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FIRST COMMITTEE  
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held on  
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at 11 a.m.  
New York

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 35TH MEETING

Chairman: Mr. HEPBURN (Bahamas)

CONTENTS

DISARMAMENT ITEMS

AGENDA ITEMS 30 TO 45, 120 AND 121 (continued)

Statements were made by:

Mr. Marinescu (Romania)  
Mr. Anderson (Australia)  
Mr. Fernando (Sri Lanka)  
Mr. Mihajlovic (Yugoslavia)  
Mr. Pearson (Canada)

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

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The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m.

AGENDA ITEMS 30 TO 45, 120 AND 121 (continued)

Mr. MARINESCU (Romania) (interpretation from French): One problem that is of serious concern in the modern world is the continued increase in military expenditures, the alarming dimensions which these have reached, and the adverse effects of that phenomenon on the efforts of people engaged in development, and on the peace and security of the world.

Although the United Nations long ago recognized the harmful trends and consequences of the growth of military expenditures, and despite the fact that over the years constructive proposals have been made to arrest the trend, we know that debates in depth to bring that about have not been held to date.

The draft resolution prepared by Austria, Indonesia, Nigeria, Peru, Rwanda, Senegal, Sweden and Romania, contained in document A/C.1/34/L.24, which I have the honour to introduce to the Committee, is intended to initiate a process of freezing and reducing military expenditures, duly taking into account previous proposals and actions in this field.

The draft resolution refers to the assessment in the Final Document of the special session devoted to disarmament, to the effect that a gradual reduction of military budgets on a mutually agreed basis, for example, in absolute figures or in terms of percentage points, particularly by nuclear-weapon States and other militarily significant States would be a measure that would contribute to the curbing of the arms race and would increase the possibilities of reallocation of resources now being used for military purposes to economic and social development, particularly for the benefit of the developing countries.

The draft also recalls the decision taken by the General Assembly at its special session to continue to consider what concrete steps should be taken to facilitate the reduction of military budgets, and reaffirms the view that it is possible to achieve reductions in military budgets without affecting the military balance to the detriment of the national security of any State.

(Mr. Marinescu, Romania)

The preamble of the draft then refers to the activity carried out within the framework of the United Nations on the subject of military budgets and the concern felt on this topic. In the light of these considerations and the provisions of the Final Document of the special session, the draft resolution, in operative paragraph 1 expresses the conviction that a new impetus should be given to endeavours to achieve agreements to freeze, reduce or otherwise restrain in a balanced manner military expenditures, including adequate measures of verification satisfactory to all the parties concerned.

To this end, it is requested in the next paragraph that in 1980 the Disarmament Commission should undertake to examine and identify effective ways and means of achieving such agreements. I wish to recall in this connexion that the question of the reduction of military budgets is already on the agendas of the Disarmament Commission and the Committee on Disarmament, and that the draft to which I am referring simply highlights the urgent aspects of action to be undertaken in this field.

Since, as I have said, there is a consensus on the desirability of the measures included in the draft resolution - consensus that finds expression in the Final Document of the special session - and in order to create favourable conditions for the action envisaged in the draft, paragraph 3 appeals to States, and in particular to the most heavily armed States, pending the conclusion of agreements on the reduction of military expenditures, to exercise self-restraint in their military expenditures and to reallocate the funds thus saved to economic and social development, particularly for the benefit of developing countries.

Lastly, the draft advocates that the General Assembly at its next session should consider ways and means of adopting practical measures in this field. This should be done under the item to be included on the agenda of the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly in conformity with resolution 33/67 which was adopted last year. The General Assembly also would be seized of a report of the Disarmament Commission.

The nature of the draft resolution and the objectives which it pursues, including the procedure that it envisages, lead us to hope that it will command a wide measure of support among the members of the Committee.

Mr. ANDERSON (Australia): I should like to address the Committee on agenda item 39 - the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean, contained in document A/34/29.

The primary task assigned to the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean this year was the preparation for the Meeting of Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean. The work carried out by the Ad Hoc Committee in this regard was commendable. There were a number of difficult problems to resolve, but the Committee's common objective of eventually achieving the implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, coupled with an encouraging demonstration of a willingness to compromise, enabled the preparatory work to be completed successfully.

On the other hand, the results of the Meeting of Littoral and Hinterland States were, in the view of the Australian delegation, only partially satisfactory. Australia was unable to accept the Final Document of that meeting, which could not in consequence be adopted by consensus.

