



VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 30th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. Roche (Canada)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

AGENDA ITEMS 51 TO 69, 139, 141 AND 145 (continued)

CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION ON DRAFT RESOLUTIONS ON DISARMAMENT ITEMS

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the Secretary of the Committee for an announcement.

The SECRETARY: I should like to inform the members of the Committee that the following countries have become co-sponsors of the following draft resolutions:

A/C.1/43/L.12: Djibouti

A/C.1/43/L.33: Philippines

A/C.1/43/L.43: Djibouti

A/C.1/43/L.48: Philippines

A/C.1/43/L.53: Peru

A/C.1/43/L.59: Liberia

A/C.1/43/L.64: Djibouti and Philippines

A/C.1/43/L.65 and L.66: Djibouti

A/C.1/43/L.69: Ukrainian SSR, Philippines and Liberia

Mr. HYLTIENIUS (Sweden): I have the honour to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.44, concerning the 1980 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 together with three Protocols, on non-detectable fragments, on land mines, booby traps and other devices, and on incendiary weapons.

(Mr. Hyltenius, Sweden)

The adoption of that Convention on 10 December 1980 was the result of several years of preparation. The fact that the Convention entered into force on 2 December 1983 - that is, less than three years after its adoption - is a very encouraging indication of the international community's desire progressively to develop international humanitarian law in that field and to give it effect. The draft resolution reflects the satisfaction felt at this positive development and also notes the possibility laid down in article 8 of the Convention for reviewing the scope and operation of the Convention and its Protocols and for the setting of further international standards relating to other categories of conventional weapons not covered so far.

The Convention and the three Protocols annexed to it have been acceded to by 28 States parties. In the draft resolution States that have not yet become parties to the Convention and the Protocols annexed thereto are urged to exert their best endeavours to do so as early as possible, so that the instruments may ultimately obtain universality of adherence.

The sponsors of the draft resolution are Australia, Austria, Belgium, Byelorussian SSR, Cuba, Denmark, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, USSR, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia and my own delegation, Sweden. On behalf of those sponsors, I should like to express the hope that the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/43/L.44 will be adopted by consensus.

Speaking on behalf of my own delegation, I should like to make some further remarks. In our view, some categories of weapons, such as incendiary weapons, should be made the objects of further, specific restrictions. As has been suggested in the United Nations study on the naval arms race, a category such as sea mines could be made the object of restrictions in a new protocol, possibly -

(Mr. Hyltenius, Sweden)

but not necessarily - within the framework of the present Convention. As a matter of fact, the Swedish Government has prepared a first draft of a protocol on the use of naval mines, in line with the 1907 Hague Convention on Sea Mines and the 1981 Protocol on Land Mines. My delegation is prepared to hand over that draft to any delegation interested in the matter.

In addition, as pointed out by Sweden at the 25th International Red Cross Conference in 1986 and in the First Committee last year, developments in laser technology should be followed closely. There seems to be a risk of the development of lasers for anti-personnel purposes on the conventional battlefield. It is thus technologically possible to develop and manufacture specific anti-personnel laser weapons, the main effect of which would be to blind the adversary's soldiers permanently.

In this Committee, Sweden has twice distributed an informal paper on the laser issue. The conclusion has been that the matter merits international attention and that an international instrument prohibiting systematic and deliberate use of laser weapons against individuals should be considered.

It is therefore gratifying to note that, as far as we have understood it, the International Committee of the Red Cross is planning a meeting of experts on the laser issue in the summer of 1989. We hope that that meeting will contribute to a further development of international humanitarian law in that field.

Mr. RODRIGO (Sri Lanka): I have the honour of introducing draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.12, entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space". I am doing so on behalf of the following countries: Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cameroon, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Romania, Sudan, Sweden, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia, Zimbabwe and my own country, Sri Lanka.

(Mr. Rodrigo, Sri Lanka)

The concept of outer space now rarely evokes automatic connotations of the fantastic, the abstract or the romantic. Despite its remaining mysteries, outer space has, in a real sense, become an environment of increasing practical, even mundane, relevance to the daily lives of all human beings. All humanity, therefore, has a stake in the future of this last frontier. That future has yet to be determined. The choice can still be exercised between pursuing its potential for peaceful development on the one hand, and, on the other, courting conflicts of a nature and scale that cannot be properly assessed at this relatively early stage of man's foray into space.

The draft resolution in document A/C.1/43/L.12 represents an effort on the part of its sponsors to promote international co-operation for the achievement of the twin goals of preventing an arms race in outer space and ensuring that the vast potential of that domain is peacefully developed to the benefit of all mankind. It seeks to build on the readiness of all to contribute to the objectives we all share. The first, second, third, fourth and twelfth preambular paragraphs, which echo similar paragraphs of last year's resolution 42/33, serve to emphasize those universal hopes.

As in last year's resolution, the draft before you recalls, in its fifth, sixth and seventh preambular paragraphs, the obligations undertaken under the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, and the relevant paragraphs adopted at the first special session devoted to disarmament. The eighth and twelfth preambular paragraphs recall the continuing part played by the General Assembly's own resolutions on the prevention of an arms race in outer space and the relevant paragraphs of the Political Declaration adopted by the Eighth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Harare that relate to the subject.

(Mr. Rodrigo, Sri Lanka)

The existing legal régime applicable to outer space is one which, in its totality, has undeniably served important functions. It has thus far contributed to preventing an arms race in outer space, and it is a widely held conviction that the régime should be consolidated and reinforced and that existing agreements, both bilateral and multilateral, require strict and faithful compliance. Paragraph 13 is relevant in that regard. However significant the role played by the legal régime, the pace of technological, strategic and other developments arising from the early days of man's advent into space has now tended to contribute to a growing recognition that the régime by itself does not guarantee the prevention of an arms race in outer space, nor does it guarantee against the use of outer space for offensive measures affecting Earth. The draft before you, while certainly acknowledging the important functions served by the régime, reflects the position that further measures are indeed urgently called for. Attention is drawn to the fifteenth and sixteenth preambular paragraphs, as well as to operative paragraphs 3, 4 and 5.

That outer space has thus far been immune from the armed conflicts that have plagued planet Earth can hardly be consoling. Man's presence in space is of but a moment's duration in relation to the period of his occupation of this planet. We are still at the beginning of what we call the space age. To presume that we have secured its future on the premise that outer space has survived mankind's frequently sullyng hand for a few decades is to subscribe to a dangerously beguiling sense of complacency.

Mercifully, the options are still open. We have not yet foreclosed on our future in space. There is much to be done, however, before it is too late to ensure that outer space indeed remains free of conflict and safe from weapons in the midst of the bewildering technological developments that are proceeding.

