UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-FOURTH SESSION

Official Records

FIRST COMMITTEE
30th meeting
held on
Tuesday, 7 November 1989
at 3 p.m.
New York

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 30th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. TAYLHARDAT (Venezuela)

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Distr. GENERAL
A/C.1/44/PV.30
14 November 1989
ENGLISH

25P.

89-63189 4548V (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

AGENDA ITEMS 49 TO 69 AND 151 (continued)

CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION ON DRAFT RESOLUTIONS ON DISARMAMENT ITEMS

Mr. ZAPOTOCKY (Czechoslovakia): Ten years ago, Czechoslovakia submitted the question of international co-operation for disarmament to the First Committee of the General Assembly for its consideration. Although a year earlier, in 1978, it had been possible to adopt by consensus the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, it was not possible at that time to describe international co-operation in the field of disarmament as a routine matter. The international political situation at that time and in the years that followed was not favourable. Confrontation prevailed in international relations at both the bilateral and the multilateral level. That was the main reason why the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, together with other sponsors, sought during that decade to promote the idea of international co-operation for disarmament. Subsequent resolutions, such as the initial declaration of 1979, were appropriate to the conditions at the time of their presentation.

However, the international political climate has changed dramatically in recent years. Approaches to the basic questions of security and the implementation of concrete disarmament measures have changed. The cold war period is becoming merely a sad stage in the history of the development of international relations. We want to believe that the forthcoming meeting between President Bush and General Secretary Gorbachev in the Mediterranean will be another important chapter in a new period characterized by broad international co-operation in all spheres.

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(Mr. Zapotocky, Czechoslovakia)

The positive tendencies in recent years have made it possible to concentrate on the substance of the issue under consideration by opening up additional possibilities for their solution. Also in line with this trend was the resolution adopted last year on the question of international co-operation for disarmament, which was freed from most overlapping aspects and focused primarily on its essential element, the principles of international co-operation for disarmament. This was definitely reflected in the results of the voting.

The positive international trend has not stopped, and is continuing further. It has not yet become irreversible, as was repeatedly said during the general debate at the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly, but it has already become firmly established in the minds of politicians and of the international public. The international community is becoming more and more firmly convinced that only through co-operation can the global problems of humanity in all fields be resolved.

This is true in the disarmament field as well. Therefore the delegations of Mexico, New Zealand and Czechoslovakia decided to submit to the General Assembly at its current session a draft decision (A/C.1/44/L.18) affirming the importance of further strengthening international co-operation in the field of disarmament. The sponsors are of the opinion that the United Nations has an irreplaceable role to play in seeking for a better world and in finding solutions to disarmament issues. Accordingly, the draft would have the Assembly call upon all States to contribute to increasing the effectiveness of the United Nations in fulfilling its role and responsibility in the sphere of disarmament.

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(Mr. Zapotocky, Czechoslovakia)

The draft decision was actively discussed with the delegations concerned, and all their observations and suggestions were taken into account. In this context, the Czechoslovak delegation would like to thank the delegation of New Zealand for its constructive approach to the drafting of the text and to the delegation of Mexico for the support expressed. We would also like to acknowledge with appreciation the support given to the draft by the delegations of Sweden and the United Kingdom. Czechoslovakia values also the constructive discussions with the United States delegation, which resulted in the drafting of a universally acceptable text.

The Czechoslovak delegation has held a series of consultations with non-aligned countries, and on the basis of all its discussions, can state its belief that the draft decision has general support and can be adopted by the First Committee without a vote. Although the Czechoslovak delegation would derive great satisfaction from the adoption of this draft decision without a vote, it believes that such a result would, first and foremost, be a victory for the idea of international co-operation for disarmament and indicate support for the need to enhance the role of the United Nations in this process, rather than a matter of prestige.

Mr. IVANOV (Bulgaria): Today I have the honour to introduce, on behalf of their co-sponsors, two draft resolutions: one contained in document A/C.1/44/L.23 and in a revised version, which is to appear shortly; and the other in document A/C.1/44/L.29.

The first of the draft resolutions is entitled "Conclusion of effective international arrangements on the strengthening of the security of non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons", and is sponsored by the delegations of Nigeria and Bulgaria.

