

UNITED NATIONS  
**General Assembly**  
FORTY-FIFTH SESSION  
*Official Records*

FIRST COMMITTEE  
21st meeting  
held on  
Monday, 29 October 1990  
at 3 p.m.  
New York

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 21st MEETING

Chairman: Mr. **RANA** . (Nepal)  
later: Mr. **MARTYNOV** (**Byelorussian** Soviet  
Socialist Republic)

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General debate on all disarmament agenda items

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**Distr. GENERAL**  
**A/C.1/45/PV.21**  
2 November 1990  
ENGLISH

90-63130 2596V (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

AGENDA **ITEMS 45** TO 66 AND 155 (continued)

GENERAL **DEBATE ON ALL DISARMAMENT** AGENDA **ITEMS**

Mr. PEREZ VILLANUEVA (Spain) (interpretation from Spanish): Allow me first, Sir, to congratulate you on your election to the chairmanship of the First Committee. I am sure that under your expert and skilful leadership we shall make progress along the tortuous and difficult path of disarmament.

I should like also to express my sincere gratitude to Ambassador Taylhardat of **Venezuela** for the magnificent job he did last year.

A few days ago Ambassador **Negrotto** of Italy made a speech on behalf of the 12 member States of the European **Community**; my delegation of course supports that speech in its entirety. Nevertheless, I should like to set forth in greater detail my Government's position on some specific issues on our agenda to which we attach Particular importance.

Over the past few months rapid and drastic changes have been *taking place* on **Europe's political scene**. These are having radical and beneficial effects on relations between the two great blocs, **which** have confronted each other ever since the end of **the** Second World War from opposing ideological positions, now left behind. The immediate consequences of this new state of affairs are, first, **German** reunification, which once more my *country* acclaims, as it has from the first *in* other forums; and, secondly, the appearance on the scene of a new climate which has already begun to bear fruit in the area of security and disarmament.

My delegation very much hopes and expects that **this** new climate will contribute to accelerating the pace of our **work**, enabling us to advance towards a more **secure** and stable world in **which national** security will **be** achieved through lower levels of force and weapons, only **those** needed to maintain the capability to **ensure** adequate defence being retained,

(Mr. Perea Villanueva, Spain)

**However,** this encouraging outlook has been overshadowed and threatened by Iraq's aggression against Kuwait, which constitutes a **flagrant** violation of international law and which the international **community** and the United Nations have swiftly, emphatically and energetically condemned.

The United Nations in general and the First **Committee** in particular should play an essential role in the area of multilateral **disarmament** and must therefore be strengthened to **improve** their effectiveness. As long ago as last year my delegation asked other delegations to spare no effort in rationalising the work of the **Committee**, seeking through flexibility and pragmatism the consensus needed to achieve specific results. **The** United Nations must not miss this historic **opportunity and** must play an increasingly important role in the area of disarmament.

(Mr. Perez Villanueva, Spain)

The political events and changes that have taken place in Europe since last autumn are particularly important. In this framework the forthcoming Paris summit of Heads of State or Government of the countries participating in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) and the signing on that occasion of a historic treaty on conventional disarmament in Europe will throw wide open the door to the twenty-first century, creating a climate of peace, security and co-operation on the European continent. We hope that similar efforts will be made in other regions of the world as well, thus enabling us to make headway in the building of a safer and more peaceful world.

**In** this area of conventional disarmament, confidence- and security-building measures should play a fundamental role. **Therefore** Spain, aware of the need to strengthen the role of the United Nations in this area, believes that all nations should agree to **exchange**, at the appropriate time and within the framework of this Organisation, detailed data on their military structures, so as to dissipate any mistrust and lay a solid foundation for negotiations on conventional disarmament.

Similarly, my Government supports the conclusion of the negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union on a substantial reduction in their **strategic** nuclear **arsenals**, and the beginning, after the signing of the treaty on conventional disarmament in Europe, of negotiations between the two countries on the reduction of short-range nuclear forces. We support unreservedly a realistic approach that will make it possible gradually to reduce nuclear testing with a view to its prohibition in the future. In this context, we welcome the fact that the United States and the Soviet Union have been able to arrive at an agreement that makes possible the ratification of the Treaty on nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes and the threshold test-ban Treaty. My delegation hopes that the agreement will lead to progress **in** this **area**.

(Mr. Perez Villanueva, Spain)

Proliferation in all its aspects constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. My delegation believes that the non-proliferation policy must be based on three essential pillars: the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the non-proliferation of chemical weapons, and control of the technology that can be used in the manufacture of missiles for launching such weapons.

The mandatory periodical Review Conference of the non-proliferation Treaty provided for in its basic text met recently in Geneva.

In this connection my country, together with many others, believes that the horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons has, with a few exceptions, been , satisfactorily prevented. Therefore, one of the primary objectives of the Treaty is being achieved in a reasonably effective way and this, combined with the new international climate, will undoubtedly lead to the indefinite extension of the Treaty beyond 1995.

The Conference emphasised new and positive elements, on which there was an encouraging consensus, while general acceptance of the objectives of the Treaty and general satisfaction with the way it was operating were manifest.

However , the foregoing was not summed up in a final document and, although this does not totally diminish the validity of those elements, the results of the Review Conference did not correspond to the reality of the current status of the Treaty and the degree of compliance with the commitments made; nor did they reflect the real, verifiable, historic advances in nuclear disarmament over the past few years.

For the Conference to deal exclusively with the disarmament aspects of the Treaty and give them priority over all other aspects, while at the same time imposing a linkage between the extension of the Treaty beyond its expiration date

(Mr. Perez Villanueva, Spain)

and the cessation of nuclear testing here and now, not only was unrealistic and impractical but also prevented the adoption of a final document.

The very serious **risk** of the proliferation of chemical weapons and their possible **use must** lead **us** to reflect on this threat hanging **over mankind**. My delegation firmly believes that this danger must be averted by the rapid conclusion and entry into force of the convention on the total, comprehensive prohibition of chemical weapons.

The third pillar of non-proliferation is **control** of the technology for **missiles capable** of launching **these weapons**. All **members** are aware, Spain participate with another group of countries in the missile technology control **regime**, whose aim is specifically to avoid proliferation without hindering the transfer of technology that could be used **for peaceful purposes**. We hope that this **regime** will be strengthened by enlarged membership, thus making the established controls more **effective**.

