

CONFERENCE OF THE EIGHTEEN-NATION COMMITTEE
ON DISARMAMENT

ENDC/PV.134
20 May 1963
ENGLISH

FINAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FOURTH MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Monday 20 May 1963, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman:

Mr. A. F. HASSAN

(United Arab Republic)

PRESENT AT THE TABLE

Brazil:

Mr. J. de CASTRO
Mr. E. HOSANNAH

Bulgaria:

Mr. K. CHRISTOV
Mr. G. GUELEV
Mr. M. KARASSIMEONOV
Mr. V. IZMIRLIEV

Burma:

U. MAUNG MAUNG GYI

Canada:

Mr. S. F. RAE
Mr. A. E. GOTTLIEB
Mr. R. M. TAIT
Mr. J. F. M. BELL

Czechoslovakia:

Mr. L. SIMOVIC
Mr. M. ZEMLA
Mr. F. DOBIAŠ
Mr. Z. SEINER

Ethiopia:

Lij Mikael IMRU
Ato M. GHEBIEYEHU

India:

Mr. A. S. LALL
Mr. A. S. MEHTA
Mr. S. B. DESHKAR

Italy:

Mr. F. CAVALLETTI
Mr. A. CAVAGLIERI
Mr. C. COSTA-REGHINI
Mr. P. TOZZOLI

PRESENT AT THE TABLE (Cont'd)

Mexico:

Mr. L. PADILLA NERVO
Mr. E. CALDERON PUIG
Miss E. AGUIRRE
Mr. J. MERCADO

Nigeria:

Mr. L. C. N. OBI

Poland:

Mr. M. BIUSZTAJN
Mr. E. STANIEWSKI
Mr. A. SKOWRONSKI

Romania:

Mr. G. MACOVESCU
Mr. E. GLASER
Mr. O. NEDA
Mr. C. UNGUREANU

Sweden:

Mrs. A. MYRDAL
Baron C. H. von PLATEN

Union of Soviet Socialist
Republics:

Mr. S. K. TSARAPKIN
Mr. A. A. ROSHCHIN
Mr. O. A. GRINEVSKY
Mr. I. M. PALENYKH

United Arab Republic:

Mr. A. F. HASSAN
Mr. S. AHMED
Mr. M. KASSEM
Mr. S. E. IBRAHIM

PRESENT AT THE TABLE (Cont'd)

United Kingdom:

Sir Paul MASON
Mr. J. G. TAHOUDIN
Mr. D. N. BRINSON
Mr. R. C. BEETHAM

United States of America:

Mr. C. C. STELLE
Mr. A. L. RICHARDS
Mr. D. E. MARK
Mr. R. A. MARTIN

Deputy Special Representative
of the Secretary-General:

Mr. W. EPSTEIN

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF MR. OMAR LOUTFI

The CHAIRMAN (United Arab Republic): We meet today in sad circumstances as a result of the sad and untimely death of Omar Loutfi, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament. The co-Chairmen have recommended that this meeting be devoted to paying tribute to his memory.

Mr. EPSTEIN (Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General): I should like to convey to the members of the Conference the tribute paid by the Secretary-General, U Thant, to Omar Loutfi:

"Omar Loutfi's death means a great loss not only to the United Nations Secretariat, which he served with such distinction during the last fifteen months, but to all the heads of delegations as also to many friends all over the world.

"Many of us first came to know Omar Loutfi when he was the Permanent Representative of his country, and his great ability was easily recognized by those who had the privilege to come into contact with him at that time. He had that indispensable characteristic of a true and successful diplomat, namely, consideration for the views of others, as well as great tact and a winning personality.

"As the Permanent Representative of Burma I had come to know him well, and when I was called to my present office I made an appeal to the Government of the United Arab Republic to make Omar Loutfi available to me as one of my collaborators. The Government kindly acceded to my request, and so early last year Omar Loutfi made the change-over from Ambassador representing the interests of his country to international civil servant.

"I can truthfully say that during these fifteen months as Under-Secretary for Special Political Affairs Omar Loutfi proved himself to be as successful as an international civil servant as he had been in his previous position as Ambassador. His wise counsel stood me in good stead on several important occasions. Perhaps his most important characteristic was his evenness of temper and political realism which served to guard not only himself but all of us against excesses of optimism or pessimism. He had, if I may say so, those qualities of head and heart which an ideal international civil servant should possess. His strength of character, as much as his intellect, was

(Mr. Epstein)

responsible for his great popularity and stature both as a diplomat and as an international servant, and for these qualities he commanded the affection and respect of all those who knew him well.

