



FIRST COMMITTEE
36th meeting
held on
Monday, 9 November 1987
at 10 a.m.
New York

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 36th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. BAGBENI ADELTO NZENGEYA (Zaire)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

AGENDA ITEMS 48 TO 69 (continued)

CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION ON DRAFT RESOLUTIONS ON DISARMAMENT ITEMS

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): This morning the First Committee will begin taking decisions on the draft resolutions dealing with agenda items on disarmament, starting with the draft resolutions in cluster 1 of the programme suggested by the Chair: draft resolutions A/C.1/42/L.5, L.31, L.45, L.51, L.56 and L.75.

Before proceeding to take decisions on those draft resolutions, I should like once again to remind delegations of the procedure that will be followed during this stage of the Committee's work.

Before taking decisions on each of the draft resolutions in any cluster, I shall call on those representatives who wish to introduce draft resolutions in any cluster. With regard to the decisions to be taken on each of the categories, members of the Committee will first have an opportunity to make any statement other than an explanation of vote; afterwards I shall call on representatives who wish to explain their positions or votes on any one or on all the draft resolutions in any given cluster. After a decision has been taken by the Committee, I shall call on members of the Committee who wish to explain their positions or votes.

I would appeal to delegations once again and in so far as possible to make only one statement on the draft resolutions within a specific cluster, while respecting any other statement or relevant explanation of vote. Accordingly, I appeal to members of delegations, in so far as possible, to make only one statement on all the items under consideration.

Before considering the decisions to be taken on cluster 1, I shall call on those delegations which are already inscribed on the speakers' list for this meeting.

First, I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. KHERADI (Secretary of the Committee): I should like to inform the Committee that the following delegations have become sponsors of the following draft resolutions: A/C.1/42/L.31, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic; L.51, Cuba; L.55, the Syrian Arab Republic; L.59, the Federal Republic of Germany; L.69, Burma; L.70, Burma; L.73, Sri Lanka; L.74, the Congo and New Zealand; and L.76/Rev.1, the Netherlands.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): I now call on the representative of Sri Lanka, who will speak in his capacity as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference.

Mr. WIJewardane (Sri Lanka), Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference: I have the privilege, in my capacity as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference and representative of Sri Lanka, to introduce, on behalf of Burundi, Peru, Poland, Spain and Sri Lanka, draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.53, entitled "World Disarmament Conference".

(Mr. Wijewardane, Sri Lanka)

The draft resolution reflects the result of activities which flowed from the implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/61 of 3 December 1986. Members will recall that although the aforementioned resolution renewed the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference, no session of the Committee was envisaged to be held in 1987 since the members of the Committee felt that that procedure would contribute adversely to the financial situation of the United Nations. In resolution 41/61 the General Assembly requested the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee to undertake consultations with the representatives of nuclear-weapon States as well as with all other States in order to remain currently informed of the development of their positions on the question of convening a world disarmament conference. In that resolution the Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-second session on the results of those consultations. The Secretary-General's report is contained in document A/42/542 and Add.1, which is before the members of the Committee. The Secretary-General has reported on the consultations which I undertook in accordance with the mandate entrusted to me. I did so after consultation with the officers of the Ad Hoc Committee on 24 April 1987. Following the recommendations of the officers I dispatched notes verbales to the respective nuclear-weapon States as well as to other members of the Committee requesting information concerning the positions of their Governments on the question of convening a world disarmament conference.

Under draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.53, the General Assembly, after taking note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General, would, inter alia, renew the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee and request it to continue to maintain close contact with the representatives of the nuclear-weapon States in order to remain currently informed of their positions on the question of convening a world disarmament conference, and to consider any relevant comments and observations

(Mr. Wijewardane, Sri Lanka)

which might be made, especially having in mind paragraph 122 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly. The Assembly would also request the Ad Hoc Committee to submit a report to it at its third special session devoted to disarmament and for this purpose in operative paragraph 6, it:

"Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to hold one session in 1988 of two days' duration for the preparation and adoption of its report to the third special session [of the General Assembly] devoted to disarmament."

