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Chairman: Mr. Piero VINCI (Italy).

AGENDA ITEM 26

Examination of the question of the reservation exclusively for peaceful purposes of the sea-bed and the ocean floor, and the subsoil thereof, underlying the high seas beyond the limits of present national jurisdiction, and the use of their resources in the interests of mankind: report of the *Ad Hoc* Committee to Study the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction (concluded) (A/C.1/L.429/Rev.2 and Add.1-4, L.439, L.440/Rev.2, L.465/Rev.2, L.466)

1. The CHAIRMAN: Before calling on the first speaker, I would, with the permission of the Committee, read out the names of the African and Asian countries which have been selected by their own groups to become members of the Committee on the peaceful uses of the sea-bed and the ocean floor beyond the limits of national jurisdiction. I shall begin with the seven Asian countries, which are as follows: Ceylon, India, Japan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Pakistan and Thailand. The eleven African countries are the following: Cameroon, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Mauritania, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sudan, the United Arab Republic and the United Republic of Tanzania. Those names, which have been given to me, as promised, by the Chairmen of the respective groups, will, in accordance with the decision taken yesterday [1648th meeting] by the Committee, be included in the list of names of members of the Committee on the peaceful uses of the sea-bed and the ocean floor in the statement which has been approved by this Committee and will be reproduced as an official document and in the report of the Rapporteur.

2. I will now give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee.

3. Mr. VELLODI (Secretary of the Committee): In connexion with the Committee that has been established on

the peaceful uses of the sea-bed and the ocean floor, Mr. Chairman, you, in your capacity as Chairman of this Committee, addressed a letter to the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences, requesting conference facilities during 1969, and I should like to read out to the Committee the reply that you received from the Committee on Conferences some weeks ago.

4. The letter reads as follows:

"Sir,

"I refer to your letter dated 5 November 1968 in which you informed me of the proposal before the First Committee to establish a committee on the peaceful uses of the sea-bed and the ocean floor beyond the limits of national jurisdiction and asked that the Committee on Conferences consider the allocation of the necessary facilities and services.

"The Committee on Conferences has taken note of this proposal and examined the likely implications in the context of its consideration of the existing conference servicing requirements for 1969. In the event that the proposal is approved by the General Assembly, there would be no serious difficulty in providing interpretation services for the committee on the peaceful uses of the sea-bed and the ocean floor beyond the limits of national jurisdiction for the proposed period, i.e.,"

—and I would particularly request that the States that have been nominated as members of the Committee take note of the dates that have been proposed by the Committee on Conferences—

"two days for organizational meetings in February (6th and 7th), one session of three weeks in the spring (10-28 March), and one session of three weeks following the summer session of the Economic and Social Council (11-28 August)."

5. I will continue with the letter:

"The Committee has recommended that the proposed summer session should be of three weeks because of the already heavy pressure that will be imposed on conference servicing resources in September 1969."

In this connexion I should say that you in your letter had asked for a four-week session for the summer. I continue with the letter:

"In consideration of this question, the Committee on Conferences had before it the relevant statement of

financial implications (A/C.1/L.436) concerning *inter alia* the preparation of documentation and summary records for the proposed committee.

“The Committee recommends that, if a committee on the peaceful uses of the sea-bed and the ocean floor beyond the limits of national jurisdiction is established, it should in the course of its organizational meetings and in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2292 (XXII) review the possibility of dispensing with summary records.”

6. Mr. AMERASINGHE (Ceylon): Mr. Chairman, I am thankful to you for giving me the opportunity of making this statement. I am making it on behalf of the Asian group in reference to certain observations that were made yesterday in regard to the size of the committee that is to be established in accordance with draft resolution A/C.1/L.425/Rev.2.

7. It was stated yesterday by the representative of the Soviet Union [1648th meeting] that the Soviet Union was not satisfied with the allocation of seats within that committee of forty-two nations as between the various geographic areas. Lest it be presumed if we remained silent that the Asian group were accepting this distribution as fair, I think it necessary on behalf of the Asian group to correct any such presumption or any such impression. When we arrived at the figure of forty-two, we were confronted with certain stark realities. We were confronted, first of all, with the reality that at least two major Powers, apart from a sizeable section of the former membership of the *Ad Hoc* Committee to Study the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction were very much in favour of the retention of the size of the committee at thirty-five. Naturally, those who are well represented in any committee wish to preserve their favourable representation, but it could not be so when two groups, the Asian and African, felt that in the *Ad Hoc* Committee they had not secured the representation justified by their total numbers in the membership of the United Nations. We felt that, if we were not to increase the membership of the committee to the point where we should be creating an unanswerable demand from other groups, such as the Socialist and the Western European groups, for an increase in their membership, we should have to confine the committee to forty-two. We also realized that the present membership of the “Western European and Others” group and the Socialist group would have to be retained at eleven and six respectively as in the *Ad Hoc* Committee. We also found that, in deference to the wishes of the Latin American group and in order to secure its support for a committee of forty-two, we should have to concede to it one extra seat, that is, to increase its membership from the six in the *Ad Hoc* Committee to seven in the committee of forty-two.

8. The result was that the African and Asian groups became, as it were, the residuary legatees of the dispensers of favour and patronage. We could very well have protested against this but, in a spirit of compromise, we accepted that residuary allocation of eighteen. It was there that we found considerable difficulty in meeting what I would admit are the legitimate aspirations and expectations of the African group, which have not in the past been satisfied and which I

think should be satisfied in the future. We also found it difficult, while meeting those aspirations, to meet also the justifiable demand of the Asian group for a representation in keeping with its number. As the second largest group in the United Nations, we felt that we were entitled not merely to parity with the Latin American group but to one more seat than the Latin American group, but we found, in the peculiar position that had arisen, that, if we insisted on our demand for eight seats, we could not very well expect the African group to be satisfied with anything less than eleven or twelve. It so happens that, in the allocation of seats according to geographic areas, much as we may speak of equitable geographical distribution, we appear to apply the doctrine of entrenched privilege. The African and Asian countries have long been the victims of the application of that principle, and, on behalf of the Asian group at least, I should like to say that we do not intend to accept that in the future.

9. We have acquiesced in this distribution—unfair as it is and disproportionately disadvantageous as it is to us—in a spirit of compromise. We wish it to be placed on record that not only do we consider this representation inadequate but we consider that in future an adjustment has to be made, not merely as far as Asia is concerned but also as far as Africa is concerned.

10. The CHAIRMAN: The Committee has before it now draft resolution A/C.1/L.429/Rev.2 and Add.1-4 and the related amendments, of which the last received is contained in document A/C.1/L.465/Rev.3. This document has been circulated in English. The Secretariat is trying to accelerate the completion of the texts in the other working languages which I hope will be circulated soon. If the Committee does not object, we could begin our consideration of these last documents and the final one we have received.

11. Mr. TELLO MACIAS (Mexico) (*translated from Spanish*): I wish to refer to the amendment proposed by Malta, which appears in document A/C.1/L.466. That amendment was drawn up in English but the Spanish version seems to be completely different from the English. We pointed this out this afternoon to the Secretary of the Committee, and I believe there will be no difficulty in having the Spanish text of this document circulated with the correct translation, which we understand would be as follows:

“en la inteligencia de que todas aquellas actividades que caigan bajo la jurisdicción nacional de un Estado estarán sujetas al previo consentimiento de dicho Estado, de acuerdo con el derecho internacional”.

12. Mr. DEJAMMET (France) (*translated from French*): I should like to comment on the terminology used in the French text. It seems to me that the English text would be better translated into French as follows:

“étant entendu que dans tous les cas où ces activités tombent sous la juridiction nationale d'un Etat”.

I have already pointed this out to the secretariat of the Committee.

13. The CHAIRMAN: I assure the representatives of Mexico and France that the Secretariat has taken note of

these remarks and that the texts will be corrected accordingly.

14. Mr. VEGA GOMEZ (El Salvador) (*translated from Spanish*): I should also like to refer to the amendment submitted yesterday by the representative of Malta (A/C.1/L.466), which is really a subamendment, and to the one submitted by Argentina and seven other countries, contained in document A/C.1/L.439. It is my delegation's understanding that the latter has not been withdrawn and is therefore still before the Committee.

15. My delegation feels that the amendment in document A/C.1/L.439 is better both in its wording and its substance. Accordingly, since we consider the original proposal of Argentina and seven other countries more acceptable, I would ask the Chairman to be kind enough in due course to put the amendment in document A/C.1/L.439 to the vote and to give it priority.