"Omar Loutfi had been trained in the law and had at one point become a judge. Through the legal profession he entered the field of diplomacy and international relations. His legal background remained an important element in his mental make-up, but he knew only too well that many other considerations are brought to bear on the solution of political problems. His work in the United Nations was marked by an uncommon insight into the intricacies of international life and by a breadth of vision and knowledge which permeated every aspect of his work and his manifold interests.

"Today we are saying goodbye not only to a most able colleague but also to a good friend. Such he certainly was to me. May he rest in peace."

May I, who was Omar Loutfi's deputy here, say also on my own behalf, and on behalf of all the members of the Secretariat connected with the work of the Disarmament Conference, how deeply we feel the tragic and untimely loss of Omar Loutfi. His great experience, his sound judgement and his wisdom were of inestimable value to all of us. Those of us who were privileged to work closely with him also had the benefit of knowing his fine human qualities and the great gentleness of his nature. We mourn his passing in a very personal way, and we too wish to express our sympathy and condolences to his Government and to his family.

Mr. STELLE (United States of America): The United States delegation knows the deep personal sense of loss which you, Mr. Chairman, as the representative in our Committee of the United Arab Republic, feel at the death of Omar Loutfi. He was your close colleague and friend whose own distinction reflected great honour on your country. Today the United States delegation shares deeply that sense of loss

We have lost an esteemed friend and a wise colleague who in countless quiet ways sought to ease our burdens and facilitate agreement. The Secretary-General of the United Nations chose Dr. Loutfi to be his Special Representative at our meetings because, as we have heard this morning, of the Secretary-General's high regard for and confidence in his Under-Secretary. We all know from experience how well justified was the Secretary-General's trust in Dr. Loutfi, and I ask the Deputy Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Epstein, to convey to him the sympathy and condolences of my delegation.

(Mr. Stelle, United States)

Omar Loutfi gave much to his country, to the world and to our work here. So did his friend and ours, T. G. Narayanan, whose loss we suffered last year. Their deaths remind us keenly of our responsibility to re-dedicate ourselves to the goals of disarmament and to strive for their realization. We owe that to these comrades in our endeavours who are no longer with us, as we owe it to ourselves and to all mankind.

Mr. TSARAPKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (translation from Russian): Only a few weeks ago the Secretary-General's special representative, Mr. Loutfi, was here with us representing the Secretary-General of the United Nations in the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament. As always, he was sociable, cheerful and friendly, and there was nothing to forewarn us that a few weeks later he would be no more and we would receive here the sad and unexpected news of his death.

Mr. Loutfi was an outstanding diplomat of his own country and a prominent member of the Secretariat of the United Nations. His passing is a grave loss to the country which he represented with distinction in the United Nations for many years as well as for the United Nations Secretariat, where he carried out important functions as Under-Secretary for Special Political Affairs.

The Soviet delegation wishes to express its profound condolences, on the occasion of the untimely death of Mr. Loutfi, to the United Arab Republic, to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to the family of the deceased.

Mr. PADILLA NERVO (Mexico) (translation from Spanish): The death of my distinguished friend Mr. Omar Loutfi has been a great shock to me because I was perhaps one of the members of this Committee that had the closest contacts with him over many years, even before he was appointed ambassador and representative of his country to the United Nations some ten years ago.

Mr. Loutfi's qualities were a real boon to the United Nations. His approach to problems, his simplicity, the weight he gave to others' opinions made him in both public debate and private conversation a most effective collaborator with a clear view of problems, a strong will and a calm and firm way of expressing his convictions.

Recently his presence among us as Special Representative of the Secretary-General was at all times marked, in the contacts we had outside formal meetings, by his optimism and his faith in the results of our work. I deeply regret that he did not live to see the fruits of our labours, especially on the problem of the cessation of nuclear weapon tests, which is the one nearest to a solution.

(Mr. Padilla Nervo, Mexico)

I believe that all of us -- and in particular the representatives of the nuclear Powers -- must make every effort not to waste any more time before reaching an agreement. That would be the best tribute we could pay to the memory of Mr. Loutfi and also to the memory of all who have expended so much energy, so much goodwill, so much hope and effort in pursuit of our objectives.

I should like to extend the sincere condolences of my Government and my delegation to the Government of the United Arab Republic, to the Secretariat of the United Nations and to Dr. Loutfi's family.