By way of clarification let me say that the sponsors of the draft resolution do not propose to have one session with two consecutive days of meetings in 1988. The proposal that we are placing before the Committee for 1988 is to allow the Ad Hoc Committee to meet on two separate dates spread out over a certain period so that the Ad Hoc Committee could address itself to the organizational aspects of its work on the first day when the Ad Hoc Committee meets in 1988 and then, at the second stage of the session, namely, on another day of meetings, it could consider and adopt its report to the General Assembly at its third special session devoted to disarmament.

It will be seen that in this draft resolution no specific provision is being made to include in the provisional agenda of the General Assembly's forty-third session the item entitled "World Disarmament Conference" as we would allow the third special session on disarmament to make its own recommendations on this subject-matter.

On behalf of the sponsors I would like to recommend draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.53 for adoption by consensus.

I should like at this point to express appreciation of the co-operation and assistance of Member States who have followed annually the deliberations of the Ad Hoc Committee and extended their full co-operation to the Chairman and officers of the Committee. I would be failing in my duty if I did not recognize especially

(Mr. Wijewardane, Sri Lanka)

the able assistance I have received from Mr. Kazimierz Tomaszewski of Poland, who as Vice-Chairman, has assisted me in our deliberations. At the same time I wish to acknowledge the exemplary work done by Mr. Pablo Barrios of Spain, who as Rapporteur continued the commendable work done by his colleague, Mr. Arturo Laciaustra, who because of a new assignment had to resign from the post of Rapporteur of the Committee.

On behalf of the Ad Hoc Committee I wish once again to thank our distinguished Secretary, Mr. S. Kheradi, who has continued to be the Secretary of this Committee for a long period of time, and his assistant, Mr. Zaleski, and the other members of the Secretariat, especially those from the Department for Disarmament Affairs, who have with their customary efficiency and courtesy made my task and that of the officers of the Committee as smooth and easy as possible.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): I call now on the representative of Sweden, who will introduce draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.40.

Mr. EKEUS (Sweden): I wish to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.40 on "Naval armaments and disarmament". I do so on behalf of the delegations of Australia, Austria, China, Finland, France, Iceland, Indonesia, Mexico, Peru, Sri Lanka, Yugoslavia and my own country, Sweden.

The General Assembly last year recalled the request it had made to the Disarmament Commission in 1985 to consider the issues contained in the United Nations study on the naval arms race (A/40/535) with a view to facilitating the identification of possible measures in the field of naval arms reductions and disarmament pursued within the framework of progress towards general and complete disarmament, as well as confidence-building measures in this field. In so doing the Disarmament Commission was asked to take into account all other relevant proposals also.

(Mr. Ekeus, Sweden)

During its 1987 session the Disarmament Commission continued its consideration of the issue. The meetings held resulted in a number of substantive findings and recommendations on the subject. These are contained in a working paper by the Chairman of the Commission (A/CN.10/102), which met with the approval of all the delegations participating in the substantive consultations and which in their view could form the basis of further deliberations on the subject. In this context I should like once again to express our deep appreciation to the leader of those consultations on this matter in the Disarmament Commission, Ambassador Ali Alatas of Indonesia.

I wish also to quote the following from that document, reporting on the results of this year's work on the matter:

"Participants reaffirmed that the significant elements and principles that were identified in the paper arising from the consultations held in 1986 (A/CN.10/83) remained valid and provided a good basis for further consideration of the subject. It was acknowledged that, as stated in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session, in the task of achieving the goals of nuclear disarmament, all nuclear-weapon States, in particular those among them which possess the most important nuclear arsenals, bore a special responsibility, and that States with the largest military arsenals also had a special responsibility in pursuing the process of conventional arms reductions: these principles were equally applicable to the naval dimension of the global arms race and related issues.

(Mr. Ekeus, Sweden)

"It was recognized that, as stated in the Study on the Naval Arms Race, naval forces are not independent of other military forces and that they should be considered in their general military context. There is no such thing as an independent naval balance or parity. By the same token, the reduction of naval nuclear forces and naval non-nuclear forces falls within the framework of nuclear and conventional disarmament respectively, and therefore should follow the general approaches of nuclear and conventional disarmament efforts.

"There was a widespread concurrence of view that, at this stage, confidence-building measures of various kinds, both in the global and the regional context, would be more amenable to further consideration and possible negotiation in the appropriate forums. It was recognized that the fundamental feature of the global maritime environment, both military and non-military, was freedom of navigation and that naval confidence-building measures should be in harmony with current law of the sea.