The aim of the Australian delegation at the Meeting of Littoral and Hinterland States had been to work for an outcome which would have provided the first of a series of realistic and widely accepted steps towards the eventual realization of the Indian Ocean peace zone. The Final Document did not, however, in the view of Australia, meet these requirements, and it contained important elements which were unacceptable to the Australian Government. Although harmonization was reached on a number of issues, the over-all results demonstrated that there are still fundamental differences to be resolved among the States of the Indian Ocean region before a conference can be held. We, are, however, hopeful that with the continuing goodwill of the States involved, these outstanding differences can eventually be overcome.

I turn now to the draft resolution contained in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee. The Australian delegation supports both parts A and B of the draft resolution. Part A does, we believe, reflect the views of the member States of the Ad Hoc Committee and the results of its sessions this year as well as those of the Meeting of Littoral and Hinterland States.

The second part of the draft resolution, or part B, relates to the expansion of the Ad Hoc Committee and the convening of a conference for the implementation

(Mr. Anderson, Australia)

of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace as contained in General Assembly resolution 2832 (XXVI). We consider both these elements to be inseparable and we strongly support the comments of the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee, Ambassador Fernando, in his statement introducing the report of that body. He noted in that statement that the participation of the permanent members of the Security Council and of the major maritime users, and the conclusion of the preparatory work, are necessary conditions for a conference to take place in 1981. In addition, the Australian delegation takes the position that before preparatory work for a conference can commence it will be necessary for the permanent members of the Security Council and the major maritime users to participate in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee, and thereby in its work as a preparatory committee. With this in mind, we urge those States to take up the invitation to serve on the expanded Ad Hoc Committee.

In concluding, it is my pleasure to express, on behalf of my delegation, our warm appreciation of the excellent chairmanship of Ambassador Fernando. We are sure that members of the Ad Hoc Committee share our recognition that the progress that has been made to date is, to a large degree, the result of his skilful and understanding guidance. Ambassador Fernando's continued chairmanship of the Ad Hoc Committee will, we are confident, eventually lead the Committee to a successful conclusion.

In addition, I should like to extend the Australian delegation's thanks to the Secretary of the Ad Hoc Committee, Mr. Kheradi, and to the members of his staff for their considerable contribution to the work of the Committee.

Mr. FERNANDO (Sri Lanka): It is my pleasure and privilege to introduce, as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference, the report of the Ad Hoc Committee to the First Committee. The report, as contained in document A/34/28, has been prepared in fulfilment of the mandate entrusted to the Ad Hoc Committee in resolution 33/69 of 14 December 1978.

At the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee this year, the representative of Iran informed the Committee that Iran did not wish to continue to hold the

(Mr. Fernando, Sri Lanka)

chairmanship and recommended me to be the new Chairman. I should emphasize, as I did when assuming that function, that I regard the unanimous support of the members of the Ad Hoc Committee as a great honour to Sri Lanka, the country I represent, and appreciate deeply the confidence thus placed in me. Consequently, I have made the utmost efforts to ensure the successful work of the Ad Hoc Committee.

Before turning to the contents of this year's report, I should like to outline certain procedural aspects of the Committee's work.

By its resolution 33/69, the General Assembly requested the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference to maintain close contact with the representatives of the States possessing nuclear weapons, in order to remain currently informed of their attitudes, as well as with all other States, and to consider any relevant comments and observations which might be made to the Committee, especially having in mind paragraph 122 of the Final Document of the tenth special session (resolution A/S-10/2). It also requested the Committee to submit a report to the Assembly at its thirty-fourth session.

In accordance with this mandate, the Ad Hoc Committee held two sessions in 1979. During the first session, it held two meetings on 10 and 11 April 1979, and during the second session three plenary meetings were held between 10 and 14 September 1979.

In pursuance of the decision taken at the first session to entrust its open-ended Working Group with the task of drafting the report of the Ad Hoc Committee to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session, the Working Group initiated its work on 12 September 1979 and met three times during 12 and 13 September 1979 under the very able chairmanship of the Ad Hoc Committee's Rapporteur, Mr. Fermin Zelada of Spain. Mutual understanding and dedication among the members of the Working Group led to the submission of a draft report to the Ad Hoc Committee, and made it possible for the Ad Hoc Committee to adopt the present report by consensus at its final meeting on 14 September 1979. On this occasion, I should like to acknowledge gratefully the important contribution made by Mr. Zelada and his colleagues in the Working Group.