Mr. BLUSZTAJN (Poland) (translation from French): It was with profound sorrow that we learned last Friday of the sudden and unexpected death of Mr. Omar Loutfi. Only a short time ago he was still with us, representing the Secretary-General of the United Nations in our Committee. We were expecting him back within the next few days. But, alas, death has taken him from us.

I should like, on behalf of the Polish delegation, to express our condolences to the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. We ask him to transmit them to U Thant and to tell him that we share his grief at the loss of a close friend and invaluable collaborator.

We also wish to express our condolences to the delegation and the Government of the United Arab Republic on the loss of one of its sons who so brilliantly represented it in the international forum. We knew Omar Loutfi as a great patriot and a faithful servant of his country, whose cause he always contrived to defend with patriotic zeal, impassioned eloquence and lucid intelligence. We knew him, too, as a great international civil servant who put his talent at the service of the United Nations the better to enable it to realize the ideals that were dear to him: peace, freedom and national independence, co-existence and co-operation among all States in the interests of peace and progress. I am sure that the greatest tribute we can pay to the memory of Omar Loutfi is to work unremittingly to accomplish the task entrusted to our Committee, in which he so brilliantly exercised his distinguished functions.

Mr. MACOVESCU (Romania): On behalf of the Romanian delegation I want to express our deep regret at the news, which came as a great shock to all of us, of the loss of Omar Loutfi. I had the privilege of knowing Omar Loutfi personally and I appreciated highly his devotion to the cause of peace and friendship among peoples. It is with deep emotion that I express condolences to you, Mr. Chairman, to the Government of the United Arab Republic, to the Secretary-General, to the United Nations and to the family of Omar Loutfi.

Mr. LALL (India): It is not easy for me to comprehend this occasion. Omar Loutfi and I served together as the permanent representatives of our respective countries in New York for over four years. The bonds of friendship and official co-operation between us were extremely close and deep. I remember well, Mr. Chairman, how in the critical days which unhappily afflicted your country in 1956 we spent days and nights together working in the cause of peace. Before that, and since then over the last ten years or so, we had a very close relationship both officially and personally.

Omar Loutfi was not a man gifted simply with the normal characteristics of intelligence, honourableness, friendliness, warmth and gentleness. All those qualities he had in extraordinary degree, but he had something even rarer: he possessed that special capacity to realize the level at which differences in international affairs exist, and also to appreciate those more subtle and deeper realities and levels at which those differences do not exist and cannot exist if our world is to continue and to achieve peace. That is why he was able to grasp the problems with which we deal at a level which really was essential, cut away from all superficialities. It was the same kind of approach to life which informed his personal relations and his relations with people with whom he had official dealings.

I should like to mention an incident which shows his extraordinary capacity as an individual. One of the last official occasions which we spent together as permanent representatives in New York was when we were members of the last visiting mission which was sent by the United Nations to Western Samoa. That was an entirely new milieu for all of us four members of the mission. But it was characteristic of

(Mr. Lall, India)

Omar that he was so loved and appreciated by the Government and people of Western Samoa that they asked immediately that, when it became time to hold the plebiscite to determine the freedom of the country, Omar Loutfi should be sent by the United Nations to conduct the plebiscite. That was of course a spontaneous tribute by people of entirely different background from his own, people whom he had never met but who at once found in him the person whom they could trust for an occasion which to them was of extremely great significance. Their whole national destiny was to be determined by it.

That was the type of person that Omar Loutfi was. I make no secret of the fact that while he was here I lost no opportunity of almost daily contact with him about our work in this Conference. We discussed the issues before us, and many of the things I have said in this Conference owe at least something to my consultations with Omar Loutfi. That was quite natural because it would have been inconceivable to me that I should not take advantage of his presence, of his wisdom and of his experience.

Mr. Chairman, for your country his sudden death is a most untimely loss; he was an illustrious son of Egypt. He served you, I need hardly say, in a manner of which any country could be justly proud and which no country can afford to lose so suddenly. Naturally, therefore, my feelings are for you and your country in the loss that you have sustained, and, on behalf of the Government of India and of our delegation, I would request you to convey to your Government our profoundest sympathies on this occasion; so also to U Thant, the Secretary-General, whom incidentally both Omar and I came to know closely also when we were all three permanent representatives in New York. I would request also that our sympathies be conveyed to his bereaved family.

