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VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 52nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. FAHMY (Egypt) (Vice-Chairman)

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General debate and consideration of and action on draft resolutions on international security items (continued)

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In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Fahmy (Egypt), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

AGENDA ITEMS 71, 72 AND 73 (continued)

GENERAL DEBATE AND CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION ON DRAFT RESOLUTIONS ON INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ITEMS

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. KHERADI (Secretary of the Committee): I wish to inform the Committee that the following countries have become sponsors of draft resolution

A/C.1/44/L.71/Rev.1: Cuba, Mali and Romania.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will now proceed to take a decision on draft resolutions A/C.1/44/L.70 and L.71/Rev.1, submitted under agenda items 71 and 72 related to international security.

I shall now call on those delegations wishing to make statements other than in explanation of vote.

Mr. KALUDJEROVIC (Yugoslavia): I wish to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/44/L.71/Rev.1 on behalf of Algeria, Bangladesh, Cuba, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Madagascar, Mali, Malaysia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Uganda and Yugoslavia.

The sponsors of this draft resolution proceeded from the fact that processes of particular importance for the further development of international relations are under way and gaining increasing momentum.

The world political climate has improved, and encouraging progress has been made towards finding solutions for some regional problems, and the non-aligned countries have made a substantive contribution.

With that in mind, the sponsors of the draft resolution have sought to reflect in this year's resolution the current state of international relations.

(Mr. Kaludjerovic, Yugoslavia)

Proceeding from the fact that there are no important tasks in the present-day interdependent world than the maintenance of peace and security, the sponsors have underlined the importance of the ongoing relations among the big Powers, the changes that have taken place in relations between East and West and the ever-broader dialogue between them as an important element and pre-condition for the building of genuine international security.

The resulting détente, however, as is stated in the Belgrade Declaration, is a window of opportunity for the international community.

It is, nevertheless, all based on the realization of the impending danger to the survival of the human race posed by the arms race, especially the nuclear arms race, by other military and non-military threats to security such as armed conflicts, interference, use of force, economic inequality both within and among nations, poverty, the debt burden, drug abuse and terrorism, as well as degradation of the environment.

The solution of such vast, complex problems calls for a concerted and coherent approach within a multilateral framework, and especially within the United Nations, as a unique centre of international co-operation, so that forthcoming actions may be directed towards the realization of the goals contained in the United Nations Charter and the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security.

In conclusion, I should like to voice the expectation of the sponsors that the draft resolution will be supported by the greatest number of countries in the General Assembly.

Mr. BORG OLIVIER (Malta): On behalf of the delegations of Algeria, Cyprus, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Tunisia, Yugoslavia and my own delegation, I have the honour to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/44/L.70 entitled

(Mr. Borg Olivier, Malta)

"Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region". The draft resolution is submitted under agenda item 71.

This year's draft is based on previous resolutions on this subject which, as the Committee is aware, have always been adopted by consensus. At a time when the Mediterranean is providing the venue for a Summit between the Presidents of the United States and the USSR, the adoption by consensus of a resolution on security and co-operation in that region assumes added relevance and significance.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all those delegations that helped us with their constructive suggestions and co-operation in formulating the text that appears in document L.70, in particular its sponsors.

As in previous resolutions on the subject, the preambular part of draft L.70 recalls and reaffirms the various concepts and principles relevant to security and co-operation in the Mediterranean. Among these are the primary role of the Mediterranean countries in the promotion of security and co-operation in their region - third preambular paragraph; the responsibility of all States to conform in their actions to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter - seventh preambular paragraph; and the need to intensify and promote peace and security in the Mediterranean as provided in the Mediterranean chapter of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) - eighth preambular paragraph.

The declarations of successive meetings of non-aligned countries and other relevant official declarations and contributions are recalled in the ninth preambular paragraph. The tenth and twelfth preambular paragraphs deal with the efforts of Mediterranean non-aligned States to strengthen regional co-operation and to intensify the process of dialogue with European countries.

(Mr. Borg Olivier, Malta)

The thirteen preambular paragraph takes note of the reaffirmation by the CSCE participating States in Vienna of their resolve to implement unilaterally, bilaterally and multilaterally all the provisions of the Final Act and the other documents of the CSCE.

(Mr. Borg Olivier, Malta)

There are two new preambular paragraphs in this year's draft resolution. In the fifth preambular paragraph the General Assembly would welcome the favourable developments in the international situation and express hope that these developments would have a positive impact on the Mediterranean region. In the eleventh preambular paragraph the Assembly would recognize the desire of Mediterranean countries that the needs of their region be taken into account in ongoing and future negotiations relating to international security and disarmament. The fourth and sixth preambular paragraphs reflect concern at the continuing problems and tensions in our region.