16. Mr. CHAMMAS (Lebanon): My delegation listened with interest to the proposal made by the representative of El Salvador. In the event that that proposal is accepted, my delegation would humbly submit that, in document A/C.1/L.439, which contains an amendment suggested by many delegations, the words "in maritime or submarine zones" should be put to a separate vote. We request a separate vote on those words in the event that the sponsors cannot delete them. For our part we think that the concept of submarine zones has not been defined in international law, nor is there an established international practice concerning that concept. While we agree with the basic juridical idea presented by the sponsors, in order to be able to support it we shall have to make known our position on the words "in maritime or submarine zones".

17. However, we express the hope that the sponsors of the amendment will be in a position to delete those words and then there will not be much difficulty with the concept of national jurisdiction to which most of us, if not all of us, can adhere. Some delegations find difficulty as far as the wording is concerned, and perhaps such a proposal might be half way between the Maltese position and that of the sponsors. We make this suggestion in a spirit of compromise and whatever the sponsors decide, we will accept their decision with respect and attention.

18. The CHAIRMAN: I wish to inform the Committee that Barbados and Venezuela have become sponsors of the amendments contained in document A/C.1/L.465/Rev.3, thus bringing the number of sponsors to seven.

19. Mr. SOLOMON (Trinidad and Tobago): Before I proceed to the substantive business of introducing on behalf of the sponsors the amendments to draft resolution A/C.1/L.429/Rev.2 and Add.1-4, contained in document A/C.1/L.465/Rev.3, I think that I owe it to the Committee and to you, Mr. Chairman, to express our appreciation at the patience and indeed fortitude that has been shown as a reaction to what in fact is an eleventh-hour development with respect to these substantive amendments. We understand the feelings which it might have aroused after so tedious a session, so exacting a session, and if I may say so, a session which nevertheless has benefited tremendously from your conduct of it. We should like to take this

opportunity of expressing, as I say, our appreciation and also I hope laying to rest conclusively the suggestions which we have heard quite candidly expressed, and even to our faces, that we sought to introduce these amendments, not in a spirit which is constructive, not in a spirit which is destined or purporting to serve the best interests of the United Nations, but in a spirit which has indeed been called "mischievous".

20. As I say, the emotional reaction is one thing. There is no mischief in our intention. We had no motive to scuttle the proposed oceanographic decade. We did not wish to damage it in any way. In fact, in introducing our amendments at the last minute admittedly and to the inconvenience of the Committee admittedly, we felt and we still feel that we were acting out of a sense of very serious and sincere responsibility to the United Nations and particularly to the interests of underdeveloped countries in the United Nations. I hope, if you will permit me, briefly to explain why it is that my delegation and our co-sponsors took that position.

21. Draft resolution A/C.1/L.429/Rev.2 and Add.1-4 requests the General Assembly in effect to permit its prestige, its flag, and its name to be used for purposes which, in the view of my delegation, at this stage are not adequately defined and, under the terms of the draft resolution, do not promise to be properly controlled. That this is so, I do not think is a matter for dispute. It is something which struck us very early when we had the pleasure of listening to the representative of the United States when he introduced the draft resolution. He, himself, said that, at this stage, it was impossible to say what the content of the proposed decade of oceanographic exploration was going to be, save in the broadest outline. I take the liberty of quoting from his speech. He asked himself the questions:

"What, then, is the decade to consist of? What would be the scope and substance of its work? How would it be organized and financed?" [*1601st meeting, para. 129.*]

And he offered the following answers:

"Those questions can be answered now only in broadest outline. My Government has not tried to prejudge the scope or types of projects or the exact arrangements for planning and organization, for the answers to those questions depend on further consultation with other nations." [*Ibid., para. 130.*]

He went on to suggest what the scope might be. He said:

"We would seek to discover what kinds of resources exist on the sea-bed; in what environments they occur; how they are formed." [*Ibid., para. 132.*]

22. He made one or two specific suggestions about the type of project which could probably find its place under the decade. He suggested that the representative of Libya might find gratification under the project by having submarine archaeological research covered by its auspices, and so on. He said—and this worried us even more—that his Government

"... believes that nations should formulate plans for specific projects; seek appropriate co-operation with

other countries and organizations in those projects; arrange appropriate ways of financing and carrying them out; and supervise their own work and publish their results." [Ibid., para. 136.]

23. He also indicated later on that the question of developing nations benefiting from it by

"surveys . . . of promising resources along their coasts, under arrangements acceptable to them" [ibid., para. 137]

would also find a place in such a decade.

24. Now, in these circumstances—where it is candidly stated that the decade is to consist of an opportunity for the United Nations to provide an *imprimatur*, so to speak, to provide a flag and a legitimization to projects which will not be known in advance, to projects whose legitimacy, while we do not question it, is nevertheless in no way established, and for projects which it is stated extend beyond the sphere of pure scientific research—we felt that we would be justified, even at the eleventh hour, in having a second look at the invitation which the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/L.429/Rev.2 and Add.1-4 were extending to the General Assembly to offer this kind of protection to what in effect would be bilateral and multilateral arrangements that contained in our view no adequate provision for administrative accountability. This was our first major objection.

25. We had a second objection, more of a procedural nature and I dare say more of a nature personal to my delegation and delegations which in the United Nations system find themselves in our position. That is to say, we felt that draft resolution A/C.1/L.429/Rev.2 and Add.1-4 did not take sufficient cognizance of other initiatives which had been taken in other organs of the United Nations and in other Committees of the General Assembly in essentially the same type of matter. We were aware of the activities of the Economic and Social Council. We knew that the Council, at its forty-fifth session, had passed resolutions 1380 (XLV), 1381 (XLV) and 1382 (XLV). It had passed them, in our view, very commendably because those resolutions contained the type of orientation towards development which my delegation thought should be the underlying theme, should in fact be the ethic of all activity in the sphere of marine research and oceanography in a new environment which promises to the world a novel opportunity of doing something about redressing the perennial imbalance in the distribution of the world's fortunes and development. We felt that to have merely recalled the content of those resolutions was not sufficient. We felt that the same spirit should be translated from the Council, where it was approved indeed by the majority of sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/L.429/Rev.2, it should be translated into draft resolution A/C.1/L.429/Rev.2 and Add.1-4 itself and should be made part of the theme of the oceanographic decade.

26. We noted, too, that, in the consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on marine science and technology [E/4487 and Corr.1-6] in the Second Committee, certain procedures were laid down for implementing the proposed enlarged programme of ocean research that the Secretary-

General had proposed should be undertaken by the United Nations. We noticed in what has since become resolution 2414 (XXIII) that the General Assembly unanimously accepted that the enlarged programme of oceanographic research should be subject to procedures which gave to the Secretary-General a role which my delegation does not interpret to be by any means insignificant. It gave to the Secretary-General a strict injunction to present the forty-seventh session of the Economic and Social Council and the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly with a comprehensive outline of the scope of the proposed long-term programme of oceanographic development.

27. We found, however, that, while the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/L.429/Rev.2 and Add.1-4 were proposing to us that the decade should be conceived of integrally as a part of the same long-term programme of ocean research, it should not in any way be made accountable to the United Nations through the Secretary-General. This worried us considerably because, instead of doing what we thought would have been consistent with action taken in the Second Committee, the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/L.429/Rev.2 and Add.1-4 invited us to give directly, and in my view unconstitutionally, to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission a straight mandate to engage in the supervision and co-ordination of the proposed decade. This, in the view of my delegation and in the view of the sponsors of the amendments, was a patent inconsistency which, as I say, presents special problems and is especially unacceptable to small delegations which depend for their effectiveness in the United Nations system on some kind of co-ordination, some kind of rational administration of the proliferation of mandates that come out of the General Assembly every year in a variety of directions.

28. What we wish to see, what we think is absolutely essential if we are to perform with any kind of efficiency as a small delegation in the United Nations, is that resolutions and activities which are related should be made administratively to relate to each other. So, in our amendments we also attempted to dovetail the administrative procedures which resolution 2414 (XXIII) offered to the General Assembly with the procedures which the decade, which is a part of the expanded programme dealt with by that resolution, was going to have to be subjected to.

29. This involved us in lengthy and protracted discussions with the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/L.429/Rev.2 and Add.1-4. Let me say at this stage, perhaps to the relief of the First Committee, that those discussions have been extremely fruitful. The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/L.429/Rev.2 and Add.1-4 and the sponsors of the amendment have reached what, in United Nations jargon, has come to be called a "package deal". We have given concessions and we have received concessions. I doubt very much, if I can purport to speak on their behalf, that the sponsors of the draft resolution are fully satisfied, and I can state on my own behalf and on behalf of my co-sponsors that we are not satisfied either in a full sense.

