



**VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 2ND MEETING**

Chairman: Mr. ZACHMANN (German Democratic Republic)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN: It gives me great pleasure and honour to preside over the deliberations of the First Committee at the forty-first session of the General Assembly. Allow me at the outset to extend a warm welcome to all delegations to the First Committee at the current session. I take this opportunity to express my profound appreciation to all Members of the United Nations for the honour they have conferred upon me and my country by electing me Chairman of this body.

I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my predecessor, Ambassador Ali Alatas, the representative of Indonesia, for being gracious enough to place my name in nomination for the chairmanship of the First Committee. The First Committee benefited greatly from the unfailing wisdom and consummate diplomatic skill with which he presided over its work last year, thereby making an important contribution to the results achieved at the fortieth session of the General Assembly.

As I undertake my duties, it is gratifying for me to know that I can count on the co-operation and support of all members of the Committee, including the other officers of the Committee who are to be elected, as well as on the valuable knowledge, experience and competence of the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, Mr. Jan Martenson, of the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Security Council Affairs, Mr. Viacheslav Ustinov, and of Mr. Sohrab Kheradi, Secretary of the First Committee, and his colleagues in the Secretariat, who will contribute to the success of our work.

(The Chairman)

I am fully aware that the tasks assigned to the First Committee are not easy, but with your help, guidance and indulgence, I intend to discharge the high responsibilities of my post with determination, devotion and impartiality in order to ensure that our business is conducted in an orderly fashion and that our endeavours will result in a successful conclusion.

The agenda for today's meeting concerns the election of the Committee's Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteur and the organization of work of the Committee for the current session. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the agenda is adopted by the Committee.

The agenda was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: Before proceeding to the first item on our agenda, I should like to draw the Committee's attention to the decision taken by the General Assembly at its 1935th meeting on 22 September 1971 concerning the procedure for the election of Officers of the Main Committees. According to the terms of that decision, the nominations of candidates should be limited to one statement for each candidate, after which the Committee should immediately proceed to the election. The Committee will therefore follow that procedure today.

#### ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIRMEN

Mr. NUNEZ MOSQUERA (Cuba) (interpretation from Spanish): I should like, Sir, to congratulate you on your unanimous election to the chairmanship of the First Committee at the forty-first session of the General Assembly. We are aware of your devotion to the cause of disarmament and the endeavours of your country - the fraternal German Democratic Republic - in the cause of peace. You can be assured of the support and co-operation of the Cuban delegation in discharging your duties, and I wish you every success in the task ahead.

(Mr. Nunez Mosquera, Cuba)

I have asked to speak at this meeting in order to propose - and it is an honour for me to do so - His Excellency Ambassador Douglas James Roche of Canada for the post of Vice-Chairman of the First Committee. Ambassador Roche is an experienced diplomat, well known for his work and efforts in the field of disarmament. He was a member of his country's Parliament, consultant on the Canadian delegation to the second special session devoted to disarmament and, for two years, he has been Canada's ambassador for disarmament affairs.

Ambassador Roche has represented Canada at many international meetings in the field of disarmament and has received acknowledgement of his academic and intellectual work.

I am certain that the experience, dedication and arduous work of Ambassador Roche will be extremely useful for the work of the First Committee, and his contribution will indeed be valuable, considering the difficult work that lies ahead of us this year. We pledge our full co-operation to him as well.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Cuba for his statement nominating Ambassador Douglas James Roche of Canada for the post of Vice-Chairman. I greatly appreciate the friendly remarks he addressed to me and I should like to request that he convey, on behalf of the Committee and on my own behalf, our sincere gratitude to Ambassador Carlos Lechuga Nivia for the distinction with which he served as Vice-Chairman last year and for the valuable contribution that he made to the work of the Committee during the session.

Since there are no other nominations, I take it that in accordance with rule 103 of the rules of procedure and with established practice, the Committee wishes to dispense with the secret ballot and to declare Ambassador Douglas James Roche elected Vice-Chairman of the First Committee by acclamation.

Mr. Douglas James Roche (Canada) was elected Vice-Chairman of the First Committee by acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN: I shall now call on the representative of Zaire, Ambassador Bagbeni Adeito Nsengeya.