"In this regard, suggestions of initiatives that might be of relevance included: extension of existing confidence-building measures to seas and oceans, especially to areas with the busiest sea-lanes; prior notification of naval activities; the invitation of observers to naval exercises or manoeuvres; limitations on the number or scale of naval exercises in specific regions; exchange of information on naval matters; greater openness on naval matters in general; strict observance of existing maritime measures designed to build confidence.

"It was felt that the possibility should be pursued of negotiating a multilateral agreement concerning the prevention of incidents at sea beyond the territorial sea in addition to existing agreements. A multilateral agreement of this nature should be formulated in such a way as to respond to

(Mr. Ekeus, Sweden)

the needs of all interested nations for enhancing safety at sea without diminishing the traditional freedom of navigation.

"A number of participants highlighted the benefits to be derived from the maritime aspects of existing proposals for zones of peace in certain regions, together with recent developments such as the declaration by the General Assembly of a zone of peace and co-operation in the South Atlantic. The positions of participants on this issue were noted.

"Further discussion took place on the issue of the practicability of updating some of the existing laws of sea warfare. In this connection specific mention was made of the possibility of updating the Hague Convention VIII of 1907 of Laying of Automatic Submarine Contact Mines, and the possibility of further work on the development of international law concerning exclusion zones with particular reference to the safety of non-belligerent vessels engaged in peaceful maritime activities. It was noted that these issues need extensive consideration in the appropriate forums.

"In the consideration of possible measures, it was suggested that a useful way of categorizing such measures was by identifying the objectives or purposes that they would serve. In this regard such objectives as peacetime security, security for non-military activities at sea and seaboard security could well be achieved through effective and relevant confidence-building measures.

"It was recognized that the harmful effects that conflict at sea could have on the freedom of navigation and other uses of the sea, in accordance with current international law, for States neutral to or otherwise not involved in an ongoing conflict, have been amply demonstrated in recent years. The maintenance of freedom of navigation and other uses of the sea is

(Mr. Ekeus, Sweden)

an important objective for all States neutral to or otherwise not involved in such conflicts.

"The proliferation of nuclear weapons at sea, particularly the aspect of geographical dispersion of such weapons, has given rise to mounting concern on the part of many States. It was recognized that most strategic nuclear weapons are already the subject of certain bilateral negotiations. The view was expressed that early consideration should be given by States to effective measures of curtailing the numbers and deployment of tactical nuclear weapons at sea but some participants noted that such weapons could not be seen in isolation from the overall military balance.

"Participants felt that the subject of naval armaments and disarmament should continue to be the subject of further discussion by the Disarmament Commission at its next substantive session." (A/CN.10/102, paras. 5-15)

That concludes my presentation of the report from the United Nations Disarmament Commission.

Draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.40 is of a procedural character. In it the Disarmament Commission is requested to continue, at its forthcoming session in 1988, under the agenda item "Naval armaments and disarmament", the substantive work it has begun and to report on its deliberations and recommendations to the General Assembly not later than at its forty-third session.

On behalf of my own delegation and of those of the co-sponsors I wish to commend this draft resolution to the full support of the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): I now call on the representative of Mexico, who will introduce three draft resolutions.

Mr. GARCIA ROBLES (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): Today, I have the honour of introducing three draft resolutions of which the delegation of Mexico is a sponsor along with various other delegations, which I shall identify in each case.

The first draft resolution, A/C.1/42/L.50, pertains to the World Disarmament Campaign. It is sponsored by 10 delegations: Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Pakistan, Peru, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Venezuela, Yugoslavia and Mexico.

The draft resolution begins by recalling that in the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament the Assembly declared:

"It is essential that not only Governments but also the peoples of the world recognize and understand the dangers in the present situation"

(S-10/2, para. 15)

and emphasized the importance of mobilizing world public opinion on behalf of disarmament.

The next three preambular paragraphs recall the seven main resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on this subject, as well as the main reports submitted by the Secretary-General, of which there are also seven, pertaining to the same issue.

