Mr. N. DI BERNARDO  
Mr. F. FERRETTI  
Mr. M. MORENO  
Mr. C. FRATESCHI  
Mr. G. VALDEVIT

Japan:

Mr. M. OGIOS  
Mr. T. NONOYAMA  
Mr. Y. KIKUCHI  
Mr. T. IWANAMI  
Mr. Y. NAKAMURA

Kenya:

Mr. K. MWAMZANDI  
Mr. C. GATERE MAINA  
Mr. G.N. MUNIU

Mexico:

Mr. A. GARCÍA ROBLES  
Miss A. CABRERA  
Miss L.M. GARCIA

Mongolia:

Mr. D. ERDEMBILEG  
Mr. L. BAYART

Morocco:

Mr. A. SKALLI  
Mr. M. CHRAÏBI

Netherlands:

Mr. R. FEIN  
Mr. A.J. MEERBURG

Nigeria:

Mr. O. ADENIJI  
Mr. K. AHMED  
Mr. T.O. OLUMOKO  
Mr. B.C.M. IHEKUNA  
Mr. R.A. FATUNASE

Pakistan:

Mr. J.K.A. MARKER  
Mr. I.A. AKHUND  
Mr. M. AKRAM

Peru:

Mr. A. DE SOTO  
Mr. J. AURICH MONTERO

Poland:

Mr. B. SUJKA  
Mr. H. PAC  
Mr. S. KONIK  
Mr. M. KRUCZYK

Romania:

Mr. I. RADULESCU  
Mr. C. ENE  
Mr. G. TINCA

Sri Lanka:

Mr. A.C.S. HAMEED  
Mr. I.B. FONSEKA  
Miss M.L. NAGANATHAN  
Mr. R.P.E. JAYASINGHE  
Mr. A.C.A.M. NUHUMAN

Sweden:

Mr. H. BLIX  
Mrs. I. THORSSON  
Mr. C. LIDGARD  
Mr. L. NORBERG  
Mr. J. PRAWITZ  
Mr. J. LUNDIN

Union of Soviet Socialist  
Republics:

Mr. V.L. ISSRAELYAN  
Mr. Yu. K. NAZARKIN  
Mr. A.M. VAVILOV  
Mr. E.D. ZAITSEV  
Mr. V.A. VERTOGRADOV  
Mr. Yu. V. KOSTENKO  
Mr. M.G. ANTIUKHIN

United Kingdom:

Mr. N.H. MARSHALL  
Mr. C.L.G. MALLABY  
Mr. C.K. CURWEN  
Mr. P.M.W. FRANCIS

United States of America:

Mr. A. FISHER  
Mr. C. FLOWERREE  
Mr. A. AKALOVSKY  
Mr. R. HAGENGRUBER  
Ms. B. MURRAY  
Mr. M.L. SANCHES  
Mr. A. YARMOLINSKY

Venezuela:

Mr. R.C. CASTILLO

Mr. A.R. TAYLHARDAT

Mr. H. ARTEAGA

Miss D. SZOKOLOCZI

Mrs. R. LISBOA DE NECER

Yugoslavia:

Mr. M. PESIC

Mr. M. VRHUNEC

Mr. M. MIHAJLOVIĆ

Mr. D. DJOKIĆ

Zaire:

Mr. L.K. CHIRI MWAMI

Mr. B. BUKAYI

Mr. M. ESUK

Director-General of the  
United Nations Office at Geneva:

Mr. L. COTTAFI

Assistant Secretary-General  
for Disarmament:

Mr. R. BJÖRNERSTEDT

The CHAIRMAN (translated from French): In accordance with paragraph 120 of the Final Document of the tenth special session of the United Nations General Assembly and document AS/1024 containing the list of States members of the Committee on Disarmament, the responsibility of convening the Committee has fallen to Algeria. My country therefore has the honour to chair the first meeting of the Committee on Disarmament. The Algerian delegation is aware of the honour conferred on it and wishes to assure all members that it will spare no effort in contributing to the success of our deliberations and to advance the cause that we propose to defend together.

In view of the growing impatience of peoples who refuse to accept the idea that injustice and poverty are indissociable from man's destiny and that war is bound up with what has been called a biological necessity, we would like to believe that the signs which, while still faint, herald a gradual lifting of the restrictions which have always prevented each individual from playing his rightful role in what is a matter of concern to all, are truly the harbingers of a future in which mankind, drawing only on the liberating potential of science, will ultimately come to terms with itself. Today's dream will become the promise of tomorrow's reality as controversial, but innovative and constructive actions make their mark, since they tend to shatter the petrified concepts of the past.