(Mr. Rodrigo, Sri Lanka)

Technology is only as good or as bad as the use to which it is put, and timely action to pre-empt its abuses, in an area as yet relatively safe, is important. Paragraphs 10 and 11 seek to articulate some of our feelings on this matter.

A sense of urgency can serve as a valuable spur to encourage practical measures, with appropriate and effective provisions for verification, both at the bilateral and the multilateral level - measures that paragraphs 5 and 6 suggest should be taken.

(Mr. Rodrigo, Sri Lanka)

The draft - and this is an important new element - acknowledges, in preambular paragraph 20, the complementary nature of bilateral and multilateral negotiations. Furthermore, it specifically recognizes, in preambular paragraphs 17 and 18, that the vital negotiations between the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics could make a valuable contribution to multilateral objectives, expressing the hope, in the next preambular paragraph, that concrete results will emerge from these bilateral negotiations.

At the multilateral level, as indicated in operative paragraphs 7 and 8, the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral negotiating forum, has the primary role in the negotiations for the prevention of an arms race in outer space. This is not to deny in any way the special responsibility of those with major space capabilities nor to circumscribe or hinder their efforts towards commonly-held goals. Operative paragraph 12, for example, urges the United States and the Soviet Union to pursue intensively their bilateral negotiations in a constructive spirit aimed at reaching early agreement for preventing an arms race in outer space.

This year, in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, the Ad Hoc Committee concerned examined and identified issues relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space and dealt with existing agreements, as well as existing proposals and future initiatives, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, as reflected in preambular paragraph 14. This exercise has contributed to a deeper understanding of a number of problems and to a clearer perception of various positions. Operative paragraphs 9 and 11 request the Conference on Disarmament to intensify its consideration of the question in all its aspects.

Operative paragraph 10 is a vital paragraph which would have the Conference on Disarmament, at the beginning of its 1989 session, re-establish an Ad Hoc Committee

(Mr. Rodrigo, Sri Lanka)

with an adequate mandate to undertake negotiations for the conclusion of an agreement or agreements to prevent an arms race in outer space in all its aspects.

Operative paragraphs 14, 15, 16 and 17 are self-explanatory and do not require special comment.

The draft in document A/C.1/43/L.12 builds upon the near-consensus of General Assembly resolution 42/43 of last year but takes into account and seeks to reflect new developments, including the ongoing discussions between the United States and the Soviet Union and the work in the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space. The predominant mood in the draft is one of hope despite a note of concern.

We have carefully considered draft resolutions under agenda item 59, kindly made available to us by the delegations of China, Italy and the Soviet Union and submitted to the Committee as documents A/C.1/43/L.36, L.27 and L.59 respectively. As in past years, the non-aligned and neutral co-sponsors of our draft resolution hope to continue negotiations with those who have initiated other drafts, in an effort to reach understanding on a single text that would reflect to the maximum extent possible our individual perceptions as well as, more importantly, our shared goals and objectives. The co-sponsors of the joint draft resolution (A/C.1/43/L.12) remain open to any suggestions that may be made with a view to enhancing its general acceptability.

Mr. BELLINA (Peru) (interpretation from Spanish): It is a great honour for my delegation, on behalf of the co-sponsors, to introduce two draft resolutions. The first, contained in document A/C.1/43/L.71, relates to agenda item 65 (i): "Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly: United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America". It is co-sponsored by Argentina,

(Mr. Bellina, Peru)

Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nepal, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Togo, Uruguay and Venezuela.

The second draft resolution that my delegation is introducing is contained in document A/C.1/43/L.70 and relates to agenda item 64 (d): "General and Complete Disarmament: Conventional Disarmament". Entitled "Conventional Disarmament on a regional scale", it is co-sponsored by Bangladesh, Bolivia, Cameroon, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Sri Lanka and Uruguay.

As regards the draft resolution on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America (A/C.1/43/L.71) my delegation is pleased to announce that in May this year a meeting was held to prepare for the Conference of Experts on the Strengthening of Political Co-operation in Latin American and the Caribbean which is to be held from 6 to 9 December in Lima, with the participation of 35 outstanding persons of experience in disarmament. This is in compliance with the mandate given to the regional centre in General Assembly resolution 42/39 K. The draft resolution in document A/C.1/43/L.71 also recommends that the centre hold two meetings in 1989 in order to ensure effective and permanent follow-up of the important work being done by the regional centre in the context of the World Disarmament Campaign.

On this occasion my delegation would like to express once again its sympathy with and decided support for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and the recently inaugurated United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia. It is no coincidence that the peoples of these three regions, facing urgent development needs, have decided to create these regional centres. This is testimony to the desire of all of us to support the

(Mr. Bellina, Peru)

cause of peace. The importance that we the co-sponsors attach to these regional centres is evidence of our desire to give concrete expression to the disarmament campaign.

We want to educate world public opinion regarding matters of disarmament and the dissemination of documentation, and we wish to make more widely known the desire of Governments to implement the noble principles of peace and disarmament throughout the world. We feel bound to acknowledge and support this most important work. It is particularly important in Latin America, where there has been a desire to promote political and regional co-operation, as well as confidence, understanding and solidarity. In this way we wish to strengthen peace, regional security and development.

We are aware that, given the financial difficulties of the United Nations, the voluntary contributions that Member States are willing to make to the Regional Centre will be absolutely necessary. Accordingly, my delegation appeals to Member States, particularly our brother States in Latin America and the Caribbean, to continue to make their valuable contributions to that fund. We should also like to thank those delegations that have already made contributions at the Sixth United Nations Pledging Conference for the World Disarmament Campaign.

Draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.71 is the result of broad consultations. In the operative part it reaffirms the mandate of the Regional Centre, which is set forth in General Assembly resolution 41/60 J, and is consonant with the general objectives of the World Disarmament Campaign. At the same time it takes note with satisfaction of the forthcoming Conference of Experts on the Strengthening of Political Co-operation in Latin America and the Caribbean in the fields of peace, disarmament, development and security. As has already been stated, this conference will be held from 6 to 9 December at the headquarters of the centre. At the same

(Mr. Belina, Peru)

time, the draft resolution appeals to member countries and to international organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, to make voluntary contributions to the Regional Centre, and operative paragraph 6 calls on the Secretary-General to transmit this appeal to all Member States.

Finally, Peru wants to make very clear what the Regional Centre's field of action should be. We think that it should be called the "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean". Here I would like to stress not only the valuable contributions made to the Regional Centre by our brothers from the Caribbean but also the dedication and efforts of many of their representatives in support of peace, disarmament and development.