I have left until last an issue to which my country attaches the greatest **importance**: the operation and enlargement of the Geneva Conference on **Disarmament**. For **some** years Spain has defended the **need** for the work of the **Conference to meet** the world's **expectations** of it. For **some** years also **Spain** has **asked that** the **problems** which are paralysing efforts to ensure enlargement of the Conference be resolved. The changes in Europe **are**, in our judgement, the sword **that** can cut the **Gordian** knot that has caused the obstruction. The ending of **tensions** between **East** and **West** and the **unification** of Germany, **resulting** in a vacant **seat** at the Conference, should lead **us** to reconsider the premises upon which the **envisaged** enlargement **was** based. Therefore, it **is legitimate** to consider not only **whether the** enlargement **of the** Conference on **Disarmament** can continue to be **based on the system** of co-optation used until now, but **also** whether, if that system **is retained**, the **same** rules will continue to be viable.

(Mr. Peres Villanueva, Spain)

In conclusion, Spain hopes that the enlargement and the admission of new members will take place as soon as possible, and that, if it is considered appropriate, the seat formerly occupied by the German Democratic Republic will be filled. In this context I should like to remind the Committee of Spain's application for membership of the Conference and participation in its work as a full member.

Mr. KHAMSY (Lao People's Democratic Republic) (interpretation from French): On behalf of the delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic I should like to congratulate you warmly, Sir, on your unanimous election to the chairmanship of this important Committee. You represent a country and a people with which we, the Lao people, have for centuries shared intellectual kinship and aspiration to universal peace. We also wish to congratulate the other members of the Bureau.

The profound, rapid change in the concept of the world and the perception of relations among States occurring on the international scene during the last 12 months convinced us that our world was moving inexorably towards détente and co-operation, that all disputes between States could henceforth be settled by peaceful means, free of ideological rivalries, and that armed conflicts and wars could be avoided by efforts to achieve mutual understanding and negotiations. The rapprochement and co-operation between the two super-Powers, the Soviet Union and the United States, in the spheres of disarmament and of international security made it possible to end the cold war, which had divided the world into two rival blocs for more than 40 years and at one point almost plunged it into a nuclear war. The international community could not but welcome and rejoice at this new shift in the situation, which promised to lead to the establishment of a new international order in a world that henceforth would be non-violent and free from nuclear weapons.

**(Mr. Khamsy, Lao People's  
Democratic Party)**

It would have been too good to be true if, at the **dawn** of the third **millenium**, the advent of the Persian Gulf crisis **had** not come along to remind us of the still-very-fragile nature of the situation in which we live. The brutal annexation of an independent State by a neighbouring country that is more powerful and better **armed**, the **consequent concentration** in the region of foreign **troops** and the most modern and sophisticated armaments, and the threat of the use there of weapons of mass destruction could at any moment ignite the powder keg and trigger a general conflagration, whose disastrous *consequences* would certainly transcend the borders of **that** region,

Given this explosive situation, which is likely to obtain in the future in other **regions** as well, the issue of general and complete disarmament has therefore **become** one of the most urgent problems **and**, in my view, **the** entire **international community** should deal with it with all the intensity **and** earnestness it deserves.

To be sure, the **question** of disarmament has been debated from the very first **months** of the founding of our universal Organisation, with the emergence of nuclear weapons on the international chessboard, and since then a **large number of** resolutions and **decisions** have been adopted by various bodies of the United Nations **system**\* **However, it** has not proved possible to formulate effective measures to meet **the** need to establish norms and levels of weapons necessary for defence and the security of States without giving them the capability of *engaging* in large-scale **offensive operations**.

**In** this connection we greatly appreciate the policy of military transparency adopted by the Soviet Union, a policy which, **if** followed by the other military Powers, will enormously facilitate our **Organization's** task. On the other hand, **we** welcome the decision also **taken** by the Soviet Union in **1988** to **proceed** to a



**(Mr. Khamsy, Lao People's  
Democratic Party)**

significant unilateral reduction of its **military** forces and armaments, in particular **tanks**, artillery pieces and combat aircraft. All these decisions testify to the determination and great responsibility of that country, whose new military doctrine, drawn up and **adopted** in 1987, is relevantly based on the principle of the **maintenance** of a reasonable level of **armaments** sufficient to ensure its defence. We hope that the other military Powers in the world will be in a position to follow this valuable example in order to give the Disarmament **Commission's work** the renewed impetus that could gradually lead to **its** long-awaited **success**.

These unilateral disarmament measures which I have just noted should be encouraged and supported and given the same weight as negotiations or agreements at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels. For all pro-disarmament **initiatives** and enterprises, both nuclear and conventional, complement and have repercussions on each other while **working** towards one and the **same goal**: general **and** complete disarmament.

To revert to bilateral negotiations, in particular those **between** the **Soviet Union and the United States** - the **two** most militarily powerful States in the world - the international **community** is unanimous **in** recognising the importance of the progress **made** since the signing of the Treaty on the **Elimination** of Intermediate-Range and **Shorter-Range** Missiles - INF Treaty - in December 1987, making possible the **systematic** destruction of their land-based intermediate-range nuclear missiles. At the last Soviet-United States **summit**, in **Helsinki**, the **two countries** once again affirmed their intention to try to sign, at the **end of this** year or at the **beginning** of next year, the **START** agreement, which should provide for a 35 per **cent** reduction in their strategic **nuclear-weapon** arsenals **and** should have a favourable impact **on** multilateral **disarmament** work in other sectors.

(Mr. Khamsy, Lao People's  
Democratic Party)

We are particularly pleased with the agreement on chemical weapons signed between the two countries during the Washington summit early last June. That agreement, which - in addition to providing for the destruction, starting at the end of 1992, of the greater part of their declared stockpiles - envisages, in particular, on-site inspection and verification and a commitment to stop producing these weapons once the agreement enters into force and - the most significant element in the present context of the Gulf crisis - expresses their common determination to step up multilateral negotiations to finish preparing as soon as possible the draft international convention on a complete and final ban on these weapons. Their joint declaration on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, issued at the same time, marks another important step on the path to nuclear disarmament, although at the Fourth Review Conference on the non-proliferation Treaty held recently in Geneva, no final declaration could be adopted owing to the lack of political will on the part of certain nuclear States, to the great regret of the majority of Member States.

As far as conventional disarmament is concerned, it is encouraging to note that, thanks to the intensive changes that have taken place over the last few months in Europe, work within the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe has advanced to the point where we can now foresee that at the next summit conference to be held in Paris three weeks hence the leaders of the 34 member States will be able to conclude a final agreement on major reductions of their troops and weapons, in particular those of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and the Warsaw Pact, from the Atlantic to the Urals. That agreement will be all the more important since it will mark the end of four decades of East-West military confrontation and the establishment of a new political order on that

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continent. Certain circles, however, are expressing concern that the weapons thus jettisoned, including large quantities of tanks, armoured vehicles, artillery pieces, helicopters, combat aircraft and other light arms, may subsequently freely find **their** way to third-world countries, given the lack of international regulation of the transfer of **weapons**, and thus become instruments of **destabilization**, tension and confrontation in those countries. **The** Lao People's Democratic Republic, a small country with meagre resources, fully shares this concern.