The nine operative paragraphs of the draft resolution are self-explanatory, and I shall therefore confine myself to recommending that they be read and to emphasizing once again the statement made by the Secretary-General to the effect that the co-operation of all States implies that adequate funds be made available and that, consequently, the criterion of universality also applies to pledges, since a campaign without world-wide participation and funding will have difficulty in reflecting that principle in its implementation.

(Mr. Garcia Robles, Mexico)

It is doubtless for this reason that the draft:

"Reiterates its regret that most of the States which have the largest military expenditures have not so far made any financial contribution to the World Disarmament Campaign".

Those States as well as those that have as yet not announced any voluntary contributions will have an opportunity to do so at the sixth United Nations Pledging Conference for the World Disarmament Campaign at the forty-third session of the General Assembly, as expressly provided for in the fifth paragraph of the draft resolution.

The second of the three drafts to which I referred at the beginning of my statement is contained in document A/C.1/42/L.57, and deals with the implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/60 I on a nuclear-arms freeze. It is sponsored by Indonesia, Pakistan, Peru, Sweden and Mexico.

As with the previous draft, I need not comment on the content of this draft either since a careful reading will suffice. I shall therefore confine myself to emphasizing, as was clearly stated in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly adopted in 1978, and as is recalled in the preamble of the draft resolution, that:

"existing arsenals of nuclear weapons are more than sufficient to destroy all life on earth".

I think it is also worth emphasizing that:

"a nuclear arms freeze, while not an end in itself, would constitute the most effective first step to prevent the continued increase and qualitative improvement of existing nuclear weaponry during the period when the negotiations take place".

And, finally, that, as the draft continues:

(Mr. Garcia Robles, Mexico)

"the application of the systems of surveillance, verification and control already agreed upon in some previous cases would be sufficient to provide a reasonable guarantee of faithful compliance with the undertaking derived from the freeze".

The third and last of the draft resolutions that I referred to is the one pertaining to item 66 (n) of the agenda, entitled "Comprehensive programme of disarmament", contained in document A/C.1/42/L.51. It is sponsored by Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan, Peru, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Venezuela, Yugoslavia and Mexico. To those countries, as announced by the Secretary of the Committee, we would add Cuba.

The draft resolution is very short and there are only two operative paragraphs. In the first, regret is expressed that the Conference on Disarmament was unable to complete the elaboration of the comprehensive programme of disarmament in 1987 and to submit a draft thereof to the General Assembly at its forty-first session.

The second paragraph of the draft is to the effect that the Assembly:

"Urges the Conference on Disarmament to resume the work on the elaboration of the comprehensive programme of disarmament at the outset of its 1988 session with a view to resolving outstanding issues and concluding negotiations on the programme in time for its submission to the General Assembly at its third special session devoted to disarmament, and, for that purpose, to re-establish its Ad Hoc Committee on the Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament."

In my capacity as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee that dealt with that subject I submitted the report of that Committee to the Conference on Disarmament on 27 August 1987, and stated, in referring to the recommendation made by the

(Mr. Garcia Robles, Mexico)

Committee - which is the same recommendation as the one contained in the second paragraph of the draft resolution that I have quoted:

"For this recommendation to be able to attain its objective, I consider it my duty to state categorically that it will be essential that some of the members of the Committee and, in several cases, it is a matter of one or two of them, to modify the conduct that they had in the year of the work of the Conference which is now drawing to a close. This line of conduct produced, among other things, the situation whereby the 35 pairs of square brackets that the report had - and which was submitted by the Ad Hoc Committee on the Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament, which the Conference transmitted to the General Assembly at its forty-first session in document CD/728 of 26 August 1986, and which served as a basis for our work - far from being reduced, increased to a figure that was three times as big, because now the draft that I am presenting has 97 pairs of square brackets."

The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.51 are convinced that existing circumstances make it highly desirable for the First Committee to adopt this draft unanimously to show that it is not futile to have an item on the draft agenda of the third special session devoted to disarmament - item 11 - that is, an item totally devoted to the comprehensive programme of disarmament.

Mr. DUMEVI (Ghana): My delegation would like to propose an amendment to operative paragraph 1 (a) of draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.76/Rev.1.