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(Mr. Ivanov, Bulgaria)

As is well known, our delegation has been introducing similar resolutions for the past few years. The present draft, indeed, preserves some of the basic ideas of its predecessors, which are intended to give expression to our conviction that, pending the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, various interim measures should be adopted to strengthen the security of non-nuclear-weapon States. It reflects the fact that proposals such as the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons through an appropriate international convention, the adoption of a policy of non-first use of such weapons by all nuclear-weapon States and the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones have gained wide support.

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(Mr. Ivanov, Bulgaria)

The draft resolution also underlines the position of the sponsors on the need to conclude an international legally binding and effective instrument or instruments to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

While the draft resolution basically follows the language of resolution 43/68 adopted last year, it should be noted that some important changes have been introduced, reflecting recent positive developments in international relations, as well as the genuine wish to bring about a favourable political climate at the ongoing negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on the issue of negative security assurances.

With regard to these changes, I should like to inform the Committee that in the period between the forty-third and the forty-fourth sessions of the General Assembly my delegation undertook consultations with interested delegations, both in Geneva and in New York, in an attempt to widen the basis of support for the draft resolution and to accommodate the concerns of delegations that traditionally show interest in the subject. As a result of those consultations, the last preambular paragraph of resolution 43/68 was deleted and important changes were introduced in preambular paragraphs 1, 2 and 10, as well as in operative paragraph 2.

This approach is in keeping with our belief that the First Committee should not prejudge the work of the Conference on Disarmament on the issue of negative security assurances; hence our draft resolution can be seen as a timely impetus to stimulate the negotiations within the framework of the Conference without trying to prescribe the ways and means for achieving the final goal. The amendments are also an expression of the new climate of mutual understanding and co-operation which requires a high degree of flexibility and sense of compromise, as well as a positive attitude towards the concerns of others. I should like to express our

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(Mr. Ivanov, Bulgaria)

gratitude to all delegations that participated in the consultations on the elaboration of the new text.

In conclusion, may I express the hope that the amended draft resolution will receive the widest possible support in the Committee.

The other draft resolution my delegation would like to introduce today is contained in document A/C.1/44/L.29; it is entitled "Conversion of military resources". While it covers a relatively new area in disarmament, it is in our view of basic importance in providing an irreversible and psychologically reliable character to the process of arms reduction and disarmament. Therefore, we believe that all countries which are really interested in disarmament should also have an interest in conversion. This interest could be expressed in the exchange of information, national expertise, technological and social experience and so on. It could also help establish a profound international dialogue on the national, regional and global aspects of conversion. The need for such a dialogue is dictated by the complicated character of the process of conversion.

Before such a process is carried out, a careful study of the basic aspects of the reorientation of military production and personnel is needed. The reorientation itself would require a body of legislative and administrative measures on the economic, social, financial, budgetary and other aspects to shape the respective national conversion programmes or models. It is because of the complexity of the problems that a wide international dialogue on conversion and its practical implementation is required. In our view the United Nations, given its universal character, is the most suitable forum for beginning such a dialogue.

Those considerations are in fact the substance of the preambular part of draft resolution L.29. The language is carefully balanced so as to take account of the concerns expressed by some delegations and to accommodate them, with the ultimate goal of reaching consensus in the Committee.

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(Mr. Ivanov, Bulgaria)

Operative paragraph 1 invites Member States to submit to the Secretary-General their views concerning various aspects of the conversion of military resources to civilian purposes. These views should be submitted by 30 April 1991. That date was selected in order to provide enough time for a deeper look at the issue without the pressure of time which, in the case of conversion, might be counter-productive.

Operative paragraph 2 provides for the inclusion in the provisional agenda of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly of an item entitled "Conversion of military resources to civilian purposes". The paragraph gives due regard to the appeal for some resolutions to figure on the agenda of the General Assembly on a biannual basis.

I should like to thank those delegations that took part in the consultations on this draft resolution and to express the hope that it will be adopted without a vote.

Mr. MOREL (France) (interpretation from French): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the 12 States members of the European Community on the subject of confidence-building measures.