Along the same lines, my delegation again expresses its opposition to the **maintenance** of military bases, the installation of arms and munitions storage facilities, and the carrying out of military manoeuvres by certain Powers beyond the **boundaries** of *their own* territory. All these measures, which can lead to conflicts between States, should be carefully studied by the Disarmament **Commission** and banned in the same manner as the other forms of the **arms** race.

**The** United Nations, through the First Committee and the Disarmament **Commission**, is the most appropriate, the supreme body to tackle and solve the problem of general **and** complete disarmament. But **if** work in this area is to yield **results**, it **is** important **for all States**, large and small, to adhere scrupulously to the principle of the non-use or threat of use of **force** in international **relations**, as provided in the Charter of our **Organization**. It is on the basis of strict respect for this principle that my country, the Lao **People's** Democratic Republic, intends to **join** to **the extent** of its **possibilities** in the international **community's** efforts in this enormously difficult **and** complex task of disarmament,

**The CHAIRMAN:** I now call on the representative of Indonesia, Ambassador **Nana** Sutresna who, in his capacity as current Chairman of the Disarmament Commission, will introduce the report of the Commission.

**Mr. SUTRESNA** (Indonesia), Chairman of the Disarmament Commission: **In my capacity** as the current Chairman of the United Nations Disarmament Commission, I have the honour to introduce the report of the Commission on its 1990 session, document **A/45/42**. As in previous years, the report consists of four chapters and annexes. the result of the Commission's deliberations **on** the various disarmament subjects on its agenda during the 1990 substantive session. In particular, chapter IV contains conclusions and recommendations which duly reflect the status of deliberations on **disarmament** issues that the Commission achieved in May this year.

As in previous years, the 1990 session was organised in accordance with the mandate of the Disarmament Commission set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to **disarmament** and in the guidelines set by the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh and forty-fourth sessions in resolutions **37/78 B** and 441119 C, in which the **Commission** was requested to direct its attention at each substantive session to specific **subjects and** to make every effort to achieve concrete **recommendations** on such subjects to the General Assembly at its subsequent session. After arduous deliberations during its 1990 substantive session, the concrete recommendations **made by the** Commission to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session have been adopted by consensus, as noted in paragraph 28 of the report. Those recommendations were adopted either by each of the four working groups and a contact group or by the consultation groups, which took charge of the respective substantive items of the agenda. It should be pointed out that during this **session**

**(Mr. Sutresna, Chairman,  
Disarmament Commission)**

the Commission was requested to deal with seven substantive items on its agenda. Among them, one was a new item, namely, "Objective information on military matters".

In this connection, I am happy to state that during the year the Commission was able to conclude all substantive agenda items except the new one, The Commission adopted texts by consensus on items regarding the question of South Africa's nuclear capability, the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament, conventional disarmament **and** the draft Declaration of the 1990s as the Third Disarmament Decade. Considerable progress was also made on the item regarding naval armaments **and** disarmament. The findings and **recommendations** on the subject *were* endorsed by all participants in the consultations.

In giving a general assessment of the work of the **Commission** I consider that success has been achieved at the 1990 session with co-operation, flexibility and a spirit of compromise *being* demonstrated by all member States. The item regarding the **arms** race **and** nuclear disarmament was generally considered to be the most difficult one on the agenda. Under that item, the Commission was required practically to formulate a mini-comprehensive programme of disarmament. At this juncture, it is not surprising that the **Commission** was not able to adopt a consensus text on the subject. The recently announced agreement in principle between the Soviet Union and the United States at the summit meeting in June this year **on** the negotiations for a reduction **in** strategic nuclear weapons was only part of the **issue** and could not provide a substantive impetus to the multilateral **negotiating** process on the issue of nuclear disarmament. Other aspects of the **issue** were duly reflected in the Fourth Review Conference of Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons held in August and September this year.

During past **years**, many members of the Commission pointed out that the **Commission** should limit the number of items on its agenda in order to **devote** its

**(Mr. Sutresna, ~~Chairman~~,  
Disarmament Commission)**

maximum effort to a few items on which the chances for success are better than on other items. Last year many delegations made specific proposals in this regard. It was true that some of these subjects under consideration had been maintained on the agenda of the Commission for many years with no conclusions, though it was duly acknowledged that the lack of favourable international conditions in the past had contributed to such an outcome. In this connection, under its able Chairman, Ambassador Bagbeni Nsengeya of Zaire, the Commission was able to formulate a set of **"ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission"**, set out in the **annex** to resolution **44/119 C**. This reform **programme** was formally adopted by the Commission at the substantive session this year.

With respect to the organisation of work of the Commission in 1990, it was gratifying to note that despite some difficulties on the question of establishing a subsidiary body for the new agenda item, the Commission was free from procedural and **organizational** problems on the question of the equitable distribution of the chairmanship among subsidiary bodies and the duration of the session. In this regard I believe that some of the pre-session consultations were extremely useful **and** contributed greatly to the smooth organisation of the work of the Commission this year. **The** adequate arrangement of meetings also improved the utilisation of conference resources at the 1990 substantive **session**. I am convinced that appropriate consultations among delegations with the assistance of the Department for Disarmament Affairs would facilitate the work of the Commission in **future**, bearing in mind the adopted reform programme of "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission.\*\*

Finally, I should not fail to express my gratitude to all delegations for their understanding and for their business-like manner of conducting the work of the Commission this year with a view to fulfilling the task entrusted to it by the

**(Mr. Sutresna, Chairman,  
Disarmament Commission)**

General Assembly. A special tribute should be paid to the officers of the Commission, in particular the Rapporteur, Mrs. Liberata Mulsumula of the United Republic of **Tanzania** and the Chairmen of the various *working groups*, contact group and consultation groups, **namely**, Mr. Sergei **Martynov** of the **Byelorussian** Soviet Socialist Republic, you, yourself, Mr. Chairman, Ambassador Roberto Garcia **Moritan** of Argentina, Ambassador Sergio de Queiros Duarte of **Brazil**, Ambassador Nugroho Wisnumurti of Indonesia, Ambassador Skjold **Mellbin** of Denmark, Ambassador **Emek** Ayo Asikiwe of Nigeria, and Ambassador Peter **Hohenfellner** of Austria, for their co-operation and assistance. On behalf of the **Commission** I should also express thanks to the Department for Disarmament Affairs for **the** valuable assistance provided to the **Commission**, particularly by the Under-Secretary-General for **Disarmament** Affairs, Mr. **Yasushi** Akashi, and the Secretary of the **Disarmament** Commission, Mr. **Lin Kuo-Chung**, as well as by their colleagues serving as secretaries of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission. On behalf of the **Commission** I extend my great appreciation to *other* members of the Secretariat *who* assisted the Commission in carrying out its task.

