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FINAL RECORD OF THE SEVENTIETH MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
on Tuesday, 18 March 1980, at 12.15 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. YU Pei-Wen (China)

GE.80-60708

PRESENT AT THE TABLE

Algeria:	Mr. A. SALAH-BEY
	Mr. A. BENYAMINA
Argentina:	Mr. A. DUMONT
	Mr. R.C. FERNANDEZ
Australia:	Mr. A. BEHM
Belgium:	Mr. A. ONKELINX
	Mr. J-M. NOIRFALISSE
Brazil:	Mr. C.A. DE SOUZA E SILVA
	Mr. P. BORIO
Bulgaria:	Mr. I. SOTIROV
	Mr. P. POPTCHEV
Burma:	U NGWE WIN
Canada:	Mr. J.T. SIMARD
China:	Mr. YU Pei-Wen
	Mr. YANG Hu-Shan
	Mr. LUO Ren-Shi
	Mr. PAN Zhen-Qiang
	Mrs. GE Yu-Yun
Cuba:	Mr. L. SOLA VILA
Czechoslovakia:	Mr. P. LUKES
	Mr. V. ROHAL-ILKIV
Egypt:	Mr. O. EL-SHAFEI
	Mr. M. EL-BARADEI
	Mr. N. FAHMY
Ethiopia:	

France:	Mr. F. DE LA GORCE
	Mr. J. DE BEAUSSE
	Mr. M. COUTHURES
German Democratic Republic:	Mr. G. HERDER
	Mr. M. GRACZYNSKI
	Mr. KAULFUSS
Germany, Federal Republic of:	Mr. G. PFEIFFER
	Mr. H. MÜLLER
	Mr. B. MÜTZELBURG
	Mr. F. BOMSDORF
Hungary:	Mr. I. KÓMIVES
	Mr. C. GYÖRFFY
India:	Mr. C.R. GHAREKHAN
Indonesia:	Mr. M. SIDIK
	Mr. D.B. SULEMAN
	Mr. HARYOMATARAM
	Mr. H.M.U. SILABAN
Iran:	Mr. D. AMERI
Italy:	Mr. V. CORDERO DI MONTEZEMOLO
	Mr. M. MORENO
	Mr. C. FRATESCHI
	Mr. F. DE LUCA
Japan:	Mr. Y. OKAWA
	Mr. T. NONOYAMA
	Mr. R. ISHII
	Mr. K. MIYATA
Kenya:	Mr. S. SHITEMI

Mexico:	Mr. A. GARCIA ROBLES
	Miss L.M. GARCIA
Mongolia:	Mr. D. ERDEMBILEG
Morocco:	Mr. M. CHRAIBI
Netherlands:	Mr. R.H. FEIN
	Mr. H. WAGENMAKERS
Nigeria:	Mr. T.O. OLUMOKO
Pakistan:	Mr. M. AKRAM
Peru:	Mr. J. AURICH MONTERO
Poland:	Mr. B. SUJKA
	Mr. H. PAĆ
	Mr. J. CIAŁOWICZ
Romania:	Mr. C. ENE
	Mr. T. MELESCANU
Sri Lanka:	Mr. I.B. FONSEKA
Sweden:	Mr. C. LIDGARD
	Mr. L. NORBERG
	Mr. J. LUNDIN
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics:	Mr. Y.K. NAZARKIN
	Mr. B.P. PROKOFIEV
	Mr. V.M. GANJA
	Mr. V.I. USTINOV
	Mr. A.I. TIOURENKOV
	Mr. Y.P. KLIUKIN
United Kingdom:	Mr. N.H. MARSHALL

United States of America:	Mr. C. FLOWERREE
	Mr. A. AKALOVSKY
	Mr. J. CALVERT
	Mr. M. DALEY
	Mr. M. SANCHES
	Mr. T. BARTHELEMY
	Mr. S. FITZGERALD
Venezuela:	Mr. A.R. TAYLHARDAT
Yugoslavia:	Mr. D. DJOKIĆ
Zaire:	Mr. KALONJI TSHIKALA KAKWAKA
Secretary of the Committee on Disarmament and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General:	Mr. R. JAIPAL

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee starts today the consideration of item 6 on its agenda, entitled "Comprehensive programme of disarmament".