Mr. BAGBENI ADEITO NSENGEYA (Zaire) (interpretation from French): Since this is the first time I have spoken in the First Committee at this forty-first session, I should like on behalf of my delegation to congratulate you most warmly, Sir, on the occasion of your unanimous election as Chairman of the First Committee.

Your active participation in the work of the First Committee as well as your personal interest in all the activities of the United Nations in the field of disarmament have rightly earned you the esteem of all the members of the First Committee, who are delighted to see you conducting our work.

My delegation assures you of its full co-operation and expresses the hope that our work will lead to much progress during the forty-first session of the General Assembly. My delegation cannot but recall the decisive role played by the retiring Chairman of our Committee, our colleague and friend Ambassador Alatas of Indonesia, in the successful guidance of our Committee's work during the fortieth session. I was personally very pleased to serve at his side as Vice-Chairman during the previous session.

In order better to assist you in your task, Sir, my delegation is pleased to submit the candidacy of Mr. Morihisa Aoki, Minister for Political and Legal Affairs of the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations, for the position of Vice-Chairman of the First Committee.

The intellectual and moral qualities of Mr. Aoki in our view guarantee fruitful co-operation among the Officers of the Committee that will ensure the success of our work.

Born in Tokyo on 23 November 1938, Mr. Aoki received his degree in law at the University of Tokyo and passed the diplomatic examination in 1962. Having assumed diplomatic functions at the Japanese embassies in several countries, including

(Mr. Bagberil Adeito Nzengaya,  
Zaire)

France, Viet Nam, the United States of America and Hong Kong, and having headed to departments of research, analysis and cultural affairs at the Japanese Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Aoki has also been participating in the work of the General Assembly of the United Nations since its twenty-fifth session - that is, since 1970. Since then, Mr. Aoki has attended several United Nations conferences and various sessions of the General Assembly.

For those reasons, he was designated as the member for Japan within the group of governmental experts entrusted with promoting international co-operation so as to avoid massive flows of refugees. He also took a very active part in the preparatory commissions for the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development.

The candidacy my delegation is proposing should, given all the positive elements I have just noted, receive the unanimous agreement of all members of the Committee for the election of Mr. Aoki to the post of Vice-Chairman of our Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Zaire for his statement nominating Mr. Morihisa Aoki of Japan for the post of Vice-Chairman. I thank him also for the kind remarks he addressed to me and wish to convey to him the Committee's deep appreciation for the distinction with which he carried out his duties as Vice-Chairman last year and the valuable contribution he made to the Committee's work during that session.

There being no other nomination, I take it that, in accordance with rule 103 of the rules of procedure and with established practice, the Committee once again wishes to dispense with the secret ballot and declare Mr. Morihisa Aoki elected Vice-Chairman of the First Committee by acclamation.

Mr. Morihisa Aoki (Japan) was elected Vice-Chairman of the First Committee by acclamation.

CHAIRMAN: May I express to the two Vice-Chairmen my warmest congratulations on the well-deserved honour that has been conferred upon them and assure them that I am fully confident that we shall co-operate in a constructive and harmonious manner so that we can jointly discharge the responsibilities incumbent upon us.

#### ELECTION OF THE RAPPORTEUR

Mr. SOULIOTIS (Greece) (interpretation from French): I should like first of all to extend to you, Sir, my wholehearted congratulations on your unanimous election as Chairman of the First Committee. I share completely the views of preceding speakers who have said that your skills, qualifications and experience as a diplomat will ensure the success of our work.

I also wish to convey my sincerest congratulations to the Vice-Chairmen who have just been elected, Ambassador Roche of Canada and Minister Morihisa Aoki of Japan.

(Mr. Souliotis, Greece)

I wish to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Secretariat personnel, in particular Mr. Kheradi, for the invaluable support given to the officers of the First Committee.

It is an honour and pleasure for me to submit the candidacy of Ambassador Doulaye Corentin Ki for the post of Rapporteur of the First Committee.

Mr. Ki, at present Minister Plenipotentiary and Head of the United Nations Division in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation of Burkina Faso, is a distinguished jurist. After having completed his secondary studies Mr. Ki went to France, where he successively obtained a degree at the Institute of Political Sciences at the Aix-Marseilles University, a degree in general juridical studies at the Law and Economic Science Faculty of the Aix-Marseilles University, and a degree at the International Institute of Public Administration, Diplomatic Section, Paris.