I now have the honour to present the **annual** report of the United Nations Disarmament Commission, document A/45/42.

Mr. JAYA (Brunei Darussalam): At the outset, Sir, I wish to extend my very warm congratulations, and those of my delegation, on your election as Chairman of the First Committee. I am delighted to see you, the Ambassador of your country, Nepal, with which Brunei Darussalam enjoys warm and friendly relations, chairing the work of this important Committee. We are confident **of** the success of our work under your guidance. I wish to extend my congratulations, too, to the other officers of the Committee, whose dedication has contributed to the work of the Committee.

Our meeting today is held against a background of significant changes that are transforming the global, political, and economic landscape. These **changes** have set in motion new trends towards peace **and** reconciliation throughout most regions of the world, with inter-State relations among the community of nations entering a new peaceful dimension.

As stated by my Foreign Minister during the general debate, such peaceful trends must be seen from a comprehensive global perspective, rather than from the viewpoint of one **or** two regions only. The global **détente** should enable us to address the question of the accumulation of weaponry and the peaceful settlement **of** disputes.

It is crucial that we not simply accept the phenomenon of arms acquisition as **an** inevitable feature **of** inter-State activity since it is often the deep-seated cause of protracted **armed** hostilities. Unless the problem of arms reduction is addressed, the prospect of a comprehensive peace - the global peace and stability we all seek - may exist only in localised situations.

The situation in the Gulf is clearly an indication **of** the fragility **of** the new peaceful global order. The unabated **transfer of** arms to the region during the **Iran-Iraq** conflict has raised the capabilities of countries in the **region** to engage in a devastating war. It is one of the tragic ironies of the arms transfer



**(Mr. Jaya, Brunei Darussalam)**

industry that one is now confronting weapons of **mass** destruction of **one's** own creation.

As I noted earlier, **we** have witnessed changes in the conduct of inter-State relations. We have been encouraged by the co-operation shown by the **super-Powers** in seeking to resolve complex international matters. **As** a result of such positive attitudes, and given the support of all **nations**, the **United Nations**, and especially this Committee, is in a position to play a more influential role in discussions on **disarmament**. Such a United Nations role is, **we** feel, critical **if** past failures are to **be** avoided, as nations attempt to secure actual arms reductions, effective controls and guarantees for the non-proliferation **of** nuclear weapons.

We **believe** that preventing such failures calls for the active involvement of **the United Nations** and **the** observance **of** its Charter by all **Member States**, together with a commitment to bilateral and regional **disarmament** dialogues in **consonance** with United Nations efforts.

We hope that the **improved** international climate will bring **renewed** efforts **on** the part of **all** countries to pursue faithfully the goals of **disarmament**. **The disappearance of** East-West tension has lessened the quest for military **superiority**, and this, **we** hope, can be translated into actual **arms** reduction. This **trend** so far **seems to be** confined only **to the East-West** context. **Meanwhile**, the accumulation **of arms** in the rest **of** the world, especially in **the third world**, continues. By their actions **it appears** that many third-world countries **are** now engaged in **an arms** race of their own\*. This is a reflection of the underlying problems which characterize **the** political landscape of the third-world nations. **The** situation is **being compounded by the** contradiction created by the need **for solutions** to problems of

**(Mr. Jaya, Brunei Darussalam)**

**underdevelopment in** the third-world **countries on the one** hand, and the **need** for these countries to obtain **more** weapons on the other.<sup>8</sup>

✓ **Evidence Of this** can be seen in the continued proliferation and intensification of the **arms race**, much of which is **due** to the sense of insecurity of countries as to other countries' intentions and **respect** for international law. This has contributed to the constant **accumulation of** existing weapons - conventional and nuclear - as **well as** to the development of new ones.

Each **State** has **the** right to **unthreatened security**. We hope **that, given the** present **international détente**, confidence-building measures **can** now **be** actively **undertaken**. We thus **welcomed the** convening of a regional **meeting on confidence-building measures** in the Asia-Pacific **region held in Kathmandu** earlier this year as an important step towards building sturdier relations devoid of suspicion and mistrust. **The** opportunity that now presents itself to forge a new world order that is not tied to **the size and capabilities of any country's weaponry** must not **be** lost.

**The** United States and **the** Soviet Union have **led the** way. **The signing of the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles - the INF Treaty -** in 1988 was a landmark achievement towards arms limitation. We hope that this **can be followed by** a similar **success in the strategic arms** reduction talks (START). At **their** June meeting this year both **the** Soviet and United States **leaders reaffirmed their determination to have the treaty on the reduction and limitation of strategic offensive arms completed and ready for signature by the end of this year**. We hope that **this Treaty will achieve what it seeks to accomplish -**

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\* Mr. Martynov (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

(Mr. Java, Brunei Darussalam)

a reduction of the risk of **the** outbreak of **nuclear** war and the **strengthening** of peace **and** international security. **We** are also of the View **that** if **we** are **committed** to halting **the** arms race and controlling **the** qualitative **development** of **weapons** of **mass** destruction, **we** have to address seriously the question of a **comprehensive** test-ban treaty. **We** regret that the Fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons did not achieve **conensus** on the **relationship** between nuclear testing and **the** non-proliferation **régime**. **We** had hoped that, with the growing concern about **the** proliferation of nuclear **weapons**, **the** international **community**, **particularly** countries with nuclear power, would **be** **equally** disposed to a comprehensive test-ban treaty. It is only logical to ban nuclear testing if **we** do not want nuclear **weapons** to **be** continually **developed**. **We** **urge the re-establishment** of the **Ad Hoc Committee** at **the** 1991 **session** to **pursue negotiations** towards a comprehensive test ban.

**We** are **equally** concerned that despite the 1925 **Geneva** Convention the **use** and threat of **the** use of chemical weapons continue to **be** a feature in **regional** conflicts. All necessary efforts must continue to **be** made in order to strengthen **the** existing Convention on **chemical weapons**. To this **end**, **we** welcome the **United States-Soviet agreement** at **their June summit meeting** to destroy their **chemical-weapon** stocks. **We** hope all countries that possess such weapons will take **similar measures**.

**As my Foreign Minister** noted at the General Assembly, **hostilities** that lead to an escalation of the arms race cannot be satisfactorily **addressed unless** the **causes germane** to **the** conflict are also examined. Whether the causes are political in nature or **whether they** lie in **the** economic, social and environmental problems **experienced** by **many nations**, they provide the prescription for hostility **and** set the stage for **armed** conflict.