Mr. GARCÍA ROBLES (Mexico) (translated from Spanish): The item which in accordance with our programme of work we are to deal with today, and which is entitled "Comprehensive programme of disarmament" is, in the opinion of my delegation, one of the most important, by virtue of its possible long-term effects, and at the same time one of those on the agenda of the Committee on Disarmament which offers the most favourable prospects for the negotiating body to bring to a successful conclusion the task entrusted to it by the General Assembly in the matter.

As regards the potential importance of the item, suffice it to recall that, according to what was stated by the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, the programme must encompass

> ".... all measures thought to be advisable in order to ensure that the goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control becomes a reality in a world in which international peace and security prevail and in which the new international economic order is strengthened and consolidated".

If, as recommended by the Committee on Disarmament, and the General Assembly, it proves possible to complete the programme in time for it to be transmitted to the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, it is highly likely that, precisely in view of its comprehensive character, it may constitute the central document that is used as a basis for the Assembly's deliberations.

As for what I described as favourable prospects, it seems to me that these will be obvious to anyone who is acquainted, however superficially, with the antecedents of the subject. This is a question which, during the past 10 years, since the General Assembly in its resolution 2602 E (XXIV) of 16 December 1969 declared the 1970s as a Disarmament Decade, has been the subject of conscientious exploration and study, not only in the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament but also in the First Committee of the General Assembly, and in respect of which abundant documentation exists, the greater part having been compiled and arranged by the Secretariat in 1978 in connexion with the establishment by the CCD of an Ad Hoc Working Group which could not succeed in discharging the functions for which it had been set up.

In addition, the new Ad Hoc Group which has just been established by the Committee on Disarmament will have at its disposal -- and this will undoubtedly be

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the main positive factor in its task -- two basic documents, both of which were adopted by consensus at a very recent date: the Final Document of the General Assembly's 1978 special session and the elements of a comprehensive programme on disarmament prepared by the Disarmament Commission, which the General Assembly endorsed and transmitted to the Committee in the form of recommendations.

These are indeed documents extremely rich in the raw material which the Working Group will of necessity have to use in preparing the comprehensive programme, not only as regards principles, objectives and priorities, concrete disarmament measures and related measures of all kinds, for short-term as well as long-term implementation, but also procedures and machinery for the application and verification of the measures agreed on and, finally, the definition of the various stages which the programme must comprise.

It is not my intention here to embark on an analysis of the two documents to which I have alluded -- the Final Document of the General Assembly and the elements prepared by the Disarmament Commission -- since if I were to do so I would be trespassing on what is the legitimate area of activity of the Ad Hoc Working Group. I should however, like to emphasize a few aspects which, in addition to their all-embracing character that I have already mentioned, it seems essential to include in the programme in the light of the provisions of the Final Document.

The ultimate goal of all the efforts which are being made in the sphere of disarmament must continue to be general and complete disarmament under effective international control.

Negotiations on general and complete disarmament must take place concurrently with negotiations on partial disarmament measures.

Nuclear weapons present the greatest danger to the survival of mankind. Priority must therefore be given to curbing and reversing the arms race in nuclear weapons of all kinds until their total elimination has been achieved.

It is of prime importance that the adoption of disarmament measures should take place "in an equitable and balanced manner", in a way which will guarantee the security of all States at progressively lower levels -- both qualitative and quantitative -- of armaments and which ensures that no State or group of States is allowed to gain an advantage over others at any stage in the disarmament process.

All the peoples of the world have a vital interest in the outcome of the negotiations on disarmament. It is therefore essential for the General Assembly to be kept fully informed of all measures, whether unilateral, bilateral, regional or multilateral, taken in this area without prejudice to the progress of negotiations. The programme will therefore have to include appropriate procedures

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for the attainment of this objective and for promoting the dissemination of information with a view to mobilizing world public opinion in favour of disarmament.