In the view of the Twelve, the concept of confidence-building measures is particularly important in a world where examples of the use or threat of use of force continues to be a source of concern to the international community. Confidence-building measures have played, and will continue to play, a significant role in multilateral disarmament affairs. They do not, however, represent a substitute for arms control or disarmament. We welcome the fact that the complementary nature of confidence-building measures has been broadly accepted.

The favourable political climate resulting from the various high-level contacts between the United States and the Soviet Union and, most recently, following the ministerial meeting in Wyoming, has created new conditions making it

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(Mr. Morel, France)

possible to achieve significant progress in the arms control and disarmament process and in the strengthening of peace. In such an environment, confidence-building measures can for their part certainly foster the arms control and disarmament process since they are based on respect for the provisions contained in the United Nations Charter. Thus they contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security.

The Twelve are firmly convinced that the development of confidence-building measures and the fostering of greater openness and transparency in the military sphere is a key to progress on arms control and disarmament, particularly at the regional level. The adoption of steps contributing to greater openness and transparency will assist in preventing misperceptions or miscalculations of military intentions and capabilities, thus leading to a lessening of international tension.

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(Mr. Morel, France)

For example, the results achieved at the Stockholm Conference and the encouraging experience acquired through the implementation of the Stockholm Document have made a significant contribution to improved confidence in general and to reciprocal confidence in Europe. As always, the Twelve will spare no effort in contributing to that result.

We believe that the present system can be further improved by encouraging greater openness and transparency in the military field. The Twelve, together with other States participating in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, are actively involved in the negotiations on confidence- and security-building measures that began in Vienna last March and that were intended to strengthen transparency and openness through better knowledge of military activities, thanks to new confidence- and security-building measures. Similarly, the Twelve support efforts made in other parts of the world that can help to create a climate consistent with regional disarmament measures. We hope that those efforts will be successful.

At the global level, furthermore, the Twelve are also encouraged by the results of the Second Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction. They have welcomed steps adopted on a voluntary basis to build confidence and hope for the largest possible number of responses from States parties.

In 1988, after several years of debate and following an initiative from the Federal Republic of Germany, the Disarmament Commission adopted a set of guidelines for the development of confidence-building measures. The Twelve welcome the fact that the General Assembly endorsed those guidelines in its resolution 43/78 H, which was adopted by consensus, and that the Assembly recommended those guidelines

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(Mr. Morel, France)

to all States for implementation, fully taking into account the political, military and other conditions prevailing in a region, on the basis of initiatives and with the agreement of the States of the region concerned.

Mr. von STÜLPNAGEL (Federal Republic of Germany): I should like to speak today on agenda item 63, entitled "General and complete disarmament", and to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/44/L.58, entitled "Contribution of confidence- and security-building measures to international peace and security". I am doing so on behalf of the delegations of Australia, Austria, Belgium, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Finland, France, the German Democratic Republic, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Nepal, the Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Togo, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the Federal Republic of Germany.

Confidence-building measures are of increasing importance in creating favourable conditions for the settlement of existing international problems and disputes and in paving the way for further progress in disarmament. Their particular value has been generally recognized in paragraphs 24 and 93 of the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament and by the unanimous adoption of the guidelines for confidence-building measures in last year's resolution 43/78 H. Those guidelines are a standing invitation to all States of the world. Their implementation - even if only partial - can do much to defuse tense situations. Recent developments have indeed shown the importance of confidence-building measures for progress in arms control and disarmament. They illustrate that the process of confidence building is a dynamic one in which the implementation of first cautious measures gets Governments and peoples used to those measures, in which the confidence gained through implementation leads to agreement on more detailed measures, and in which

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(Mr. von Stülpnagel, Federal Republic of Germany)

increasing trust and confidence are conducive to negotiations on genuine disarmament measures.

I should like first to touch briefly upon the European experience. The Second World War left Europe separated into two parts divided by an iron curtain, with two military blocks facing each other with mistrust and fear, and with a cold war emerging and leading to the largest arms build-up that the world has ever seen and to a density of military troops unprecedented in history.