(Mr. Fernando, Sri Lanka)

The composition of the Ad Hoc Committee remained unchanged and, as in previous years, of the five nuclear Powers, France, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland participated in the Ad Hoc Committee's work, while China and the United States of America maintained contact with the Ad Hoc Committee through me as Chairman.

(Mr. Fernando, Sri Lanka)

As regards the content of the Ad Hoc Committee's report, it will be noticed that it is composed, as was the previous one, of three chapters:

1. Introduction; 2. Work of the Ad Hoc Committee; 3. Conclusions and recommendations; and an annex containing excerpts from statements in the general debate of the Ad Hoc Committee.

The first chapter refers to the mandate entrusted to the Ad Hoc Committee, its composition, its elected officers and the members of the Working Group.

It may be observed in the second chapter that the report outlines the organization of work for the two sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee in 1979. It also indicates that the Ad Hoc Committee was conscious of the fact that the idea of holding a world disarmament conference had been subject to consideration in other forums, such as the Disarmament Commission meeting held in May/June 1979, the second summit meeting between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States held in June in Vienna and the Sixth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries held in September in Havana.

As reflected in the second chapter, in compliance with its mandate the Ad Hoc Committee continued to maintain, through me as Chairman, close contacts with the representatives of States possessing nuclear weapons in order to remain informed of their respective attitudes. Information regarding those contacts was provided by me to the members of the Ad Hoc Committee during the second session and is included in the report.

In the final chapter which contains the conclusions of the report, the Ad Hoc Committee expressed the view that having regard for the important requirements of a world disarmament conference to be convened at the earliest appropriate time, with universal participation and with adequate preparation, the General Assembly might wish to decide that after its second special session devoted to disarmament, a world disarmament conference would take place as soon as the necessary consensus on its convening had been reached. The Ad Hoc Committee also expressed the view that the General Assembly might wish to renew the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee and to request it to continue to maintain close contact with the representatives of the States possessing nuclear weapons in order to remain informed of their attitudes, as well as with all other States and to consider any relevant comments and observations which might be made to the Committee.

I wish to emphasize that this conclusion of the report was the product of delicate negotiations among all the delegations concerned.



(Mr. Fernando, Sri Lanka)

In commending this report as the result of joint efforts and a realistic and balanced approach by the Ad Hoc Committee, I trust that the General Assembly will consider the problems involved in a spirit of co-operation and will seek a most constructive solution to the question.

May I also take this opportunity to introduce the draft resolution on the world disarmament conference, contained in document A/C.1/34/L.22. This resolution follows the format and contents of resolution 33/69 adopted by the General Assembly last year. The only new element is operative paragraph 1, which notes with satisfaction that in its report to the General Assembly, the Ad Hoc Committee stated that having regard for the important requirements of a world disarmament conference to be convened at the earliest appropriate time, with universal participation and with adequate preparation, the General Assembly may wish to decide that, after its second special session devoted to disarmament, a world disarmament conference would take place as soon as the necessary consensus on its convening had been reached. This new operative paragraph merely notes with satisfaction paragraph 15 of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee which was adopted unanimously by the Committee. I am introducing this draft resolution on behalf of Burundi, Peru, Poland, Spain and Sri Lanka, who are the members of the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Committee. I would urge you to give your widest support to this resolution.

Finally, I wish to commend and thank every member of the Ad Hoc Committee for their very invaluable efforts in discharging the work of the Committee. I also wish to express, on behalf of the Committee, our deep appreciation of the untiring and effective work of the Secretary and of the other officers of the Secretariat who served the Ad Hoc Committee.

Mr. MIHAJLOVIC (Yugoslavia): I have the honour to introduce on behalf of its sponsors - Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Cuba, Cyprus, Egypt, Ghana, Guyana, Indonesia, Jamaica, Nigeria, Peru, Romania, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Venezuela, Zaire and Yugoslavia - draft resolution A/C.1/34/L.15.

In our opinion the debate in the First Committee this year has been mostly oriented towards the review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted at the tenth special session of the General Assembly. This is understandable in view of the importance of the recommendations and decisions adopted by that session as well as in the light of the great interest manifested by the States Members of the United Nations that concrete results should be

(Mr. Mihajlovic, Yugoslavia)

achieved in the field of disarmament as soon as possible.

