

CONFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT

CCD/PV.538
14 September 1971
ENGLISH

FINAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE FIVE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-EIGHTH MEETING
held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Tuesday, 14 September 1971, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman:

Mr. M. IMRU

(Ethiopia)

(Previous verbatim records in this series appeared under the symbols
ENDC/PV.1-ENDC/PV.430).

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PRESENT AT THE TABLE

Argentina:

Mr. M.E. DELPECH

Brazil:

Mr. R. SARAIVA GUERREIRO

Mr. P. NOGUEIRA BATISTA

Mr. L.F. PALMEIRA LAMPREIA

Bulgaria:

Mr. K. CHRISTOV

Mr. I. PEINIRDJIEV

Burma:

U WIN PE

U KYAW MIN

Canada:

Mr. G. IGNATIEFF

Mr. R.W. CLARK

Mr. S. BEATTIE

Czechoslovakia:

Mr. M. VEJVODA

Mr. J. STRUCKA

Egypt:

Mr. H. KHALLAF

Mr. O. SIRRY

Mr. M. ISMAIL

Ethiopia:

Mr. M. IMRU

Hungary:

Mr. I. KOMIVES

Mr. J. PETRAN

India:

Mr. P.K. BANERJEE

Mr. K.P. JAIN

Italy:

Mr. R. CARACCIOLO

Mr. E. GIUFFRIDA

Mr. R. BORSARELLI

Mr. U. PESTALOZZA

Japan:

Mr. H. TANAKA

Mr. H. OTSUKA

Mr. Y. HAMADA

Mexico:

Mr. J. CASTAÑEDA

Mr. M. MARIN

Mongolia:

Mr. O. KHOSBAYAR

Mr. Z. EREBDO

Mrs. D. BALJINNYAM

Morocco:

Mr. M.A.A. KHATTABI

Netherlands:

Mr. E. BOS

Nigeria:

Mr. A.A. OLUMIDE

Pakistan:

Mr. M.A. NAIK

Mr. T.O. HYDER

Poland:

Mr. W. NATOREF

Mr. J. STACHOWSKI

Mr. S. TOPA

Mr. R. WLAZLO

Romania:

Mr. I. DATCU

Mr. C. GEORGESCO

Mr. C. MITRAN

Mr. N. CHILIE

Sweden:

Mr. L. ECKENBERG

Mr. U. ERICSSON

Mr. U. REINIUS

Union of Soviet Socialist
Republics:

Mr. A.A. ROSHCHIN
Mr. V.B. TOULINOV
Mr. Y.C. NAZARKINE

United Kingdom:

Mr. H.C. HAINWORTH
Mr. J.T. MASEFIELD
Mr. R. HOULISTON

United States of America:

Mr. J.F. LEONARD
Mr. J. MARTIN
Mr. A.F. NEIDLE
Mr. W. GIVAN

Yugoslavia:

Mr. M. CVOROVIC
Mr. M. VUKOVIC

Special Representative of the
Secretary-General:

Mr. I. PASTINEN

Alternate Representative of the
Secretary-General:

Mr. W. EPSTEIN

1. The CHAIRMAN (Ethiopia): I declare open the 538th plenary meeting of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament.
2. Mr. KHOSBAYAR (Mongolia) (translated from Russian): In beginning its statement the delegation of the Mongolian People's Republic would like to welcome sincerely the statement of the Government of the German Democratic Republic to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (CCD/350). That statement is regarded by us as further evidence of the position of principle underlying the foreign policy of the Government of the German Democratic Republic, which is aimed at the cessation of the armaments race, disarmament, the easing of international tension and the safeguarding of peace.
3. Today I intend to devote my brief statement to certain aspects of the problem of nuclear disarmament. Our position on the question of nuclear disarmament is well known to the Committee. The Mongolian People's Republic supports all efforts and initiatives that can help towards saving humanity from a nuclear catastrophe and strengthening peace and international security.

The Mongolian People's Republic has invariably been in favour of the prohibition and elimination of all types of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, the cessation of underground nuclear tests and the establishment of nuclear-free zones in various parts of the world.
4. We attribute paramount importance to the question of nuclear disarmament because, in our opinion, progress in that field would to a considerable extent clear the way towards the achievement of our over-all objective -- general and complete disarmament. The speediest solution of the problem of nuclear disarmament has become an urgent necessity in the light of the improvements in nuclear weapons and the unceasing nuclear arms race, which not only absorb enormous material resources and the working efforts of millions of human beings but also increase mistrust between States and poison the international atmosphere.
5. We have already noted that in the past few years certain successes have been achieved in limiting the unbridled nuclear arms race. Treaties have been concluded such as the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water (ENDC/100/Rev.1), the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (ENDC/226*), and the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement

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of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof (General Assembly resolution 2660 (XXV), Annex; CCD/318). With regard to the last-mentioned Treaty, namely that relating to the sea-bed and the ocean floor, I should like to inform the Committee that the Great People's Hournal of the Mongolian People's Republic ratified that Treaty on 31 August of this year.

6. There is no doubt that the conclusion of the aforesaid international agreements helped towards curbing the nuclear arms race and exercised a positive influence on the political situation in the world. Nevertheless, however important those actions may have been, they are merely preliminary steps in the right direction, which must be reinforced by further measures to make them more effective and be followed by other measures of wider scope in the field of disarmament.