30. However, I think that—because the time was so late, because admittedly we submitted this at the eleventh hour because of the pressure of duties in other fields—this is the best that we could possibly exact under the circumstances, and I want publicly now to express my appreciation to

those of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/L.429/Rev.2 and Add.1-4 who were so kind as to entertain negotiations with us and who conducted those negotiations in a spirit of the strictest professional propriety and in a spirit of genuine compromise and conciliation.

31. For this reason, we have reached the following package deal. The sponsors of the draft resolution, as I imagine they will say on their own behalf shortly, have undertaken to give their support to the amendments proposed by the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago and our co-sponsors—the amendments which have now been substantially revised in document A/C.1/L.465/Rev.3 before the Committee. In return we will vote for draft resolution A/C.1/L.429/Rev.2 and Add.1-4, as amended. So that while the draft resolution has not been withdrawn, and while, because of the late hour, it was not possible for the sponsors of that draft resolution to get in touch with their capitals and get authority to sponsor, they nevertheless will vote in favour of the amendments which will be incorporated, we hope, in the substantive draft resolution.

32. At this late stage I do not want further to tax the patience of the Committee by going through in any great detail the contents of the draft before us, but there are one or two points that I think it is essential, for the interests of my delegation, that we put on record.

33. Mr. Chairman, would you be kind enough to address your attention to document A/C.1/L.465/Rev.3 which is before the Committee. As I mentioned, the orientation of the Economic and Social Council, when it dealt with the subject of the development of oceanography and the marine environment, was one which commended itself very highly to my delegation and one which no developing country could possibly in its own interests object to. We therefore seek to have it incorporated. We have lifted, with very small and I hope not really radical changes, the wording from Council resolution 1381 (XLV). Our first amendment, as revised, now reads:

“Convinced that the nations of the world should join together, with due respect for national jurisdiction, in a common long-term programme of exploration of the ocean as a potential source of resources, which should eventually be used for meeting the needs of all mankind with due recognition of those of developing countries and irrespective of the geographical location of States”.

34. We have added the final phrase “irrespective of the geographical location of States” in order that land-locked countries and countries that are not favoured with an adequate coastline, with adequate access to the sea, will have their interests taken care of during the decade. We strongly recommend to the members of this Committee the adoption, without further change, of that first preambular paragraph. It is our hope that that preambular paragraph will be considered as the underlying theme of the oceanographic decade.

35. The second amendment which we commend to the Committee has to do with the third preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.1/L.429/Rev.2 and Add.1-4, and it

is one which we include more in a spirit of historical accuracy than in a spirit of political advancement:

“Recalling further the proposals made by the Secretary-General in his report (E/4487), pursuant to resolution 2172 (XXI),”

which was discussed in the Second Committee and which did not find universal favour with all members of the Committee. My delegation, for one, was not happy with all the proposals in that document which otherwise had much to commend it, and we do not want to give the impression that it was accepted as unanimously and as enthusiastically as would seem to be the case if we did not add the words:

“as well as the several views expressed on this subject during its consideration at the twenty-third session of the General Assembly”.

That is an amendment which the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/L.429/Rev.2 and Add.1-4 now advise the sponsors of the amendment that they have no difficulty in accepting.

36. We return in our next amendment to the theme which was established in the Council resolutions:

“Endorsing the objectives expressed in resolutions 1380 (XLV), 1381 (XLV) and 1382 (XLV) . . .”.

We think it will be an unnecessary and undesirable omission if the General Assembly cannot find it possible to give full endorsement to the objectives of the resolution which, as I say, have already been suggested by the first preambular paragraph.

37. The amendment which we propose to the seventh preambular paragraph is one which, to my delegation, is very important. It is important to my delegation because we conceive of a United Nations decade in terms of an acceptance by participants in the activities of the decade of a responsibility to serve the United Nations membership. We do not feel that it is sufficient for the United Nations to permit its name to be used for activities whose fruits are going to be of value only to the participants themselves. If that were the case it would be our suggestion that the United Nations withdraw its sanction, its legitimization, its flag from this kind of activity. We feel that there should be a strong moral obligation on participants in the decade to accept full responsibility to publish the results of those activities which they undertake under the decade.

38. We return to that theme in operative paragraph 3, which we accept from document A/C.1/L.429/Rev.2 and Add.1-4, and which urges Member States to publish the results of their activities and make them available to everybody as soon as practicable.

39. It is in that type of contractual relationship between participants in the decade and the United Nations membership that we are happy to go along with the draft resolution. We should have preferred that there be a specific undertaking, as our first revision asked, that the plans undertaken under the decade will be published. That, however, was not possible at the late hour, and this was one

of the more important concessions that my delegation made.

40. We move now to operative paragraph 4. That paragraph is also of great importance to the sponsors of the amendments in document A/C.1/L.465/Rev.3. It is by the system described in these operative paragraphs that we hope to achieve the type of administrative co-ordination and accountability which will ensure that those aspects of the decade which are not purely scientific can be brought to account in the proper organs of the United Nations, that is to say in the General Assembly or, if appropriate, in the committee that has just been established, or through the Economic and Social Council. That is why it is important that the Secretary-General be in a position not only to satisfy his obligations under resolution 2414 (XXIII) but also to provide an important administrative and secretarial link between the activities in the decade, which will be undertaken largely under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, and the General Assembly. Otherwise, we feel—those of us who are not members of the Commission—that our interests are not adequately taken care of.

41. It was after considerable intensity of negotiation that we arrived at these paragraphs. We gave a lot, and I think that even at this stage there is dissatisfaction on both sides. We are not unaware that the paragraphs are far from ideal, but we have, nevertheless, at this stage a full responsibility to commend them to the members of this Committee.

42. There is a constitutional point which is expressed to our satisfaction, and I think now to the satisfaction of the co-sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/L.429/Rev.2 and Add.1-4, in the opening words of operative paragraph 4: "Requests UNESCO that its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission...". We felt that it was quite improper, from a constitutional, legal and even political point of view, that the General Assembly should feel entitled to address a sub-committee of UNESCO directly. We felt that the agreements lie between the United Nations and UNESCO, and that UNESCO's status in the matter must be recognized.

43. If you find that syntax has been stretched in this formulation almost to the breaking-point, that is merely an indication of the extent to which an accommodation had to be found by the sponsors of the amendments and the sponsors of the substantive draft resolution.

44. With these words, and with the assurance that the sponsors of A/C.1/L.429/Rev.2 and Add.1-4 will vote in favour of them, my delegation, on behalf of all the co-sponsors, has great pleasure in recommending these amendments to the draft.

45. Mr. ABDEL-HAMID (United Arab Republic): Let me first of all pay tribute to the sponsors of the amendments contained in document A/C.1/L.465/Rev.3 and the sponsors of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/L.429/Rev.2 and Add.1-4, for their having reached agreement. Let me also congratulate them for their co-operation, which I am sure has been fruitful and of benefit to us all.

46. I asked to speak also for a second reason, that is in connexion with the fourth amendment contained in docu-

ment A/C.1/L.465/Rev.3. I should like, taking into consideration the fact that we are already in the twenty-fifth hour, so to speak, to suggest or propose two verbal amendments to the fourth amendment contained in that document. Before submitting them, however, I should like to say that I have been in contact with the sponsors and with other delegations and they have gladly accepted these two amendments.

47. The amendments to which I refer are: first, to change the word "heritage" in the phrase "Seeking to enrich the heritage", to the word "knowledge"; and second, in the same paragraph, to replace the word "knowledge" with the word "information". By doing this, I believe the clarity of that paragraph will be improved. I am sure that it will not detract from the importance which the sponsors of the amendments attach to the paragraph.

48. Mr. SOLOMON (Trinidad and Tobago): My delegation has no difficulty with the suggestion just made by the representative of the United Arab Republic. We are anxious that the ideological imperatives of all countries be accommodated within any formulation of this nature. The purpose of our paragraph, as I explained, was that there should be a close link between participation in the decade and the responsibility for disseminating knowledge gained as a result thereof. This formulation, therefore, is perfectly satisfactory to us and, if it enables the representative of the United Arab Republic to come along, I have the authority of my co-sponsors to say that we accept it.