The operative part of the draft resolution is largely based on last year's resolution, and I will therefore not take up the Committee's time by dwelling on paragraphs that are already well known. At the same time, I wish to draw the Committee's attention to the new elements in that part of the draft resolution.

With respect to the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries held at Belgrade this September, the Assembly would, in operative paragraph 2, take note in particular of the relevant paragraph of the Belgrade document on "International security and disarmament", which, inter alia, supported the transformation of the Mediterranean region into a region of peace, security and co-operation.

In paragraphs 3 and 4, the draft resolution deals with the latest developments in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) and looks forward to the CSCE meeting due to be held at Palma de Mallorca in 1990.

In paragraph 9 the Assembly would welcome the creation of the Arab Maghreb Union and greet that event as a factor of peace, stability, security and development in the region.

(Mr. Borg Olivier, Malta)

I would like to inform the Committee of two small amendments needed in draft resolution A/C.1/44/L.70. In operative paragraph 3, the phrase "the politically significant achievements" should read "the militarily significant and politically binding achievements". That amendment will ensure that the language used in the draft resolution corresponds to the language used in the CSCE. In the seventh paragraph of the preamble, the word "action" should be changed to "actions".

On behalf of its sponsors, I recommend that draft resolution A/C.1/44/L.70 be adopted without a vote. We firmly hope that, as in previous years, the Committee will be able to adopt that text by consensus.

The CHAIRMAN: As no delegation has indicated the wish to make a statement in explanation of the position before the voting, the Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/44/L.70, submitted under agenda item 71.

The draft resolution, which was introduced this morning, is entitled "Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region". It has seven sponsors: Algeria, Cyprus, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malta, Morocco, Tunisia and Yugoslavia.

As we have just heard, the sponsors of the draft resolution have expressed the hope that the Committee will adopt the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly?

Draft resolution A/C.1/44/L.70 was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on those representatives who wish to explain their position on the draft resolution just adopted.

Mr. STEFANINI (France) (interpretation from French): The French delegation joined the consensus on draft resolution A/C.1/44/L.70, on the strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region. However, we would like to stress the following points.

(Mr. Stefanini, France)

France regrets that the consultations on the draft resolution, which deals with a subject to which we attach great importance, began late and for that reason it was not possible to come up with a fully satisfactory text, in spite of the praiseworthy efforts of the Maltese delegation. The argument produced by the sponsors of the draft resolution that some of its elements should remain intact because they had been the subject of consensus in the past is not acceptable to France. The recent work of the First Committee on certain draft resolutions, including the one presented by France, demonstrated that the Committee is capable of adapting texts to reality, particularly when they had evolved favourably. Consultations on the draft resolution sometimes made it appear that the search for consensus was being undertaken in an unbalanced and unilateral manner. The position of certain groups of States had to be reflected and any disagreement was adjudged unacceptable. Thus, the final text of the draft resolution contains many elements with which France cannot agree.

The wording of the sixth preambular paragraph is unbalanced: it refers to "recent activities in the Mediterranean and the danger they create for peace, security and general equilibrium in the region", while other activities, less recent, have not been mentioned.

Operative paragraph 1 enumerates in a selective and arbitrary way certain principles of the United Nations Charter, omitting in particular that of legitimate self-defence. Also, the expression "relevant resolutions", on the basis of which crises and conflicts are to be settled, would appear to embrace resolutions of the General Assembly that are definitely irrelevant.

Further, operative paragraph 2 should have been merged with the ninth preambular paragraph, which it duplicates.

France hopes that these comments will be duly taken into account at the next session of the First Committee.

Mr. ALPMAN (Turkey): I would like to explain my delegation's position on draft resolution A/C.1/44/L.70, entitled "Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region", which the First Committee has just adopted.

As in previous years, my delegation joined the consensus in the adoption of that draft resolution. That is an expression of our keen interest in the maintenance and strengthening of peace and security in the entire Mediterranean region. We agree with the view that there exists a link between the security of the Mediterranean and that of Europe. That must be borne in mind, and security in the Mediterranean should not be dealt with in isolation, without full account being taken of the strategic realities of the continent.

At the same time, the establishment of greater security and stability in Europe would have positive implications for the Mediterranean basin. Another means of reinforcing security in the Mediterranean is confidence-building through bilateral and multilateral co-operative projects in the fields of commerce, industry, technology, tourism, environment, transportation, and so on. Such a co-operative approach would create a climate conducive to the settlement of political problems and security issues.

The draft resolution we have just adopted refers to documents adopted at meetings in which Turkey did not participate. I would like to place on record that Turkey's participation in the adoption of that draft resolution should not be construed as our agreement with every element contained in the documents adopted at those meetings.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee has thus completed its work on agenda item 71.