(Mr. Java. Brunei Darussalam)

Therefore, as **we seek** ways to address directly **the** question of arms reduction, a concurrent effort to **remove fundamental** threats to world peace must be **undertaken**. Only **then** will the lofty goals enshrined in the preamble of **our** Charter **be** attainable.

Mr. MUJICA CANTELAR (Cuba) (interpretation from **Spanish**): My delegation is most pleased **that** Mr. **Rana** is presiding over **the work** Of our **Committee**. We see this as a well-deserved tribute to his diplomatic **skills** and **experience** and a reaffirmation of the fact **that, in** our **Organization and in disarmament** matters, **all** countries **can make** a contribution that must be taken into account, regardless of **their geographical size** or **their economic** or military power.

We also congratulate the other members of **the** Bureau, and **assure** them that **we** are fully prepared to co-operate with them **as** they carry out their **duties**. We are certain that they will spare no effort to **ensure the success** of our work.

Everyone is aware that the political environment in which our **work is** being carried out has evolved, particularly as compared with **past** ~~eeee~~ione.

**The** trend towards **the peaceful solution to regional dispute** ~~that seems to~~ be emerging, **the** profound changes that have taken place in Eastern **Europe**, the continued **improvement** in relations **between the** Soviet Union and the United States, which **are** now moving on a path of greater understanding and co-operation and, **thus**, **the** enhanced climate **of détente** in **the** European continent - all are **signs** of the **new times**.

All of this must, **of course**, have an influence on our **work**. **Some**, including our Committee, are of the view that the cold war is over. While **respecting** that view, we think that, although steps have **been** taken which, **we hope**, will lead to **the** elimination of that **dark period**, we must say frankly **and** with **the** greatest **humility** that it is not yet **time to** applaud **the disappearance** Of **that** period. Suffice it to recall that, among the actions **that** characterised the dawn of that **post-war** period, Hiroshima and Nagasaki **were** victims of **bombings with a type** of weapon of **mass** extermination, which led to the start **of the nuclear era, and now**,

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over 45 years later, after unceasing warfare, we have **not yet been able to** eliminate the threat of nuclear **war** and there exist more sophisticated and **technologically** advanced weapons than those unleashed on the Japanese cities.

Moreover, **while the** cold war was marked mainly by military and ideological confrontation **between East and West, at first** concentrated primarily on **the** European continent - where the Soviet Union emerged from ruins after paying a **tremendous** price for **its** struggle against fascism - the scope of this confrontation broadened beyond Europe and took **root** in destructive policies in other wide-ranging **and** far-reaching regions of **the** world, including Asia where, for example, there is still an artificial division of **the** Korean peninsula, and Latin America and **the** Caribbean, **where Cuba, after almost three decades,** is still subjected to **the** blind and indiscriminate cold-war policy of the very empire that gave the world this disastrous brain-child that has done and continues to do so much damage to our **peoples.**

**It** is, **therefore,** not enough for relations between **the** Soviet Union and the United States to improve and **for** relations among European countries to **become** more **harmonious,** rather than tense, although we certainly welcome such a development. But **beyond** that, **there** is **need** for **even more** radical change in **mentalities,** *approaches* and actions in international life.

**Is there** any difference **between destabilizing** efforts, interference in the internal affairs of other States - including the use **of** subversive **and** illegal broadcasts **against independent** countries - violations of sovereignty, acts of aggression and **attempts** to use hunger **as** a weapon and to impoverish peoples? These are measures which, in the past, **were** taken against some **countries** in **Europe,** and which are now being implemented against many third-world **countries in** Asia, Africa and Latin America that only **ask** for fair treatment and **respect** for **their desire** to

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live in peace and to proceed with their own development and economic and social well-being.

Perhaps **we** no longer have the **cold** war, but there are still billions being **spent** on designing new, more deadly **and** sophisticated weapons, even though we have seen that, **immoral** as it may be, as we come **to** the end of the twentieth century, there are tens **of** millions of persons, particularly children, who are dying **of** hunger **or** as the result of disease **and** epidemics, **for** which science has developed **very cheap, effective cures.**

Perhaps what is happening is not the cold war, even though those who have the scientific and financial resources to save those lives have **not** done **so.**

Is it not a cold war when the economies of third-world **countries** are allowed to be bled to death and millions of their inhabitants are condemned to live in **misery** and **when day by day they** are increasingly stifled by incessant **demands** to settle the **external** debts in the billions **for** which they are not responsible?

Is it also not **a** cold **war** when we **see** disarmament agreements being signed between **the** nuclear Powers but there are still coercive, large-scale military **manoeuvres being** carried out **close** to independent, **sovereign countries** with the **aim** of flaunting military superiority **to** threaten and intimidate peoples?

Unfortunately, we **cannot** subscribe to the supposition that the **period** of the cold war, with all its **adverse** effects on mankind, has already been left behind.

While we welcome the **encouraging** changes that have **been taking place internationally,** we think **that hastening** to declare **the** post-cold-war era is nothing short of underestimating reality and ignoring the voices of **many peoples in various regions** also calling for an end to cold war and other **types** that affect their potential to **achieve** the just and noble **peace** to **which** they **aspire.**

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As has been recognised, the greatest threat to mankind is nuclear weapons. While preventing **the** outbreak **of** nuclear war **is** a task of the highest priority, the best guarantee that these weapons will not be used and that the human race can be preserved is the total elimination of such weapons.

The bilateral agreement between the Soviet Union and the United States on **the** elimination of their intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles, which is currently being **implemented**, will very shortly lead to the possibility of eliminating one type of nuclear weapon, even though this represents but a slight decrease in existing capabilities for annihilation.

The agreement recently signed and ratified at the **summit** between the leaders of **the** Soviet Union and the United States **with** respect to the intent to sign, early next year, an agreement on the elimination of part **of** their strategic stockpiles will, no doubt, mark **another significant** step towards the reduction **of** nuclear weapons.

**Our** delegation welcomes all **the** progress achieved to date, and we trust in the adoption **of** future agreements on strategic **and** other types of nuclear weapons.

**However**, while **the** threat of nuclear holocaust has been removed somewhat, and nuclear weapons have been reduced to some extent, mankind is still hostage to the Possibility **that** such weapons will be used. Consequently, we cannot falter in our just demand for the prohibition **and** total elimination of such weapons.

In the Secretary-General's report on the comprehensive study on nuclear weapons by **a group** of experts under the chairmanship **of** Ambassador **Theorin** - which we **commend** - it is clear that in 1990 there remain some 50,000 nuclear warheads deployed throughout the world and the aggregate explosive power of current nuclear arsenals is in the region of 13,000 million tons **of TNT**, or 1 million times the **explosive energy** **of** the **Hiroshima** atomic bomb.