49. Mr. THACHER (United States of America): My delegation yesterday expressed our support for the revision suggested by the representative of Malta, now contained in document A/C.1/L.466, to the earlier amendment presented on 8 November by the representative of Mexico, contained in document A/C.1/L.439.

50. The question seems to have arisen again here today as to whether this Committee shall or shall not vote on the earlier proposal contained in document A/C.1/L.439, and I shall therefore only briefly recall that on 8 November [1604th meeting] I was able to ask the representative of Mexico, after his presentation of the earlier amendment, if, in presenting that amendment, he meant that all activities which, under international law, are subject to the coastal State's jurisdiction shall be subject to prior consent by the coastal State. My delegation was pleased when Mr. García Robles was good enough to respond to that question in the affirmative immediately after it was addressed to him. We were therefore most pleased yesterday when the Maltese revision, which appeared to contain this formulation, was, if I recall correctly, accepted by the delegation of Mexico and, I believe, several of the other sponsors of the earlier amendment. It would be my delegation's very earnest hope that the difficulties of the earlier formulation, some of which were touched upon just a short while ago by the representative of Lebanon, would lead the sponsors of the amendment contained in document A/C.1/L.439 not to insist upon a vote on their proposal today.

51. I say this because I believe that it is the wide view of this Committee that the formulation appearing in the Maltese amendment now before us is clear-cut and consistent with international law, and gives rise to no serious problems.

52. My delegation would very much regret not only being unable to support the amendment contained in draft resolution A/C.1/L.439, but also being forced to oppose it if it were put to the vote.

53. Turning now, if I may, to the third revision of the amendments introduced a few moments ago by the representative of Trinidad and Tobago, let me pay tribute to the sponsors of that revision: the representatives of Guyana, Somalia, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Yugoslavia. I think it is well known that many of the sponsors of the amendments and the sponsors of the draft resolution that is to be affected by the amendments were busy at work last night, and indeed up until the early hours of today. It was for my delegation an interesting, sometimes arduous, certainly educational, and unquestionably profitable evening. My delegation can speak only for the United States, but I believe that I reflect the opinion of many of the sponsors of the draft resolution proposing the decade, which is contained in document A/C.1/L.429/Rev.2 and Add.1-4, when I express my whole-hearted support and my delegation's intention to vote in support of the amendments contained in document A/C.1/L.465/Rev.3. I will not seek to review the earlier issues which were the source of disagreement between the two groups of sponsors, because I think those disagreements no longer exist in a meaningful way, and I believe that the revised text of the amendments is fair and represents a common meeting-ground which I hope will be supported widely in this Committee.

54. One of the educational aspects I mentioned a minute ago was that, for the first time, my delegation came to appreciate the very real and thoroughly justified concerns of many Members of the General Assembly whose Governments are not participating members of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission. In part, their concern has been that much of the information of a principally scientific nature which will become available as a result of the co-operative efforts during the international decade of oceanographic exploration would in some way be considered privileged information within the context of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, and that, therefore, absence of membership in that Commission would result in a disadvantage. We were, therefore, when we realized this fact and accepted its complete legitimacy as a source of concern, happy to go along with the sponsors of this revised amendment in a way to ensure that all of the information that is produced by the decade would become available to all Members of the United Nations, whether or not they are members of the Commission. This point is touched upon in the new seventh preambular paragraph as well as in the original operative paragraph 2. The representative of Trinidad and Tobago a moment ago touched upon this point when he expressed the desire for a contractual obligation on States participating in the decade to make freely and fully available the results of their activities conducted under the decade.

55. Speaking for the United States on this point, I can assure this Committee that all activities and programmes which my Government plans to place under the decade will be subject to the self-imposed requirement that their results be published in full.

56. I am happy to associate my delegation with the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago in expressing our willingness to go along with the slight modification to the seventh preambular paragraph that has just been put forward by the representative of the United Arab Republic, and I do so confident in the belief that it does not in any way alter the original sense sought in that paragraph by its sponsors.

57. We have laboured long and hard on this item. I believe it is true here, as in many other instances, that the draft resolution and the amendments before the Committee could still be improved. Certainly, I think that the improvements now before the Committee would have been greater if we had all gone to work on them earlier, certainly earlier than the day before yesterday.

58. I think it is worth recording the agreement that we have and I hope that the Committee will do that shortly, confident in the knowledge that, when the Committee next takes up the subject of the sea-bed on the basis of reports before it, some ten or so months from now, we shall then have a basis on which to review the activities that have taken place in the intervening months and we shall then be in a better position further to improve what we are establishing today.

59. Mr. WALDRON-RAMSEY (United Republic of Tanzania): My task will be, in a minute or two, merely to withdraw formally the amendments to document A/C.1/L.429/Rev.2 and Add.1-4 which stand in the name of Tanzania in document A/C.1/L.440/Rev.2. We do so because we are one of the original co-sponsors of the revised amendments just introduced by our colleague and friend from Trinidad and Tobago. He has said all that I think my delegation would wish to say on this matter, except that, even at this stage, we are not completely happy about the form in which the final draft resolution will go before the Assembly. We would have wished to see a number of important issues made much clearer than they will be in the text upon which we shall be voting in a few minutes.

60. I simply want to say that we would like to suggest formally that, in the last paragraph of the preamble of draft resolution A/C.1/L.429/Rev.2 and Add.1-4, where we have the words "the sea-bed and deep ocean floor", we should delete the word "deep".

61. As a result of wide consultations with colleagues in the Committee, we get the impression that the word "deep" tends to indicate some difficulty of interpretation in that the language of the item itself does not speak of "deep ocean floor" but simply of the "sea-bed and the ocean floor". As a result of this, those of us who tend to be of a legal turn of mind wonder if in fact it does indicate that we are speaking here of a different environment altogether, or whether this is simply an error which the sponsors did not intend. Consequently, if we take the word "deep" out of this paragraph of the preamble, I think that a number of difficulties which do persist at the moment will tend to disappear.

62. That is all we have to say on the draft resolution. Of course, our position will be finally indicated by the manner in which we shall vote on the text as a whole.

63. Mr. GAUCI (Malta): When my delegation introduced an oral amendment at our meeting yesterday, we did so on the understanding that the formulation we proposed was acceptable to all the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/L.429/Rev.2 and Add.1-4 and to all the sponsors of the amendment contained in document A/C.1/L.439 whom we were able to contact at our meeting yesterday.

64. Since the difficulties which have arisen in translation into Spanish and French texts now apparently have been eliminated, and in the interest of making progress at this very late stage of our proceedings, I believe that it would be advisable if this factor were taken into account, in view of the request that has just been made by the representative of El Salvador.

65. While I have the floor, I should like to support the suggestion that has just been made by the representative of Tanzania with regard to deleting the adjective "deep" before the words "ocean floor" in the preambular and operative paragraphs which appear in the draft resolution, which would make it conform to the item that we have been discussing all along.

66. Mr. KIKHIA (Libya): I shall limit myself to commenting briefly on the amendment contained in document A/C.1/L.439. First of all, I should like to support the suggestion made by the representative of Lebanon to delete the words "in maritime or submarine zones". I should like to appeal to the co-sponsors of the amendment to delete those words, because they present some difficulties of interpretation and some ambiguity.

67. Also, I should like to add another point. In the opinion of my delegation those words will make the draft resolution incomplete because they limit the principle to the maritime and submarine zones. We know that in scientific activities in these marine zones, air surveys are sometimes used and planes are used, and the omission of the air space above the territorial sea here might give rise to different difficulties and interpretations in the future.

68. Mr. ARORA (India): We are intervening to state our position on the amendments that have just been presented by the representative of Trinidad and Tobago in document A/C.1/L.465/Rev.3. The representative of Trinidad and Tobago has done an excellent job in presenting the amendments. I wish to pay my sincere tribute to the representative of Trinidad and Tobago for his untiring efforts in producing a better draft resolution and in improving upon draft resolution A/C.1/L.429/Rev.2 and Add.1-4. He has accomplished much in the course of the negotiations that he undertook. While we wish to thank the representative of Trinidad and Tobago for explaining the reasons for moving his amendments and for telling us what those amendments would lead to, we wish to say that we agree with the representative of the United States that the original draft resolution as it stood also would have achieved the basic purposes that we had in mind.

69. Of course, we see that with the amendments that have been moved the draft resolution has certainly been improved and we are happy about it. My delegation, as a co-sponsor of draft resolution A/C.1/L.429/Rev.2 and Add.1-4, will be able to vote for the amendments contained in document A/C.1/L.465/Rev.3.