(Mr. Bellina, Peru)

As regards the second draft resolution, which we are introducing on this occasion, and which has to do with conventional disarmament on a regional scale, it brings up to date General Assembly resolutions 40/94 A, 41/59 M and 42/38 N. Those resolutions were adopted with no opposing vote by the General Assembly.

This draft has also been the subject of the necessary informal consultations. The preambular part expresses support for regional, subregional and unilateral efforts to reduce armaments and military expenditures. It is thought that measures at any level, which are in concord with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and which are the result of whatever special circumstances may exist in each region, deserve the support of the international community, because those efforts are aimed at strengthening mutual confidence and increasing the security of the countries involved.

At the same time, the preamble of the draft we are submitting to the Committee for consideration reaffirms the complementary nature of regional and subregional efforts in support of peace and disarmament, as opposed to global efforts. At the same time, the preambular part takes into account the Final Document of 1978. That document says, inter alia, that nothing should stand in the way of the full implementation of conventional disarmament measures. Those measures should be carried out together with measures for nuclear disarmament, which is the top priority in the area of general and complete disarmament.

The final paragraph of the preamble stresses the efforts that have been made by our Organization to settle various regional conflicts in a peaceful and lasting manner. It not only constitutes a reaffirmation of the inherent validity of the principles set forth in the United Nations Charter, but also brings out undeniably the importance of the silent but fruitful work that has been done by the world Organization, to which we give our permanent support.

(Mr. Bellina, Peru)

That is precisely the spirit of the operative part of the draft resolution now before you. It stresses satisfaction with the conventional disarmament measures that have been adopted jointly or unilaterally by countries in order to allocate whatever resources are needed to their development and the social and economic well-being of their peoples. This reflects not only a manifest rejection of those countries that continue to be involved in a sterile, mad arms race, but also an expression of good will to bring about regional agreements on the limitation of arms expenditures.

Operative paragraph 2 is aimed at supporting the efforts that have been made by countries involved in the peaceful settlement of regional conflicts. It also says that those efforts should be supported by concrete conventional disarmament measures in the interests of strengthening peace and promoting development as a matter of urgency.

There is no need for us to comment on operative paragraphs 3 and 4, because our Organization and our Secretary-General deserve full support in the delicate and patient task that we have assigned to them.

Operative paragraph 6 contains an appeal to all countries outside a given region - especially the major producers and suppliers of weapons - to be guided by the will of those countries which, like mine, want to bring about in a sovereign manner free of any outside interference, regional agreements guaranteeing peace and security, and promoting their development and the well-being of their peoples.

The Committee has before it two draft resolutions which are the result of broad consultations among the various delegations present here. Both draft resolutions, as contained in documents A/C.1/43/L.70 and A/C.1/43/L.71, are, in our opinion, uncontroversial. We therefore hope that they will be adopted by a broad consensus.

Mr. MOHAMMAD (Iraq) (interpretation from Arabic): I wish to refer to agenda item 69 entitled Israeli nuclear armament.

The Israeli entity's possession of nuclear weapons together with their delivery vehicles is now one of the frightening facts which the Middle East has to face. The gravity of the situation is being exacerbated by the aggressive and expansionist policy pursued by the Israeli régime, which is based on flagrant contempt of the will of the international community. Its policy is embodied in the occupation of Arab territories, the annexation of some of those territories and the continuation of the most hideous terrorist practices against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. It denies the Palestinian people its inalienable right to rid itself of the hegemony of Zionist occupation, to achieve self-determination and to establish an independent state on its own land.

All the States of the region have adhered to the non-proliferation régime by acceding to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and by placing all their nuclear installations under the safeguards system of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Those which have not acceded to it do not possess any nuclear energy programmes. Therefore, the nuclear installations of Israel are the only significant installations that have still not been placed under the safeguards régime and under international control. This has made it easy for Israel to use its installations, in co-operation with South Africa and certain States well known for supporting that racist entity, to manufacture and produce nuclear weapons.

The Israeli nuclear arsenal poses a grave threat to the Non-Proliferation Treaty régime in the region, encouraging the acceleration and escalation of the arms race and destabilizing the area, besides being a real threat to peace and security. Israel and the circles that collude with it bear the full, grave responsibility for the serious regional implications of Israel's nuclear armament.

(Mr. Mohammad, Iraq)

The fact that the Israeli entity is continuing to defy the will of the international community is due first of all to inability of the international organisations to take the necessary measures to deter it and prevent it from continuing to threaten peace and security.

The draft resolution concerning Israeli nuclear armament now before the Committee does not really provide for the integrated measures required, but it represents the minimum to which we must lend our full support. Israel has disregarded all the previous resolutions which called upon it to renounce the possession of nuclear weapons and place all its nuclear installations under international control. It has rejected the implementation of all those resolutions, including Security Council resolution 487 (1981), the resolutions of the General Assembly and those of the IAEA, the last of which was GC/487, which was adopted last September.

With respect to the issue before us, it is amazing to see that certain States have turned a blind eye to the real and extremely grave dangers posed by Israel's nuclear armament and aggressive policy.

(Mr. Mohammad, Iraq)

Certain States defend the position of the Israeli régime and provide political cover for it in international forums in an attempt to impede the adoption of resolutions commensurate with the gravity of the situation. There is no better way to express our rejection and condemnation of this approach than by voting in favour of draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.6.

The representative of the Zionist entity has always followed the course, characteristic of that régime, of not dealing directly with the issue in question but distracting attention by focusing on extraneous issues. Thus, he speaks sometimes of the stockpiling of conventional weapons by the Arab States, disregarding the possession by his entity of conventional weapons, equal in number to the total possessed by all the other countries of the region. He disregards, when it suits him, Israeli nuclear armaments and its acceleration of the arms race in the region. At other times he interferes in the internal affairs of certain States and alleges that this is a logical reason for the international community to condone the aggressive, terrorist Israeli policy. Then again, the same representative reiterates the ambiguous statement we so often hear that that entity will not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons into the Middle East, while at the same time it does not deny the possession of nuclear weapons. Did not Vanunu's disclosures relate to the development and production of nuclear weapons? If Israel possesses nuclear weapons, as so clearly stated by Vanunu, what is the meaning of the statement that that entity will not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons into the Middle East? The question arises whether this means that such weapons are stockpiled outside the region, in South Africa.

Mr. FAN Guoxiang (China) (interpretation from Chinese): I am speaking today to introduce the two draft resolutions sponsored by the Chinese delegation: draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.14, on nuclear disarmament, and draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.15, on conventional disarmament.