**(Mr. Mujica Cantelar, Cuba)**

It would appear that the experts have not managed to reach agreement on a matter that seems to have been dealt with rather briefly but which we none the less consider very **important**. I am referring here to the relative **and** constant development and improvement **of** nuclear weapons and their modernisation through continued application of scientific and technological progress. That responsibility falls to the nuclear Powers, including the two main nuclear Powers, and contributes constantly to the continuation of the nuclear arms race and to the so-called vertical proliferation **of** nuclear weapons.

We cannot overlook the constant demand and claims **of the** international community, **including** our own Organisation, for a definitive and total end to nuclear testing. It is really astonishing that even today, after the failure of the recent **Fourth** Review Conference of the non-proliferation Treaty, there are some delegations that take the liberty **of defying** the international **community** and try even in our **Committee** to convince us that nuclear-weapons testing must be continued if they are to retain their credibility and power as a nuclear deterrent.

The delegation **of** Cuba, convinced **of the** justice **of** the position of the group of delegations **that, headed** by Mexico, has taken the initiative of convening an amendment conference on the partial test-ban Treaty, fully supports that demand and trusts that the Conference, to be convened early next year, will be a new milestone in the efforts to bring about a total test **ban** and elimination ~~of~~ nuclear weapons.

Similarly, we **are** in favour of strengthening the activities of **the Conference** on Disarmament, thus avoiding the situation in which, after several years of inactivity, it was only possible to re-establish the **Ad Hoc Committee** on a **Nuclear-Test** Ban in the final stages of the work of this current **year**, and even so with a very limited mandate, with barely the possibility of **recommending** its **immediate** re-establishment at the start of next **January's** session of the Conference,

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The struggle against the problems of drugs, crime and the deterioration **of** the **environment** are issues that have more recently emerged as tranenational problems with global repercussions. While not denying the intrinsic merit **of** those issues and the need to find solutions to them, **some** have suggested that they **be** given priority that would lead to their being included among the issues to be studied and considered by the Security Council, which would thus extend the area of competence of that United Nations body.

We must ask ourselves once again if the question of a complete and total **ban** is something that affects all countries. **Is** it not a question of **transnational** character and global impact with which we have been dealing for many years? It has consequences for the survival of mankind, inasmuch as it cannot be separated from the question of nuclear weapons, and should it not therefore be dealt **with** and considered as a matter of greater priority than any other topic that is pressed upon us as a matter of priority?

Another matter that merits attention among the issues before us is that of **chemical** weapons. Despite continued appeals by the General Assembly **for** the earliest possible conclusion **of** a convention banning chemical weapons, and despite the efforts made, it has not yet been possible to conclude work to that **end**. A number of issues remain to be resolved, and they require more political will than technical skill.

Our delegation, which urges the earliest possible conclusion of a convention banning the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons, as well as a start to the destruction of that type of weapon and its production facilities, will continue to work actively for a universal, non-discriminatory **convention** that would establish equal rights *for* all parties and would not impede the development **of** the chemical **industry** or **international co-operation in the** peaceful use of that resource.

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In its **statement** last July, the Group of non-aligned and neutral countries of **the** Conference **on** Disarmament, after noting the bilateral agreement between the Soviet Union and the United States on the destruction and non-production of their **chemical** weapons, **expressed regret** at **the fact** that the **revisions** proposed by **those** countries to the draft multilateral **convention** will have negative **effects** because, inter alia, they postponed a decision on **the** total elimination of chemical weapons and imposed certain conditions, extending rights to States based on the possession of chemical weapons and creating a situation of legal uncertainty with respect to the scope and **implementation** of the **multilateral** convention. The Group also stressed its view that **the final** goal should be a convention that would be non-discriminatory and have universal support.

The **delegation** of Cuba, as stated in the declaration **of** the Group of 21, is of the view that total destruction of all chemical weapons and their production facilities should be unconditional and decided on as of the conclusion of the convention itself, as **stated** in the present draft convention. **We** also reiterate our position that the most effective means of preventing the dissemination of such weapons lies solely in a total and complete ban on them. We must therefore state **our** disagreement with **the** approach **aimed** at setting up partial measures in the so-called chemical-weapons non-proliferation **régime**.

I turn now to other topical matters such as conventional disarmament. After years of **efforts**, the **most recent** meeting of the **Disarmament Commission** managed to **conclude** its study of that matter, adopting a document by **consensus** that set out the principles to be observed for the adoption of measures in that **area**. Our delegation welcomes the **outcome** of the work achieved, **even** though we would **have** preferred a **more intensive treatment** of the question of qualitative **improvement** and application of **the** most modern technologies to **conventional weapons**.

**(Mr. Mujica Cantelar, Cuba)**

**For** the delegation of Cuba, **conventional disarmament is an important component** of general and complete disarmament in which we cannot overlook the progress that is being made in nuclear disarmament, which is of the greatest priority. In recognising the particular responsibility of the nuclear **Powers** and States with the largest military arsenals, as well as the need **to meet defence** requirements in keeping with the defence of **sovereignty and** territorial integrity without a reduction in security, our delegation notes that it is **necessary** to put an end to acts of **aggression**, interference and intervention in **the** internal affairs of States so as to bring about an atmosphere that would enable all States to participate in that process.

Some delegations have stressed **the** appropriateness and necessity of adopting **conventional** disarmament measures at the regional level; some have **even** given it **great** priority. Earlier studies by the United Nations itself offer **elements** requiring serious analysis, but the European experience no doubt offers a more objective view of such measures. particularly when, just a few days from our **debate**, in **the** context of **the** summit meeting of **the** Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (**CSCE**), which is to take place *in* Paris, **the** first agreement will be **signed** on conventional disarmament in Europe, **We welcome** that **event**, as it will no doubt have positive repercussions for international peace and security.

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A matter of extreme importance, as has already been recognised, is the **need** to take into **account the** specific characteristic8 of the region and to secure the participation of all States concerned and **ensure** that their views are taken into account.

Recent **events** in **Europe** have created conditions conducive to the negotiation of dia**armament** measures, which will be given concrete form in the very near future. Taking into account the characteristics of that continent, where the two world wars began and developed and **where** attitudes and positions of mistrust **led** to **the** setting up of the two major military alliances, it is not **surprising** that the **most** sophisticated weapons and arsenals anywhere on the planet are to be found **there.**

While the negotiating exercise in Europe and **the** measure8 that will b8 adopted are welcome and give us **cause** for congratulation, there is no doubt that **each** region or continent *has* its own special peculiarities and characteristics. In **other regions** and continents account must be taken in seeking the desire& goal of peace of **such things** as non-military threats to security. Consideration should also be given to the history of interference of a political nature, military aggression and other types of interference by Powers acting in a regional context, **quite** apart from those which are geographically outside that framework.