70. We wish to make a comment about the amendment in document A/C.1/L.439 and the amendment proposed by the representative of Malta in document A/C.1/L.466. The representative of Lebanon has made a very useful suggestion that the words "in maritime or submarine zones" be deleted from the amendment contained in document A/C.1/L.439. He has been joined by the representative of Libya in appealing to the co-sponsors to delete those words. My delegation will be very happy if the co-sponsors can accept this deletion. We would prefer the amendment moved by the representative of Malta in document A/C.1/L.466, and we would be very happy to see if we could vote on the amendment, so that the amendment which was agreed upon as a compromise would receive as wide support as possible.

71. Mr. MENDOUGA (Cameroon) (*translated from French*): I believe that during the debate on the question of the sea-bed in general and in particular on the question of the proclamation of the decade of ocean exploration, proposed in draft resolution A/C.1/L.429/Rev.2 and Add.1-4, it was recognized that all States were interested in the activities to be undertaken.

72. I entirely agree with the representative of the United States that, although the text could be improved, we perhaps do not have enough time to perfect it. However, I should like to draw the attention of the sponsors of the draft resolution to operative paragraph 2, which "*Invites* interested Member States to formulate proposals . . .".

73. I fully understand the intentions of the sponsors of this draft resolution, but it seems to me that if we reasoned in reverse we could conclude, if the present wording were retained, that a State which made no proposals concerning agreed activities or international scientific programmes was not "interested". I think this is a legal point which reflects a real situation and is easy to settle. I would therefore ask the sponsors of the draft resolution to agree to delete the word "interested", so that the sentence would read as follows: "*Invites* Member States to formulate proposals for national and international scientific programmes and agreed activities . . .".

74. Mr. MENDELEVICH (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (*translated from Russian*): The Soviet delegation has the impression that it will be possible to reach a general understanding and unanimity on draft resolution A/C.1/L.429/Rev.2 and Add.1-4, which is very important. With that in mind, we wish to express our views on some of the amendments which have been submitted.

75. The resolution itself, as we have already said, could in our view be adopted, and we have no further comments on it.

76. As to the amendments, those contained in document A/C.1/L.439 are entirely unacceptable from our point of view, as they introduce a certain new legal principle without regard to the existing principles of international law. The principle is a controversial one, in the first place, and in the second place it cannot be established as a replacement for existing agreed principles through the adoption of a resolution.

77. The question of the need to obtain the consent of coastal States in order to carry out oceanographic research

can and must be resolved exclusively in accordance with international law, and, in particular, with the provisions of the 1958 Convention on the Continental Shelf. There are no other principles, and none can be created by means of a resolution. The Soviet delegation therefore objects most strongly to the amendment in document A/C.1/L.439. If this amendment is put to the vote, the Soviet delegation will vote against it. And if the amendment is included in the resolution, thereby radically altering the character of the resolution, we shall unfortunately be obliged to vote against the resolution as a whole.

78. The amendment on the same subject proposed orally yesterday by the representative of Malta and circulated in document A/C.1/L.466 in our view contrasts favourably with the amendment in document A/C.1/L.439. It states clearly that all activities falling under the national jurisdiction of a State shall be subject to the previous consent of such State in accordance with international law. We feel that this is in accord with reality and with the existing international legal situation. We therefore have no objections to this amendment.

79. Similarly, we have no objections to the numerous amendments in document A/C.1/L.465/Rev.3, submitted by Guyana, Somalia, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Republic of Tanzania and Yugoslavia. We consider that those amendments could be included in the text of the resolution. They do not give rise to any objection.

80. Mr. BAYANDOR (Iran): In connexion with the sub-amendment submitted by the representative of Lebanon, namely, that the words "maritime or submarine zones" be deleted from the amendment presented by Argentina, Chile, Cyprus, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Mexico and Peru, contained in document A/C.1/L.439, my delegation is authorized by the sponsors of the amendment present at this meeting to accept the sub-amendment.

81. Mr. CHAMMAS (Lebanon): I wish to thank the representative of Iran and, through him, the co-sponsors of the amendment contained in document A/C.1/L.439. I have listened to the comments that were made in the Committee regarding this particular amendment and the amendment that was introduced orally yesterday by the representative of Malta and included today in document A/C.1/L.466.

82. I am sure that had there been a more thorough study as to the procedure and nature of the amendment, the delegation of Malta perhaps would have been wiser to have had its amendment appear as a sub-amendment to document A/C.1/L.439. But it so happens that it had been presented as a separate amendment to operative paragraph 1, and I understand that document A/C.1/L.439 is to be put to the vote.

83. I have worked closely in other Committees with the sponsors of document A/C.1/L.439. I understand the depth of the legal thinking. It is a known fact that our Latin American colleagues in particular do attach great importance to international law. I am sure that interpretation of "the consent of a State" would be in the light of established international law. I do not think that they disagree with that concept.

84. Therefore, my delegation would formally propose an oral amendment: that at the end of that paragraph we insert the words "in accordance with international law".

85. I have heard the objections raised by the representatives of both the United States and the Soviet Union. Perhaps the Maltese amendment [A/C.1/L.466] is drafted better in English; but, basically, the document was prepared in Spanish, and the Spanish legal system is more precise even than the English. So, definitely, the terms could be better in English.

86. This is not an important question. The meaning and the content would be met if we were to add the words "in accordance with international law", and perhaps then we would then have a much better vote on document A/C.1/L.439.

87. Mr. EVANS (Australia): The delegation of Australia has listened with considerable interest to the statements that have been made here this afternoon concerning the proposals in documents A/C.1/L.439 and A/C.1/L.466. My delegation feels that, at this stage, coming to the end of our work, it would be most desirable if we could bring to a successful fruition draft resolution A/C.1/L.429/Rev.2 and Add.1-4 with whatever amendments might be agreeable to this Committee. I say "amendments which might be agreeable to this Committee" advisedly, because I feel we are reaching a position where the lines have been fairly well drawn and, with full respect for my friend, the representative of Lebanon, I think that perhaps the time has now come at which the most profitable course for this Committee would be to recognize what has been eloquently pointed out by the representative of the United States, namely, that the wording before us in document A/C.1/L.466 represents the fruits of long discussions to try to find some wording that would command the widest possible acceptance in this Committee. It is the belief of my delegation that document A/C.1/L.466 has that general support, as is evidenced by the statements made by many of the sponsors yesterday.

88. I think that, on reflection, I could agree with the representative of Lebanon when he suggests that it might be unfortunate from the point of view of our procedure that document A/C.1/L.466 was not submitted as a sub-amendment to the amendment contained in document A/C.1/L.439. However, that has not occurred. Therefore, in the view of my delegation, at this stage, the best course to come to a satisfactory conclusion might be to seek formally priority for the amendment contained in document A/C.1/L.466, and I would so move.

89. Mr. GAUCI (Malta): I am sorry to have to speak again, but it has been pointed out to me that, unfortunately, a comma was left out in the English text submitted yesterday. That has caused some difficulties, and these difficulties could be largely eliminated if the comma were inserted in the proper place. I should like to read the last line of the amendment in document A/C.1/L.466. It would read: "consent of such State, in accordance with international law". I have the impression that this would give rise to less difficulty in being accepted than the text as it now stands.

90. Mr. BEESLEY (Canada): We have been discussing this problem raised by documents A/C.1/L.466 and A/C.1/L.

L.439 with some of the interested delegations and it seems evident that at least part of the difficulty might be resolved by the change just mentioned by the representative of Malta. It also appears to us from these discussions that we are not as far apart as might seem to be the case. What we are talking about is whether consent is necessary. That was the issue that was first raised by Mexico: whether international activities could be carried out in accordance with the purposes of this resolution without the consent of the State in so far as its own jurisdiction is concerned—whether, in other words, international activities within areas which by law are subject to the jurisdiction of coastal States must receive the consent of those States. No one so far has argued to the contrary. However, there is a problem which seems to be arising out of a confusion concerning whether we are talking about national jurisdiction as determined in accordance with international law or the question of whether consent ought to be given as required by international law. Thus we have an apparent disagreement which, in our view at least, is not a real one. In the discussions we have just had with the representative of El Salvador we were at least able to agree that there were some substantive differences, depending upon the punctuation. I can illustrate in part what I mean by referring to the text of document A/C.1/L.466. It reads:

“on the understanding that all such activities falling under the national jurisdiction of a State shall be subject to the previous consent of such State, in accordance with international law”.