7. Many delegations in the Committee have referred to the fact that any measures in the field of nuclear disarmament exert a realistic influence only when those measures are supported by all nuclear States. We fully share their opinion. Bearing this in mind, the Government of the Mongolian People's Republic has supported the proposal of the Soviet Union for the convocation of a conference of the five nuclear States to consider the problem of nuclear disarmament -- a proposal which has met with a wide response in world public opinion and with an understanding attitude towards it in political circles in numerous countries.

8. The Mongolian People's Republic also welcomes the new initiative of the Government of the Soviet Union regarding the convening of a world-wide conference on disarmament, which is contained in the letter of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Soviet Union, Mr. Gromyko, to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, U Thant, dated 6 September 1971. We regard this step as yet another practical expression of the desire of the Soviet Union to achieve concrete measures for the cessation of the arms race.

9. My delegation, like many others, attributes great importance to the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) taking place between the Soviet Union and the United States, of which the fifth round of working sessions is now proceeding in Helsinki. We in Mongolia noted with approval the statement of 20 May that those two Powers have agreed to concentrate their efforts this year on the preparation of an agreement limiting any extension of the system of anti-missile

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defence, and that after the conclusion of an agreement on anti-missile defence certain measures will be agreed upon also in regard to the limitation of strategic offensive weapons. A positive outcome of those negotiations would undoubtedly facilitate the solution of many other problems of disarmament discussed both within our Committee and in the United Nations.

10. Among individual measures of nuclear disarmament which await decision in the Committee, that of banning underground nuclear tests is first and foremost. It is to be regretted that this question has been discussed in the Committee for many years without any result. It is well known that from the very beginning the socialist countries have regarded the Moscow Treaty as a first step towards the complete prohibition of nuclear tests. Since the conclusion of that Treaty the Soviet Union and other socialist countries have manifested on many occasions their readiness to reach an agreement to put an end to underground nuclear-weapon tests.

11. Negotiations on that question are practically at a standstill because for military and political reasons certain Western countries continue to refuse to enter into such an agreement under the pretext of the necessity of on-site inspection for control over the prohibition of underground nuclear tests. Nevertheless, in the opinion of our delegation the Committee must not relax its efforts to seek a satisfactory solution of this important problem. This is all the more necessary in the light of General Assembly resolution 2663 B (XXV), which requested our Committee "to continue, as a matter of urgency, its deliberations on a treaty banning underground nuclear weapon tests..." (CCD/318)

12. During the current session many delegations, in devoting attention to the question of banning nuclear tests, have expressed their views and opinions regarding ways of solving it. Proposals have been put forward, in particular, for a partial cessation of underground tests. Many delegations, however, have expressed serious doubts about the appropriateness of adopting such measures, bearing in mind not only political but also technical considerations. Such an approach, in our opinion, is really fraught with the danger of unwarranted procrastination in reaching an agreement on the complete prohibition of nuclear tests. For this reason my delegation is inclined most of all to share fully the opinion expressed by the representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Mr. Khallaf, who stated:

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"Finally, and more particularly, such partial solutions might not be at all necessary in the light of the most recent technical developments. From what we learn these days from both Soviet and, especially, American sources as quoted in the international press, it becomes increasingly clear that on-site inspection has become superfluous and that national means of verification alone can be safely entrusted with the task of assuring respect by all of the obligations entered into under a treaty."

(CCD/PV.509, para. 34)

13. Lastly, I should like to deal with one more question relating to nuclear disarmament to which the delegation of the Mongolian People's Republic attaches great importance. I refer to the question of banning the use of nuclear weapons. This is a problem which becomes ever more acute as time goes by. Being aware of the great threat to the whole of mankind which a nuclear war represents, the world community demands with increasing insistence that urgent measures be taken to ban the use of those types of weapons of mass destruction. These demands have been reflected, in particular, in many resolutions of the United Nations condemning the use of nuclear and thermonuclear weapons as contrary to the spirit, the letter and the aims of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as to the standards of international law and humanitarian principles.

14. It seems to us high time to consolidate those provisions of the United Nations resolutions into an international agreement. An agreement banning the use of nuclear weapons and similar to the Geneva Protocol on the use of chemical and bacteriological weapons (A/7575/Rev.1, Annex VI) would play an important role in restraining any attempts to use such terrible weapons. It would facilitate further negotiations for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons from the arsenals of States.

15. It seems to us that, given the political will, it would not be difficult to achieve agreement on this subject. The task would be facilitated, **first by the fact** that such an agreement, as has been pointed out in the past, is least of all linked to complicated measures in the field of control; and secondly, because there already exists a complete draft convention (A/6834; ENDC/210) which provides for the undertaking by States parties not to have recourse to nuclear weapons, to threaten to use them or to incite other States to use them. That draft was submitted by the

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delegation of the Soviet Union and, as the representative of the Soviet Union, Mr. Roshchin, has stated (CCD/PV.495, para. 32), is still valid. In our view it could serve as an excellent basis for practical negotiations. The delegation of the Mongolian People's Republic considers it necessary that the Committee set about a businesslike discussion of this problem.

16. In conclusion, my delegation wishes to join previous speakers in welcoming the new representative of India, Ambassador Banerjee, and wishing him every possible success in his extremely important work.

The Conference decided to issue the following communiqué:

"The Conference of the Committee on Disarmament today held its 538th plenary meeting in the Palais des Nations, Geneva, under the chairmanship of H.E. Ambassador Mikael Imru, representative of Ethiopia.

"A statement was made by the representative of Mongolia.

"The next meeting of the Conference will be held on Thursday, 16 September 1971, at 10.30 a.m."

The meeting rose at 10.55 a.m.