

CD/PV.15  
28 February 1979  
ENGLISH

FINAL RECORD OF THE FIFTEENTH MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on Wednesday, 28 February 1979, at 4.45 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. D. C. ORTIZ DE ROZAS (Argentina)

## PRESENT AT THE TABLE

<u>Algeria:</u>	Mr. A. BENSMAIL
<u>Argentina:</u>	Mr. D. C. ORTIZ DE ROZAS Mr. A. N. MOLTENI
<u>Australia:</u>	Mr. L. D. THOMSON Ms. M. S. WICKES
<u>Belgium:</u>	Mr. P. NOTERDAEME Mr. P. BERG Mr. G. VAN DUYSE
<u>Brazil:</u>	Mr. A. CELSO DE OURO PRETO
<u>Bulgaria:</u>	Mr. P. VOUTOV Mr. I. SOTIROV
<u>Burma:</u>	U SAW HLAING U THEIN AUNG U THAUNG HTUN
<u>Canada:</u>	Mr. J. T. SIMARD
<u>Cuba:</u>	Mrs. V. B. JACKIEWICH
<u>Czechoslovakia:</u>	Mr. M. RUZEK <sup>CV</sup> Mr. V. TYLNER
<u>Egypt:</u>	Mr. M. EL-BARADEI Mr. N. FAHMY
<u>Ethiopia:</u>	Mr. T. TERREFE
<u>France:</u>	Mr. F. DE LA GORCE Mr. B. D'ABOVILLE
<u>German Democratic Republic:</u>	Mr. G. HERDER Mr. S. KAHN Mr. M. GRACZYNSKI

<u>Germany, Federal Republic of:</u>	Mr. J. PÖHLMANN
<u>Hungary:</u>	Mr. M. DOMOKOS Mr. C. GYORFFY
<u>India:</u>	Mr. S. T. DEVARE
<u>Indonesia:</u>	Mr. A. KAMIL Mr. N. SIDIK
<u>Iran:</u>	Mr. M. FARTASH Mr. D. CHILATY
<u>Italy:</u>	Mr. N. DI BERNARDO <del>Mr. M. MORENO</del> Mr. C. FRATESCHI
<u>Japan:</u>	Mr. T. NONOYAMA Mr. T. IWANAMI
<u>Kenya:</u>	Mr. G. N. MUNIU
<u>Mexico:</u>	Mr. A. GARCIA ROBLES Miss A. CABRERA
<u>Mongolia:</u>	Mr. D. ERDEMBILEG Mr. L. BAYART
<u>Morocco:</u>	Mr. M. RAHHALI
<u>Netherlands:</u>	
<u>Nigeria:</u>	Mr. K. AHMED Mr. T. OLUMOKO
<u>Pakistan:</u>	Mr. M. HUMAYUN KHAN Mr. M. AKRAM
<u>Peru:</u>	Mr. J. AURICH MONTERO

Poland:

Mr. B. SUJKA  
Mr. H. PAC  
Mr. M. KRUCZYK  
Mr. A. SKOWRONSKI

Romania:

Mr. C. ENE

Sri Lanka:

Mr. B. FONSEKA

Sweden:

Mr. C. LIDGARD  
Mr. L. NORBERG  
Mr. S. STRÖMBÄCK

Union of Soviet Socialist  
Republics:

Mr. V. L. ISSRAELIAN  
Mr. Y. K. NAZARKIN  
Mr. M. G. ANTIUKHIN

United Kingdom:

Mr. N. H. MARSHALL  
Mr. P. M. W. FRANCIS

United States of America:

Mr. A. S. FISHER  
Mr. C. FLOWEREE  
Mr. A. AKALOVSKY  
Mr. T. BARTHELEMY

Venezuela:

Mr. A. R. TAYLHARDAT  
Mrs. R. LISBOA DE NECER

Yugoslavia:

Mr. B. BRANKOVIĆ

Zaire:

Mr. E. MULONGANDUSU

The CHAIRMAN (translated from Spanish): I declare open the fifteenth meeting of the Committee on Disarmament. I should like to inform members of the Committee that the Working Group which was set up at our tenth meeting on 13 February 1979 has approved the draft rules of procedure contained in document CD/L.1 and corrigenda 1 and 2. I should also like to draw attention to two small changes which were approved by the Group but which do not appear in the corrigenda. The word "should" in the fifth line of paragraph 19 will be replaced by the word "shall", and the word "should" in the first line of paragraph 44, will also be replaced by the word "shall". I would further draw the Committee's attention to the fact that, as a result of the insertion of the new paragraph contained in corrigendum 1, the paragraphs of the final text of the draft will be renumbered as appropriate. I should also like to request delegations which wish to make changes of a grammatical or drafting nature with a view to bringing the text in their own languages into line with the original English text, on the basis of which we worked, to submit to the Secretariat the amendments which, in their opinion, are most in conformity with the basic text. In submitting the draft rules of procedure to the Committee for approval I should like to make the following statement: it is the understanding of the Chairman, following consultations with members of the Committee, that the rules set forth in paragraph 17, chapter VI, entitled "Conduct of Work and Adoption of Decisions" will also apply to any subsidiary organs the Committee may establish. If there are no objections, I shall take it that the draft rules of procedure contained in document CD/L.1, with corrigenda 1 and 2, and the changes I have just mentioned, are adopted. I see no objections.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN (translated from Spanish): Some delegations have indicated that they wish to take the floor at this stage. I give the floor to the first speaker, the distinguished representative of Algeria.

Mr. BENSMAIL (Algeria) (translated from French): Thank you Mr. Chairman.

As this is the last time that I shall have the honour of taking the floor under your chairmanship, I should like to convey to you my delegation's congratulations on the manner in which you have guided the work of our Committee this month and to reiterate our gratitude for the efforts you have made to bring about the adoption of

(Mr. Bensmail, Algeria)

the rules of procedure of the Committee on Disarmament. This is another entry in the already long list of your successes in the United Nations, and confirms the confidence we have always had in you.

I should like to take this opportunity to give the Ambassador of Australia advance assurances of my delegation's full and entire co-operation in the task he will assume from next week.

In my capacity as Chairman, starting tomorrow, of the "Group of 21", I should like to inform members of that Group that a meeting will be held next Monday at 3 p.m. in this room. The purpose of the meeting is to examine the question of the agenda and programme of work of the Committee on Disarmament.

The CHAIRMAN (translated from Spanish): I thank my distinguished friend the representative of Algeria for the very kind words he addressed to me. The distinguished representative of Zaire has the floor.

Mr. MULONGANDUSU (Zaire) (translated from French): On behalf of delegations members of the "Group of 21" and on behalf of my own delegation, allow me, Mr. Chairman, to express our gratitude for the work you have accomplished during the month of February. I think I am expressing the feelings of all delegations in stating that you have been Chairman of the Committee on Disarmament every minute, every hour and every day of this month.

For fear of repeating truisms I shall not revert to your well-known international qualities but shall merely confine myself to expressing our admiration of your constant availability in the cause of that peace which we seek through disarmament.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the hours of sleep and rest which, although well deserved, you sacrificed in the interest of the successful outcome of the work of our Committee.

The CHAIRMAN (translated from Spanish): I also thank the distinguished representative of Zaire for his very moving words which I find very touching. The distinguished representative of the United States.

Mr. FISHER (United States of America): I would also like to join the two preceding Ambassadors who have expressed appreciation for your considerate and skilful work as Chairman of this Committee, that has resulted in us coming to a resolve which most of us did not think would be possible. We are all delighted that it was possible and we have you to thank for it.

I would also like to put on the record a statement with regard to rule 27 of the rules of procedure, which I made in the informal working group on procedures. That rule provides that the Committee will establish its programme of work "taking also into account the recommendations, proposals and decisions referred to in rule 26". Rule 26 provides for the establishment of the Committee's agenda, with the proviso that, in doing so, the Committee take into account the recommendations made to it by the General Assembly, the proposals presented by the members of the Committee and the Committee's decisions.

The final phrase of rule 27 enjoins the Committee to take into account the same recommendations referred to in rule 26. The United States has agreed to the text of rule 27, but wishes to make clear its view that the recommendations of the General Assembly would not be viewed in the same light when considering the programme of work as they would when formulating the Committee's agenda. In the view of the United States, since the agenda will already have taken into account these considerations, and since the programme of work is based on the agenda, the principal considerations which will affect the Committee's decisions on its work programme are its own judgements about which subjects on its agenda can be usefully addressed in a programme of work, taking into account the time available, and the ripeness of a particular subject under negotiation.

The CHAIRMAN (translated from Spanish): I thank the distinguished representative of the United States for the cordial words he addressed to me.