Consequently it is **essential** that these Powers be invited to accept commitments **with** respect to convention81 **disarmament** that will eliminate the possibility of using aggression against **other** countries **or** in any way threatening **their** security, territorial integrity, **sovereignty** and independence. It is also essential that those Powers' stockpiles of **conventional weapons** be reduced to the **level** necessary for their **defence.**

I cannot conclude my **statement** without referring **briefly to the question of** the **so-called** rationalisation of **the work of the First Committee.** For **some time**

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our **Committee**, adopting a practical approach, has sought to rationalise its work in the best possible way. We do not object to continued efforts to determine how best to proceed with our work, confident that this will result from **the efforts** and contributions of all, provided this is done without sacrificing the basic objectives and priorities of our work. There may be areas in which it is possible to merge, or **perhaps even** reduce, texts, but we should not be discouraged or criticise our **own** approaches if, when there are divergent positions, **we** cannot come **up** with a **common** text, or if we have to **resort** to voting where it **is** not possible to achieve a **consensus**.

Mr. NULL (Liberia): Permit me at the **outset**, on behalf of **the** Liberian delegation, to extend to Mr. **Rana** of Nepal warmest congratulations on his unanimous election as Chairman of the First **Committee**. **The** wealth of experience that he brings to this post assures us that the work of our **Committee** will be successfully **completed** under his able leadership. **Our** congratulations go also to the other officers of the Committee.

Since the last session of **the General Assembly** the international political **environment** has continued to undergo significant changes. The cold war has come to an end and **the ideological** confrontation **between** East and West has been replaced by **a new era** of peace and co-operation. The growing rapprochement between the United States and the Soviet Union has enabled them to **achieve** some progress on important **agreements** in the various fields of disarmament,

These **developments** have had a particularly significant impact on Europe - the **continent** with the largest concentration of armaments. As a result, new initiatives **are** being taken to conclude a treaty on conventional **armed** forces in Europe, and **negotiations** within the **framework** of the **Conference** on security and **Co-operation** in Europe (**CSCE**) are making substantial progress.

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These positive developments, however, have not ensured a **durable** peace, as son8 seemingly intractable problems in **other regions** continue to pose a serious threat to international peace and security. **The unresolved** conflicts **in the** Middle **East**, Asia, Central America and Africa have heightened the **need** for a **sustained** United Nations **role** in finding a **permanent solution** to these problems.

The unfortunate civil war in my country, Liberia, which has been raging for **the** past 10 months, has resulted in massive loss of human **life** and destruction of property. For various **reasons**, including **the perceived internal nature** of **the** conflict, **this** human **tragedy** has not, so far, received the attention **it deserves** **from** the international community.

In this post-cold-war era, **it is** likely that there will be a **proliferation** of **such conflicts** and that **the United Nations** will be expected to play a more **decisive** **role** in resolving them, especially those civil conflicts that result in widespread bloodshed. If **the United Nations** is to be true to its obligations under **the** Charter it cannot afford to be **seen** as adopting a stratified **system** in its emphasis on conflict resolution.

**Since the first** session of **the General Assembly**, in 1946, it has **been** **recognized** that **general and complete disarmament** involves both **nuclear** and non-nuclear **weapons**, especially with respect to their **destablizing** effects at **the** regional **level** when arsenals are increased and **new weapons** are introduced.

It is **estimated** that **over the** last **45 years more than** 200 conventional wars or limited **wars** have been fought, **resulting** in **over 20** million **deaths** and the destruction of **billions of dollars'** worth of property. Indeed, **it could be argued** that such wars continue to pose an **immediate threat** to **international peace** and security, since **no** nuclear war **has been fought** since the end of the **Second World** War, **Instead**, **limited wars** have increasingly broken out, especially in regions of the **developing world**. **These** wars **have left in their wake** a cycle of violence,

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**death** and widespread underdevelopmeat. My delegation therefore welcomes the study on the transfer of arms **being** undertaken under the auspices **of** the United Nations. However, it is necessary that **the** production and sale of **arms also** be addressed. The compilation of such data will help to ensure transparency, and that will contribute to disarmament efforts.

Of **equal** importance, in **my** delegation's view, is the concomitant need to encourage **the** producers of conventional weapons to identify **non-lethal** items for production. But this will require that the Government<sup>8</sup> in the **arms-producing** countries provide the producers with **the necessary** incentives and assistance to make the substitution. In the final analysis, the political will of the countries that produce **arms** will be **required** if arms **reduction** is to be realised.

**The** restriction of arm<sup>8</sup> transfers to parties in conflict or to **areas** of tension could facilitate **the** process of the regional initiative<sup>8</sup> and other **confidence-building** measures **that** are **so** vital to the peaceful resolution of conflicts. **This** is particularly true in the case of the Liberian civil war, **in which many** thousands **have** died as a result of the **use of** conventional armaments imported from abroad or supplied by countries within the region.



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In **this** connection, the Liberian delegation **wishes to associate itself** with other delegations which have advocated that, in addition to the multilateral approach, regional approaches to **disarmament should also be strengthened**. It is also necessary that urgent measures to restrict international arms transfers should be **identified**. We share the view expressed by the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze in his letter to the Secretary-General Javier Peres de Cuellar that the limitation of international sale and transfers of **conventional weapons** could be achieved by making full use of the authority of, the **United Nations**.

In my delegation's view, chemical weapons, like conventional **armaments**, also pose an **immediate** threat to global peace and security **because** of some **countries'** propensity to use these weapons. My delegation wishes to join in **the** appeal that all States involved in the negotiations for the conclusion of a convention on the complete prohibition of chemical **weapons** should set aside their differences and act for the **common good of mankind**. If only there could be a greater awareness that all nations and peoples have a **common** destiny, there would be a greater willingness to **act for that common good**.

**One** of the best hopes for nuclear disarmament **is** the implementation of a comprehensive test-ban treaty. It is a source of considerable regret that some nuclear-weapon States continue to pay lip service to appeals for this treaty to be concluded, yet meanwhile continue to conduct nuclear **tests** in pursuit of **their** perceived **national interests**. It **should be clear** that in **our interdependent** world this **attitude encourages** nuclear **proliferation and further endangers international** peace and security. It **is to be hoped** that the amendment Conference scheduled for January 1991 will **result in the conclusion** of the **comprehensive test-ban** treaty which **is so vital to efforts towards nuclear disarmament**.

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The international **community** has become increasingly aware that the **disequilibrium** in the global **economy**, **environmental** degradation and other social ills also pose threats to international peace **and** security. An effective plan **of action** encompassing strategies at the national, regional and global levels must be **implemented** in order to address these problems.