(Mr. Fan Guoxiang, China)

At the forty-second session, last year, the General Assembly adopted by consensus the draft resolutions sponsored by the Chinese delegation on nuclear and conventional disarmament. The fact that those two drafts were adopted by consensus showed that they reflected the common aspirations of all countries to nuclear and conventional disarmament and pointed out in an effective way the outstanding problems in regard to the achievement of nuclear and conventional disarmament. We are now submitting this year's draft resolutions on the basis of last year's texts, taking into consideration the development of the disarmament process in the past year, as well as the views of all other parties.

In the period since the First Committee concluded its work last year there has been encouraging progress in the field of nuclear disarmament. The United States and the Soviet Union have concluded, ratified and begun to implement the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles. The international community universally welcomes this progress by the two countries in the field of nuclear disarmament and hopes that they will be able to observe strictly and implement fully that Treaty.

Draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.14 affirms that progress and goes on to point out that the Soviet Union and the United States, which are in possession of the largest nuclear arsenals, should further fulfil their special responsibility for nuclear disarmament, take the lead in halting the nuclear arms race and enter into negotiations in earnest in order to reach an early agreement on a radical reduction of their nuclear arsenals. At the same time, all countries are seriously concerned about the qualitative arms race between the super-Powers. A reference to this has been added to the preambular part of draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.14, namely, an expression of the belief that the qualitative aspect of the arms race needs to be addressed along with its quantitative aspect.

(Mr. Fan Guoxiang, China)

The importance and necessity of conventional disarmament are the subject of the concern and attention of an increasing number of delegations. As we all know, conventional disarmament is a complex problem which has many aspects. As in the past two years, the Chinese delegation has taken full note of the concern of all parties on this question. Draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.15 not only points out that nuclear disarmament has the highest priority but also stresses the dangers to world peace and security caused by wars and conflicts fought with conventional weapons. It points out that the military forces of all countries should not be used other than for the purpose of self-defence and encourages all States to take appropriate steps to promote progress in conventional disarmament. At the same time, it urges the countries with the largest military arsenals which bears a special responsibility, and the member States of the two major military alliances to conduct serious negotiations. It refers to all regions of the world but stresses the importance of Europe, because Europe is the region that has the largest concentration of arms and forces and also because a new momentum may be generated in the near future in the field of conventional disarmament as a result of the efforts of the European countries. As compared with resolution 42/38 G, adopted by consensus at the forty-second session of the General Assembly, there are no substantive changes in draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.15.

Nuclear disarmament and conventional disarmament remain important priority problems at the present time. The Chinese delegation is submitting these two draft resolutions in the hope that, as with similar draft resolutions in the past, they will be adopted by consensus by the First Committee and also by the General Assembly.

Mr. GARCIA ROBLES (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): I wish today to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.34, sponsored by Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sweden and Mexico, which relates to the study on the climatic and other global effects of nuclear war. That study (A/43/351) was prepared by a Group of Consultant Experts chosen by the Secretary-General, in conformity with the request contained in resolutions 40/152 G of 16 December 1985 and 41/86 H of 4 December 1986.

Members will recall that in those resolutions the General Assembly noted the conclusions of studies published on this subject and recognized the necessity of systematic research. It therefore requested the Secretary-General, with the assistance of a group of consultant experts, to carry out a study on the climatic and potential physical effects of nuclear war, which would examine, inter alia, its socio-economic consequences.

In response to that request, the Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly in document A/43/351 the "Study on the climatic and other global effects of nuclear war". I shall highlight some of its conclusions, which stress the validity of the joint declaration of 21 November 1985 by the leaders of the United States of America and of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics that "a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought":

"The scientific evidence is now conclusive that a major nuclear war would entail the high risk of a global environmental disruption. ..."

"...

"... The direct effects of a major nuclear exchange could kill hundreds of millions: the indirect effects could kill billions". (A/43/351, paras. 22 and 24)

(Mr. Garcia Robles, Mexico)

By adopting draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.34, the General Assembly would express in its preambular part its grave concern at the conclusions of the study. In the operative part it would express its appreciation to the Secretary-General and the Group of Consultant Experts which assisted him in the preparation of the study and would commend the study and its conclusions to the attention of all Member States and invite them to communicate to the Secretary-General their views on the study before 1 September 1989. Finally, as is traditional in such cases, the Assembly would request the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements for the reproduction of the report as a United Nations publication and to give it the widest possible distribution.

Mr. BAYART (Mongolia) (interpretation from French): I wish to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.48 under agenda item 67 (m), entitled "Disarmament Week". The draft resolution is sponsored by Angola, Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Japan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Samoa, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Viet Nam and Mongolia.

A week devoted to fostering the objectives of disarmament was proclaimed 10 years ago by the General Assembly at its first special session devoted to disarmament. Since then, the Week has remained as important as ever. The States Members of the United Nations continue to view the Week as an excellent opportunity to reaffirm their commitment to strengthening international peace and security and disarmament, and to alerting world public opinion about this cause; that has been shown by the report of the Secretary-General (A/43/508 and Add.1) on Disarmament Week, and by the statements made at the First Committee's recent solemn meeting in observance of Disarmament Week by a Vice-President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General and representatives of the various regional groups.

(Mr. Bayart, Mongolia)

Especially in its operative part, the draft resolution resembles resolutions of previous years, particularly that adopted at the forty-second session. The draft resolution invites Member States and international and national non-governmental organizations to continue to observe and take an active part in Disarmament Week and to inform the Secretary-General of the activities undertaken to promote disarmament.

In its final paragraph the draft resolution requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session a report on the implementation of its provisions.

The sponsors hope the draft resolution can be adopted unanimously, and in a spirit of compromise and co-operation, and taking into account the positions of a number of delegations, we have, as we did last year, made serious efforts to formulate a new text, with the deletion or substantive modification of several passages in the resolution adopted by a majority of members of the General Assembly at the forty-second session (resolution 42/86 D). Comparing that resolution with draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.48, it is easy to see the differences and the substantial changes made since last year's text.

(Mr. Bayart, Mongolia)

In its preamble the draft resolution refers to new important developments in the areas of arms limitation and disarmament efforts and stresses the vital importance of eliminating the threat of a nuclear and conventional war, ending the nuclear and conventional arms race and bringing about disarmament. It emphasizes the need for and importance of world public opinion in support of halting and reversing the global arms race in all its aspects.

The sponsors of the draft resolution have made all these changes in the hope that it would enable those who last year had certain difficulties in supporting the draft resolution on Disarmament Week to re-examine their positions and vote in favour of the draft resolution I am now introducing. We of course hope that all the other States will, as in the past, give it their valuable backing.