It is in the context and by a large extent due to the process of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) that East-West relations have gradually been improving, that confrontation is being replaced step by step by co-operation and that mistrust and fear are being replaced by mutual confidence and understanding. The Final Act of that Conference, signed at Helsinki in 1975, set the course in that direction. Going in its entirety far beyond military matters only, it has also provided the basis for co-operative measures in the field of security. The Helsinki Final Act contains a set of confidence- and security-building measures, such as observation and prior notification of certain military activities. Following the positive experience with the implementation of those measures, a more refined and elaborate system of confidence- and security-building measures was worked out in the Stockholm Document, signed in 1986, including for the first time in an arms-control or disarmament agreement on-site inspections of military activities without the right of refusal.

Implementation of confidence- and security-building measures proved to be successful, too. The increasing mutual trust and confidence created by their implementation and the willingness of both sides to abide by the agreed provisions and to work together with the aim of creating a more stable and secure Europe paved the way for two new sets of negotiations now taking place in Vienna. The first

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(Mr. von Stülpnagel, Federal Republic of Germany)

was to further refine and expand already agreed confidence- and security-building measures; the second was to begin negotiating on disarmament measures with a view to reducing armed forces and weapons systems.

Those developments in Europe are not only of importance for European security. Peace and security in Europe can contribute to peace and security in other parts of the world just as much as stable situations in other regions of the world can contribute to European stability. Recent developments in Europe are not to be seen in isolation but constitute a part of the common endeavours of all States to reach a more peaceful and stable world and to move forward from confrontation to co-operation.

It is with that understanding that we ask not only those States directly involved in European matters, but all States in other regions of the world, in Africa, in Asia, and in Latin America, to welcome the implementation of confidence-building measures as contained in the Final Act of Helsinki and on that basis the positive experience gathered since 1987 with the implementation by the CSCE States of the measures agreed at the Stockholm Conference on Confidence- and Security-building Measures and Disarmament in Europe. We also ask those States to expect the ongoing Vienna negotiations on confidence- and security-building measures to build upon and expand the results already achieved at the Stockholm Conference with the aim of elaborating and adopting a new set of mutually complementary confidence- and security-building measures designed to reduce the risk of military confrontation in Europe. Finally, we invite all States to consider the possible introduction of confidence-building measures in their particular region and, where possible, to negotiate on them in keeping with conditions and requirements prevailing in the respective region.

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(Mr. von Stülpnagel, Federal Republic of Germany)

Concerning the latter invitation I mentioned, I may recall the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, which called upon all States to undertake measures specially designed to build confidence in order to contribute to the creation of favourable conditions for the adoption of additional disarmament measures and to further the relaxation of international tension.

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(Mr. von Stülpnagel, Federal Republic of Germany)

While it can be observed that the implementation of confidence- and security-building measures in the European context has proven to be a real success, that cannot and must not lead us to the conclusion that exactly the same kind of measures will show similar results in other regions. In fact, the situation in Europe has many particularities, and any consideration of confidence-building measures in other parts of the world has to start with an analysis of the situation in the region in question. It is, indeed, of utmost importance that in the regions themselves, issues of disarmament and disarmament-related matters be thoroughly considered and discussed on the initiative and with the participation of the States of the region concerned. The United Nations disarmament workshops, such as that held this year in Lagos and that to be held next year in Kathmandu, as well as the United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament in Lomé, Lima and Kathmandu, offer an excellent framework for that endeavour and deserve our support. In their consideration of arms-limitation and disarmament issues, confidence- and security-building measures already play a role, and should continue to do so.

We therefore ask the General Assembly to welcome the consideration inter alia of confidence-building measures in United Nations regional disarmament workshops and in the United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Let me conclude my statement by reaffirming that wherever disarmament and arms control are at issue in the world it must be borne in mind that confidence-building paves the way to disarmament, and that disarmament in turn generates confidence. That spiral of reason should be set in motion world-wide.