Under this item of the agenda, the First Committee is considering several reports submitted by the Secretary-General, as well as the reports of the Committee on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission. Separate resolutions dealing directly with the subject matter have been submitted with regard to various sub-items within that context.

The draft resolution that I have the honour to introduce is concerned with the over-all implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session.

Although of a general character, this draft resolution, in the opinion of its sponsors, contains all the relevant elements to be taken into consideration when dealing with item 42 of the agenda.

In its preamble, the draft resolution expresses, inter alia, satisfaction over the fact that the tenth special session greatly stimulated the involvement of all countries and set in motion a number of new initiatives in the field of disarmament. At the same time it notes with satisfaction that some initial results in the implementation of the recommendations and decisions of the tenth special session have been achieved, primarily in the field of active involvement of the United Nations and in a considerable revitalization of its multilateral disarmament machinery. With respect to the role of the United Nations I wish to point to the usefulness, for future negotiations and a better understanding of disarmament problems, of the following six studies which are under way: a comprehensive study on nuclear weapons; international reporting on military expenditures; the relationship between disarmament and development; the relationship between disarmament and international security; the technical, legal and financial implications of establishing an international satellite monitoring agency; and all aspects of regional disarmament.

Bearing in mind that the arms race, especially the nuclear one, continues to cause an alarming increase in expenditure on armaments, that negotiations on priority tasks in the field of disarmament have not yielded concrete results and that negotiations on a number of issues dealt with at the tenth special session have not yet started, the draft, in its operative part, expresses its deep concern over the continued arms race, nuclear as well as conventional, and over constantly growing military budgets which bear negative consequences and are a growing threat to international peace and security and also for the unhampered development of countries, particularly developing countries.

(Mr. Mihajlovic, Yugoslavia)

In order to encourage the undertaking of urgent measures aimed at ensuring the implementation of the decisions and recommendations endorsed by Member States in the Final Document of the tenth special session of the General Assembly, the draft resolution, in its operative paragraph 2, urgently calls upon all States, in particular nuclear-weapon States, and other major military Powers, to undertake immediately steps leading to effective halting and reversing of the arms race and for disarmament. In view of the fact that negotiations on disarmament are currently going on in the Committee on Disarmament, as well as on a bilateral, regional or multilateral basis outside the framework of the United Nations, the aforementioned call also embodies the demand that States should make every effort to bring to a successful end the negotiations which are currently going on in the Committee on Disarmament on effective international agreements according to the priorities of the Programme of Action and to resume or undertake as soon as possible negotiations on a bilateral, regional or multilateral basis on measures which have been agreed unanimously at the tenth special session.

(Mr. Mihaajlovic, Yugoslavia)

Bearing in mind also the implications for international peace and security of negotiations conducted outside the framework of the United Nations, operative paragraph 3 invites all States which are engaged in bilateral, regional or multilateral disarmament or arms limitation negotiations outside the United Nations framework to keep the General Assembly informed on a regular basis of the results of such negotiations.

The draft resolution also contains a paragraph whereby the General Assembly would decide to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-fifth session an item entitled "Implementation of the recommendations and decisions of the tenth special session".

In conclusion, I wish to express the hope of the sponsors that the draft resolution will meet with the unanimous support of the members of the Committee and that it will be adopted by consensus.

Mr. PEARSON (Canada): I am pleased to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/34/L.25, entitled "Prohibition of the production of fissionable material for weapons purposes", on behalf of the delegations of Australia, Austria, Denmark, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Romania, Sweden and my own delegation.

The draft resolution recalls resolution 33/91 H, adopted at the thirty-third session, which Canada also introduced. The purpose of the present draft resolution is basically the same as that of last year, namely, to request the Committee on Disarmament to consider this question at an appropriate stage of its work. The Committee on Disarmament did exchange views on this subject in 1979 during its discussion of nuclear disarmament, and we acknowledge with gratitude the points and suggestions made by a number of delegations. But the Committee was not able actually to take up the specific question of the prohibition of production of fissionable material for weapons purposes, given its other priorities. We believe the question is even more urgent and important, now that another year has passed without any real progress, except for the signature of SALT, in halting the nuclear arms race.