As will be seen from the list of initial sponsors of the draft resolution, this year's reflects the addition of Japan, New Zealand, Samoa, Papua New Guinea and the Philippines. I take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to the new sponsors and thank them for their very encouraging co-operation. I should like to say that I was very pleased to work with the representative of New Zealand, in this case my colleague Mr. Fyfe, on drafting the text of the draft resolution, and I therefore wish to thank most sincerely the delegation of New Zealand for its co-operation.

Lastly, once again I wish to express the hope that the draft resolution I have just introduced will meet with the unanimous support of the members of our Committee and be adopted without a vote.

Mr. RANA (Nepal): It will be recalled that last year the General Assembly adopted without a vote resolution 42/39 D for the establishment of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia, with its headquarters in Kathmandu, Nepal. My delegation wishes to express its deep appreciation for the honour accorded Nepal by its being designated to serve as the

(Mr. Rana, Nepal)

venue of the Centre. This was confirmed by the Headquarters agreement and memorandum of understanding signed between His Majesty's Government of Nepal and the Department of Disarmament Affairs in June this year.

At this point I do not wish to take much of the Committee's time by recalling other details except to refer to the Secretary-General's report to the current session of the General Assembly about the measures he has taken to make full utilization of the existing United Nations infrastructure in Kathmandu with a view to the full employment of available resources.

The inauguration of the Centre is planned for early next year, and that event will coincide with the meeting of representatives of about 15 countries to draw up the plans and programmes for the Centre.

Draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.68, which, in consultation with other Asian States, I have the honour to introduce now, seeks to reaffirm the decision of the General Assembly at its forty-second session. It also commends the Secretary-General for his efforts so far in implementing the decision and requests him to continue lending all possible assistance to the Centre. Needless to say, the Centre has great potential in enhancing public awareness in Asia, the largest continent both in terms of size and population, on complex matters related to arms control and disarmament. Likewise it can play a very useful role in co-ordinating the efforts of the Asian countries in the field of disarmament, thereby contributing to an atmosphere of mutual trust and co-operation.

The draft resolution also recognizes the financial difficulties facing the United Nations; hence the Centre at present will be totally dependent upon voluntary contributions. His Majesty's Government of Nepal is committed to rendering all possible assistance to the Centre.

Draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.68 also appeals to all Member States of the United Nations and interested organizations to make voluntary contributions to enable

(Mr. Rana, Nepal)

the Centre to function effectively under its mandate. I avail myself of this opportunity to express our deep appreciation to those Member States that have already pledged contributions to the Centre.

My delegation is confident that draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.68 will receive the unanimous support of the Committee.

Mr. VAJPAYEE (India): I have asked to speak to introduce three draft resolutions. The first of these is contained in document A/C.1/43/L.56, entitled "Freeze on nuclear weapons", sponsored by Romania and India.

Statements made in the Committee have again demonstrated that the nuclear-arms race is a source of grave concern to humanity. While we have applauded the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles - the INF Treaty - as a first step on the road to nuclear disarmament, we are convinced that if the arms race is to be arrested and reversed the quest for more and newer weapons has first to be stopped. The production not only of nuclear weapons but also of fissionable material for weapons purposes must be capped.

Our draft resolution, which we have placed before the General Assembly every year since the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament in 1982, seeks a simultaneous and complete stoppage of the production of nuclear weapons and a cut-off in the production of fissionable material for weapons purposes. This is a practical and readily enforceable measure.

It has been amply demonstrated that verification no longer poses insurmountable problems in the field of nuclear disarmament. The successfully negotiated INF Treaty is proof of this. Given political will, the proposal contained in this draft resolution can be given effect.

(Mr. Vajpayee, India)

With a cut-off in production of fissionable material for weapons purposes, all nuclear facilities will become peaceful and can be made subject to non-discriminatory international safeguards on a universal basis. Such a development would be a positive step towards the development of a new treaty to replace the discriminatory Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, a treaty that would give legal effect to the binding commitment of nuclear-weapon States to eliminate all nuclear weapons and of all non-nuclear-weapon States not to cross the nuclear weapons threshold. Such a development would also demonstrate the complementary and mutually supportive relationship between bilateral and multilateral efforts in the field of disarmament.

(Mr. Vajpayee, India)

On behalf of the delegations of Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Madagascar, Romania, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia and India, I should now like to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.55, entitled "Convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons".

For the past several years the General Assembly has been adopting resolutions calling for a prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons. Last year it adopted, by an overwhelming majority, resolution 42/39 C on this subject. Significantly, two nuclear-weapon States have also supported this draft resolution. It was also first submitted by India at the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, in 1982, and includes as an annex a draft convention on this subject.

The Conference on Disarmament, the sole multilateral negotiating body, has repeatedly been requested by the General Assembly to undertake negotiations with this objective in view. Accordingly we have also submitted our draft convention to the Conference on Disarmament for its consideration. It is therefore a matter of considerable regret that, despite the lapse of so many years, the Conference on Disarmament has not been able to register any progress on this important draft resolution. At the same time no reasons have been advanced as to why such a convention should not be negotiated. To relate the urgency of preventing nuclear war to that of preventing all wars in general is to deny the special threat that nuclear weapons pose to the survival of mankind. We are submitting our draft resolution once again to underline the importance of prohibiting the use of nuclear weapons, in the hope that this body will be able to bring the weight of its moral authority to bear on the Conference on Disarmament to persuade it to commence negotiations on this item.

The principle underlying the draft convention which is attached to draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.55 is based on the highest guiding principles behind international law, as it has been recognized by the General Assembly that the use

(Mr. Vajpayee, India)

or threat of use of nuclear weapons would be a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and contrary to the laws of humanity. This principle was accepted more than two decades ago in resolution 1653 (XVI) of 1961. Despite the increasing concern voiced by peoples all over the world, nuclear arsenals have continued to grow. The INF Treaty has been welcomed, as all reductions in nuclear arsenals enhance security, and total elimination would lead to total security against the possibility of a nuclear holocaust. But it is still true that the number of weapons to be eliminated under that Treaty is less than the number of weapons added during the last five years. The pace of negotiations must be stepped up and prohibition of the use of such weapons accepted by all nuclear-weapon States. Humanity should not play this game of brinkmanship with its own survival.

The world welcomed the statement signed by the United States of America and the Soviet Union which declared that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought. Our approach in this draft resolution is to transform that understanding into a legally binding commitment. A convention on the non-use of nuclear weapons has been suggested, with a view to translating this universal concern into concrete action by removing the legal lacuna vis-à-vis the possibility of the use of nuclear weapons. Such a prohibition in legal terms would be a crucial step forward, leading to a qualitative change in security doctrines and policies, which would make it possible for us to commence meaningful, multilateral negotiations aimed at eliminating all nuclear weapons from the face of the Earth.