In 1972 Mr. Ki joined the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation as a counsellor trainee. He has since occupied important posts in the Ministry and elsewhere, such as Head of Cultural and Scientific Co-operation, Head of Multilateral Co-operation, Director for Political Affairs of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation, Secretary-General for the Presidency of the Republic with minister rank, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Burkina Faso to Canada, and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Burkina Faso to the United States of America.

Ambassador Ki has very wide international experience, having also participated in many meetings and conferences in the economic and political fields, in particular as a member of the Burkina Faso delegation at nine sessions of the United Nations General Assembly, at the Fifth Summit Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement at Colombo, at the Franco-African Summit in Bangui, at many meetings of Heads of State or Government of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and at the United Nations Security Council.



(Mr. Souliotis, Greece)

Ambassador Ki was the founder and Chairman of the Burkinabe Committee against Apartheid and Racism, Professor at the National School for Public Administration, and of the Magistrature of Ouagadougou.

He has also done research on specific problems of Africa and published articles in Burkinabe publications, among them "The problems of co-operation", "The United Nations or the ambiguities of an organization", "Towards a new international economic order", and "OAU or the problems of African unity".

Bearing in mind all those qualifications, it seems to me that Ambassador Ki is eminently qualified to fill the post of Rapporteur of the First Committee. I therefore nominate him for election to that post.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Greece for nominating Ambassador Doulaye Corentin Ki of Burkina Faso for election to the post of Rapporteur of the First Committee. I should also like to thank him for the kind words he addressed to me. I am certain that I am expressing the sentiments of the entire membership of the Committee when I offer our thanks to him for the task that he so ably performed during the fortieth session.

Members of the Committee have just heard the representative of Greece nominate Mr. Doulaye Corentin Ki for the post of Rapporteur. As there are no other nominations, I take it that the Committee wishes to follow the same procedure as before to dispense with the secret ballot and declare Mr. Doulaye Corentin Ki elected Rapporteur of the First Committee by acclamation.

Mr. Doulaye Corentin Ki (Burkina Faso) was elected Rapporteur of the First Committee by acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN: I wish to express my sincerest congratulations to the representative of Burkina Faso upon his election as Rapporteur of the First Committee, and I invite him now to take the place reserved for him at the podium.

(The Chairman)

May I at this time draw the attention of members of the Committee to rule 110 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly which reads as follows:

"Congratulations to the officers of a Main Committee shall not be expressed except by the Chairman of the previous session - or, in his absence, by a member of his delegation - after all the officers of the Committee have been elected."

I hope that this rule will be applied and respected today and in the future, and I shall be personally grateful to delegations if they would dispense with that customary passage at the beginning of their statements.

I now call on the representative of Indonesia, Ambassador Ali Alatas, Chairman of the First Committee at the fortieth session of the General Assembly.

Mr. ALATAS (Indonesia): When at the first meeting of the Committee I was given the privilege of nominating you for the chairmanship, Sir, I had the opportunity to express my high regard for you and my confidence in your wisdom and skill and in your ability to perform successfully the task entrusted to you. In subsequently electing you by acclamation to that important post, the members of the Committee unanimously endorsed that assessment of your personal and professional qualities. I take great pleasure now in congratulating you most warmly on having achieved that high distinction, and I want to assure you of the unstinting support of my delegation in the discharge of your responsibilities.

I should like also to convey my sincere congratulations to Ambassador Douglas Roche of Canada and Mr. Morihisa Aoki of Japan on their election as Vice-Chairmen. Ambassador Roche, as we all know, has for quite some time been closely associated here in New York and elsewhere with our work on disarmament and international security, and in that connection I have come to appreciate greatly his astuteness and diplomatic finesse. Mr. Aoki too is known for his wide-ranging knowledge and experience on issues dealt with by this Committee. I have no doubt that their presence as Committee officers will be a distinct asset and will contribute to the success of the task of the Chairman and that of the Committee as a whole.

