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at 10 a.m.  
New York

**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 20th MEETING**

**Chairman:** Mr. **AZZAROUK** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

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**AGENDA ITEM 131: REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ENHANCING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-USE OF FORCE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (continued)**

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

**AGENDA ITEM 131: REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ENHANCING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-USE OF FORCE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (continued) (A/42/41; see also A/C.6/42/L.1)**

1. **Ms. NORIEGA** (Panama) said that there had been talk of a lack of political will for the Special Committee to reach agreement on enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of non-use of force in international relations. But what had been really evident was an intense political will to deflect all of the Committee's efforts to reach such agreement. Certain countries or groups of countries had opposed every attempt to develop the principle and enhance its effectiveness.

2. Credit for the Special Committee's escape from the atmosphere of confrontation that had lasted almost 10 years must be given to the flexibility of one of the sides in giving up its original idea and accepting the compromise formula of a declaration. Credit was also due to the Eighth Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Countries held in Aarare in 1986, which had expressed full support for a universal declaration on refraining from the use of force in international relations and pledged to work for one in the Special Committee. The declaration issued by the Stockholm Conference at the beginning of 1986 had also encouraged the adoption of a more realistic approach to the Special Committee's work.

3. The consensus achieved on the draft Declaration in the Special Committee was a significant contribution to strengthening the universal legal validity of the principle of non-use of force and should enhance its effectiveness. The proposed Declaration unequivocally reiterated the basic principles of the United Nations Charter and other instruments of international law, and thus made a tangible contribution to formalizing the indivisibility of the non-use of force and other principles essential for the coexistence of nations. It also emphasized the relationship between respect for human rights and international peace and security, and forcefully prohibited the use or threat of force for any reason whatsoever.

4. Her delegation gave the draft Declaration its unqualified support and thought that it should be submitted to the General Assembly for unanimous approval, since that would constitute its strength. The fact that the Declaration was not normative would affect its impact but the validity of its precept remained unalterable. The principle of non-use of force had become a concept of international law and would remain valid in the sphere of international relations even if the United Nations Charter ceased to exist.

5. The Declaration suffered from serious defects because certain major countries had prevented the inclusion of a more precise and detailed description of the many forms of the threat or use of force on which agreement had been reached but which did not appear in any of the legal instruments expanding Article 2, paragraph 4, of the Charter. The Group of Non-Aligned Countries had been frustrated in its attempt to introduce some of the concepts mentioned in the Special Committee's

Wm. Noriega, Panama)

1986 report am being covered by the term "force" (A/41/41, para. 54 et seq.). A valuable opportunity to develop and codify an important principle of international law had thus been lost. That considerably diminished what could have been a real contribution to the effectiveness of that principle because, in the last resort, respect for it remained subject to the arbitrary will of States.

6. The principle of non-use of force could only become effective if and when every State assumed the obligation to adopt the norms of international law as guideline for its relations. But aotm were being committed that made a dead letter of Article 2, paragraph 4, of the Charter, let alone the other legal instruments that complemented it. The violator8 of that principle were precisely the same people who for many years had led the systematic opposition in the special Committee to any attempt to detail the concept of the threat or use of force in its various forms. They had done so simply because they had decided to continue using force in all the subtle forms that it took as a concealed instrument of aggression.

7. Current advances in information technology greatly facilitated the use of force and an obmaene campaign of misinformation and gross mlanderm had been orchestrated against Panama by the world's greatest Power since the end of 1985. What had started as a wvert operation had become a shameless campaign of great proportions, using the most sophisticated methods with a view to overthrowing the existing Government and replacing it with a puppet régime that would bow to those who had net themnelves up as judges and directors of the international community.

8. It was not easy to discern the motives for the campaign but everything pointed to the ending of the United States presence in Panama at the end of the century. There had been numerous United States violations of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties for several years and the campaign of defamation against Panama in the United States media was modelled on the Nazi-Fascist one that had encouraged the collapse of the Spanish Republic in 1935: first, the creation of a bad image aimed at destroying high government personalities, then political and economic coercion pushed to ruinous extremes. The first phase could be called character assassination, a notion that had been frequently aired recently in the White House and in the United States Senate.

9. Panama was the victim of a serious case of interference in its internal affairs based on two resolutions of the United States Senate, the latest of which called for the installation of a provisional junta in place of the existing constitutional Government within 45 days, all in the name of democracy. Economic pressure was beginning to have effects on her country, which was already suffering the consequences of destabilization planned from outside. The next step in that barefaced campaign was the aggression might well be the unannounced of her country's leaders or armed intervention, as had happened in other cases.