Lastly, on behalf of the delegations of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Hungary, Poland, Sri Lanka, Venezuela and India, I should like to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.54, entitled "Scientific and technological developments and their impact on international security".

(Mr. Vajpayee, India)

At the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament the threat posed to international peace and security by the escalating arms race was recognized by the world community. It was agreed that, along with quantitative measures, qualitative measures in the field of disarmament also needed to be negotiated if the arms race was to be halted. A decade has passed since the adoption of the Final Document of that special session. During that period most bilateral and multilateral disarmament efforts have focused primarily on the quantitative expansion of arsenals; the issue of the qualitative arms race has not received the attention it deserves.

Meanwhile there has been a significant increase in global military spending on research and development. Increasing amounts of resources, both human and material, are devoted to developing new weapons systems. Such developments cause uncertainty and insecurity, which in turn contribute to the escalation of tension, thereby creating a negative impact on disarmament efforts.

Today the world stands on the threshold of a new arms race. Developments in making graduated use of nuclear explosive power, miniaturization and large-scale computing capabilities using microelectronics, the possibilities of tailoring materials to suit very specific requirements, fuel and laser technology - all of these will have a cumulative impact on the weapons development programme, completely transforming the security environment for the worse. Some of those developments will propel us increasingly into an automated environment, in which decision-making will become increasingly dependent upon artificial intelligence. With weapons becoming more lethal, more accurate and faster, the risk of war as a result of accident or misjudgement will become greater.

New technologies will inevitably spawn new weapons systems, as has been the case throughout history; but these will be more subtle, deadlier and difficult to curb. The application of technologies in the chemical and nuclear fields in the

(Mr. Vajpayee, India)

weapons area and their impact on the global security environment should be a warning to us. Technology always has a double face. We have to ensure that mankind sees only its benign aspect. As we said in our statement earlier, the genie still in the bottle should stay in the bottle lest it take us all hostage through our own folly.

Prevention is better than cure. This is as true in the disarmament sphere as elsewhere. The development and deployment of such systems will exercise a negative impact on existing and future negotiations. Technical problems relating to verification will only become more complex, making arrival at treaties, régimes and conventions increasingly problematic.

At the same time we need to address ourselves to problems of hunger, poverty, disease and the environment, which are of global dimensions. This requires international scientific and technical co-operation on an unprecedented scale. A number of new developments in frontier areas of electronics, satellite technology, communications systems and so on could have immense potential in verification technologies and in alleviating non-military threats to security if they could be used for the benefit of mankind.

Scientific and technological developments must continue, but they must be oriented decisively in favour of peaceful uses. We must give science and technology a human face. Science and technology cannot be allowed to become masters of war; they must be used to serve humanity. For this, as a first step, we need to assess correctly the import for international security of current and potential developments in scientific and technological research. We need to understand the issues in depth and in long-term perspective and evaluate implications in objective terms. Only then shall we be able to devise strategies to deal effectively with this critical issue.

(Mr. Vajpayee, India)

Our draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.54 is a modest proposal to help us begin our work on this new subject and to develop a shared perception of problems before we can make concerted efforts to resolve them.

Ms. THORPE (Trinidad and Tobago): On behalf of the sponsors - Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Granada, Guyana, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago and Vanuatu - I have the honour to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.35 on the "Liability for the illegal transfer and/or use of prohibited weapons and weapons or substances which cause unnecessary human suffering".

History records that from time immemorial conflicts and wars have unfortunately been the scourge of mankind. These have continued unabated until the present time, increasing in scope, ferocity, and destructiveness with each century. The international community is now concerned not only with the growing arsenal of nuclear weapons but also with conventional weapons of increasing sophistication and destructive capacity.

To some extent the elaboration of various conventions has categorized the possession or use of these weapons as being prohibited or such as to cause unnecessary human suffering. But this in itself is not enough, for in addition there is also the problem of such weapons being illegally transferred across national borders. In the view of the sponsors an integral aspect of the disarmament process must be the need to consider appropriate steps and measures to prevent the illegal transfer and/or use of such prohibited weapons or weapons of mass destruction or substances which cause unnecessary human suffering.

As a first step, the sponsors are of the view that the Secretary-General should present a report for the consideration of the General Assembly. In preparing the report the Secretary-General should focus on the feasibility of ascribing liability for the illegal transfer and/or use of prohibited weapons and weapons or substances which cause unnecessary human suffering, and the possibility of establishing procedures for investigating those deemed liable and for ensuring compliance and due process.

(Ms. Thorpe, Trinidad and Tobago)

In the process, the Secretary-General may obtain the views of Member States, relevant United Nations organs, regional intergovernmental organizations, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

It is also necessary for the Secretary-General to ensure that adequate facilities and resources be devoted to the task to ensure a timely and meaningful report.

As I indicated, the sponsors considered the draft resolution to be an element in the furtherance of the disarmament process. In order for what is contemplated in this draft resolution to have some impact and also to provide for a system with a degree of credibility and effectiveness, there may be need at some stage to provide for appropriate sanctions to prevent the illegal transfer and/or use of the weapons referred to in this draft resolution. The Secretary-General should take this factor into account in the preparation of his report. The sponsors are requesting that the Secretary-General submit his report for the consideration of the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session.

Mr. BUTLER (Australia): Speaking for the delegations of Australia and New Zealand I have the honour to introduce in the First Committee the draft resolution in document A/C.1/43/L.51, entitled "Urgent need for a comprehensive nuclear test-ban treaty". It is sponsored by the following States: Australia, Austria, the Bahamas, Barbados, Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Fiji, Finland, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Liberia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sweden, Vanuatu and Zaire.

(Mr. Butler, Australia)

May I call particular attention to Canada's sponsorship of this draft resolution, acknowledging as I do the presence in the Committee today of representatives of Canadian non-governmental organizations.

As in the past, the draft resolution was drafted by Australia and New Zealand and then brought to its final form following a process of consultation with a small number of other delegations.

Last year, following a similar process of drafting and consultation, our draft resolution on the urgent need for a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty was adopted by the General Assembly by a record number of positive votes, 143. Only two States voted against it; and there were only 8 abstentions.

The draft resolution introduced today is based on the resolution adopted by the forty-second session of the General Assembly. It has been amended in part to take account of events which have taken place during the past year, including the ongoing negotiations between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in accordance with their joint statement of 17 September 1987.

It is the firm conviction of the sponsors of the draft resolution that there is an urgent requirement for a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty, able to be verified and open to adherence by all States and which would bring about an end to all nuclear testing by all States in all environments for all time.