I wish also to congratulate Mr. Corentin Doulaye Ki of Burkina Faso, who has been elected Rapporteur. His is a function requiring diligence and sensitivity to nuance and detail, but given Mr. Ki's dedication and professional and educational background, we have full confidence that he will carry out his duties in a most able and efficient manner.

I am grateful to you, Mr. Chairman, for your kind words in referring to my chairmanship of the First Committee during the fortieth session. It is by no means an exaggeration to say, however, that had it not been for the splendid co-operation and understanding extended to me by all members of the Committee I would not have

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been able to perform my task in as effective and personally gratifying manner as proved possible. To each and every member of the Committee I should like once again to express my sincere gratitude. I am especially indebted to my colleagues among last year's officers: Ambassador Bagtani Aelito Nzengeya of Zaire and Ambassador Lechuga of Cuba, who served as Vice-Chairmen, and Mr. Yannis Souliotis of Greece, who was our Rapporteur. Their ready support and valuable counsel throughout the session considerably lightened my burden and contributed significantly to our proceedings in the First Committee. I also owe a special debt of gratitude to Mr. Martenson, Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, to Mr. Ustinov, Under-Secretary-General for Political and Security Council Affairs, and to Mr. Kheradi, Secretary of the Committee, as well as to their able associates in the Secretariat staff for their crucial contribution to ensuring the efficient functioning of the Committee.

The First Committee is once again set to embark on the substantive consideration of the items on its agenda, devoted to disarmament and international security issues. As was the case last year, we are beginning our work against the backdrop of an impending meeting between President Reagan and General-Secretary Gorbachev. In a few days' time, the leaders of the two most powerful nations in the world will meet at Reykjavik to prepare for a forthcoming summit meeting. I am sure I reflect the sentiments of the international community as a whole when I say that we are encouraged. We all hope that the preliminary meeting will indeed result in breaking the log-jam in the bilateral arms negotiations and will lead to a productive summit.

Following their meeting of November last year, we were heartened by the solemn commitments made by the two leaders, in which, inter alia, they pledged to accelerate work at the negotiations on nuclear and space arms aimed at preventing

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an arms race in space and at terminating the arms race on earth. To date, however, we must observe in all candour that very little in the way of tangible progress has been achieved in those negotiations. It is true that various developments and recent proposals now seem to indicate better prospects for agreement on intermediate-range nuclear weapons and, separately and in due course, on chemical weapons as well. The Stockholm Conference and the review conference on the biological weapons Treaty both resulted in accords which can be regarded positive signs of progress.

But even two or three swallows do not make a summer. Substantial agreements are needed actually to reduce arsenals of strategic nuclear weapons if we are to go beyond a mere regulation of the arms build up. Early agreement on a comprehensive ban on all nuclear-weapon testing remains the issue of overriding importance, as this would stem the arms race in its most crucial aspects of both horizontal and vertical proliferation and qualitative refinement. Also of overriding importance is the need to prevent the arms race from being extended into outer space. For all its valiant efforts, the Conference on Disarmament has precious little to show for its eight years of work. Moreover, conventional arms and violence continue to rack various regions of the world.

It is no wonder, therefore, that we look expectantly to the Reykjavik meeting and the summit that will, we hope, follow as occasions for the leaders of the two major Powers to translate their oft-repeated commitments in the fields of disarmament and international security into concrete agreements that are binding, durable and, it is to be hoped, not open to subsequent differences in interpretation.

Allow me now to refer briefly to a matter which relates more directly to the organization of work in our Committee. Last year, well over a quarter of the

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resolutions adopted by the General Assembly came from this Committee. There were 66 resolutions and one decision on disarmament issues alone. While those numbers clearly reflect the great importance Member States attach to disarmament - and in part their frustration over the non-implementation of many of the recurrent resolutions - the amount of work expended on them, often under such time pressure, does not always permit thorough consideration. Frankly, the issues before this Committee are too important and deserve better treatment.

I therefore join other previous Chairmen, in particular Ambassador Vraalsen of Norway and Ambassador Souza e Silva of Brazil, in calling for continuing effort to facilitate a more rational and focused discussion of and action on the issues, inter alia through a rearrangement of the Committee's agenda. Such effort should aim at greater organizational clarity and coherence without prejudging the substance of the issues or infringing on the right of delegations to bring any relevant item before the Committee. At a time when the General Committee has set an example with the agenda of the General Assembly and at a time when the Organization has begun a process of the overall streamlining and rationalizing of its operations, I believe that the First Committee could and should improve the conduct of its business without such changes being at the expense of the interests or concerns of Member States.