Before doing so, however, I should like to make a brief comment on the draft as a whole. The delegation of Ghana shares the general view, eloquently expressed in the statements of several delegations, that the working methods of the First Committee should be rationalized.

(Mr. Dumevi, Ghana)

We also endorse the view that the Committee as a deliberative forum for examining disarmament and security issues should approach its work in a much more businesslike manner. In our statement in this Committee on 15 October, the Ghana delegation went to great lengths to emphasize that concern. In particular we stated that, in the interest of the Committee's maximum effectiveness and efficiency, the matter of the proliferation of resolutions should be addressed seriously and to that end we supported the view that resolutions should be regrouped and that the clustering begun by the Committee some years ago should be diligently pursued.

However, the Ghana delegation feels that in so doing we do not have to approach our work by staggering resolutions. That, in our view, may well be the first step in giving a decent burial to certain items with which some delegations might have difficulty. In brief, we do not think the way to improve the Committee's working methods is to embark on a process that would lead to the deletion of certain agenda items. In our view, that approach is tantamount to abdication of responsibility.

The Ghana delegation therefore proposes the following amendment to subparagraph (a) of operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.76/Rev.1: insert a semi-colon after the word "possible" in the second line and delete the balance of the subparagraph. The subparagraph would therefore read as follows:

"The agenda of the First Committee should be rationalized by grouping or merging related items to the extent possible;".

In conclusion, allow me to state that my delegation is available for consultations with the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.76/Rev.1 if they so desire.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): The Committee will now take a decision on the draft resolutions in cluster 1.

(The Chairman)

First I shall call on the delegations wishing to make statements other than explanations of vote on the draft resolutions in cluster 1.

Mr. TEJA (India): I should like to comment on agenda item 66 (a) and (b) relating to the reports of the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament, submitted in documents A/42/42 and A/42/27, respectively.

In the United Nations Disarmament Commission this year, although the agenda was longer the time available to us was much shorter. It is a matter of some regret that, once again, we were neither able to conclude our work on the agenda item relating to consideration of various aspects of the arms race, in particular the nuclear-arms race and nuclear disarmament, in order to expedite negotiations aimed at the effective elimination of the danger of nuclear war; nor able to elaborate a general approach to negotiations on nuclear and conventional disarmament within the framework of, and in accordance with, the priorities established in the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

On some of the other long-standing issues relating to the reduction of military budgets and South Africa's nuclear capability, progress was less than satisfactory.

In those circumstances, given the fact that the time available for the deliberations of the United Nations Disarmament Commission is limited, it would seem difficult to do it justice if more and more items continue to be added to its agenda. At the same time, it is clear that the Disarmament Commission as the deliberative body needs to tackle squarely the priority issues identified in the Final Document, even though they may not have easy solutions.

This year the single largest group of draft resolutions relates to nuclear issues: the cessation of the nuclear-arms race, nuclear disarmament, the nuclear-weapon-test ban, the prohibition of nuclear war, and so on. Such an

(Mr. Teja, India)

emphasis is a clear indication of the priorities to which we are expected to adhere within both the United Nations Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament.

However, once again the Conference on Disarmament was not able to establish ad hoc committees on any of the nuclear-related agenda items. It was hoped that, following the exercise of an informal exchange on the cessation of the nuclear-arms race during 1986, it would be possible to deal with the issue in a more appropriate structure, that of an ad hoc committee - but that did not prove possible. To try to set up informal structures with non-negotiating mandates is, in my delegation's view, an attempt to avoid the obligations imposed on the Conference on Disarmament and its role as the sole multilateral negotiating forum.

At the same time, the arms race has continued unabated and now threatens to enter into the dimension of outer space. A new generation of weapons, which seeks to blur the distinction between conventional and nuclear weapons by making use of highly sophisticated technologies, is likely to appear during the forthcoming decade. In the face of such a reality, it is imperative that we redouble our efforts to ensure that the priorities established in 1978 are maintained, and that both the United Nations Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament function effectively to discharge the responsibility given them by the General Assembly.

In a world where the destinies of all nations have become increasingly interlinked it is natural that the maintenance of international peace and security can take place only through collective responsibility and action. My delegation hopes that such a realization will enable us to overcome the impasse that has faced us recently in the United Nations Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament on some of the crucial items.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): I shall now call on delegations wishing to explain their positions before the vote.