I entirely agree with our friend Padilla Nervo that the best tribute we could pay to Omar Loutfi's memory would be to reach an agreement without delay on at least the cessation of nuclear weapon tests. That would be something tangible -- that, as other representatives have said, we should address ourselves to these tasks, because that is what those past companions of ours, such as Omar Loutfi and T. G. Narayanan, gave their lives for in a way. And if we could only reach speedy agreement now on the test ban issue we would certainly be paying a fitting tribute to the memory of a man who worked so dutifully and so successfully for good international relations.

Mr. SIMOVIC (Czechoslovakia) (translation from Russian): On behalf of the Czechoslovak delegation, and on my own behalf, I should like to ask you, Mr. Chairman, to convey to the family of the deceased Under Secretary for Special Political Affairs of the United Nations, Mr. Loutfi, our profound condolences. The news of his untimely death was a blow to all who knew him both in the work of the United Nations and here in our Committee, where for many months he was the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General. The death of Omar Loutfi is a painful loss both for the United Nations and for our Committee. Permit me, Mr. Chairman, to express sincere condolences to the Government of the United Arab Republic, to your delegation and to you personally, since the deceased was a citizen of your country, which he so successfully represented in international organizations. With him passed a distinguished fighter for international co-operation and mutual understanding among nations, a great patriot and a good man. The delegation of Czechoslovakia bows deeply before his memory.

Sir PAUL MASON (United Kingdom): On behalf of the United Kingdom delegation I should like to join previous speakers in expressing our deep sympathy with the delegation of the United Arab Republic and with the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the death of Mr. Omar Loutfi.

Mr. Loutfi was a distinguished representative of his country and the first representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to this Conference. He was a man of charm and modesty, of intelligence and integrity. He represented his country as Ambassador to the United Nations at a time when there were grave differences between our two countries, but we always respected him as an able and honourable exponent of his Government's point of view. Later, as an international civil servant first in New York and then here, we remember him as an impartial and wise counsellor.

We mourn the death of a man who has contributed much to international understanding.

Mr. OBI (Nigeria): It was with a great sense of loss that my delegation learnt of the death of Mr. Omar Loutfi. Mr. Loutfi endeared himself to and earned for himself the respect of the members of the various delegations with whom he came in contact. Mr. Loutfi was a man dedicated to the cause of peace and was closely associated not only with our work here but, more important, with the trying times through which the world passed last autumn.

(Mr. Obi, Nigeria)

The best appreciation of his efforts would be the untiring endeavour of our Committee towards achieving tangible results and especially on the cessation of nuclear weapon tests. My delegation, in associating itself with the well deserved tribute of the Secretary-General to the memory of Mr. Loutfi, would be grateful if the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General would convey to the Secretary-General, and through him to Mr. Loutfi's bereaved family and country, the deep sense of loss which I, my country and my delegation feel.

Mr. de CASTRO (Brazil) (translation from French): The Brazilian delegation wishes to associate itself with the feelings of profound grief expressed this morning on the passing of an eminent man, Ambassador Loutfi who laboured with us in defence of peace.

I was privileged to know him personally in circumstances particularly and directly connected with the work of our Committee. I was not then attending the Conference, and did not have the honour of sitting at your table; but I was a member of the United Nations Conference on the Application of Science and Technology for the Benefit of the Less-Developed Areas. As you know, the participants in that Conference drafted and signed a document in which they appealed to the Eighteen-Nation Committee to do its utmost to reach agreement on the cessation of nuclear weapon tests, to achieve general and complete disarmament, and to devote the savings thereby realized to developing the under-developed countries and to raising the living standards of the two-thirds of mankind still lacking the bare necessities of life. I had the privilege of being asked by my colleagues at that Conference on the Application of Science and Technology for the Benefit of the Less-Developed Areas to transmit that document to the Eighteen-Nation Committee, which I did, as it happened, through Mr. Loutfi. I had then the privilege of meeting him and was immediately aware of his diplomatic tact, his lively interest in peace problems, his deep sympathy with human anxieties and his high qualities of intelligence, sensitivity and understanding. I therefore on my country's and my own behalf, express to you, Mr. Chairman, his compatriot, to your country, to the Secretariat and to U Thant personally our feelings of profound grief and sorrow at this irreparable loss.

(Mr. de Castro, Brazil)

May I add to these remarks, in which I have tried very briefly to stress Omar Loutfi's exceptional qualities, a few words on one aspect which should, I think, be mentioned. I wonder to what extent his heavy task of working for peace in a world so divided and so little predisposed to such activity oppressed him and thus contributed to his premature death.