In this connection, it might be useful to consider the establishment of a small ad hoc working group which could include some of the previous Chairmen and other officers of the Committee, to try to identify further rationalization measures for approval and adoption by the Committee.

With you at the helm, Sir, ably assisted by the other officers and by the Secretariat, I know that the affairs of the First Committee will be in sure, skilful and capable hands. I wish you and the Committee every success in the task ahead.

The CHAIRMAN: On behalf of the officers of the Committee, as well as on my own behalf, I thank the representative of Indonesia, Ambassador Ali Alatas, for his kind words addressed to the Vice-Chairmen, the Rapporteur and to me, and for his optimistic approach to the Committee's work and his advice on the organization of our work. It is a great source of satisfaction to me that he has pledged his co-operation with, and support for, the officers of the Committee in the performance of our duties.

I now call upon the representative of Canada, Ambassador Douglas James Roche.

Mr. ROCHE (Canada): I wish to express my appreciation to the members of the Committee for electing me a Vice-Chairman. I am grateful for the Committee's confidence, and look forward to working with you, Sir, in dealing with our ambitious roster of draft resolutions at this forty-first session of the General Assembly. Your reputation as an experienced and very effective diplomat has preceded you to your present position. Not only does Canada offer you our full co-operation, but, as a Vice-Chairman, I will extend every assistance to you.

In taking on my duties, I am pleased to know that I can look forward to the support and co-operation of the other Committee members, my colleagues in the Bureau, and the inestimable experience of the Department for Disarmament Affairs, headed by Under-Secretary-General Martenson.

Our task this year, as it has always been in the past, is Herculean and can be alleviated only by mutual understanding and co-operation. In tackling the complex issues of disarmament and international security, we have not always measured up to our high expectations, for it is an unfortunate reality that we live in a world of conflict, competition and insecurity. Ironically, however, we also live in a world in which there is great potential for global peace, co-operation and trust, and in

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many ways we have made notable progress to that end. This year, for example, we also take note of a happy combination of events - the successful conclusion of the Stockholm Conference on confidence-building measures, the recently-concluded Review Conference on biological weapons, and the fact that we now stand poised for a positive outcome from Iceland this weekend. The eyes of the world are now indeed on Reykjavik, which should prepare the way for a definitive summit later this year.

For our own part here, we must pick up on the momentum of those great events and continue our process of dialogue patiently and firmly. I hope that we can reflect here in our actions the current optimism in the world and that at this session we can do our part in reaching out towards achieving that multifaceted goal of peace that the people of the world look to us for.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the Representative of Canada, Vice-Chairman of the First Committee, for his kind words addressed to me, and I wish fully to reciprocate those sentiments. I am sure I can count on his very active assistance and co-operation.

I now call on the representative of Japan, Mr. Morihisa Aoki, Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

Mr. AOKI (Japan): Let me at the outset, Sir, express my heartfelt gratitude for my unanimous election as a Vice-Chairman. I pledge that I will do my very best in discharging my important duties.

In that connection, I also wish to express my sincere thanks to the Ambassador of Zaire, Mr. Bagbeni Adel'o Nzengeya, for his very kind words about me. Let me also express my personal pleasure at serving you, Mr. Chairman, on the Bureau of this important Committee. I shall do my very best to assist you in the discharge of your very important duties.



(Mr. Aoki, Japan)

Ambassador Roche has just expressed all the sentiments that I wanted to express, so I simply ask to associate myself with what he said.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Japan for his statement, and I fully reciprocate his kind words addressed to me. I look forward to his very active co-operation, and I am sure that I can count on his assistance.

I now call on the representative of Burkina Faso, Ambassador Doulaye Corentin Ki, the Committee's Rapporteur.