Mr. MADSEN (Denmark): I am speaking on behalf of the 12 member States of the European Community in explanation of our vote on draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.56, entitled "Reduction of military budgets". The Twelve addressed this agenda item on 28 October and I shall now make only a brief comment.

(Mr. Madsen, Denmark)

The Twelve support the draft resolution. Members of the European Community have contributed substantially to the negotiations in the Disarmament Commission and we have consistently supported the endeavours to reach agreement on the principles that should govern the further actions of States in regard to the freezing and reduction of military budgets. Accordingly we support the request contained in operative paragraph 4 of resolution A/C.1/42/L.56 that the Disarmament Commission should continue the consideration of the item and, in this context, conclude its work on the last outstanding paragraph at its 1988 substantive session.

As the Twelve have stated on several occasions, it is essential that the principles of transparency and comparability be accepted by all parties to any negotiation before there can be meaningful negotiations on the freezing and reduction of military budgets. The elaboration of agreed methods of measuring and comparing military expenditures between different periods of time and between countries representing different regions and different budgeting systems are important prerequisites for the achievement of agreement on reductions.

The United Nations reporting matrix as established through General Assembly resolution 35/142 B provides a framework that will enable States to supply information about their military expenditures in the standardized form. We welcome the fact that since 1986 another five States have been participating in this reporting system. In the interest of greater transparency and comparability, we urgently call upon all States to participate in the standardized reporting system.

We hope that the United Nations Disarmament Commission will be able to finalize the draft principles at its 1988 session and solve the outstanding issues concerning the principles of transparency and comparability. We assume that the Disarmament Commission can complete this question in time and will be able to transmit its recommendations to the General Assembly at its third special session devoted to disarmament. The Twelve consider that it is important that this question be included in the agenda of the coming special session.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): If there are no further speakers wishing to explain their positions or votes before the vote is taken, we shall now take a decision on the draft resolutions in cluster 1.

Under agenda item 62 (a), "General and complete disarmament", we received draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.5, entitled "Prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of radiological weapons". This draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Hungary at the 24th meeting of the First Committee on 28 October 1987. Its sponsors are Australia, Hungary, Indonesia, Japan and Sweden.

The sponsors of the draft resolution have expressed the wish that the Committee adopt this draft without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.5 was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): We shall proceed to agenda item 53, "Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects". The draft resolution submitted under this item is A/C.1/42/L.31. It was introduced by the representative of Sweden at the 34th meeting of the Committee on 6 November 1987. The sponsors of this draft are Australia, Austria, Belgium, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cuba, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Sweden, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Viet Nam and Yugoslavia.

The sponsors of this draft resolution have expressed the wish that the Committee adopt it without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.31 was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): We proceed now to agenda item 66 (a), "Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session". The draft resolution submitted under this item is A/C.1/42/L.45, entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission". This draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Bulgaria on 29 October. Its sponsors are Austria, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Denmark, Jordan, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela.

The sponsors of the draft resolution have expressed the wish that the Committee adopt it without a vote. If there is no objection, I shall take it that the Committee so decides.

Draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.45.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): We proceed now to agenda item 66 (n) "Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session". The draft resolution on the item is A/C.1/42/L.51, entitled "Comprehensive programme of disarmament". This draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Mexico at the current meeting of the First Committee. Its sponsors are Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Cuba, Indonesia, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Romania, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Venezuela and Yugoslavia.

The sponsors of the draft resolution have expressed the wish to have it adopted without a vote. If there is no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.51 was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French). We turn now to agenda item 60, "Reduction of military budgets". The draft resolution submitted under this item is A/C.1/42/L.56. It was introduced by the representative of Romania at the 31st meeting of the First Committee on 3 November 1987. The sponsors of the draft are Bangladesh, Indonesia, Ireland, Nigeria, Peru, Romania, Senegal, Sweden and Uruguay.

The sponsors of this draft resolution have expressed the wish to have it adopted without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.56 was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): We shall now turn to item

62 (i) on general and complete disarmament. The draft resolution, which is contained in document A/C.1/42/L.75, is entitled "Review of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament". This draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Cameroon at the 32nd meeting of the First Committee on 4 November. The sponsors are: Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Bolivia, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, the Federal Republic of Germany, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, New Zealand, Niger, Panama, Philippines, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sudan, Suriname, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Zaire, Zambia.