We hold this view, as is expressed in the third preambular paragraph of the draft resolution, because we know that such a treaty would make a major contribution to efforts to reduce and ultimately eliminate nuclear arms and be directed to the prevention of any further proliferation of nuclear weapons.

(Mr. Butler, Australia)

The objective of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty will be achieved only if the world community agrees to take a practical approach and take certain concrete steps unilaterally bilaterally and multilaterally - in particular, in the Conference on Disarmament. Those steps are precisely described in operative paragraphs 2 and 3 of the draft resolution.

We are aware of other approaches to the objective of bringing about an end to nuclear-test explosions. But the approach taken in our draft resolution is the only truly comprehensive one. It is also an approach which eschews mere declaration or any attempt to apportion blame for failure in the past to move speedily towards the objective of an end to all nuclear testing.

For those reasons we hope and believe that our draft resolution will again receive the widest possible support in the General Assembly. We commend it to all Member States.

Dame Ann HERCUS (New Zealand): The representative of Australia, Ambassador Richard Butler, has just introduced, on behalf of 28 sponsors, draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.51, "Urgent Need for a Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty". I am speaking now, as a co-sponsor of that draft resolution, in order to emphasize New Zealand's conviction that work on a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty must be commenced immediately.

For many years the General Assembly has adopted resolutions which have urged the negotiation of a comprehensive test-ban treaty. Last year 143 States Members voted in favour of the predecessor to the draft resolution now before us. The General Assembly spoke with a strong voice.

But, as yet, negotiations have not commenced. The Conference on Disarmament has still not agreed on a mandate for a working group on this matter.

That must change. The Conference on Disarmament must begin to meet its full responsibilities. It must work to bring nuclear testing to an end. The central

(Dame Ann Hercus, New Zealand)

principle underlying the draft resolution is that a nuclear-test-ban treaty is the single step that would, more than any other, slow the remorseless advance of nuclear-weapons development, and reduce the prospect of yet more countries acquiring nuclear weapons.

For nuclear testing is a trigger for the refinement of nuclear weaponry and for experimentation in new nuclear technologies. So there should be no further delay in the development of a verifiable comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty capable of attracting the universal adherence of all States.

The United States and the Soviet Union have continued their welcome negotiations on nuclear-arms reductions, and on nuclear-testing issues. Because New Zealand believes that any discussion between those two States, particularly in respect of technical matters such as verification, is of value, we have, in the draft resolution, welcomed their ongoing contacts.

But New Zealand remains concerned at the agenda and scope of those negotiations. They do not, in our view, constitute the sort of discussions necessary to enable rapid progress towards a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty. Indeed, according to the present framework for those talks, a complete cessation of nuclear testing would come only as the last step - not a first step, not an urgent step, not an early step, but the very last step.

What concerns the New Zealand Government is that the goal of reducing and eliminating nuclear weapons - a goal of the greatest importance - will only be delayed if it is seen as a necessary pre-condition to, rather than the result of, a comprehensive test-ban treaty. So long as testing continues, we fear the resulting pressures will impede the arms reduction process. We are also concerned at the potential application of nuclear technology to space-based defensive or offensive strategies.

(Dame Ann Hercus, New Zealand)

So in the draft resolution we stress the importance of the early conclusion of a comprehensive test-ban treaty - which should, moreover, have the involvement of all the nuclear-weapon States. We urge the Conference on Disarmament to resume and intensify substantive work on all aspects of a nuclear-test-ban treaty right away, at the beginning of the 1989 session.

New Zealand urges all members of the Committee to consider this recommendation for a course of action - a means to put the deadlock behind us and enable substantive work to begin.

We commend the draft resolution to the Committee.

Mr. MARTYNOV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) (interpretation from Russian): The delegation of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic wishes to make a few observations about draft resolution A/C.1/13/L.54, subtitled "Scientific and technological developments and their impact on international security", introduced today by the representative of India.

The rapid technological progress that we have witnessed in recent years has now become even greater. While such progress opens up excellent prospects for mankind, it also causes concern, because of the military applications of the fruits of the scientific and technological revolution. The full dimensions of the problem are seen when we consider the problem of the qualitative improvement of weapons, which is often very rapid, and its consequences for general security. Serious concern is also caused by changes in the characteristics of weapons which place them at a new qualitative level. That problem is universal, applying to all categories of weapons.

In particular, the development of third generation nuclear weapons designed with a whole spectrum of death-dealing characteristics increases the possibility of their use, which is also increased by the sophistication of means of delivery and

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targeting. It is easy to predict the further consequences of the perfecting of such weapons, particularly a lowering of the threshold for the use of nuclear weapons, resulting in an increased threat of global nuclear war. The improvement in the means of delivery of nuclear weapons, especially when they are given increased accuracy, makes them less a weapon of deterrence and more a means of delivering a nuclear first strike.

The development of improved means of delivery also leads to great verification difficulties, a factor which complicates the achievement of any success in negotiations for the reduction of nuclear weapons. The qualitative improvements in military technology threaten not only an acceleration of the arms race in its existing forms, but its expansion into new areas. In particular, the potential extension of the arms race into outer space will definitely have an impact on the strategic situation. The use of complex computer systems as elements of weapons systems in outer space may make us hostage to electronics. Further meaningful efforts are needed to prevent the development of new weapons of mass destruction. The increasing possibility of the use of new scientific principles for such ends as a result of technological progress makes this problem increasingly acute with every passing year. Moreover, the need for a solution grows steadily as the elimination of other means of mass destruction progresses. The Byelorussian SSR intends to unite its longstanding efforts to eliminate such means of mass destruction with those of other States to eliminate this threat.

Conventional weapons, which are frequently called classical, are also going through the same qualitative changes and those changes make those weapons no less futuristic than the other kind. And, with the appearance of so-called smart weapons, the futuristic character of these weapons has already become a contemporary reality.

To sum up, therefore, we find a single common feature. The qualitative changes taking place in the field of military technology are leading to an increased erosion of strategic stability. When one compares this trend with the two other trends which are just as clearly defined in the quantitative area; namely, the build-up of armaments and their geographical proliferation, then one

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obtains a picture to which the international community must find an adequate response. It is increasingly vital to refrain from the use for military purposes of any discoveries in the scientific and technical spheres.

We wish to reiterate our support for the well-known proposals concerning the inadmissibility of the use of scientific and technical progress for the production of new generations of weapons of mass destruction, either nuclear or non-nuclear, or of new types and systems of conventional weapons, especially those with high levels of destructive capability. The technologies whose application to the military sphere must be barred as quickly as possible are the laser, genetic and electromagnetic technologies. Agreements to prohibit the development of such types of weapons will naturally require far-reaching verification procedures.