It is in this context that the first special session ever devoted by the United Nations General Assembly to disarmament should be viewed, a session which constitutes an important turning point in the efforts of the international community to put an end to the arms race and to create a momentum which can set in motion a genuine process of disarmament. The participation of all States Members of the United Nations in this special session, the fact that many countries were represented at the highest level and the quality of the deliberations are evidence, if evidence is needed, of the importance of the tenth special session and of the awareness, on the part of all peoples, of the gravity of the danger threatening mankind and of the urgent need to eliminate it. The adoption by consensus, at the end of that special session, of a Final Document defining the principles which should guide future disarmament negotiations, setting out a programme of action, and establishing international machinery to deal with disarmament questions is clear proof that, because of the importance they attach to such questions, all



(The Chairman)

peoples have let it be known that they too are concerned and that they can be called on to make their contribution to the establishment of the foundations of lasting international peace and security.

The special session devoted to disarmament was convened as the Disarmament Decade was drawing to a close and almost 20 years after the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of the historic resolution proclaiming general and complete disarmament as the ultimate goal; and we are forced to note that no real progress has been made in that direction and that mankind, witnessing an increasingly frenzied arms race, is still confronted by the threat of its own annihilation. Yet previously there had been no lack of meritorious efforts or praiseworthy initiatives. But, in a world made smaller by progress and in the presence of a danger the nature of which has been changed by the development and power of new weapons, the patterns and approaches had remained the same, being based on a conception of international relations characterized by mistrust which, over the centuries, has continually given rise to devastating conflicts.

It is to the credit of the movement of non-aligned countries that, since its establishment in 1961, it has worked tirelessly for the establishment of a new international order which takes account of the new realities of our world and meets the aspirations of peoples, and that it took the initiative in the convening of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament last June, at which an attempt was made to break away from earlier patterns and to evolve a new approach which would help set in motion a genuine process of disarmament. In this way, the central role and primary responsibility of the United Nations in the field of disarmament were reaffirmed and international machinery was devised to deal with all aspects of disarmament problems and to operate effectively.

The machinery established provides for two types of body, one a deliberative body, namely, the Disarmament Commission, composed of all States Members of the United Nations, and the other a negotiating body -- the Committee on Disarmament, with limited membership. Today's opening of the work of the Committee on Disarmament, following the organizational session of the Disarmament Commission, marks the final stage in the establishment of this machinery, which assuredly represents the most satisfactory result of the tenth special session.

(The Chairman)

However, such machinery can play an important role only in so far as States demonstrate political will which, as emphasized in the Final Document of the tenth special session, remains the decisive factor for the implementation of genuine disarmament measures, and the Committee on Disarmament is precisely the forum in which such political will should be demonstrated and given effect. This is a measure of the immensity of the task before the members of this Committee who cannot hope to accomplish it except by pursuing further the new approach outlined at the tenth special session. In particular, it is of paramount importance that the consensus reached in June 1978 as a result of the spirit of compromise shown on all sides, should not be short-lived and that every State, resisting the temptation to revert to its original position, should continue to strive to understand the legitimate interests and needs of others and agree to take them into account. This is the prerequisite for the elaboration of a set of disarmament measures which is the task of such a difficult and complex nature to be tackled by our Committee in accordance with the Programme of Action and priorities defined in the Final Document of the tenth special session.

The disarmament venture, and in particular the task of our Committee, can be carried out successfully only with the participation of all, since the truth of the matter is that all countries are confronted equally with the same danger and that they all have an interest in eliminating it. As far as our Committee is concerned, the requirement of universal participation and the need for limited membership inherent in any negotiating body have been reconciled by means of equitable geographical representation, a rotating chairmanship system, and by affording States which are not members with the opportunity of contributing if they wish to do so. It is to be hoped that China, whose presence among us is essential for the implementation of any programme of general and complete disarmament, will soon take its rightful place here in our midst.

The Committee on Disarmament will live up to the hopes placed in it only if it succeeds in breaking away from earlier approaches. The lack of real progress in the field of disarmament was first attributed to the impracticability of achieving the goal of general and complete disarmament in the foreseeable future. But the adoption of a supposedly more realistic approach, based on attempts to reach partial agreements, did

(The Chairman)

not produce the results anticipated because the goal of general disarmament was lost sight of and efforts were concentrated on measures involving non-armament and the quantitative limitation of arms.

