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VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 26th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. RANA (Nepal)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

AGENDA ITEMS 45 TO 66 AND 155 (continued)

CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION ON ALL DISARMAMENT AGENDA ITEMS

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the representative of Sri Lanka, who will introduce draft resolutions A/C.1/45/L.17 and A/C.1/45/L.10.

Mr. RASAPUTRAM (Sri Lanka): Before introducing draft resolutions A/C.1/45/L.17 and A/C.1/45/L.10, I would like to state that there are five additional sponsors for draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.17. They are: the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Nigeria, the Sudan, Swaziland and Zimbabwe.

We are all agreed that outer space belongs to all mankind and that its use exclusively for peaceful purposes would enhance the welfare of all. The peaceful use of outer space can be hampered by the arms race in outer space. It is generally acknowledged that an arms race in outer space could destroy the foundation that has been laid in recent years in the field of disarmament and would jeopardize the efforts that are being made to achieve general and complete disarmament under international control. Undeniably, issues of arms control in outer space have to be seen in the context of their significance in relation to international stability, peace and security. Collective efforts are required to prevent an arms race in outer space so that the current trends in the strengthening of peace and security may be continued with vigour and enthusiasm and so that no new divisive elements may be allowed to complicate the process.

It has been made clear over the past years that outer space is the common heritage of mankind and that the exploration and use of outer space should be carried out for the benefit of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic and scientific development, and that such exploration and use should be for peaceful purposes. It is also important to note the number of resolutions adopted on this subject over the years and in many forums, underlining the urgency

(Mr. Rasaputram, Sri Lanka)

of preventing an arms race in outer space. In this context, we may also recall the Declaration adopted by the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries held at Belgrade from 4 to 7 September 1989 and General Assembly resolution 44/112 of 15 December 1989, which those countries sponsored.

The issues relating to outer space have remained identifiable and recognizable, but the amount of attention given to this important proposal for the prevention of an arms race in outer space has been inadequate. The dangers involved as a result of the arms race can and should be prevented before they get out of control. The time has come to go beyond the desire to regulate and limit military activity in outer space so that practical and concrete measures can be undertaken to implement decisions to prevent an arms race in outer space. Undoubtedly, the main objective is to achieve durable peace and security and to utilize the scarce resources thus released for the benefit of mankind in peaceful pursuits.

The developments in improved relationships, particularly with the two super-Powers, which possess the most advanced space technology, tend to augur well for the future. The positive developments that have taken place recently must not be allowed to falter through any kind of intransigence on the part of anyone.

(Mr. Rasaputram, Sri Lanka)

We should seize opportunities that are afforded to utilize all potentialities to the fullest extent possible to prevent an arms race in outer space. Another significant positive development is that it has been possible to conduct meaningful consultations with the co-ordinators of other groups so as to allow one draft resolution to emerge from such consultations and negotiations.

The delegations sponsoring the draft resolution are convinced that this can facilitate agreements leading to strategic stability through space activities and their interrelationship with arms control and other issues related to space and complete disarmament. We are aware that the Ad Hoc Committee, in 1990, made qualitative improvements, in that the conclusions which were adopted by consensus included certain useful elements. It was clear that most countries that have space assets wanted some kind of multilateral action to ensure the absence of hostile action through the weaponization of space. We believe that the re-establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee at the beginning of the 1991 session of the Conference on Disarmament will ensure that every effort is made in the continuation and intensification of substantive work on this issue.

On behalf of all the sponsors, I have the honour to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.17, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

The draft resolution is a product of consultations and negotiations with the other groups, which culminated in the submission of a single draft text, thus assisting you, Mr. Chairman, in your efforts to rationalize the work of the Committee. The draft resolution is therefore a compromise resolution which takes into consideration the views of all groups.

There have been a few changes in the preambular paragraphs. Many of those changes are either technical or editorial and are directed towards combining some of the paragraphs to achieve brevity without affecting their meaning or intentions. These variations from last year's draft resolution have been limited

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to areas in which we believe general agreement to be possible as they reflect a realistic approach to this complex problem. Substantive changes have been made in a spirit of compromise to address this item in a pragmatic and concrete manner. Substantive additions are kept to a minimum and are taken from the consensus language of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, which was established by the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. In this context, it may be stated that the relevance of considering measures on confidence-building and greater transparency and openness with regard to space has been emphasized in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee. Confidence-building measures are essential to increase and strengthen mutual trust on all disarmament matters.