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Mr. BAGBENI ADEITO NZENGEYA (Zaire) (interpretation from French): As Chairman of the Disarmament Commission for this year, I have the honour to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/44/L.8, on the report of the Disarmament Commission. The draft resolution is sponsored by officers of the Commission: Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Cameroon, Costa Rica, the German Democratic Republic, Haiti, Romania, Sri Lanka, Togo and Zaire, representing various regional groups. Also sponsoring the draft resolution are other delegations that either presided over subsidiary bodies of the Commission or proposed the inclusion of items in the Commission's agenda: the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, China, Denmark, Indonesia, Nigeria and Sweden.

As in previous years, the draft resolution includes a number of basic elements on the role and mandate of the Disarmament Commission as a deliberative body in the field of disarmament. I need not explain paragraphs which have appeared in analogous texts for years. But the operative part of the draft resolution, which reflect the 1989 substantive session and the future work of the Disarmament Commission, has been somewhat modified as compared to earlier resolutions.

First, in order to reflect the progress achieved on certain items during the 1989 substantive session, by paragraph 2 the Assembly would note that the Disarmament Commission has yet to conclude its consideration of some items on its agenda, but would note also with appreciation the progress achieved on some of these. Delegations may recall that, as I noted when presenting the report of the Disarmament Commission to the First Committee, in 1989 the Commission made some progress in certain areas, such as the nuclear capability of South Africa, the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament, conventional disarmament and naval armaments and disarmament. Although the Disarmament Commission was unable this year to conclude its work on those matters, I hope that major results will be achieved at the 1990 session.

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(Mr. Bagbeni Adeito Nzengeya, Zaire)

Secondly, as delegations may recall, at the last plenary meeting of the Commission's 1989 session, held on 31 May, a number of delegations stated their views and made proposals on ways to enhance the functioning of the Commission, including its efficiency and the rationalization of its work. In that connection, the Commission decided, for the purpose of consultations, to establish an unofficial open-ended working group to include all Commission officers and the Chairmen of subsidiary bodies. In recent weeks, that consultation group - in which many delegations joined - met three times, and many concrete proposals were put forward. Many of the delegations that participated in the consultations did so with great interest, with a view to finding common ground or reaching agreements in this field. Paragraph 5 of the draft resolution refers to that state of affairs, and in it the Assembly would note

"that consultations on the question of ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission in the field of disarmament are under way and the result could be considered at the Commission's organizational session in December 1989". (A/C.1/44/L.8, para. 5)

At coming consultation meetings common ground on certain proposals could be found, and the agreements could be incorporated into a revised text of this draft resolution. I am counting on sincere co-operation by all delegations in this regard.

With that brief explanation of some new elements in draft resolution A/C.1/44/L.8, I submit the text for the consideration of the First Committee.

Mr. McKINNON (Canada): I should like to introduce the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/44/L.19, which is entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space". It is sponsored by Australia, Belgium, Canada, France,

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(Mr. McKinnon, Canada)

the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The establishment by the Conference on Disarmament in 1985 of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, and the re-establishment of that Committee at every session of the Conference on Disarmament since then, testifies to the recognition by the international community of the importance of regulating the military use of, and preventing an arms race in, outer space.

A resolution adopted on this subject by the General Assembly should provide the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space with the considered views of the international community with a view to facilitating and guiding the work of the Committee.

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(Mr. McKinnon, Canada)

What is required of such a resolution if it is to guide the work of the Committee? In the first place, it must take into account the difficulties that have made progress so slow as far as the work of the Committee is concerned. These difficulties spring essentially from two factors: the two major space Powers have yet to arrive at the kind of understanding that would realistically make greater progress in the multilateral domain possible; and the problems involved in the prevention of an arms race in outer space are genuinely complex.

Regarding the first issue, the sponsors of this draft resolution believe that the world community must continue to encourage the two major space Powers to resolve their problems. It is therefore important to recognize both the importance of the bilateral negotiations and the progress that has been made in the bilateral sphere since late in 1985. Full recognition of this fact must be taken into account to facilitate further progress.

Concerning the complexity of the problems the Conference on Disarmament must resolve, we cannot ignore the issues that divide us or dismiss them by fiat. We must try to resolve them through examination and discussion so that we can make progress together. Progress will be made together or it will not be made at all.

In that regard, all of us here must make every effort to ensure that the considered guidance I referred to above is given to the Conference on Disarmament by the entire international community, including the major space Powers.