The time has come to consider measures to prevent the proliferation of military missile technology.

It is also necessary to study the prohibition of the use of battlefield anti-personnel laser weapons which cause blindness. Such a prohibition could take the form of an independent agreement or of a protocol to the Convention on inhumane weapons.

From our point of view, the time has come to conduct a systematic appraisal of scientific and technological achievements with a view to making early recommendations for the prevention of the use of new technologies in armaments, and for the transfer of appropriate functions to the United Nations. A proposal on this subject was made by many delegations at the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. In this connection we deem it important to stress that the measures to prevent the use of new technologies for arms development would not only not hinder but, on the contrary, would promote

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scientific and technological progress and would promote the establishment of a favourable climate for openness and for peaceful international co-operation to advance technological development.

Draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.54 outlines an approach to the study of this problem for the purpose of determining possible spheres for subsequent agreed actions by the international community. An important positive phenomenon in the draft is the built-in preventive approach which makes it possible to find solutions to problems before they get out of control.

On the basis of the foregoing views, the delegation of the Byelorussian SSR has become a sponsor of the draft resolution and calls on other delegations to give it favourable consideration.

Ms. DEACON (Canada): Canada remains committed to a negotiated and verifiable comprehensive test ban Treaty. In our view, that can only be achieved through a step-by-step approach which builds on past achievements and recognizes current realities. Canada therefore welcomed the start in November 1987 of the negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union on testing limitations. We fully support their initial focus on verification, which we hope will lead to the ratification, at an early date, of the threshold test ban and peaceful nuclear explosions Treaties as an important step to the attainment of further limitations on the size and numbers of tests. Meanwhile, Canada will work diligently in support of realistic endeavours at the multilateral level, both within the Conference on Disarmament and in the First Committee, to encourage and support this process.

With this in mind, Canada is again pleased to co-sponsor the draft resolution entitled "Urgent need for a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban Treaty" sponsored by

(Ms. Deacon, Canada)

Australia and New Zealand (A/C.1/43/L.51). In our view, it remains one of the most important resolutions before the Committee.

As one of a small group of countries involved in its formulation, Canada considers that the resolution must meet three basic criteria: first, it should accurately reflect current realities, both bilateral and multilateral; secondly, it should take full account of recent and prospective developments relating to nuclear testing and, finally, it must establish a realistic path progressing towards the comprehensive test ban objective. That was Canada's approach to the development of the draft resolution. We believe that L.51 fully meets those criteria.

We are very pleased at the degree of support which the draft resolution has received in all quarters. While the present draft has been altered in several respects to reflect significant developments in United States-Soviet arms control and disarmament negotiations over the past year, its essential thrust and message remain unchanged. The sponsors express the conviction that a Treaty to achieve the prohibition of all nuclear test explosions by all States, in all environments, for all time remains a matter of fundamental importance and urge that specific immediate and concrete steps be taken in support of that objective.

We are of the view that the particular strength of the draft resolution and a principal cause of the steady increase in support for it in recent years relates to its effectiveness in defining common ground among a broad range of views and approaches which various countries bring to bear on this issue. The draft resolution in document A/C.1/43/L.51 is a product of negotiation and compromise. In our view it reflects what is achievable in terms of practical steps towards the larger objective. Canada considers that the draft resolution strikes an appropriate balance. We urge delegations to signal their continuing support by again voting in favour of the draft resolution.

Mr. ARNOUSS (Syria) (interpretation from Arabic): Draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.6 expresses very clearly the grave threat posed to the Middle East by Israeli nuclear armament. That threat has been stressed in several reports and studies, the latest of which was the annual report of the Institute of Strategic Studies in London, which said that both Israel and South Africa now possess nuclear capability, that Israel has at least 100 warheads, that there is a potential for neutron bombs in the Israeli arsenal, that Israel's delivery vehicles include missiles with a range of 400 to 800 kilometres and that it has already undertaken a test of one of its missiles with a range of 600 to 800 kilometres.

That information was also reported by Davar, an Israeli journal, on 19 October 1988. The day before yesterday - The Washington Post published a report from Tel Aviv, entitled "Why nobody will win the next war in the Mideast", on whether Israel intends to use its secret nuclear capability in the forthcoming war in the Middle East.

When we direct the world's attention to the gravity and danger of Israeli nuclear armament we are pointing to the threat it poses to international peace and security. Draft resolution L.6 reflects the fact that Israel has not complied with relevant United Nations resolutions, in particular resolution 42/28 and Security Council resolution 487 (1981), in which the General Assembly and the Security Council call upon Israel to submit all its nuclear facilities to International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspection and safeguards. In spite of those appeals Israel is persisting in its programme for the development, production and manufacture of nuclear weapons to bolster its expansionist, aggressive policies with the aim of retaining its grip on the occupied Arab territories, which can only lead to a new kind of arms race.

(Mr. Arnouss, Syria)

The draft resolution also reflects resolution GC(XXXII)/RES/487, of 23 September 1988, of the General Conference of the IAEA, which condemned Israel's continued refusal to renounce the possession of nuclear weapons and submit all its nuclear facilities to IAEA safeguards.

Israel, by not acceding to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, by not submitting its installations to inspection by the IAEA, by not renouncing the possession of nuclear weapons and destroying those that it possesses, only proves that it persists in defying the will of the international community. This can lead only to the international community's demanding that Israel cease co-operating with the racist régime in South Africa and begin to co-operate with the specialized agencies.

We hope that the international community as represented in this Committee will be able to adopt the draft resolution and achieve progress towards the implementation of General Assembly resolutions aiming at the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, inter alia, in the Middle East.

Mr. YAMADA (Japan): I wish to say a few words regarding my delegation's sponsorship of draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.48, concerning Disarmament Week, which was introduced today by Ambassador Bayart of Mongolia.

Japan has consistently attached great importance to the purpose to be served by Disarmament Week, and ever since the inauguration of Disarmament Week has taken an active part in the observance of that important occasion each year. Japan had the privilege of being a sponsor of the draft resolution on the subject every year up to the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly. For the past few years, to the regret of my delegation, the language in the draft resolution has been a source of differences among delegations which has prevented Japan from becoming a co-sponsor and made it necessary for the draft resolution to be voted upon.

(Mr. Yamada, Japan)

This year my delegation is happy to note that those difficulties have been removed prior to the submission of the draft resolution, thanks to the intensive consultations and flexible and co-operative attitude of those concerned. Japan has thus become once again a co-sponsor of the draft resolution, in the earnest hope that it will win the support of all delegations, and wishes to endorse the appeal made by Ambassador Bayart of Mongolia to members of the Committee to join in the constructive search for a consensus.

The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.