Mr. EL-BARADEI (Egypt): I would be failing in my duties Sir, if I did not express, on behalf of my delegation, our sincere thanks and profound admiration for the skills and abilities you have shown throughout our work. Your dedication, understanding, thorough knowledge and experience, and above all a sense of fairness and objectivity, have no doubt been an essential positive factor in the successful conclusion of our work. May I wish you all the best in your future role as the Ambassador of your country, when I am confident that your distinguished qualities will continue to be put to test for the benefit of our work.

The CHAIRMAN (translated from Spanish): I thank the distinguished representative of Egypt for the friendly and very generous words he has addressed to me.

Mr. AKRAMI (Pakistan): I have been asked by the head of my delegation and on the authority of a very good friend of yours, in Islamabad, the Adviser on Foreign Affairs, to convey our deep appreciation for the manner in which you have succeeded in concluding the rules of procedure of this Committee in time. There may have been times, Mr. Chairman, when my delegation, in the discharge of its instructions, may have tested your patience, but as usual you have succeeded in reconciling all views and in bringing together these rules of procedure which reflect the highest common denominator of agreement in this Committee. I shall not comment on any of these rules, but merely state that the Pakistan delegation will abide strictly by these rules of procedure and we shall hopefully, early next month, begin on the first task of substance, that is, the agenda and programme of work.

The CHAIRMAN (translated from Spanish): I thank the distinguished representative of Pakistan and the head of his delegation, Ambassador Agha Shahi, for the very cordial words they were kind enough to address to me.

Mr. NOTERDAEME (Belgium) (translated from French): Mr. Chairman, at the end of this first month of work by the Committee on Disarmament I simply wish to address to you a few words on behalf of my delegation, but in doing so I am sure that I am also reflecting the feelings of other delegations of the Western Group. On behalf of those delegations, I wish to say how much we have appreciated the zeal, devotion and, above all, skill, with which you have conducted our work. We are grateful to you and we already have one result of this work before us, namely, the rules of procedure. On behalf of all these delegations, Mr. Chairman, I wish to thank you very sincerely.

The CHAIRMAN (translated from Spanish): I also thank the distinguished representative of Belgium for his very kind and cordial words, which I greatly appreciate.

Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom): Mr. Chairman, I asked for the floor to make a short statement which concerns Section IX of the rules of procedure which have just been adopted. Before I do so, I should like to join others in thanking you for your sterling work. I think that this Committee is very lucky to have had an early piece



(Mr. Marshall, United Kingdom)

of good fortune, that the random chance of the alphabet should have provided us with somebody so excellently qualified to have achieved what we have achieved and to have guided us throughout this month.

The point of substance is very brief; it is that, as a result of the wording finally agreed for paragraph 32, the rules do not contain any explicit statement that the Committee is free to invite any non-member State to take part in the work of a subsidiary body such as, for example, the seismic Group. There is authority for such an invitation set out in paragraph 34, but in view of the ambiguity of the reference to "the States referred to in rules 32 and 33", I am instructed to put the following on record: "It is the understanding of my delegation that rule 34, that is, rule 35 in the final version, shall not be interpreted as restricting the ability of the Committee to invite any State not a member of the Committee to take part in the work of subsidiary bodies."

The CHAIRMAN (translated from Spanish): I also thank the distinguished representative of the United Kingdom for the cordial words he was kind enough to address to me.

Mr. GARCÍA ROBLES (Mexico) (translated from Spanish): Mr. Chairman, as I am aware of your modesty and, as I am not in favour of repetition, I am not going to repeat today what, on various occasions throughout the month in which we have been lucky enough to have you as Chairman of our work -- the last occasion was yesterday -- I have said. Allow me only to extend to you many thanks and sincere congratulations.

The CHAIRMAN (translated from Spanish): I very sincerely thank my dear friend Ambassador García Robles for the words of friendship he addressed to me.

Does any other delegation wish to take the floor?

Mr. DOMOKOS (Hungary) (translated from French): During the course of the work of the Committee, and more particularly of the Working Group, I had the privilege of expressing to you my personal admiration and congratulations on the work accomplished as a result of your unflagging initiative which has brought us to today's happy outcome, namely, the adoption of our Committee's rules of procedure.

Today I should like to reiterate these congratulations on behalf of the countries members of the socialist groups. Your competence and wealth of experience, coupled

(Mr. Domokos, Hungary)

with the spirit of understanding and co-operation of delegates were -- and I can say this without exaggeration -- the determining factor in our success. We can certainly hope that the Committee will be able to count on your assistance and rich experience in the future as well.

The CHAIRMAN (translated from Spanish): I thank the distinguished representative of Hungary, Ambassador Domokos, and through him the members of the Group of socialist countries, for his very moving words, which I greatly appreciate.