Each of us is, of course, convinced of the need to be realistic, but each of us is equally convinced that any partial disarmament agreement is bound to carry in it the ferment of other measures which go further towards attainment of the ultimate goal. Any partial agreement, the conclusion of which is considered to be a matter of priority, must be conceived and implemented as part of a general disarmament programme. Aware both of the vital need not to lose sight of the ultimate objective of general disarmament and of the urgent needs of the moment, the United Nations General Assembly has recommended that our Committee should undertake, on a priority basis, at its first session, negotiations concerning a treaty on the complete prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests and concerning a treaty or convention on the complete and effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all types of chemical weapons and on their destruction. It also calls upon the Disarmament Commission, as the deliberative body, to give priority consideration, at its first session in May 1979, to the elements of a comprehensive programme of disarmament to be considered by our Committee as soon as possible.

The Committee on Disarmament, as the negotiating body, must also assume its full responsibility in formulating disarmament measures. It should embark on genuine negotiations with a view to bringing about the conclusion of agreements which would be the work of all, and should not allow itself to be confined to hasty consideration of drafts prepared elsewhere and to which it could at best make only minor changes. Bilateral or trilateral efforts must, of course, be encouraged; however, they cannot be a substitute for the deliberations of the Committee or deprive them of all substance. This is the only way of taking account of the interests and requirements of each party and of promoting the universal accession essential for the effective implementation of the agreements concluded.

While all States are concerned with the work of disarmament, the nuclear-weapon Powers, and above all those which possess the largest nuclear and conventional arsenals, have a special responsibility in that regard, and their obligations are proportionate to that responsibility. The non-nuclear-weapon States, and in particular the non-aligned countries which voluntarily remain outside the interplay of military alliances formed round the principal nuclear-weapon Powers, are, since they themselves

(The Chairman)

have refrained from acquiring nuclear weapons, entitled to make demands with regard to the establishment of an adequate system of guarantees of security and free access to nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

In any event, the implementation of effective disarmament measures, and hence the very effectiveness of the action of our own Committee, depend on the political will of States, particularly that of the nuclear-weapon Powers, to promote a genuine disarmament policy. Once this political will exists, it will necessarily be exercised simultaneously in all spheres of international relations. Any significant progress in the field of disarmament will automatically be accompanied by an extension and deepening of détente, as well as by the structural changes essential in international economic relations. Such is the true significance that must be given to the close link now universally recognized to exist between disarmament, development and international security. In particular, the elimination of colonialism and racial segregation, the cessation of any policy of imperialist domination, the relaxation of tensions and settlement of local disputes are decisive factors in establishing a climate of confidence necessary for the formulation and implementation of effective disarmament measures.

The Committee on Disarmament has less than four years to work out such measures and at last embark upon a genuine process of disarmament. In 1982, the United Nations General Assembly will devote a second special session to disarmament, thereby expressing its conviction that, between now and then, a real and coherent political will will have made it possible to conclude agreements which, by virtue of their content and their scope, will finally bring the beginnings of a solution to one of the most serious problems confronting our world, thereby at last fulfilling the unanimous expectation of peoples.

In the delicate stage through which we are now passing, changes are proving both necessary and inevitable. We must believe that and facilitate their advent, since they carry in them the promise of the solution to problems on which the future of mankind depends. That means that the new spirit inspired by the tenth special session must be maintained if we do not wish to thwart this noble hope once again. It also implies the vital need to sustain the momentum thus created and to work constantly and tirelessly for the conclusion of genuine disarmament agreements. Lastly, it means the heavy responsibility of our Committee which is thus the ideal place in which mankind must demonstrate the lucidity and self-sacrifice necessary for its own survival.

Mr. COTTAFVI (Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva): Distinguished delegates, I have the honour to read to you the message conveyed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the opening session of the Committee on Disarmament:

"I extend my warm greetings to the members of the Committee on Disarmament as you convene for your first meeting in Geneva today. Had the thirty-third General Assembly not been prolonged, I would have personally welcomed you as the occasion is one which may well open a new phase of the disarmament effort.