91. If the phrase “in accordance with international law” followed the phrase “national jurisdiction”, we could see that we should then be opening the very issue that is troubling some States, but it does not appear there. It is a deliberate compromise, and it appears instead at the end and after a comma. In this situation, we feel, we really ought not to have this kind of difficulty at this late stage of our discussion, when so much hangs on it. This is a point that could be serious if misunderstanding went any deeper.

92. From a technical point of view, we should assume that, because draft resolution A/C.1/L.466 contains the phrase “in accordance with international law”, it is further removed from the original draft and therefore it would have priority on that basis, but we do not wish to press that point. We hope it can be worked out in informal discussions, and that may still be possible if a little more time could be given.

93. Mr. RUDA (Argentina) (*translated from Spanish*): As a sponsor of the amendment in document A/C.1/L.439, I wish to refer to the proposal of the representative of Lebanon to add the words “in accordance with international law” at the end of the sentence. As a sponsor, and subject to the approval of the other sponsors, I have no objection to adding this phrase proposed by Lebanon.

94. In this connexion, I wish to recall that my delegation on 1 November 1968 said the following:

“Any such investigation must undoubtedly be carried out in full conformity with the rules of international law as it is today, particularly as regards the continental shelf. These rules grant sovereign rights in respect of the

exploration and exploitation of the natural resources of the continental shelf to the coastal State. In our view there is no essential distinction to be made between research and exploration, and we hold that any research relating to the continental shelf and carried out there requires the consent of the coastal States, as is clearly stipulated in article 5, paragraph 8 of the Convention on the Continental Shelf, signed at Geneva in 1958.”
[1594th meeting, para. 16.]

95. Article 5, paragraph 8, which I referred then to, reads as follows:

“The consent of the coastal State shall be obtained in respect of any research concerning the continental shelf and undertaken there.”¹

96. In keeping with what we said at the 1594th meeting, my delegation has no objection to adding the phrase “in accordance with international law” at the end of document A/C.1/L.439, as proposed by the representative of Lebanon.

97. The CHAIRMAN: As a result of the discussion which has taken place, I think we now find ourselves in the following situation: The representative of the United Republic of Tanzania has withdrawn his amendment, contained in document A/C.1/L.440/Rev.2, explaining that the amendments contained in document A/C.1/L.465/Rev.3 embodied his proposals, and that he therefore considered that that could satisfy his own delegation. Now, I feel that we could conclude our work by elaborating a final text which would be unanimously adopted, provided that there is some agreement among the sponsors of the amendments in documents A/C.1/L.439 and A/C.1/L.466. A suggestion was made that, rather than proceed to the vote at this time, we take a short recess to permit the sponsors of those two documents to come to some agreement; because, were we now to proceed to the vote, I would be faced with a request for priority. I should therefore like very much to know the feeling of the Committee with regard to that suggestion.

98. Mr. TELLO MACIAS (Mexico) (*translated from Spanish*): It would be very appropriate and useful if we, the sponsors of document A/C.1/L.439 could meet with the delegation of Malta but I suggest that the delegation of El Salvador should also participate in the discussion, since it requested a vote on the amendment in document A/C.1/L.439.

99. The CHAIRMAN: If there is no objection, I shall take it that the Committee agrees that there should be a short recess—of ten minutes as the representative of Canada is indicating to me—to permit consultations among the sponsors of the proposals contained in documents A/C.1/L.439 and A/C.1/L.466. Of course, the delegation of El Salvador also has been requested to take part in those consultations.

The meeting was suspended at 5.43 p.m. and resumed at 6.10 p.m.

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 499 (1964), No. 7302.

100. Mr. BEESLEY (Canada): We have had the consultations we suggested, and as you will have noted, Mr. Chairman, there were a number of delegations involved. An agreement was worked out. As I understand it, it will reflect a slight difference between the English and Spanish texts: the famous comma will be retained in the English text and will remain out of the Spanish text. But in any event, there is an agreement, as I understand it, and that is all I would wish to say, leaving the substantive statement to the representative of El Salvador.

101. Mr. VEGA GOMEZ (El Salvador) (*translated from Spanish*): We reached complete agreement in the consultations which the Chairman kindly allowed us to hold with interested delegations, and El Salvador, for its part, has no objection to accepting the final translation that was made of the Maltese proposal, omitting all the commas, since in Spanish they would change the substance of the amendment by broadening its scope in a manner unacceptable to us. I therefore withdraw my request that the amendment in document A/C.1/L.439 should be given priority in the voting.

102. The CHAIRMAN: If the proposal just made by the representative of El Salvador is acceptable to the other sponsors of the amendment contained in document A/C.1/L.439, I shall put first to the vote the amendment contained in document A/C.1/L.466.

103. Mr. MENDOUGA (Cameroon) (*translated from French*): I should like to ask, through the Chairman, whether the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/L.429/Rev.2 and Add.1-4 agree to the deletion of the word "interested", which I referred to earlier, so that we should not have to adopt a special procedure for this case.

104. The CHAIRMAN: I understand that that is agreeable to the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/L.429/Rev.2 and Add.1-4.

105. There being no objection on the part of the sponsors of the amendment contained in A/C.1/L.439 to the proposal made by the representative of El Salvador, I shall put to the vote the amendment contained in document A/C.1/L.466, as revised.

The amendment, as revised, was adopted by 90 votes to none, with 4 abstentions.

106. The CHAIRMAN: We shall now proceed to the vote on the amendments contained in document A/C.1/L.465/Rev.3. I should like to remind the Committee that the United Arab Republic has proposed a sub-amendment to the fourth amendment to which the co-sponsors have agreed, whereby the word "heritage" in paragraph 4 has been replaced by the word "knowledge"; and the word "knowledge" has been replaced by the word "information".

107. Furthermore, the deletion of the word "interested" from paragraph 6, as suggested by the representative of Cameroon, has been accepted by the sponsors of the proposed amendments.

108. I call on the representative of Guyana to speak on a point of order.

109. Miss JARDIM (Guyana): I should simply like to request a roll-call vote on document A/C.1/L.465/Rev.3.

110. Mr. GAUCI (Malta): Since a spirit of compromise seems to be prevailing, and since my delegation has set an example by giving up a Spanish comma, may I ask whether the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/L.429/Rev.2 and Add.1-4 have also accepted the deletion of the word "deep" before the words "ocean floor", as suggested by the representative of Tanzania.

111. The CHAIRMAN: I believe we have to leave that matter until we come to the vote on the draft resolution as a whole.

112. We shall now proceed to the vote on the amendments contained in document A/C.1/L.465/Rev.3 as orally revised.

A vote was taken by roll-call.

The Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, having been drawn by lot by the Chairman, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Ceylon, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo (Democratic Republic of), Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Dahomey, Denmark, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives Islands, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Southern Yemen, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Syria, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey.

Against: None.

The amendments contained in document A/C.1/L.465/Rev.3 as orally revised were adopted by 102 votes to none.

113. The CHAIRMAN: The representative of Malta has asked the sponsors if they would be ready to delete the word "deep" in the last preambular paragraph and in operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/C.1/L.429/Rev.2 and Add.1-4. I understand that this is agreeable to the sponsors.

114. Mr. CHAMMAS (Lebanon): Mr. Chairman, in order to save time, and as there are no objections by any delegation present here, I would propose that you put draft resolution A/C.1/L.429/Rev.2 and Add.1-4, as revised and amended, to the vote by acclamation.

115. The CHAIRMAN: I was going to say just that.

116. Mr. WALDRON RAMSEY (United Republic of Tanzania): I am sorry to have to decline the proposal, made with very good intentions, by the representative of Lebanon. We ourselves would like to register an abstention in the vote on the draft resolution. That being the case, I do not know how you would want to proceed in the matter, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps you would wish to adopt the normal course in these matters.

117. The CHAIRMAN: In that case, there is no other choice than to proceed to the vote. We shall now vote on draft resolution A/C.1/L.429/Rev.2 and Add.1-4 as amended and revised.

The draft resolution, as amended and revised, was adopted by 100 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

118. Mr. DEJAMMET (France) (*translated from French*): I should like very briefly to clarify the position of the French delegation and to give the reasons why we accepted the amendment submitted by the delegation of Malta to operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/C.1/L.429/Rev.2, which we have just adopted.

119. We voted in favour of that amendment because we attach particular importance to the expression "in accordance with international law" which appears at the end of the new paragraph.

120. We consider that the expression "international law" encompasses the Geneva Convention of 1958, and particularly article 5, paragraph 8.