The sponsors of this resolution have expressed the wish that it be adopted without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.75 was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): We have now completed the voting on the draft resolutions in cluster 1. I call now on those delegations who wish to explain their position on the draft resolutions just adopted.

Miss SOLESBY (United Kingdom): I am glad to have been able to join the consensus on draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.45 dealing with the report of the Disarmament Commission. My delegation participates actively in the Commission and has in recent years welcomed the sharper note of realism which has marked its work. I wish to make one specific comment on paragraph 8 of the draft resolution.

(Miss Solesby, United Kingdom)

I wish to record the view of my Government that the request for "full provision ... of interpretation and translation" should not be read to imply that every informal meeting held during the Commission should be serviced in this manner. Furthermore, it has become clear that the lack of verbatim records has not hampered the Commission's work. In our view, nothing in the present draft resolution constitutes a request that these records be resumed.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): The Committee will now take up draft resolutions in cluster 2, excluding draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.36, which is still the subject of consultations. We shall therefore consider draft resolutions A/C.1/42/L.44 and A/C.1/42/L.59.

As no members of the Committee have expressed the wish to explain their position or to make statements on cluster 2, we shall proceed immediately to the vote on draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.44, submitted under item 66 (m) entitled 'Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session: implementation of the recommendations and decisions of the tenth special session; verification in all its aspects'. This draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Canada at the 30th meeting of the First Committee, on 3 November 1987.

The sponsors of the draft resolution are Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Botswana, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Netherlands, Norway, New Zealand, Portugal, Romania, Samoa, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay.

(The Chairman)

The sponsors of this draft resolution have expressed the wish that the Committee adopt the draft resolution without a vote. If there is no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.44 was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): We shall now turn to agenda item 62, "General and complete disarmament". The draft resolution on the item, entitled "Compliance with arms limitation and disarmament agreements", is contained in document A/C.1/42/L.59. It was introduced by the representative of the United States of America at the 26th meeting of the First Committee on 30 October 1987. The sponsors of this draft resolution are: Australia, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, German Democratic Republic, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Mongolia, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Romania, Sierra Leone, Spain, United States of America, Uruguay and Zaire.

The sponsors of this draft resolution have expressed the wish that the draft resolution be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If there is no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.59 was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): The Committee will now take a decision on the draft resolutions in cluster 3. The Committee will vote first on draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.4, submitted under agenda item 55, "Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Pakistan at the Committee's 35th meeting on 6 November 1987. Pakistan is the sole sponsor of the draft resolution.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: None

Abstaining: Brazil, India, United States of America

Draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.4 was adopted by 122 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): The Committee will now take a decision on draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.19, which was submitted under agenda item 54, "Conclusion of effective international arrangements on the strengthening of the security of non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Bulgaria at the Committee's 33rd meeting, on 4 November 1987. The draft resolution is sponsored by Afghanistan, Angola, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Ethiopia, Mongolia and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Algeria, Angola, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Burma, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Jamaica, Malta, Sudan, Sweden, Uruguay

Draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.19 was adopted by 87 votes to 18, with 15 abstentions.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): I call on the representative of Argentina for an explanation of vote.

Mr. CAPPAGLI (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): This year the delegation of Argentina voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.4 on the conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

The decision of the Government of Argentina, as expressed by President Alfonsín at the Conference on Disarmament, not to produce nuclear weapons and to carry out its nuclear programme exclusively for peaceful purposes is well known. That resolute and definitive decision by Argentina gives us the right to request those States that do possess nuclear weapons to assume the commitment to give unconditional guarantees not to use or threaten to use those weapons against States that have stated that they do not have and will not produce nuclear weapons.

The delegation of Argentina will resolutely strive in the Conference on Disarmament to achieve the conclusion of international arrangements to that end as soon as possible.

We abstained in the voting on draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.19 because its content goes beyond the consideration of negative security assurances and deals with other topics that are not germane to the particular issue under discussion.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): This afternoon, the Committee will take decisions on draft resolutions in clusters 4 and 5.

The meeting rose at 12 noon.