"The Committee on Disarmament is an indispensable instrument of the international disarmament strategy contemplated in the Final Document unanimously adopted at the tenth special session of the General Assembly. Based on a comprehensive approach which alone can be an adequate response to the challenge of the arms race, this strategy contemplates a careful balance and fruitful interaction between the deliberative forum and the negotiating body for achieving genuine disarmament under effective international control. Naturally, the task will devolve on this Committee to help translate into action the objectives defined by the General Assembly and the Disarmament Commission. Mindful of the vital, indeed the crucial, nature of this role, I felt gratified by the series of measures that were taken at the tenth special session to make the negotiating body more effective and less removed from the security concerns of the membership of the United Nations.

"The composition of the Committee ensures better representation to different regions and is designed to assimilate diverse viewpoints in the negotiating process. This can provide the basis for a solid consensus on substantive issues. In this respect, I welcome the participation of France in this Committee which, I have no doubt, will greatly benefit its work. It is my hope that, at the earliest possible time, all the five nuclear-weapon States and permanent members of the Security Council will be represented at the negotiating table as they were at the tenth special session of the General Assembly during the elaboration of the Final Document.

"This Committee will henceforth work with the awareness of greater interest in its progress among Member States of the United Nations. I attach special importance to the decision that States which are not members of this Committee will be entitled to participate in the discussion of the proposals or working papers which they may submit and also to express views on question of particular

(Mr. Cottafavi)

concern to them. It is also appropriate that the Committee will, as a rule, open its plenary meetings to the public. Disarmament is a cause which, in its very nature, requires universal involvement and a steady mobilization of world public opinion. This will not be possible without public consciousness of the effort that is being made and the obstacles that are to be surmounted. I trust that the greater access to the work of this Committee will encourage the engagement of the intellectual resources of the world community in the quest for ways to reverse the process caused by the revolution in weaponry which followed the Second World War.

"These improvements in the machinery for substantive negotiations would justify a measure of confidence in the success of this Committee's work. Yet the final test remains what it always has been: the conclusion of practical disarmament agreements capable of ending the arms race. The present situation provides little reason for complacency in this regard. We must face the regrettable fact that, for the last two years, results have been lacking in disarmament negotiations. A recognition of this fact is reflected in the large number of resolutions adopted at the thirty-third General Assembly on questions relating to disarmament.

"Once again, the General Assembly has attached the highest priority to the conclusion of agreements on a comprehensive test ban and the prohibition of chemical weapons. I urge the parties in the trilateral or bilateral negotiations on these subjects to resolve the remaining issues so that drafts of agreements on both may be submitted for consideration by the Committee and later by the General Assembly. While negotiations with limited participation can be useful for formulating texts which could serve as the basis for further consideration in the Committee, they can cause a sense of frustration when they fail to produce results even after a reasonable period of time. I hope that the work of this Committee will not be hampered by this factor. But if it is, I would invite the membership, including naturally the parties in those parallel negotiations, to consider ways and means to bring them within the purview of the Committee. There could, at least, be a regular system of reporting which would provide the membership with concrete information on areas of agreement and divergence. The Committee's views could thus be taken into account by the parties in the negotiations.

(Mr. Cottafavi)

"There are nuclear questions which are being discussed in other forums. A major effort in this field is embodied in the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks. Although it is a bilateral process and the issues involved are uniquely intricate, success in reaching a SALT II agreement could give an impetus to progress towards nuclear disarmament. Nonetheless, there are a number of other questions relating to nuclear disarmament with which the membership of the United Nations shows increasing concern. I trust, therefore, that the significant contribution made through the resolutions of the thirty-third session of the General Assembly on nuclear matters will be appropriately reflected in this Committee's agenda.

"The Committee on Disarmament will no doubt follow the priorities listed in the Final Document of the tenth special session. Without prejudice to these or to the sequence of consideration determined by the Committee, I would like to mention some of the issues on which attention needs to be focussed at the present stage.

"It is gratifying that the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America has moved closer to becoming the first international agreement in the field of disarmament involving the five nuclear-weapon States. I hope that this precedent will be followed by further concerted action toward the establishment of other nuclear-weapon-free zones.

"The non-proliferation regime needs to be strengthened and I expect that the Preparatory Committee of the Second Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which will meet shortly, will provide a workable basis for an in-depth consideration by the Conference of all questions within the Treaty's scope.

"The question of the strengthening of security guarantees for non-nuclear-weapon States has attracted some useful discussions during various sessions of the General Assembly. This Committee has been requested to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session on this subject. I feel that, if progress can be achieved on this question, an important element of stability will be introduced in the international situation, with beneficial effects on other disarmament questions.