Since 1985, when the Ad Hoc Committee was first established, there has been a distinct, extensive and even startling change in the international environment. Indeed, the deliberations of this Committee over the past two weeks have reflected this development, as they have been characterized by a definite sense of optimism, by a recognition of the favourable ways in which the changing environment has found expression in other multilateral and bilateral arms control and disarmament forums,

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(Mr. McKinnon, Canada)

and by a general expression of cautious hope regarding the future. This is true of speeches from all groups.

We think that this change in the international environment has to be reflected in our guidance to the Conference on Disarmament on outer space. Indeed, it should permeate every preambular and operative paragraph of a resolution on this issue. I therefore urge all delegations to give their support to this draft resolution. The co-sponsors hope that it will attract strong and broad support.

Mr. KOTEVSKI (Yugoslavia): I take particular pleasure in introducing, on behalf of the sponsors - consisting of Algeria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Romania, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Tunisia, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zaire and Yugoslavia - the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/44/L.30: "Report of the Conference on Disarmament".

This year, the general debate on disarmament has also revealed the existence of general agreement that it is necessary to strengthen the United Nations and reaffirm multilateralism as a whole, particularly in conditions where new prospects are being opened up for the solution of the most important questions of disarmament. In this context, the work of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral negotiating forum and the irreplaceable instrument of the international community in the field of disarmament deserves particular attention.

The sponsors of this draft resolution consider that the Conference on Disarmament should negotiate directly on the most important questions of disarmament, the questions that concern the security of all countries. However, the present results of the work of the Conference lag far behind its responsibilities.

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(Mr. Kotevski, Yugoslavia)

This year's report of the Conference on Disarmament has shown once again that no progress has been made in the consideration of these issues. We are wary of passing judgement, but it is really regrettable that the Conference on Disarmamentis not in a position to negotiate on all issues on its agenda. In the current conditions, multilateral efforts and bilateral negotiations must complement each other.

The sponsors of this draft expect that the Conference will be able to achieve concrete results on individual items on its agenda.

According to the draft resolution, the General Assembly would note with satisfaction that further progress has been made in the negotiations on the elaboration of a comprehensive convention on chemical weapons. Through the harmonizing and adoption of the Convention, the world would be given a powerful legal weapon in the struggle against the possession and, ipso facto, against the use of one of the most lethal weapons of mass destruction.

The sponsors of this draft resolution are convinced that fresh impetus is needed today, perhaps more than ever before, for the disarmament negotiations at all levels. They are therefore motivated by the desire to secure full support for the work of the Conference and to have its role and significance confirmed in the process of the negotiations on the questions to which the United Nations attaches greatest priority and urgency.

In conclusion, I would like to point out that, even after introducing the draft resolution, we are of course open to any constructive suggestions that may come from any delegation or group of delegations and that are designed to promote the work of the Conference and ensure the widest possible support for the draft resolution I have just introduced.

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The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I call on the Secretary of the Committee to announce a number of technical corrections to the draft resolutions before the Committee.

Mr. KHERADI (Secretary of the Committee): The following technical corrections should be made in the following draft resolutions: in the third preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.1/44/L.12, the date should read 1988 instead of 1989 as it appears at present; in the sixth preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.1/44/L.21, the resolution referred to should be GC(XXXIII)Res/506 of 29 September 1989.

Miss AL-MULLA (Kuwait) (interpretation from Arabic): I wish to thank the Secretariat for correcting the error in the draft resolution in document A/C.1/44/L.21.

On behalf of the members of the Arab Group, of which my country holds the chairmanship this month, I wish to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/44/L.21, entitled "Israeli nuclear aramament", submitted under agenda item 68. The sponsors of the draft resolution are Algeria, Bahrain, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, the Yemen and my own country, Kuwait.

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(Ms. Al-Mulla, Kuwait)

Under the preamble to the draft resolution, the General Assembly would recall resolutions on Israeli nuclear armament adopted by the Assembly and by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). It would also recall that the Security Council, by its resolution 487 (1981), called upon Israel urgently to place all its nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards, and would note that only Israel had been specifically requested to do that. The Assembly would also note that Israel has persistently refused to commit itself not to manufacture or acquire nuclear weapons, despite repeated calls to make such a commitment.