The present relaxation of tension between the super-Powers has enhanced the climate of peace **and** co-operation, and should lead to a reduction in global **armaments** and **armed forces**. As noted during the United **Nations** special session on **disarmament** in 1988, the savings to be derived **from** disarmament could be used for **development programmes**, to improve the **environment** and **ameliorate** other social ills, particularly in the developing world. This peace dividend, so called, could **have a profound impact** on **development** trends in the 1990s and **beyond**, and could also improve the **quality** of life in developing **countries** and elsewhere.

The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free **zones** and **zones** of peace could make a meaningful contribution to **disarmament**. Since 1964 African States have called for the denuclearisation of Africa. **However, this** objective has been thwarted by South **Africa's continued** development of its nuclear capability and **expansion** of its **military** arsenal in an **attempt** to preserve its abhorrent **apartheid** policy. We wish to call once again upon all countries, and in particular the major military **Powers** and all **suppliers** of nuclear technology, to terminate their **collaboration** with South Africa in the military and nuclear **fields**.

**My** delegation **has taken keen** note of the **reports** and **recommendations** of the **United Nations Disarmament Commission** on South Africa's nuclear capability. It is **to be hoped** that the South African **Government's** vow to institute **fundamental** reforms **there** leading to a **non-racial**, democratic society will be **demonstrated** not only by words but by **deeds as** well. We therefore join with **other** delegations in

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calling upon that **régime** to accede to international instruments on non-proliferation and nuclear-weapon tests, **as** this would facilitate the **denuclearization** of the African continent and indicate South Africa's preparedness to identify with one of Africa's legitimate aspirations.

**While** we **note** that the arms race on the ground is declining, we are as much concerned about the-growing militarisation of outer space **and** the concomitant competition between the technologically advanced nations for military advantage. Outer space is the **common** heritage of **mankind**; hence, **innovation** in method **of** **exploring** that last frontier should focus on peaceful purposes. In the area **of** **disarmament**, scientific knowledge would better *serve mankind* by ensuring verification of, and **compliance** with, agreements reached on arms reductions. The Liberian delegation therefore believes that the work on this matter carried out by the Conference on **Disarmament must** receive the full co-operation and encouragement of those nations that have made headlong **advances** in the exploitation of outer space, for it is with **their** support that the benefits of outer space will be shared by mankind.

**The Liberian** delegation attaches the utmost importance to **enhancing** the **central** role of the United **Nations** in the field of **disarmament**. As a developing country with no military **ambition beyond** its borders, Liberia has relied on the **United Nations** to maintain international peace and security and to ensure that the security of one country is not pursued at the **expense** of other countries. That **is** why **my** country has continued to look to this world body for help in ending the Liberian crisis, which has broad implications **for** regional and international peace **and security**.

(Mr. Bull, Liberia)

It is our firm belief that a constructive process of confidence-building, dialogue and transparency in the security field can contribute not only to resolving the present conflict we are facing, but in laying a strong foundation for a viable long-term arrangement to ensure stability and peaceful inter-State relations in our region.

Finally, the Liberian delegation wishes to register its appreciation of, and satisfaction with, the excellent activities of the Department of Disarmament Affairs under the able leadership of Mr. Akashi, Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs. We look forward to a continued, good working relationship.

The Biblical injunction in Chapter 2, verse 4 of the Book of Isaiah states:

"And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more".

These words have constituted the very foundation of the United Nations and the noble objective on which it has set its sights: the development of a peaceful world order in which all nations would work together for the common good, without fear of war because they have not only renounced war but converted their weapons to peaceful uses. This objective may seem idealistic, but God's words are true. My delegation believes that we are obligated to work for the achievement of this goal, not only for ourselves but for generations yet unborn.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I shall now call on any representatives who wish to speak in exercise of the right of reply. Before doing so, I remind representatives that the Committee will follow the procedures that were outlined at the last meeting.

**Mr. JERANDI** (Tunisia) (interpretation from Arabic): In exercise of the right of reply, I should like to reply to the contention by the representative of Israel in replying to the statement made by my delegation on 24 October. The Israeli contention was that to address the question of Palestine or deal with the policy of aggression and expansion pursued by Israel is a waste of this Committee's time and a digression from its agenda, since the Security Council is seized of those matters.

Does anyone need reminding that the First Committee deals similarly with issues of security and disarmament? Can any fair-minded person argue that Israel's intransigent colonialist and arbitrary policy and its objectives and practices of aggression and expansion in the Arab region are anything but a serious threat to the Middle East? A threat indeed that far exceeds the boundaries of that region since other remote countries, such as Tunisia, have not been safe from repeated Israeli aggression?

The fact of the matter **is** that the Tunisian delegation, in its statement, dealt solely with the points that **are** relevant to the work and concerns of this Committee, namely, security in **the** world. On the other hand, Israeli policy continues to be a cause **of** the arms race in the region in a way that no other **region** of the world has **ever** experienced. Can the production and stockpiling of nuclear weapons by Israel be outside the scope **of** this Committee's work in the area of disarmament, especially when Israel continues to refuse to accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and to place its nuclear installations under the safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (**IAEA**)? The answer is no, if we avoid selectivity. Israel has categorically and consistently refused to abide

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by any law or convention by which the entire international community abides. As for the Israeli representative's contention that what is taking place in the occupied Arab territories and in Al-Quds are matters before the Security Council, we all know that Israel's posture has always been a continued refusal to comply with any Security Council resolution. It is the only State Member of the United Nations that openly declares its rejection of any Security Council resolution, just exactly as it has rejected the recent Security Council resolution 672 (1990) and thereby violated Article 25 of the Charter.

That is sufficient to demonstrate that my delegation has not gone beyond the agenda of our Committee and has not wasted our Committee's time. The reply of the Israeli representative once again is simply another episode in the series of impediments that Israel continues to put in the way of the United Nations to prevent the **Organization** from discharging its responsibilities towards the Palestinian people and the maintenance of peace and security in the Middle East.

Mr. ZIPPORI (Israel): **I** have been caught by surprise. I had understood that the rules of our Committee were that statements in right of reply should be made at the end of the meeting at which the statement to which the reply is being given was made - or at the latest at the following meeting. The Tunisian representative wasted four days before he replied to my statement in exercise **of** the right of reply.

The only thing I should **like** to say now is that once again reply of the Tunisian representative was another example **of** his wasting 10 minutes **of** the Committee's time on a subject which we are not dealing with,

**The CHAIRMAN:** I call on the representative **of** Tunisia, **who** wishes to speak in exercise **of** his second right of reply.

Mr. JERANDI (Tunisia) (interpretation from Arabic) thanked to make sure that the representative of Israel has indeed understood what I have just said. Neither he, individually, nor his country, should waste the time of the **international** community - since the international community is still trying to find solutions to this continuing problem in our region which suffers from violence and instability.

The meeting rose at 4.55 p.m.