If no other delegations wish to take the floor we can conclude our work.

Mr. ISSRAELYAN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (translated from Russian): Today the Committee on Disarmament has adopted its rules of procedure. Allow me in this connexion to express thanks to all delegations for their constructive and businesslike approach to the solution of this important task.

I should like to express special thanks to Ambassador de Rozas, the distinguished representative of Argentina and Chairman of our Committee, who has shown a maximum of patience, great presence of mind and flexibility in concerting our efforts in connexion with the elaboration of the rules of procedure.

The work on the rules of procedure has demonstrated the spirit of co-operation present in the Committee. We hope that the same spirit of co-operation will be maintained in solving problems of substance. The Soviet delegation considers that the Committee should proceed as soon as possible to the consideration of problems of substance. We are concerned by the fact that one and a half months have already gone by since the Committee started its work, and yet not one question of substance has yet been examined. We are now to consider the annual agenda and programme of work. We think that the Committee could simultaneously begin the examination of problems of substance, i.e. disarmament problems. That is what the peoples and public opinion of the whole world expect from us.

As for the rules of procedure which have been adopted, all that the Committee still has to discuss is one minor question concerning annex I. We express the hope that the Committee will quickly succeed in adopting a decision on this matter as well.

In conclusion, allow me to express good wishes to the representative of Australia, who will occupy the post of Chairman during the next month.

The CHAIRMAN (translated from Spanish): I thank the representative of the Soviet Union, Ambassador Issraelyan, for his warm words of congratulation and encouragement.

Mr. DE LA GORCE (France) (translated from French): Mr. Chairman, I, in turn, should like to pay you a tribute and a particularly warm and friendly tribute. Your claims to our gratitude go back much further than this period of our work and I wish here to remind you that the work you accomplished with so much ability and authority during the preparatory period for the special session were held in particularly high esteem by my country's highest authorities. You placed your talent, experience, judgement and very exceptional diplomatic gifts at the service of our work during this very difficult and important initial phase. In discharging your functions you constantly paid particular attention to the problems of each delegation. You did so with the greatest concern, with much imagination -- a particularly precious quality in diplomatic functions -- and also with much friendship, sensitivity and understanding of the needs of each of us.

Apart, therefore, from your gifts as a great diplomat, we have appreciated your human qualities which we have all held in such esteem and, on behalf of my delegation, I should like to join those who have expressed their profound gratitude to you. We extend very sincere and warm good wishes to you, Mr. Chairman, and we shall, of course, expect you to make a particularly valuable contribution to the work of this Committee which has the honour to count you -- and I hope for a long time to come -- as one of its members.

I wish, of course, to express my warmest wishes to our distinguished colleague from Australia who will succeed you as Chairman tomorrow.

The CHAIRMAN (translated from Spanish): I ~~thank~~ the distinguished representative of France, Ambassador de la Gorce, for his very moving words which I must probably attribute to our long-standing friendship. Gentlemen, I should like, before closing the meeting, to thank you all very deeply and warmly not only for the over-generous words you have addressed to me and which I do not at all deserve although I should like to believe them, but also for your collaboration during the month of February when, as a result of the principle of geographic rotation, I had the honour of serving as Chairman of the Committee on Disarmament. It is this collaboration, on which I could always rely, that enabled us to bring our work to a successful conclusion. The congratulations you have so kindly extended to the Chair should in the final analysis be addressed to each and every one of you because it is thanks to a spirit of mutual understanding, flexibility and desire to reach compromise formulas that we have achieved a consensus on the rules of procedure that

(The Chairman)

the Committee has just adopted. I consider that this exercise and the experience we have gained during the month of February augur well for the work ahead of the Committee. We have shown, in practice, that it is possible to take decisions by consensus when there exists flexibility, a spirit of compromise, co-operation and, above all, understanding of mutual positions. To you all, therefore, my cordial and sincerest thanks. I should like to express similar thanks to all members of the Secretariat who have worked tirelessly -- often after working hours -- either to prepare our documents or to interpret the statements made by delegations in the Working Group. They deserve the collective gratitude of our Committee. Finally, I should like, on my own behalf and on behalf of all of you, to extend to Ambassador Thomson, the distinguished representative of Australia, our best wishes and the assurances of our collaboration so that under his chairmanship the work of the Committee on Disarmament will continue to advance.

The next meeting of the Committee will take place in this room on Tuesday, 6 March, at 10.30 a.m. under the chairmanship of Australia. I declare the meeting closed.

The meeting rose at 5.25 p.m.