Mr. KI (Burkina Faso) (interpretation from French): No doubt the occasion will arise when we shall be able to share our reflections on the important subjects on the Committee's agenda. Meanwhile, Mr. Chairman, I wish to thank Mr. Vannis Souliotis for his kindness in presenting me in such a flattering light as candidate for Rapporteur. Having filled the post with skill last year, he knows more than anyone else that the task is not easy. Therefore, I count especially on his assistance and his wealth of experience. At the same time, I thank the Committee for the confidence it has expressed in Burkina Faso, through me, and I promise to do my best to be worthy of it.

I also congratulate most warmly Ambassador Douglas James Roche and Ambassador Morihisa Aoki on their election as Vice-Chairmen of our Committee. It is all the more a pleasure for me, in that my country maintains the most cordial relations with theirs, both bilaterally and multilaterally.

I congratulate you, Sir, on your well-deserved election. It is certainly a recognition of your own merits and also a tribute to your country, with which Burkina Faso maintains excellent relations. You and the other officers of the Committee may rest assured of my willingness to help you in sharing your task.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the Rapporteur for his generous remarks and for his expression of willingness to co-operate closely with me and the other officers of the Committee. I am certain that I express not only my own feelings but also those of the two Vice-Chairmen when I say that it is our intention to work in close co-operation with him during the current session.

Having elected its officers, the Committee has thus concluded consideration of the first item on its agenda for today.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK (A/C.1/41/1 and A/C.1/41/3)

The CHAIRMAN: I draw the attention of delegations to document A/C.1/41/1, containing the letter dated 20 September 1986 addressed to me by the President of the General Assembly and informing me that the General Committee at its 3rd meeting had decided to allocate 25 items to the First Committee for its consideration, namely agenda items 46 to 69 and 141.

Before I proceed to give a fuller account of the programme of work and timetable that is being proposed, I would like to provide some preliminary explanations. First of all, as members are all aware, according to established practice the First Committee commences its substantive work only after the conclusion of the general debate in the Assembly. Furthermore, the General Committee, at its second meeting on 19 September 1986, decided to defer until a future meeting a decision concerning a closing date for the forty-first session, and the General Assembly, at its 3rd meeting on 20 September 1986, approved the recommendation of the General Committee that the attention of the Chairmen of the Main Committees should be drawn to the desirability, when approving their respective programmes of work, for sufficient flexibility to allow for an orderly shortening of the session if the Assembly should so decide.

The situation concerning the time frame for completion of our work evolved further when I, along with the Chairmen of other Main Committees, received a letter

(The Chairman)

dated 29 September 1986 from the President of the General Assembly in which he stated, inter alia, that in view of the financial situation confronting the Organization it would be advisable to organize the work of the Committees in a manner that should make it possible to conclude their work, at the latest, by the end of November 1986.

Hence, the time frame within which the Committee will need to complete its very substantial work, namely, the period extending from 13 October to 26 November, has emerged, logically and rather inevitably, from the developments and considerations to which I have just referred. The Committee will thus have at its disposal a maximum of 66 meetings to consider the agenda items before it. Here, I would like to point out that last year the Committee utilized a total of 62 meetings, and, therefore, I think that if we make a concerted and sincere attempt to marshal our resources in an effective manner we can indeed accomplish our task without any undue difficulties. In addition, although 27 November is an official United Nations holiday, we would still have at least one day, 28 November, in reserve should any eventuality warrant the holding of additional meetings.

Finally, in this connection, and taking into account the current financial situation of the Organization, I would express the hope that everything possible would be done to avoid the necessity for any week end or night meetings, since that would defeat the very rationale for encapsulating the Committee's proceedings into a shorter period. One way of doing this would be to focus our attention, in the course of our statements, on the main points under consideration.

After conducting a series of extensive informal consultations with a number of individual delegations and representatives of regional groups, I have arrived at the proposed programme of work and timetable set forth in document A/C.1/41/3, which I hope the Committee will be in a position to approve today. In preparation

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of the proposed programme of work and timetable, I have been guided by the practice and precedents which have evolved over recent years and which have served the Committee well by enabling it to conduct its work in a smooth and efficient manner.

Accordingly, it will be observed that consideration of items could proceed in three main clusters, namely, those dealing with disarmament items, agenda items 46 to 65; the question of Antarctica; agenda item 66; and international security items, agenda items 67, 68, 69 and 141. As far as the disarmament items are concerned, there is a further demarcation in specific stages because of the large number of items and the complexities of the issues involved. In addition, as in the past, precise deadlines have been introduced with respect to the submission of draft resolutions under the three groups. Here, it may be pertinent to mention that, wherever possible, I have set deadlines at as early a stage as has been considered feasible in order to allow sufficient time for delegations to undertake the necessary consultations before proceeding to take action upon the draft resolutions concerned.