The sponsors approached this item in the spirit of co-operation that is essential to working out solutions to this complex issue in a pragmatic and practical way. The draft resolution is consistent with the views expressed by most members at the meetings of this year's Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space. The sponsors would have preferred a strong draft resolution, but it was felt that a compromise text would lead to the attainment of positive results by gaining a greater degree of support from delegations. In addition, we believe that the adoption of this draft resolution would enhance the ability of all Member States to generate a productive environment that would enable them to undertake work on outer space for peaceful purposes, for the benefit of mankind, with the least amount of delay. We hope that it will be possible to build a consensus on this single draft resolution.

My delegation was associated with the delegations of Egypt and Venezuela in the initiative aimed at producing a compromise text. We are hopeful that this text, which was arrived at after a series of consultations and negotiations with the co-ordinators of other groups, can be the basis for a realistic and

(Mr. Rasaputram, Sri Lanka)

constructive approach to working out satisfactory solutions in the future. I am confident that the efforts made by the sponsors will receive the full support of all delegations so that a consensus draft resolution may emerge.

On behalf of the non-aligned States members of the First Committee, my delegation has the privilege of introducing draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.10, on implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace.

Except for one additional operative paragraph included to record the progress made in the procedural aspects of the preparatory work of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean during its two sessions this year, the draft resolution contains the same preambular and operative paragraphs as General Assembly resolution 44/120 adopted at its last regular session. As may be recalled, 137 States Members voted in favour of that resolution. As a result of the consultations held during the second session of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean, the Chairman of the Committee requested my Government to host the Colombo Conference on the Indian Ocean in 1992. The Government of Sri Lanka agreed to that request. Accordingly, as can be seen from operative paragraph 7, the Colombo Conference is now rescheduled to be held in 1992. During its summer session, the Ad Hoc Committee was able to finalize the draft agenda of the Colombo Conference, which had been before the Committee for several years. This is a significant development. The Committee also made progress in the preparation of the draft rules of procedure of the Colombo Conference. Those achievements are referred to in operative paragraph 5.

The establishment of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean region has become more relevant in the context of recent developments on the international scene. There is a greater desire among States Members, particularly the greater Powers and the super-Powers, to work towards the establishment of international peace and security through co-operation, not confrontation. There is an overwhelming view

(Mr. Rasaputram, Sri Lanka)

that this goal could be best achieved through lower levels of military capabilities and presence, in an atmosphere in which one should not dominate the other. This is the aim of the establishment of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean region. In keeping with this objective, it is our hope that the States members of the Committee will support the draft resolution.

To that end, the group of non-aligned States members are prepared to enter into negotiations with other delegations, if that is considered necessary, with a view to achieving agreement on a text that may eventually be adopted by the General Assembly.

Mr. AMIGUES (France) (interpretation from French): My delegation wishes to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.37, entitled "Confidence- and security-building measures and conventional disarmament in Europe", under sub-item (d) of item 56 of the agenda. The draft resolution is sponsored by Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Yugoslavia and my own country.

(Mr. Amiques, France)

This draft resolution, which follows resolutions 43/75 P of 1988 and 44/116 I of 1989 concerns the Vienna negotiations within the framework of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), one between the member countries of the two military alliances on conventional armed forces in Europe and the other between the 34 States participating in the CSCE on new confidence- and security-building measures.

As many speakers said in the course of the general debate in the First Committee, the Vienna negotiations have made rapid progress and we hope they will lead to the signing of a first treaty on conventional disarmament in Europe and to the conclusion of a significant agreement on new confidence- and security-building measures in Paris, where a meeting of the Heads of State or Government of the 34 countries of the CSCE will be held from 19 to 21 November.

In view of the time constraints it has not been possible to mention in the draft resolution submitted to the First Committee the date of the Paris summit meeting. That meeting will take place between the time of the decision by the First Committee and the submission of the draft resolution to the General Assembly. My delegation would therefore like to indicate here and now that an amendment to this draft resolution will be submitted before its consideration in plenary in order to reflect faithfully the events that will take place in Paris.

My delegation hopes that this draft resolution, like similar resolutions in 1988 and 1989 on the same subject, will command a consensus.

Mr. MORENO (Italy): On behalf of the European Community and its member States, I should like to make some comments on item 56 (h) of the agenda, concerning the relationship between disarmament and development, on which a specific draft resolution is now under consideration.



(Mr. Moreno, Italy)

The Twelve played a full part in the deliberations of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development held in New York from 24 August to 11 September 1987. They fully subscribe to the notion enshrined in the Final Document of the Conference that disarmament and development are two of the most urgent challenges facing the world today and that they are two pillars on which enduring international peace and security can be built.