"The Committee on Disarmament may wish to consider how to evolve an agreed approach for prohibiting new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons.

(Mr. Cottafavi)

"In the field of conventional disarmament, the Committee is in a position to make valuable contributions. It might, for example, consider the advisability of framing general principles to provide guidance for regional action when, in view of the specific conditions of a region, the parties concerned wish to discuss appropriate arrangements for restraining the arms race in that region.

"The General Assembly has requested the Committee to report to the thirty-fifth session on the state of the consideration of proposals and suggestions mentioned in paragraph 125 of the Final Document. This follow-up of the work of the special session will, I believe, enrich the exchange of views in the Committee on a number of substantive matters.

"The recommendations of the Disarmament Commission regarding the elements of a comprehensive programme are expected to be transmitted to this Committee, through the General Assembly. In view of what has been achieved and what remains to be done, I need hardly emphasize the significance of elaborating this programme. While we have a chart in which a wide range of areas for action has been defined, we need also to trace a path along that chart for movement towards the goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control. This entails the formidable but vital task of identifying the various stages in executing the international disarmament strategy. The task falls on this Committee. Success in it will mean a striking advance in the cause of disarmament; failure, on the other hand, could well endanger what the special session so painstakingly achieved.

"At the next session, the General Assembly will consider the declaration of the 1980s as the decade of disarmament. A second special session devoted to disarmament will be convened in 1982. I sincerely hope that, by then, we will look at the work of this Committee as having made significant contributions to the disarmament effort. The fact that the history of this effort has been as long and progress in it as uneven and sporadic as the arms race has been rapid and incessant should not cause a sense of futility. If anything, it should reinforce our quest for coherence, stimulate a methodical approach and encourage a concentration on what is achievable. I wish the Committee success in its endeavours."



The CHAIRMAN (translated from French): Ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of you all, I should like to thank the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva for having communicated to us the message of the Secretary-General. We are aware of all that Mr. Kurt Waldheim, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, has already done, and is continuing to do, to ensure that our Organization manifests itself wherever a danger to world peace arises. His personal efforts have helped to make the Organization the instrument to which more and more countries turn in seeking to settle their disputes. It can be said that today, perhaps even more than in recent years, when so many threats to peace exist and new clouds are gathering over certain regions of the world, the mission of the United Nations, the mission of the Committee on Disarmament to guarantee peace and security are more relevant than ever, in the context of the responsibilities which they continue to shoulder. May I ask Mr. Cottafavi to be good enough to convey to the Secretary-General the thanks of the Committee for this important contribution to our work. I take this opportunity to ask him to express to the Secretary-General our appreciation for the co-operation received from his Secretariat in organizing our meetings, and for the two letters which he has addressed to us and which we have had reproduced as documents of the Committee; I am sure that they will prove most useful. I now have the pleasure to inform you that, as Chairman of the Committee, I have received another message wishing us fruitful negotiations. It is from the Holy See, and reads as follows:

"At the time when the Committee on Disarmament, of which you are Chairman, is meeting in Geneva, the Holy Father, who follows with the closest attention and encourages all efforts to promote peace and disarmament, expresses his most fervent hopes for the complete success of the work in hand. May the deliberations in this multilateral negotiating forum, which reflects the wishes of the recent special session of the United Nations General Assembly, mark a new stage on the way to disarmament and produce tangible measures for the progressive, effective and controlled reduction of armaments, eliminating the threat which the stockpiling of arms imposes on mankind and making it possible to devote to the development of peoples the immense resources absorbed by military expenditures. In this hope, which corresponds to the expectations of the whole family of mankind, the Holy Father prays that the participants will receive the blessing of Almighty God.

Signed: Cardinal Jean Villot, Secretary of State."

(The Chairman)

Ladies and gentlemen, in this noble message each of us no doubt finds echoed his own concerns and his own hopes. We also find in it encouragement to continue efforts to promote the dialogue of harmony and peace. I think I am interpreting the feelings of the Committee in saluting the tireless efforts made by the Holy See to bring the hearts and minds of human communities closer together and thus establish the basis for more harmonious and brotherly relations between men and societies. Before closing this first meeting, I should remind you that we will assemble here again at 3 p.m. for the afternoon meeting.

Ladies and gentlemen, I think I can declare this meeting closed and thank you once again for your attention and your kind co-operation.

The meeting is adjourned.

The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.