121. I should venture also to point out that the translation into French which was given for the English phrase "national jurisdiction" is incorrect and should not constitute a precedent. The phrase in French should read "*compétence nationale*". That observation is purely a general one.

122. Mr. RUDA (Argentina) (*translated from Spanish*): My delegation abstained on the amendment proposed by the Maltese delegation in document A/C.1/L.466, because it felt that the wording proposed in that document was not legally precise enough to guarantee effectively the right of a coastal State to give its consent to any research concerning the continental shelf or undertaken there. This position of course in no way means that my country will normally refuse consent if the rules of customary international law and the 1958 Geneva Convention on the Continental Shelf are respected. On the contrary, we are prepared to co-operate as fully as possible in any undertaking of that kind.

123. Mr. NAVA CARRILLO (Venezuela) (*translated from Spanish*): The Venezuelan delegation voted in favour of the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.429/Rev.2 and Add.1-4, as amended, on the understanding that any activities carried out under the resolution and other related resolutions would be subject to the appropriate provisions of the 1958 Geneva Convention on the Continental Shelf which, in the case of Venezuela, is part of the national legislation.

Completion of the Committee's work

124. The CHAIRMAN: At this stage, which is the final stage, it is the practice of the Chairman usually to take leave of his colleagues; therefore, with the Committee's permission I shall say a few words.

125. We have now completed all the work referred to the First Committee for this session by the General Assembly. We have accomplished a good deal. I think that all delegations are entitled to take satisfaction from the fact that we have concluded our agenda nearly on schedule. Since we started our work this year two weeks later than usual, some of us may have wondered at times whether this would indeed prove possible. I for one certainly did have some doubts. Members will recall all too well the difficulties we encountered and the arduous efforts that had to be made by all concerned to overcome them.

126. In respect of what we have accomplished there will obviously be different views among delegations especially on the question whether the recommendations of the Committee to the plenary are in all cases the best possible ones. This is quite normal in such a forum; it is a fact which we shall have to face also in the future—God knows for how many years. Let us hope for the sake of peace, advocated by all our peoples, that it will not be for too long. Anyhow, there should be no disagreement, I believe, with the judgement that the Committee as a whole has done its very best to consider the matters thoroughly and to produce results commanding the broadest possible agreement. In this sense we have, I feel, contributed, perhaps beyond the extent allowed to us by the circumstances of the present situation in the world, to the continuing and unceasing labours of our Organization in the cause of peace and to the furtherance of international co-operation in the political sphere.

127. While referring to this subject of what has been accomplished, I feel impelled to make particular mention of two of the items or groups of items with which we have dealt. The resolutions recommended to the plenary on disarmament include among other things the call for the continuation and intensification of the efforts of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament, the provision for an expert study of the effects of the possible use of chemical, bacteriological and other biological weapons, the various measures to give effect to the declaration and resolutions of the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States, the request for a report on the establishment of an international service for nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes, and the request for the opening of bilateral discussions on the limitation of offensive nuclear-weapon systems and of anti-ballistic missile defence systems.

128. These resolutions cover a broad and indeed impressive range of problems and possibilities of the utmost importance to all mankind. I think that this Committee has fulfilled its duty well in thus continuing, expanding and even to a certain extent initiating efforts of the Organization to ensure that our measures and the information on which we must base them are proportionate to the immensity and perils of these problems of our age. The results have not been achieved without patience and much effort.

129. Members will also be conscious of the exertions made on all sides on the last item to be disposed of by the Committee concerning the peaceful uses of the sea-bed and ocean floor. No doubt here again some of the results may not be considered ideal from any point of view. But the essential thing is the measure of agreement that has been achieved and the foundations that have been laid for our future work in this new challenging area that is so important for the welfare of future generations. Considering the difficulties, we have really achieved important results.

130. It is now my very pleasant duty to express the deep gratitude of the Chair to all delegations for their co-operation, their understanding and forbearance and, above all, their very hard and constructive work. Freely translating an old Latin saying *tibi gratular mihi gaudeo*, I would say that, in congratulating all of you, we the officers of the Committee felicitate ourselves. It has been for me personally a great privilege to serve as Chairman of the First Committee. It has also been, in spite of the unavoidable stresses and many strains connected with this office, a stimulating and gratifying experience. I shall always remember it as one of the most enriching periods, from the intellectual and human point of view, of my life at the United Nations. I feel indebted to all of you for the unique experience as well as for the confidence you have shown me.

131. I feel equally indebted, first of all, to the Vice-Chairman, Ambassador Galindo Pohl, who has ensured the continuity of our work, especially during the time I was forced to go to bed because of the "flu"—an influenza I will not name because, coming from the Chairman of the Political Committee, it might lead to political speculations. I am grateful also to the Rapporteur, Ambassador Zollner, and to the Under-Secretary, Mr. Kutakov, for the equally active and valuable co-operation they have given.

132. I wish also to thank all the other members of the Secretariat who have been assisting us in our work: the interpreters, the conference and documents officers, the verbatim and Press reporters and the guards, who have done such efficient and hard work—sometimes unseen—at all hours, as usual. They have made it possible for us to carry out our task; they have given an unparalleled example of devotion to their work and of dedication to our Organization.

133. Finally, I should like to address a special word to a high representative of the Secretariat. I am sure that all members greatly regret that this is the last meeting of the First Committee at which our Committee Secretary, Mr. Vellodi, will be present. He is soon to leave the Secretariat in order to resume his distinguished career in the service of his Government. Mr. Vellodi has served as Secretary of the First Committee, in addition to his many other functions—in particular that of deputy to the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Security Council Affairs—for a period of seven years, long enough for him to have become synonymous, in the minds of many of us, with the First Committee; in short, we regard him as "Mr. First Committee". We have valued greatly his complete mastery of all aspects of the running of the First Committee and his unfailing assistance and competence in

helping delegations with their work. He has earned the complete trust of everyone because of his discretion and impartiality. He will be greatly missed, both officially and personally. On behalf of the Committee I wish to extend to him our warmest thanks and best wishes for his future career.

134. Mr. MATSCH (Austria): The Committee has just concluded its work and the doors of this conference room will be closed after this meeting. Let me therefore now carry out the most pleasant task of looking back at our weeks of common effort.

135. This Committee deals traditionally with difficult and sensitive problems. It has not been different this year. Again it has not been possible to bridge different points of view on all the questions on our agenda. I believe, however, that we have wherever possible found a common denominator and charted a common road for joint and constructive future action.

136. It is to you, Sir, as Chairman of our Committee, that we owe, to a large extent, the successful conclusion of our work. You have decisively contributed to the results of our deliberations and to the atmosphere of co-operation and courtesy in which we have been able to achieve them. May I therefore, on behalf of the delegations of the group of Western European and other States, and on behalf of my own delegation, express to you sincere appreciation and gratitude for the skill and wisdom with which you have conducted our deliberations. We are grateful to you not only for the guidance you have given the Committee from the Chair but also for the patience and perseverance with which you co-ordinated and directed the numerous informal consultations which pass unnoticed in the records of our Committee but which, as we all know, have contributed substantially to the successful accomplishment of our task.

137. When our colleague and friend, Ambassador Piero Vinci, was elected to the Chairmanship of our Committee, we recalled his many achievements at the United Nations and in his long diplomatic career. Today, at the conclusion of our session, we can add more laurels to that proud record.

138. Our gratitude and appreciation also go to our distinguished Vice-Chairman, Ambassador Galindo Pohl of El Salvador, and our distinguished Rapporteur, Ambassador Zollner of Dahomey, for the devotion and dedication which they have constantly shown in discharging their difficult and sometimes delicate tasks.

139. We should also like to thank the members of the Secretariat who have been associated with our work, in particular the distinguished Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Kutakov, and the experienced Secretary of our Committee, Mr. Vellodi.

140. It was a pleasure and a privilege for us to work under your Chairmanship, Sir.

141. Mr. THACHER (United States of America): Mr. Chairman, your strenuous efforts to assure brevity throughout this session deserve the greatest effort on our part to be brief at this time.

142. Let me, therefore, express my delegation's deep gratitude to you, Sir, to your colleagues, to Mr. Vellodi—who is taking leave of this position after seven years of outstanding service to the First Committee as well as to the United Nations as a whole—and to all the members of the Secretariat, seen and unseen, whose contributions we all too often take for granted.

143. Mr. AL-ATTAR (Yemen) (*translated from French*): On behalf of the Asian group, the Arab countries and Yugoslavia, I should like to express our admiration and our gratitude for the way in which you have performed your functions as Chairman of our Committee. Owing to your ability and your personal qualities, we have been able to achieve positive results. I am aware of how much patience and forbearance you needed to bring about the compromises which we all deemed necessary to the accomplishment of our work.