(Mr. Pearson, Canada)

I draw particular attention to the fourth and fifth preambular paragraphs of this draft resolution. The fourth paragraph deals with the effects of this measure on the so-called vertical dimension of the nuclear arms race. It points to the objective of actually reducing stocks of fissionable materials for weapons by transferring them to peaceful uses. This can eventually lead to a reduction in nuclear weapons if such transfers are progressively implemented. Of course, the rate of conversion of stocks and the amounts to be transferred by each nuclear-weapons State would be the subject of negotiation to ensure equitable treatment for all.

The fifth preambular paragraph draws attention to the so-called horizontal dimension of the acquisition of nuclear weapons. A multilateral treaty under which both nuclear and non-nuclear-weapons States would accept the same obligations, including safeguards, would have the advantage of equity of treatment of both categories of States, in addition to helping advance the objective of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

In conclusion, we believe this subject is worth considering on its merits. Of course, it is linked to nuclear disarmament, but we cannot and should not wait for agreement on a programme of nuclear disarmament before taking steps such as this. The decision to negotiate other partial measures, such as a comprehensive test ban, was not made dependent on such a general agreement. Moreover, as I have said, we interpret this measure as a disarmament measure, and we so commend it to the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: As no other representative wishes to speak at this time, I should like to announce the following additional sponsors of draft resolutions: A/C.1/34/L.5/Rev.1, Algeria, Peru and Uruguay; A/C.1/34/L.16, Gambia; A/C.1/34/L.17, Cuba; A/C.1/34/L.21, Peru; A/C.1/34/L.18, Peru and Qatar; A/C.1/34/L.19, Madagascar.

## ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The CHAIRMAN: The General Committee met this morning in order to discuss the progress of the work of the session to date. The several Chairmen of the Committees made statements, and while some indicated a need for additional meetings and for some measures in order to complete their work on time, I had the pleasure of assuring the President of the General Assembly, that as a result of your kind co-operation and support, the First Committee would be able to adhere to the deadline set for the conclusion of our Committee's work and, thus, the work of the current session. Consequently, I should like to advise representatives of the decision of the Bureau regarding the organization of the remainder of the work of this Committee.

As representatives will remember, the Bureau had not set any deadlines for the submission of draft resolutions on item 46, "Implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security", item 122, "Settlement by peaceful means of disputes between States", and item 126, "Inadmissibility of the policy of hegemonism in international relations".

The Bureau has now agreed that the deadline for the submission of draft resolutions on item 46 should be Monday, 3 December, at 6 p.m., and on items 122 and 126, Monday, 26 November, at 6 p.m. I would point out, however, that if drafts under items 46 and 126 should have financial implications they would have to be submitted earlier in order to allow time for a decision by the Fifth Committee.

The Bureau is confident that the meetings lost in this Committee have not at all impaired the smooth progress of our work. However, once again I would appeal to representatives to inscribe their names without delay if they wish to make statements on draft resolutions already introduced, and also to submit any new draft resolutions as soon as possible.

(The Chairman)

The next date on which voting will take place, after tomorrow, is Wednesday, 21 November, when the Committee hopes to take action on draft resolutions A/C.1/34/L.2, L.4, L.12, L.13, L.14, L.15, L.16, L.17, L.19, L.20 and L.21. Sponsors may give notice, however, of any others that may be ready for action on that date.

If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee agrees to the proposal made by the Bureau.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: Our next meeting will be held tomorrow at 10.30 a.m., when the Committee will take action on draft resolutions A/C.1/34/L.5/Rev.1, L.7, L.10, L.11 and L.18.

Immediately after the conclusion of this morning's meeting there will be a meeting of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/34/L.18 on the Disarmament Decade. The sponsors of that draft resolution are: Egypt, Jamaica, Kenya, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Romania, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Yugoslavia, Ethiopia, Ghana, the Philippines, Norway, Ireland and India.

Mr. ADENIJI (Nigeria): Mr. Chairman, in the course of your announcement with regard to the voting you mentioned that a decision on draft resolution A/C.1/34/L.19 would be taken on 21 November, but yesterday I indicated on behalf of the co-sponsors that it would be possible to take a decision on that draft resolution tomorrow.

The CHAIRMAN: I have learned that draft resolution A/C.1/34/L.19 has financial implications, and is therefore not ready at this stage. That is why the voting on it has been postponed until 21 November.

The meeting rose at 11.55 a.m.