I wonder to what extent his death was contributed to by his participation in our work here at a time when so many dangers -- and in particular that of atomic war -- were hanging over mankind.

He would not be the first who sacrificed himself, who gave his life for the cause of peace and to save mankind from the terrible danger that threatens it. In this connexion, I recall the example of one of the greatest men of our time, the eminent President of the United States, Franklin Delano Roosevelt. I would recall how, in the last years of the war, President Roosevelt sat at his desk wondering what to do because before him lay reports indicating that the atomic bomb had already been produced. His was a heavy decision to take. Should he use the atomic bomb to win the war, he who had all his life been the great champion of peace, the great pacifist, the great friend of all the peoples of the world? Was it worth while winning the war, only to lose the peace? That terrible doubt weighed heavily on the President; there came a moment -- we know this from his secretary -- when he said: "I have a terrible headache". A minute later he was dead.

Was not that headache the headache of the whole world over the fear of unleashing atomic terror on the world?

Did not President Roosevelt die of a new sickness? Did not the atomic bomb, before exploding on earth, snuffing out the light for living beings and sending them to eternity, explode in the head of the great President Roosevelt, who was thus the first martyr, the first sacrifice to the appalling terror of atomic bombs?

And I believe others since Roosevelt have suffered, and had their lives shortened by the same anguish.

Omar Loutfi's task was not as heavy as President Roosevelt's but he was involved in the same drama, the tragedy of our time. So I wonder whether, since he was a very sensitive and conscientious man, he was not so anguished -- and you know that anguish can cause a heart attack -- as to die of it. I wonder whether he was not a martyr to the difficulties of our time, to the terrible conflict between peace and war.

(Mr. de Castro, Brazil)

I am therefore in complete agreement with those who have here expressed their feelings and the thought that the greatest tribute we could pay to one who was here among us, and who fought valiantly for peace and gave his own life in the cause of peace, might not perhaps be to take steps to ensure that mankind is freed from this terrible atomic threat. To that end we must endeavour to overcome difficulties and to realize that there is something more tragic than all human ambitions, dissensions and divisions, namely, equality in the face of death. Yet we trifle with it, albeit a little uneasily -- which does not make us any the more reasonable. For the reasonable thing is to eliminate the danger, which is perfectly possible if we wish with all our hearts to reach agreement.

I think the greatest tribute we can pay Omar Loutfi is to take as soon as possible at least the first step on the road to peace, that is to say, to stop nuclear tests, which might lead to mutual understanding between the peoples and finally make a world free from the terror of mass destruction and the annihilation of all mankind.

Mr. RAE (Canada): General Burns and all the members of the delegation of Canada wish to share in the expressions of sympathy and condolence on the passing of our friend and colleague, Dr. Omar Loutfi. Dr. Loutfi was a distinguished public servant of his country over a long period, as he was later a distinguished public servant of the international community. The essential purpose and the daily work of this Conference on disarmament were close to his heart and to his mind. His contribution as the Secretary-General's Special Representative and our memory of his personal and human qualities will remain with us and will sustain us in the tasks ahead. On behalf of the delegation of Canada, may I extend our deepest sympathy and the expression of our sense of loss to his family, to you, Sir, to his Government and his country, and to the Secretary-General and all of those in the family of the United Nations with whom he was so closely associated.

Mr. CHRISTOV (Bulgaria) (translation from French): The news of the sudden death of Mr. Omar Loutfi has deeply moved the Bulgarian delegation, and my colleagues and I are all profoundly grieved at the passing of a man who devoted much of his brilliant activity to our common task, disarmament.

(Mr. Christov, Bulgaria)

We who knew him as representative of his country, the United Arab Republic, to the United Nations, and later as a great servant of that world organization, always appreciated the great value of the tenacious and intelligent work he did.

The Bulgarian delegation extends its most sincere condolences to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to you Mr. Chairman, and to the Government and delegation of the United Arab Republic.

Mr. CAVALLETTI (Italy) (translation from French): Omar Loutfi has been honoured here by other delegations in very lofty and noble words that were truly worthy of him, of his life and his work in the United Nations. I only wish to say that those testimonies are in full accord with the feelings of the Italian delegation and with my own personal feelings.

The Italian delegation associates itself with other delegations in expressing its deepest and most sincere condolences to you, Mr. Chairman, as representative of the United Arab Republic, to the United Nations Secretariat and to Omar Loutfi's family.