We shall now proceed to take a decision on draft resolution A/C.1/44/L.71/Rev.1, entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security". The draft resolution, which was submitted under agenda item 72, has 14 co-sponsors and was introduced by the representative of Yugoslavia at today's meeting.

I call on the Secretary of the Committee to read out the list of sponsors of the draft resolution.

Mr. KHERADI (Secretary of the First Committee): The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/44/L.71/Rev.1 are: Algeria, Bangladesh, Cuba, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Pakistan, Romania, Sri Lanka, Uganda and Yugoslavia.

The CHAIRMAN: A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia

Against: United States of America

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Draft resolution A/C.1/44/L.71/Rev.1 was adopted by 98 votes to 1, with 23 abstentions.\*

The CHAIRMAN: I shall now call on delegations wishing to explain their vote.

Ms. CLERICI (United States of America): Despite modifications that have been made to this year's draft resolution A/C.1/44/L.71/Rev.1, under agenda item 72, the United States finds that it must again vote against the draft resolution on the review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security.

The United States believes that this resolution inadequately takes into account the far-reaching changes that have taken place in the international sphere in recent years, changes which have not been limited to one region nor have they taken place on a single level of international relations.

This draft retains simplistic and outmoded concepts which do not correspond to either the realities or the real challenges of today's world. For example, we note that operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution discusses concepts which have already been modified and accepted in their new form by the United Nations.

In addition to the problem of the overall approach, the United States believes that there are several inaccuracies in this text. For instance, the language in

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\* Subsequently the delegations of Uganda, Zaire and Zimbabwe advised the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.

(Ms. Clerici, United States)

the sixth paragraph of the preamble suggests that the INF Treaty would lead to the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. The INF Treaty nowhere creates such an expectation; rather, it talks about the strengthening of strategic stability, a concept which assumes the continued existence of nuclear deterrence. Misleading references, intentional or otherwise, to important arms control treaties do a disservice to the entire arms control effort.

The developing world suffers from very real economic problems; however, these problems deserve to be treated as serious economic issues, not security issues of dubious legitimacy. Moreover, there is the real danger that mixing economic and strategic metaphors will only divert us from the search for viable solutions to both of these vital areas.

Likewise, the United States does not accept the presumed link between disarmament and development assistance as stated in the seventh preambular paragraph. Disarmament and development are distinct issues which should be considered on their own merits.

Finally, the United States also believes that the assertion in this draft resolution that the economic situation in the vast majority of developing countries has deteriorated is both misleading and unnecessarily pessimistic; although it is true that some developing countries experienced particular, and in a few cases severe, difficulties in the 1980s, other countries, especially in Asia, experienced rapid economic growth. The evidence shows that some of those developing countries which undertook market-oriented economic reforms or adapted to changing international realities improved their economic growth, increased their food production and had higher exports.

Mr. DA COSTA E SILVA (Brazil): The Brazilian delegation has voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.1/44/L.71/Rev.1, entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security" and has consistently done so on past resolutions on the question. While we fully endorse the main objective of the draft just adopted, we would have preferred for certain new ideas and concepts included in the draft to have been more thoroughly discussed among interested delegations and their relation to item 72 to have been clearly elucidated.

In this context, while fully sharing the concerns expressed in the text on the question of the environment, my delegation understands that the concept of interdependence of interests in the sixteenth preambular paragraph and the reference to it in operative paragraph 12 are ill placed and, if the concept were to be included as a valid assertion, it would have to be further clarified.

The same applies to the notion of balanced development in the thirteenth preambular paragraph. Furthermore, we have difficulty in understanding the meaning of the words "structural adjustments" in the fourteenth preambular paragraph, where they appear improperly applied and out of context.

Mr. SHA Zukang (People's Republic of China) (interpretation from Chinese): The Chinese delegation voted in favour of the draft resolution entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security" contained in document A/C.1/44/L.71/Rev.1 because we endorse the main objectives of the draft and believe that the adoption of this draft resolution will be conducive to the strengthening of international security.

None the less, the Chinese delegation has its own understanding of the ninth preambular paragraph of this draft. This paragraph mentions support for the successful resolution of hotbeds of crises irrespective of their historical or

(Mr. Sha Zukang, People's  
Republic of China)

contemporary causes. We believe that hotbeds of crises do have their historical and contemporary causes, and that therefore, in seeking to resolve the issues behind the hotbeds of crises, the relevant historical and contemporary causes should be taken into account and addressed.

The CHAIRMAN: We have thus concluded our consideration of agenda item 72.

The meeting rose at 11.20 a.m.