10. Mr. DJOKIC (Yugoslavia) said that although the draft Declaration proceeded from the provisions of well-known United Nations documents, it was not merely a repetition of their contents but an important step forward, its significance was that, for the first time, a United Nations document adopted by consensus encompassed the majority of the most important provisions on refraining from the

(Mr. Djokic, Yugoslavia)

threat or use of force in international relations. In addition to elaborating and reaffirming the provision of earlier documents, it thus made a significant contribution to enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of non-use of force.

11. The draft Declaration's provision obliging States to refrain from paramilitary, terrorist and subversive acts and prohibiting political, economic and other forms of coercion in international relations were particularly important. However, many problems had not been satisfactorily regulated and the introduction of much more precise obligation concerning the prohibition of the threat or use of force, disarmament measures and the creation of conditions for a new international economic order would have made an even greater contribution to enhancing the effectiveness of the principle. Nevertheless, his delegation welcomed the draft Declaration and supported the proposal that it should be submitted to the General Assembly for adoption. That would not only help to enhance the effectiveness of the principle, but also renew confidence in the role of the United Nations in situations where force was used or threatened. It would also have a positive effect elsewhere, since every step forward in any field of international relations gave impetus to progress in others.

12. Mr. MURIN (Czechoslovakia) said that the new, constructive atmosphere that had prevailed in the Special Committee after many years of disagreement was a manifestation of the new thinking that was beginning to make headway in International relations. The draft Declaration represented the common contribution of all States and showed a spirit of realism towards international relations and the progressive development of international law. It took account of the demands of the various groups of countries, met the need to strengthen international peace and security in the nuclear age and expressed the constantly growing awareness of common responsibility for preserving and developing peaceful and friendly relations of State co-operation.

13. The draft Declaration was being submitted for adoption by the General Assembly just when the twentieth anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution was being celebrated. One of the first acts of the Soviet authorities had been to proclaim the Decree on Peace of October 1917 that had rejected war as an instrument of State policy and laid the foundation for the policy of peaceful coexistence among States. It had thus premarked the process of transforming traditional international law into a new democratic international law, whose main feature was the prohibition of the use or threat of force in international relations.

14. Czechoslovakia constantly supported all efforts to strengthen political and legal guarantees against the threat or use of force and had therefore backed from the very beginning the Soviet initiative that had culminated in the draft Declaration. His delegation was convinced that the new Declaration would soon join the similar outstanding documents that the General Assembly had already adopted to strengthen the legal basis and enhance the effectiveness of the principle laid down in Article 2, paragraph 4, of the United Nations Charter.

(Mr. Murin, Czechoslovakia)

15. The efforts to achieve mutual understanding and a spirit of co-operation that had prevailed during the last session of the Special Committee must be maintained after the draft Declaration had been adopted, for its implementation would be the major test of the stability of the course on which States had embarked in formulating it. The draft Declaration showed clearly the close relationship that existed between the effectiveness of the principle of non-use of force, on the one hand, and the observance of other principles and norms of international law and progress with regard to other aspects of international relations on the other. Implementation of the Declaration could therefore make a significant contribution to creating a comprehensive system of international peace and security.

16. The positive results being achieved in various international forums were helping to create the pre-conditions for the new Declaration to promote a constant enhancement of the effectiveness of the principle of non-use of force in international relations. His delegation agreed with those who saw the draft Declaration as being wholly in keeping with the vital needs of the modern world and therefore advocated its immediate adoption by consensus.

17. Mrs. ANDRIAMANARIVO (Madagascar) said that, despite the various existing international legal instruments, international relations continued to be marked by an escalation of violence. The draft Declaration was another means available to States to strengthen their co-operation in the face of threats to international peace and security. It dealt with practically all areas of international life and would serve as a link between the existing instruments.

18. Madagascar would have preferred a normative document, specifying the scope of the principles enshrined in the Charter and taking into account changing international relations, especially in view of Madagascar's inability to implement the collective security system effectively. However, her delegation joined the consensus on the text, hoping that the adoption of the draft Declaration would contribute to the formulation of more concrete juridical rules.