Under the draft resolution, the General Assembly would take into consideration the statement of the ninth summit meeting of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries entitled "International security and disarmament", in paragraph 12 of which Israel is condemned for continuing to develop its nuclear military programmes and weapons of mass destruction. The Assembly would further express deep alarm at the information with regard to Israel's continuing production, development and acquisition of nuclear weapons and its testing of delivery systems in the Mediterranean.

Operative paragraphs 1 and 2 of the draft resolution need no explanation. Here the Assembly would reiterate its condemnation of Israel's refusal to renounce possession of nuclear weapons, and of the co-operation between Israel and South Africa in military nuclear armaments.

In paragraph 3, the General Assembly would express its deep concern at Israel's continuing production, development and acquisition of nuclear weapons and testing of their delivery systems.

In the following operative paragraphs, the Assembly would reiterate requests and demands it has already made and resolutions that have already been adopted. It would request the Security Council to take urgent and effective measures to ensure

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(Ms. Al-Mulla, Kuwait)

that Israel complied with Council resolution 487 (1981), and would once more demand that Israel place all its nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards. It would reiterate its request to the IAEA to suspend any scientific co-operation with Israel that could contribute to its nuclear capabilities, and would request the Agency to inform the Secretary-General of any steps Israel might take to place its nuclear facilities under Agency safeguards. It would call upon all States and organizations that had not yet done so to discontinue co-operating with and giving assistance to Israel in the nuclear field. Lastly, the Assembly would request the Secretary-General closely to follow Israeli nuclear activities and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session.

Israel's persistence in developing its nuclear capability is a fact that the international community should squarely face, rather than skirting around it. If some States choose to deal with Israel on an exceptional basis, they should be called upon to reflect on the consequences that some recent developments such as the following could have:

First, Israel has launched a satellite into orbit with its Shavit missile. Second, Israel has transferred much of the technology from its Lavi fighter-bomber to South Africa; and it is well known that South Africa is going to incorporate it into its air force under the name "Ariah". Third, South Africa has recruited more than 75 Israeli technicians from the Israeli aircraft industry; they have been released from the Lavi project and will be employed in the delivery systems industry. Fourth, there was collaboration between the Tel Aviv and Pretoria régimes in test-firing a missile similar to Jericho II last July from a site in South Africa to Prince Edward Island in the Indian Ocean. Fifth, in mid-September Israel test-fired another medium-range missile about 800 miles into the

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(Ms. Al-Mulla, Kuwait)

Mediterranean. Sixth, Israel and South Africa have continued their collaboration in the development of a long-range missile called Irah 3. Seventh, South Africa is supplying uranium to Israel.

Is it reasonable to expect the international community to stand idly by while these serious developments confront not only the region of the Middle East and the Mediterranean but also the region of southern Africa - and perhaps other regions in future? Is it reasonable to expect other countries to close their eyes to such developments and to continue to assist Israel by, for example, supplying it with sophisticated computer systems that would enable Israel to develop its nuclear capabilities?

The sponsors of this draft resolution hope that the dangers inherent in Israel's nuclear armament will be clearly discerned and reflected in the vote on it.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I call on Mr. Kheradi, Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. KHERADI (Secretary of the Committee): I wish to inform the Committee that the following countries have become sponsors of the following draft resolutions: A/C.1/44/L.10, Cameroon and Viet Nam; A/C.1/44/L.18, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; A/C.1/44/L.21, Egypt; A/C.1/44/L.25, Fiji; A/C.1/44/L.35, Nigeria; A/C.1/44/L.37, Greece and Fiji; A/C.1/44/L.38, Costa Rica; A/C.1/44/L.41, Romania; A/C.1/44/L.43, Costa Rica; A/C.1/44/L.47, Costa Rica and Greece; A/C.1/44/L.54, Thailand and Singapore; A/C.1/44/L.58, Ireland; A/C.1/44/L.59/Rev.1, Sweden; and A/C.1/44/L.63, Myanmar and Singapore.

The meeting rose at 4.20 p.m.

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