It is a common perception that the world is over-armed and that a high degree of complementarity exists between the reduction of military expenditure and the allocation of resources in favour of economic and social development. However, the interplay between disarmament and development can be perceived and understood correctly only if disarmament and development are viewed within the larger context of their mutual interrelationship with security. Decisions to increase or reduce military expenditure remain tied to issues of international and regional security.

The Twelve have concretely and consistently shown their commitment to disarmament and development and are resolved to spare no effort to give practical expression to them.

We are today experiencing a new, encouraging trend in international affairs, and we are confident that the significant improvement in East-West relations, together with substantial progress in current disarmament negotiations - at both the bilateral and the European regional level - will open new and positive prospects in terms of saving and reallocating economic, technological and social resources now devoted to military purposes.

The member States of the European Community, for their part, are playing an active role in the various relevant multilateral forums dealing with disarmament, with the purpose of scaling down conventional arsenals and ensuring peace and security at the lowest possible levels of armaments.

(Mr. Moreno, Italy)

In addition, as the achievement of the fourth Lomé Convention of the European Economic Community (EEC) and the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (ACP) underlines, increased attention is being given, in a spirit of genuine solidarity and partnership, to economic co-operation and aid programmes in favour of developing countries with a view to contributing to the creation of a more humane international order. This requires broad collective efforts by the whole international community, including developing countries. It involves a common and coherent current perception of security requirements, greater transparency and objective and balanced information on military spending.

In this connection the Twelve cannot refrain from voicing their concern at recent events in particularly sensitive areas which have a detrimental impact on the overall picture of international relations at a moment when renewed bold efforts are being made at different levels to curb the arms race and conclude major disarmament agreements.

The Disarmament Commission, in the report of its 1990 session, clearly stated that:

"The global expenditure on arms and armed forces, by far the largest part of which is attributable to conventional arms and armed forces, represents a massive consumption of resources for potentially destructive purposes in a stark contrast to the urgent need for social and economic development and for increased international co-operation in those fields. Reduction in military expenditure by releasing resources could, therefore, entail benefits both in the social and economic fields as well as in the political field."

(A/45/42, p. 25, para. 15)

(Mr. Moreno, Italy)

In that spirit and towards this end it is essential that all nations accept their share of responsibility, exercise restraint and avoid a build-up of armaments, particularly in areas where a desperate and growing need for development, in the fullest sense of the word, deserves priority consideration.

(Mr. Moreno, Italy)

The Twelve are also convinced that new and imaginative efforts in the field of arms transfers are required if the level of conventional armaments is to be lowered throughout the world. Restraint in arms trading and abstention from acquiring arms in excess of those needed for legitimate national security requirements could contribute towards the achievement of this goal.

The European Community and its member States have already welcomed the report prepared by the Secretary-General, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 43/75 B, of 7 December 1988, on the implementation of the action programme adopted at the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development. The report is a useful contribution to efforts to work with genuine goodwill, determination and perseverance towards the goal we all share of a secure world with fewer weapons and more prosperity.

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the representative of the United Kingdom, who will introduce the draft decision in document A/C.1/45/L.34.

Miss SOLESBY (United Kingdom): I have the honour to introduce the draft decision in document A/C.1/45/L.34, on information on arms control and disarmament agreements. I do so on behalf of Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, the Philippines, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Uruguay, Venezuela and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The draft decision invites the Secretary-General to prepare and make available on request appropriate information on multilateral and bilateral arms control and disarmament agreements, with the aim of providing an easily available source of texts and measures used in such agreements. The unclassified material for this

(Miss Solesby, United Kingdom)

purpose is to be provided by the relevant Member States on a voluntary basis. This applies both to texts and to any additional factual information relevant to the texts which States parties may choose to provide. This proposal would be funded by making use of existing resources and voluntary contributions.

It is the hope of the sponsors that this collection of material would provide a useful source of reference for government officials engaged in arms control and disarmament negotiations. It would enable them to benefit from the approaches used in similar agreements in the recent past. Any official interested in knowing, for example, what verification techniques had been applied to a given category of weaponry, or what confidence-building measures had been employed at what phase in negotiations, what definitions had been used for a given armament, or the subsequent record of implementation, would be able to obtain the facts speedily and easily from the United Nations compilation. Officials could learn quickly what had been done on previous occasions and adapt this to their own situation.

This proposal is intended to provide a tool for disarmament negotiation of practical use to Member States. The sponsors hope that it will commend itself to all our fellow members and be adopted by consensus.

The meeting rose at 3.55 p.m.