Lastly, in accordance with the idea which the delegation of Mexico has been propounding since 1977, when it submitted to the CCD as a working paper a "Preliminary draft comprehensive programme of disarmament" (CCD/545), I consider it appropriate to stress the need for the two nuclear-weapon Superpowers to submit to the Ad Hoc Group, as soon as it begins its work, working documents defining their position on the measures which each one proposes and the stages in which it is prepared to apply them in order to advance gradually towards the goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control. Such documents should avoid abstract declarations and be drafted on the basis of the method of concrete and detailed statements which was used in the two proposals submitted in 1962 by the United States and the Soviet Union respectively to the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament.

It would also be highly desirable for the other three nuclear-weapon States to submit to the Working Group proposals of the same nature, that is to say, proposals which omit rhetoric and concentrate on concrete facts. France and the United Kingdom, for example, might consider updating the programme which they submitted on 11 June 1954 to the Sub-Committee of the Disarmament Commission, known as the "Five-Power Sub-Committee". This programme, it will be recalled, was largely responsible for making the 1955 negotiations of the Sub-Committee among the most promising in the history of disarmament, although the promise, unfortunately, very quickly gave way to disappointment.

Yesterday, immediately after the decision to establish four Ad Hoc Working Groups was adopted, I took the liberty of observing that these new subsidiary bodies implied not only a potential increase in the efficiency of the Committee on Disarmament, but also an inevitable increase in our responsibilities. It is to be hoped that, in discharging its responsibilities, the Working Group on the comprehensive programme of disarmament -- which for reasons I presented at the beginning of my present statement is one of those which is in the most favourable position to obtain positive results -- may serve as an encouraging example to those already established and to those which will be established in the future.

Mr. FLOWERREE (United States of America): My statement today deals with the question of chemical weapons. At the outset, I wish to reaffirm my Government's commitment to the objective of achieving a multilateral treaty prohibiting chemical weapons. Our commitment is manifested in both the ongoing bilateral negotiations between the United States and the USSR, and in a change in United States policy to permit my delegation to agree to the establishment of a Working Group on chemical weapons in the Committee on Disarmament with the mandate that was formally adopted yesterday. Although that mandate does not envisage the drafting of treaty language, it does enable the Committee to undertake a useful and necessary task which will lay essential groundwork for a multilateral treaty. My Government trusts that other members of the Committee will encourage and support the efforts of the Working Group under its agreed mandate and, in so doing, underscore the serious nature of the Committee itself and hasten the achievement of our ultimate objective -- a treaty banning chemical weapons.

The quest for an effective prohibition of chemical weapons is one in which the international community has been engaged for many years, one reaching back to the last century. There have been a number of advances, most notably the Geneva Protocol of 1925, but also a number of reverses. Despite these setbacks, the effort to rid the world of the threat of chemical warfare has continued and intensified. The driving force has been the conviction of people throughout the world that chemical warfare would be repugnant to the conscience of mankind, and that no effort should be spared to minimize the risk that chemical weapons will be used.

Recent developments emphasize that the task of effective prohibition of chemical weapons may not, unfortunately, be an abstract or hypothetical one. As members of the Committee are aware, there have been reports of the use of chemical weapons in Afghanistan, Laos and Kampuchea. The United States delegation to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights recently expressed the deep concern of my Government over these reports, and described some of the information that has been accumulated on this subject. Any use of lethal chemical weapons cannot but threaten the viability of the Geneva Protocol and the search for a sound basis for the complete prohibition of such weapons.

(Mr. Flowerree, United States)

The United States would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm its commitment to the Geneva Protocol of 1925, and calls upon all States to observe it fully, not only in words but also in deeds. It would contribute to world peace and progress toward the elimination of the threat of chemical warfare if all countries in a position to do so were to use their influence to ensure that there be no actions such as those that gave rise to the reports I referred to earlier.

Mr. GARCÍA ROBLES (Mexico)(translated from Spanish): Since I have the honour to be the co-ordinator of the Group of 21, I would merely like to announce, with your permission, that there will be a meeting of the Group tomorrow, Wednesday, at 11 a.m.

The CHAIRMAN: If there are no other speakers I will adjourn this meeting.

The next plenary meeting of the Committee will be held on Thursday, 20 March, at 10.30 a.m.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.