19. Madagascar had no particular objection to part I of the draft Declaration. Part II contained a number of relevant provisions, whose implementation would require additional study to make them operational. In paragraph 25 to 28, her delegation would have liked to have been included (specific provision reflecting the principles enshrined in Articles 10 and 11 of the Charter) the Security Council could not take refuge behind its principal responsibility for re-establishing and maintaining peace in order to deny a role to other United Nations organs.

20. Her delegation particularly supported the provisions in paragraphs 18 and 19 concerning disarmament, and those in paragraph 24 concerning the promotion of favourable conditions in the international economic environment. Her Government also noted with satisfaction the penultimate paragraph, which reaffirmed the right to self-determination, freedom and independence of peoples under colonial and racist régimes or other forms of alien domination. The adoption of the principles and recommendations contained in the draft Declaration was an essential element of peaceful coexistence between States. Their implementation would depend on the

(Mrs. Andriammarivo, Madagascar)

political will of States; otherwise, the Declaration would remain only a declaration of intent.

21. Mr. ABADA (Algeria) said that his delegation, having participated as an observer in the Special Committee, understood why those who had taken the floor before him had urged the adoption of the draft Declaration and stressed the need not to reopen the debate on it. Various factors had been essential to the successful conclusion of the Special Committee's work, including total support for the adoption of a universal declaration on the non-use of force in international relations and commitment to working towards that goal, combined with a redefinition of the Special Committee's original mandate, all of which had been supported by the non-aligned countries at their summit meeting at Harare. The perseverance of the third world countries had mitigated the difficulties of negotiating the form of the future instrument.

22. The draft Declaration was marked by three major lines of thinking. It would have been better if, despite the lack of time or political will - or both - the agreement among the three points of view had not come about at the lowest level, to the point of merely repeating the principles and norms contained in previous declarations, especially since the expertise and resources needed to accomplish the task were not lacking in the Special Committee. It could more usefully have based its work, for example, on experience acquired in the codification and progressive development of international law and on the valuable documents adopted by the United Nations concerning international economic relations and disarmament. The idea "force" could no longer be reduced to the mere use of arms, and it would have been appropriate to take inventory of other manifestations of force, such as economic pressures and reprisals against States which were exercising certain prerogatives of sovereignty, and assess the impact of much force on political independence.

23. However, the draft Declaration would take its place between, on the one hand, the agreement reached at the Stockholm Conference on Confidence- and Security-building Measures and Disarmament and, on the other hand, the recent agreement in principle on intermediate-range nuclear missiles. Although the two agreements were based on a geographically restricted concept of peace, they were likely to encourage the establishment of an atmosphere conducive to peace. The draft Declaration would thus be a serious indication of the will of States to achieve disarmament, no longer defining their security in terms of a weapons build-up, and gradually distancing themselves from the infernal reasoning of the arms race, especially the nuclear arms race. To the extent that the draft Declaration was an important step towards that goal, his delegation was in favour of its adoption.

24. Mr. ECONOMIDES (Greece) recalled the statement made on behalf of his delegation by the representative of Denmark, speaking for the members of the European Economic Community.

(Mr. Economides, Greece)

25. The question of enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of non-use of force in international relations was vital to mankind. Consequently, his delegation was satisfied that the Special Committee had, after so many years of work, finally arrived at a positive outcome, which had been accepted by consensus. That success was due to the flexible and realistic mandate given to the Special Committee the previous year and, even more, to the spirit of co-operation and understanding that had prevailed in that Committee.

26. His delegation was glad that some of the proposals submitted by Greece to the Special Committee had been incorporated, sometimes in modified form, into the draft Declaration, namely, the proposal referring to the international responsibility of any State having recourse to the threat or use of force (para. 1); the proposal referring to the non-recognition of any acquisition of territory resulting from the threat or use of force (para. 10); and the proposal concerning the invalidity of any treaty whose conclusion had been procured by the threat or use of force (para. 11).

27. However, it was regrettable that the Special Committee had not seen fit to include in the draft Declaration two other proposals by his delegation. First, while recognizing that the idea was implicitly expressed in paragraph 10 of the draft Declaration, he felt that it would have been advisable to adopt formally a Provision along the lines proposed by his delegation stating that territorial acquisition obtained by force should in no case give rise to a succession of States, a rule already accepted in articles 6 and 3 respectively of the two Vienna Conventions of 1978 and 1983 on succession of States. Secondly, the adoption of his delegation's proposal stating that "States have the duty to assist the victims of the illegal use of force" (A/42/41, para. 47) would have filled in a gap in paragraph 4 of the draft Declaration and would have emphasized the general obligation of solidarity inherent in the letter and spirit of the Charter.