God rest his soul, and may his example and his devotion to the cause of peace hearten us all here for the fulfilment of our task.

Mrs. MYRDAL (Sweden): On behalf of the Swedish delegation I want to associate myself with the statements made by other representatives here in paying tribute to the memory of Omar Loutfi.

His passing has been a deep shock to all of us, even to those in our group who had less opportunity to know him during long years and on as personal terms as some of the previous speakers. But we will all mourn him for a long time to come. I believe that, as some other speakers have also said, the best way to honour him and the great Organization he served is to strive relentlessly for the great cause we had in common with him -- the cause of disarmament.

Lij Mikael IMRU (Ethiopia): On behalf of the Ethiopian delegation I should like to express our deep sadness at the passing away of Mr. Omar Loutfi, a man who served the real cause of peace. At this moment we should like to convey through you, Mr. Chairman, our heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to the family of Mr. Loutfi and to the Government of the United Arab Republic.

U MAUNG MAUNG GYI (Burma): My delegation would like to join with all other delegations in saying that the news of the untimely death of Mr. Omar Loutfi was a shock to all who had the privilege of knowing him and working with him. He had those likeable human traits of kindness and understanding in his association with us which leave us with a deep sense of personal sorrow.

Mr. Omar Loutfi did not live to see the fruits of our labours here, and all of us should realize in our sorrow that we too, like him, must some day meet our day of reckoning, and that the greatest service we can pay to his memory is to spare no effort in our work here, so that in years to come we can look back with a personal sense of satisfaction and pride because we have contributed something to our cause here.

The delegation of Burma wishes to extend its profound condolences to the Secretariat of the United Nations, to the delegation of the United Arab Republic and to all Mr. Loutfi's immediate relatives in their sad loss.

The CHAIRMAN (United Arab Republic): On behalf of the delegation of the United Arab Republic, as well as the family of the late Omar Loutfi, I wish to thank all representatives who have been kind enough to express their grief and sorrow on the occasion of the untimely and regretted death of Omar Loutfi. Their condolences and those of their Governments will be transmitted to Omar Loutfi's family.

Many of us at this Conference knew Omar Loutfi personally: for that reason our sense of shock and grief is all the more acute at this bereavement. To know Omar Loutfi was to like him and to appreciate his many genuine qualities. He was a kind, modest, affable and charming person. He was a tolerant, cultured and accomplished jurist, and a wise, experienced and astute diplomat. Above all, he was truly a United Nations man for he had the rare gift of combining a real sense of patriotism with a genuine belief in and feeling for the United Nations order, with a respect for its spirit of cosmopolitanism and universality and with faith in the future of our world Organization.

It was that innate and sustained dedication to peace, law and order, and that respect for and faith in international order that made of Omar Loutfi a United Nations figure, one of the dedicated advocates of disarmament -- a subject which was very close to his heart and thoughts throughout his long association with the United Nations.

(The Chairman, United Arab Republic)

He came to the United Nations first as a legal adviser to his country's mission. He then took the helm as Permanent Representative, a position which he occupied and discharged during some of the darkest hours of international relations of this last decade. His moderation, wisdom and dedication to the settlement of international disputes through peace and justice won him the esteem and friendship of all. As Under Secretary for Special Political Affairs of the United Nations he knew how to win and keep everybody's confidence and friendship.

We in the United Arab Republic are grieved and saddened by our untimely loss. We are proud of the memory of this son who ably served his country and the international community in which he believed so much. I will transmit to my Government and to Mr. Loutfi's family the kind expressions of sympathy extended by representatives here.

As Chairman, I feel certain that it would be a correct interpretation of the Committee's wishes if I were to send on its behalf to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to the Government of the United Arab Republic and to the family of Omar Loutfi the text of the remarks made at today's meeting in tribute to the memory of Omar Loutfi.

The Conference decided to issue the following communique:

"The Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament today held its one hundred and thirty-fourth plenary meeting in the Palais des Nations, Geneva, under the chairmanship of Mr. Hassan, representative of the United Arab Republic.

"The Conference paid tribute to the memory of the late Omar Loutfi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Conference.

"Statements were made by the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and by the representatives of the United States, the Soviet Union, Mexico, Poland, Romania, India, Czechoslovakia, the United Kingdom, Nigeria, Brazil, Canada, Bulgaria, Italy, Sweden, Ethiopia, Burma and the United Arab Republic.

"The next meeting of the Conference will be held on Wednesday, 22 May 1963, at 10 30 a.m."

The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.