144. Your tireless efforts, your great energy and your spirit of conciliation have been remarkable and remarked upon, Mr. Chairman. Indeed, they have influenced the conduct of the other members of the Committee. You set us an example and we have been happy to follow it in our endeavour further to strengthen the United Nations, in which we all believe.

145. I am very pleased to pay this warm tribute in this august body, to you personally and to your country, particularly since our countries have always maintained relations of firm friendship. Please accept our thanks and our best wishes.

146. I should also like to thank all the other officers of the Committee and the members of the Secretariat.

147. Mr. MENDOUGA (Cameroon) (*translated from French*): Although the hour is late, there are duties which one is eager to carry out because they are a pleasure to perform. In that spirit, our delegation, on behalf of the African group, over which we are presiding this month, is gladly following tradition by thanking you for having guided our Committee's work so admirably. This duty is an especially pleasant one for us because your country, Italy, which is so close to African problems, maintains fruitful relations of friendship and co-operation with Cameroon.

148. Indeed, we are not merely following tradition but also, and particularly—although we cannot of course find the right words—expressing our feelings with the frankness which is one of the basic traits of the African character.

149. Mr. Chairman, we are now at the end of our work, which you personally have conducted and brought to a close. I think it would be difficult to find a more harmonious combination of qualities than you possess to lead us to the results that we hoped for and finally achieved.

150. You have combined authority with strong judgement, tempered by courtesy and flexibility, and have thus enabled us to achieve the results that we hoped for. Your commitment to achieving this goal was total and your exceptional endurance and patience and your leadership were impeccable. You have been entirely worthy of our

confidence in you. I believe, if I may use a language which is said to be dead but which has lived through so many civilizations, that we move *per angusta ad augusta*; *per angusta* you have been forbearing, and you have maintained a standard which has enabled us to raise our own. It is this high standard which made of you a Chairman who lived up to our expectations.

151. For all these reasons, on behalf of the African group, I should like to address our thanks to you personally, Mr. Chairman, and to the other officers of the Committee, the representative of the Secretary-General, the Secretary of the Committee and all the Secretariat staff.

152. Mr. TOMOROWICZ (Poland): Mr. Chairman, I consider it to be my great privilege and pleasure to express to you, on behalf of the group of Eastern European countries, Cuba and Mongolia, our gratitude for your excellent guidance and for the wisdom, patience and perseverance with which you have steered the work of the Committee to a successful end.

153. It was not an easy session of the General Assembly, obviously. This was also reflected in our Committee. It had to be all the more demanding on our Chairman, yet we were able to produce some important and positive decisions. It goes without saying that no small part has been played by our Chairman in making it possible to reach those decisions. With skill and tenacity you have guided us also through the lengthy consultations of which we had more this year than probably ever before.

154. I should also like to extend our congratulations and to express our appreciation to Ambassador Galindo Pohl for fulfilling so ably his duties of Vice-Chairman. It gives me great pleasure to thank our Rapporteur, Ambassador Maxime Léopold Zollner. Finally, I should like to reiterate all that was said about the efficient work of the Secretariat, which greatly contributed in facilitating our tasks. In this connexion, I should like to thank Mr. Kutakov and Mr. Vellodi—who was always helpful in seeing to it that the proceedings of the Committee went smoothly—as well as the staff of Conference Services who contributed to the success of our work.

155. Mr. CASTRO (Brazil) (*translated from Spanish*): A number of Latin American delegations—and I know that I am speaking on behalf of all of them—have asked me, first, to repeat the congratulations expressed in the Latin proverbs which have been quoted here, and particularly to express to you, Mr. Chairman, our profound gratitude and our admiration for the manner in which you have guided the work of the First Committee at this session of the United Nations General Assembly.

156. All of us have greatly appreciated your ability, your impartiality and your political and diplomatic wisdom. We have seen how you have used these qualities to lead us through some extremely difficult moments, with the political wisdom that is inherent to your country, and achieved results that benefited everyone. On behalf of the Latin American group, I wish to say that you have brought to us the universal spirit of your country, and have thereby enabled us to approach international problems with a strong feeling for world peace and justice. This sentiment

which I am expressing on behalf of the Latin American group is shared by Latin America and by all mankind.

157. I also wish to congratulate Mr. Galindo Pohl, the Vice-Chairman; Mr. Zollner, the Rapporteur; Mr. Kutakov, Under-Secretary-General; Mr. Vellodi, Secretary of the Committee; and all the other officers of the Committee, who have contributed so much to the successful accomplishment of our task.

158. Mr. MENDELEVICH (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (*translated from Russian*): In the First Committee, as in other committees, there is one delegation which, during the closing remarks, customarily says that it is speaking individually and belongs to no geographical group. I did not notice whether the representative of that delegation made that reservation today during his closing remarks. I am referring to the delegation of the United States of America. I should like to say that the Soviet delegation is in a different position. We are an allied country. We are a member of the socialist group and our desires and thinking were already expressed today by the representative of Poland, Mr. Tomorowicz, in his remarks addressed to the Chairman, the other officers of the Committee and the members of the Secretariat on behalf of our entire group. Nevertheless, I venture to offer one additional thought, to amplify what has already been said.

159. This year the session of the General Assembly and the work of the First Committee were complex. That is why it is natural that everyone who had a hand in guiding the work of one or other of the main subdivisions, or Main Committees, of the General Assembly had to show particular skill, a profound understanding of the questions, and an understanding of the psychology of the delegates.

160. On behalf of the Soviet delegation I should like to say that we are very satisfied with the way in which you, the representative of Italy, Ambassador Piero Vinci, led the work of the First Committee. I shall not repeat what has been said about your wisdom, your perceptiveness, your forbearance and your patience. I wish only to observe that you, possessing all these qualities, guided our work with a genuine Italian love of life and optimism. This clearly contributed to our success.

161. We should also like to express our gratitude to the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Ambassador Galindo Pohl; to the Rapporteur, Ambassador Zollner, and to all the members of the Secretariat who contributed to our work, from the most senior of them, our compatriot, the Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Kutakov, to those members of the Secretariat who are so important to the work of the meetings: the interpreters, translators, verbatim reporters, etc.

162. Mr. GALINDO POHL (El Salvador) (*translated from Spanish*): I am grateful for the generous and friendly words which delegations have been kind enough to address to me this afternoon.

163. For me personally this has truly been an extraordinary experience. It has been particularly satisfying to have served my apprenticeship here and broadened my horizons through my work with the esteemed Chairman of our Committee, Mr. Piero Vinci, and my association with the Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Kutakov, with Mr. Vellodi and with the other members of the Secretariat. I am also grateful for the invaluable opportunity of having had direct contacts, through consultations, with the members of many delegations to the United Nations for the purpose of advancing our work.

164. When I had the great honour to preside over the work of this Committee, I was able to count on the co-operation and the goodwill of all representatives. I therefore wish to express my deep gratitude to all those who were kind enough to elect me and thereby to enable me, as I have said, to be exposed to such enriching personal contacts and ideas.

165. I am now more convinced than ever that the United Nations is capable of dealing with extremely difficult and complex problems, and of solving them, even if that happens at the eleventh hour.

166. Feats of diplomatic wisdom, compromise and goodwill have been performed here. The number of consultations, negotiations and discussions that have been held to further the various draft resolutions and bring about their approval by large majorities shows the ability and the maturity of the United Nations and the world community.

167. Mr. ZOLLNER (Dahomey) (*translated from French*): I should like to say very briefly how glad I have been to serve the Committee under the leadership of a man as remarkable as yourself, Mr. Chairman, and of the Vice-Chairman, Mr. Galindo Pohl.

168. I am grateful for the extremely effective help given to me by the members of the Secretariat in my work, and I also wish to thank the Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Kutakov, and the Secretary of the Committee, Mr. Vellodi, who is unfortunately leaving us after this session, following long years devoted to the cause of the First Committee and the United Nations in general. We also wish to thank all those who worked with them and all the other members of the Secretariat.

169. Finally, I wish to say how much I have been moved by the tributes paid to the officers of the Committee, of whom I am one. The hour is late and the work of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman is now over—which is only just, since it continued throughout the session. But the work of the Rapporteur began much later and still goes on. I shall therefore end my remarks here, since the First Committee must prepare a further report for submission to the General Assembly.

The meeting rose at 7.05 p.m.