28. The text of the draft Declaration embraced nearly all the aspects of the question of the non-use of force in international relations and was a step forward in establishing the link between respect for the principle of non-use of force and disarmament, economic development, particularly in underdeveloped countries, and the protection of human rights. Nevertheless, his delegation, and others, felt that the text could have gone further in the codification and progressive development of the principle of non-use of force. One example was the lack of an express mention in the Declaration of the jus cogens nature of the principle, although that was implicit in the text of the Declaration, in particular paragraphs 2 and 7, whose importance had been justly emphasized by the Canadian delegation at the 19th meeting of the Sixth Committee.

29. It was regrettable that the authors of the Declaration had used the word "should" in many of the provisions of parts II and III in most of those cases, the word "shall" would have been more appropriate and, from the legal standpoint, more correct.

(Mr. Economides, Greece)

30. Despite the weaknesses inevitable in an instrument based on consensus, the Declaration remained a significant text in both the political and juridical spheres. In the political sphere, it indicated the will of States to combat effectively aggression, acts of violence, illegal military occupation and other acts constituting flagrant violation of international law and the United Nations Charter. Such acts should not only be outlawed but also should entail severe penalties, in the interest of the international community as a whole. In that context, it was his duty to recall once again the case of the Republic of Cyprus, much of whose territory had been occupied for 13 years by the military forces of Turkey, despite the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly. In the juridical sphere, the text usefully completed General Assembly resolution 3314 (XXIX) containing the Definition of Aggression, and enhanced and enriched the principle of non-use of force.

31. Lastly, his delegation was in favour of the adoption of the draft Declaration and hoped that that would be done by consensus.

32. Mr. MAPANGO na KEMISHAGA (Zaire) said that there was general agreement about the jus cogens nature of the principle of non-use of force. That principle had been articulated and defined through many declarations and actions of the General Assembly, inter alia, the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Definition of Aggression, the Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes, the Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace, the Establishment of the University for Peace, and the designation of the International Day of Peace.

33. He reviewed the conditions leading to the establishment in 1976, of the Special Committee with the mandate to prepare a draft treaty on the non-use of force. Those conditions included the progressive substitution, on a world-wide scale, of the use of force for the non-use of force and the continuing cycle of war, poverty and illness in the countries of Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Yet, after many years of discussion on the issue, no concrete results had materialized and debate had reached an impasse between those favouring the treaty and those against it.

34. Therefore, in the interest of mankind and in a new and conciliatory spirit, the Special Committee had, in 1986, been given a new mandate, which had been carried out in record time. Those changes were also due to a change in the attitudes of the great Powers, as exemplified in the recent agreements in principle between the United States and the Soviet Union on intermediate-range nuclear missiles.

35. His delegation welcomed the draft Declaration, which not only clarified the principle of non-use of force but also went further in emphasizing that no State could use or encourage the use of economic, political or any other type of coercive measure in order to obtain from another State the subordination at the exercise of its sovereign rights and to secure from it advantages of any kind.



(Mr. Mapango wa Kamishaga, Zaire)

36. After the adoption by the General Assembly of the draft Declaration, paragraph 22 would be implemented in his country through the Department of Rights and Liberties of Citizens, whose main objective was to promote and guarantee respect for human rights and fundamental liberties in Zaire. His country was developing and encouraging dialogue and good-neighbourly relations with neighbouring countries, based on the principles of mutual respect and non-interference in the internal affairs of other States.

37. His delegation was also satisfied with the emphasis in the draft Declaration on the need for the peaceful settlement of disputes between States and the standard set forth in the paragraph following paragraph 33 with regard to the right to individual and collective self-defence and the right to self-determination in accordance with the Charter.

38. Mr. VOICU (Romania) said that his delegation, which had been a member of the Special Committee and a sponsor of General Assembly resolution 41/76 containing the Special Committee's mandate, considered that the preparation and adoption of the draft Declaration by the Special Committee constituted eloquent proof of the possibility of arriving at generally acceptable solutions to a political and legal question of great complexity and topicality. The question of non-use of force was of pressing interest at a time when the international situation remained particularly serious as a result of the accelerating arms race, and above all the nuclear arms race. In various parts of the world, conflict and tension persisted and were even escalating, while cases of the use of total and ruthless interference in the internal affairs of other States continued to occur.

39. In the same spirit of respect for the principles of the Charter of the United Nations that had motivated his country's 1985 proposal concerning the solemn appeal adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 40/9, his delegation had proposed in paragraph 4 of document A/42/562 that taking into account the serious dangers to international security resulting from the intensification of existing conflicts, the United Nations should address a general appeal to all States parties to such conflicts to cease all military operations and to call on all States of the world to proceed to a peaceful solution of their conflicts and disputes through negotiations. In addition, his delegation's proposal concerning recourse to a procedure of good office, mediation or conciliation within the framework of the United Nations had been re-examined in 1987 by the Special Committee and the relevant report would be considered by the Sixth Committee under agenda item 129.

40. The building of a comprehensive system of international peace and security, an initiative of which Romania was a sponsor, was of particular importance for the strengthening of peace and collaboration and for the improvement of the world Political climate. Such a system should be based on strict respect for the fundamental principles of relations between States, the complete exclusion of the use or threat of force, the peaceful settlement of disputes, and the strengthening of the role of the United Nations in the democratization of international life.

(Mr. Voiau, Romania)

41. His delegation was glad that the draft Declaration reaffirmed the universal validity of the principle of refraining from the threat or use of force, and developed and strengthened the obligation of all States to respect that principle. The Declaration had succeeded in highlighting the imperative character of the principle of non-use of force, while also reflecting the universal character of that principle, which applied to all States without exception. Further, the Declaration • nuxrated the most important aspects of the principle of the peaceful settlement of disputes, which was inseparable from the principle of non-use of force, and would thus contribute to the application of the Manila Declaration.

42. The role and responsibility of the United Nations with regard to the application and strengthening of the principle of non-use of force could not be limited to the adoption of a document on that subject; its task in that regard was a permanent and fundamental one. Consequently, his delegation firmly supported the unanimous • doptiar of the draft Declaration, which marked a step forward in the progressive development of international law and in the strengthening of the international rule of law.

43. Mr. BOUABID (Tunisia) noted that for the first time since its establishment in 1977 the Special Committee had submitted a report containing concrete and • naourating results, in accordance with its new mandate. That happy outcome confirmed the position which his delegation had always taken in the Sixth Committee that no organ working on the basis of consensus could reach • grement if there was disagreement on its basic mandate, and that the special Committee should take advantage of the new atmosphere which had begun to characterize international relations.

44. His delegation would heed the appeal made by the Chairman of the Special Committee that the draft Declaration should be considered as a whole without the reopening of negotiations on its component parts, with a view to preserving the general agreement. But the text did not represent the best result which could have been achieved. In particular, it should have placed more emphasis on certain principles of special importance such as the right of peoples to decide their own future and non-interference in the internal affairs of States. Part II should also have contained more vigorous provisions on the special responsibility of the Security Council and of its permanent members, and clearer provisions about the role of the General Assembly and the International Court of Justice would have given the Declaration greater force.

45. The draft Declaration represented the will of the international community to work for the establishment of a state of lasting peace, stability and trust, and as such it had the full support of Tunisia, a peace-loving country committed to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

46. Mr. HAYASHI (Japan) noted with appreciation the spirit of compromise demonstrated by all the members of the Special Committee, in which his delegation had co-operated in the preparation of a useful document. His country was not completely satisfied with all the provisions of the draft Declaration but it would support its adoption as a whole by the General Assembly. Japan hoped that every

(Mr. Rayaahf, Japan)

Member State would then redouble its commitment to the principles of the Charter, which was particularly important at a time when the world was in a state of tension and tensions prevailed in the world. As the Chairman of the Special Committee had noted in his introductory statement, the real importance of the Declaration would be measured by its practical impact on the conduct of States.

47. Part III of the draft Declaration was particularly useful as it would contribute to the strengthening of the peace-keeping functions of the United Nations. However, the document as a whole was not meant to prejudice the relevant provisions of the Charter, the rights and duties of Member States or the scope of the functions and powers of United Nations organs. He therefore wished to restate the clear understanding that the draft Declaration was a non-normative document.

48. The final session of the Special Committee had proved that a subsidiary body of the Sixth Committee could achieve much in a short time. His delegation hoped for a similar outcome from future endeavours, in particular the next session of the Special Committee on the Charter.

49. Mr. KOLOMA (Mozambique) said that his delegation was firmly convinced that the non-use of force in international relations was the most important principle of contemporary international law and the cornerstone of the United Nations system. Another principle of paramount importance for the maintenance of international peace and security was that of the peaceful settlement of disputes. The many conflicts and political tensions which characterised the contemporary world were direct consequences of the violation of those two basic principles.

50. Mozambique remained highly committed to the principle of non-use of force in international relations and pursued a peaceful foreign policy, on the basis of which it had signed an accord with South Africa in 1964 and a security agreement with Malawi in 1986.

51. His delegation felt that the draft Declaration, as a compromise formula, was well balanced. It addressed the most important concerns of the various groups and indicated ways in which the international community could reduce or even eliminate armed conflict and political tensions. However, his delegation shared the concerns of those who thought that the Declaration did not fully reflect the Special Committee's many years of hard work, and of those who felt that it could have addressed some other relevant issues. Despite the Declaration's shortcomings, his delegation believed it was a valid and important political document and fully supported its adoption.

52. Mr. DJIENA (Cameroon) said that when the item had first been included in the agenda of the General Assembly, positions had been divided as to whether a world treaty on non-use of force should in fact be drafted. That division had prevailed for 10 years, during which many non-aligned States had waveringly taken a flexible position, requiring that the main thing was to enhance the effectiveness of the principle of non-use of force. It was in that spirit that the Republic of State and Government of the non-aligned countries had adopted a declaration on the question at Harare in 1986. He noted that special attention had also been given to the issue at the Stockholm Conference.

(Mr. Djiona, Cameroon)

53. His delegation was happy to have participated in the constructive work of the Special Committee's last session. The draft Declaration represented an acceptable compromise and should be adopted without a vote by the General Assembly. The Special Committee had been right to include among the principles stated in part I those concerning the peaceful settlement of disputes, the conduct of States, human rights, disarmament and confidence-building measures, the right of individual or collective self-defence, and the development of international co-operation in the economic, technical and cultural fields. The most important point in part II concerned the measures which States should take with respect to their obligation to ensure non-use of force. Part III rightly emphasized the role of the United Nations and the need for States to make better use of the Organization.

54. The adoption of the draft Declaration would not settle all the problems, and the reservations • ~~the~~ at the time of the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2625 (XXV) on friendly relations, 3311 (XXIX) on the Definition of Aggression and 37/10 containing the Manila Declaration would no doubt be reiterated. But the arguments of the States which fully supported all parts of those resolutions remained valid. For example, his delegation remained convinced that the appeal contained in the tenth preambular paragraph of the draft Declaration for all States to desist from any forcible action aimed at depriving peoples of their right to self-determination, freedom and independence covered all armed conflicts and situations in which there was no direct aggression but in which political, economic and cultural pressures were exerted.

55. His delegation hoped that the draft Declaration would be useful to the Organization in its peace-keeping role and that it would influence the behaviour of states. Even if that proved not to be the case, the text still marked an important step in the right direction and reasserted the concern of the international community about the continued use of armed intervention or indirect aggression through • economic and political pressure. In that connection, his delegation had been encouraged by the adoption of Security Council resolution 598 (1987). That action by the Security Council should be extended with the same vigour to other troubled areas, such as Latin America, the Middle East and, in particular, southern Africa, where the activities of the Pretoria régime had long represented a violation of international peace and security.

56. Mr. SOMOGYI (Hungary) said that the question of non-use of force remained one of the most pertinent issues facing the international community. A significant role was given to the full implementation of the principle of non-use of force in the comprehensive • system of international peace and security proposed by the socialist countries in 1986.

57. His delegation had given its full support at previous sessions of the General Assembly to the • elaboration and adoption of an international legal instrument on non-use of force. In the general debate of the forty-second session Hungary's Minister for Foreign Affairs had stated that only new approaches to international relations and the renunciation of the threat or use of force could bring about a secure future for the nations of Europe. That naturally held true for all continents.

(Mr. Somogyi, Hungary)

58. The adoption by the General Assembly of the draft Declaration would be an important step towards the consolidation of the legal basis of peaceful relations among nations, for one of the most urgent tasks of the age was to banish the use of force from international affairs. Such action would be more than a symbolic gesture, since it would also enhance the prestige of the United Nations and reinforce the conviction of the international community that the Organisation should take greater initiatives for the relaxation of tension and prohibition of the threat or use of force in violation of the Charter. The adoption of the draft Declaration would mark further progress in the codification and development of international law and in the strengthening of the role of law in international relations.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.