As indicated in the programme of work, the Committee would first take up the agenda items relating to disarmament, namely, agenda items 46 to 65. With respect to those items, my proposal is to devote the period from 13 October to 17 November 1986, or a maximum of 52 meetings, to a general debate, consideration of and action upon agenda items 46 to 65. That period would be divided as follows: from 13 to 23 October, the Committee would carry on a general debate on all disarmament agenda items. From 24 October to 4 November, delegations would have an opportunity to make statements on any specific disarmament agenda item or groups of agenda items - and I would like to state that this would, of course, not preclude the right of any delegation to make a statement of a general nature during the period devoted to specific statements.

(The Chairman)

The deadline for the submission of draft resolutions on disarmament would be Thursday, 30 October 1986 at 6 p.m., and it is my intention to request your co-operation in adhering strictly to that deadline. Delegations are strongly encouraged to submit and introduce their draft resolutions as early as possible - even during the period of the general debate - so that statements on specific agenda items may also address the texts already introduced. Furthermore, it is imperative that delegations submit those draft resolutions that would entail programme budget implications as early as possible in order to meet the mandatory deadline for submission to the Fifth Committee of all draft resolutions with financial implications.

The period from 5 to 17 November would then be devoted to consideration of and action upon draft resolutions on all disarmament agenda items submitted to the Committee. I believe that the period set aside for that phase of our work provides sufficient time for delegations to consider the draft resolutions and to undertake the necessary consultations so as to ensure that the texts finally adopted reflect the greatest possible degree of consensus.

It is my intention to retain the voting procedure involving the grouping of draft resolutions by clusters during this session, and in due time I shall be presenting specific proposals concerning this matter.

After concluding consideration of all disarmament agenda items, the Committee would then proceed to take up agenda item 66 - question of Antarctica. We would devote the period of 18 and 19 November - a total of four meetings - to a general debate on, consideration of and action upon any draft resolutions under that item.

The deadline for submission of any draft resolutions under that item would be Tuesday, 18 November at 12 noon.

(The Chairman)

Finally, during the period of 20 to 26 November, we should proceed to consideration of the remaining agenda items - namely, items 67 to 69 and 141, relating to international security. A total of 10 meetings would thus be available for a general debate on, consideration of and action upon draft resolutions under those agenda items. Once again, I believe that, on the basis of previous experience, the time allocated for consideration of those items should provide adequate opportunities for consultations among delegations before action is taken by the Committee on those items.

The deadline for submission of draft resolutions on international security items would thus be Friday, 21 November 1986 at 6 p.m. In this connection, I should once again like to alert members that it is absolutely necessary to meet the deadline set for the submission to the Fifth Committee of all draft resolutions with programme budget implications.

Based on the programme of work and the timetable now before the Committee, we would be in a position to dispose of all the agenda items allocated to us within the available time.

I should like to conclude my remarks concerning our programme of work by reminding delegations of the need to maintain the requisite degree of flexibility in the process of implementing that programme - but, of course, only to the extent that this would enhance the effectiveness of our organization of work. In this connection, it would not be out of place to mention that if, for example, the need arose to take expeditious action on some pressing proposals, the Committee should be in a position to accommodate such a situation in an appropriate manner.

If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee adopts the programme of work and timetable contained in document A/C.1/41/3.

Mr. AOKI (Japan): My delegation fully supports the general thrust of your statement Mr. Chairman. Indeed, this is an unusual year, and we must do our utmost to finish our work in time for the work of the Assembly to terminate earlier than had been originally planned.

I wish to make two comments on your proposals contained in document A/C.1/41/3. These comments aim at further streamlining our work and facilitating our task. First of all, we feel that we should terminate our work a few days before the proposed date. It is our understanding that the Fifth Committee is scheduled to terminate its work by 28 November, and I wish to remind the Committee - as you did, by the way, Mr. Chairman - that 27 November happens to be the Thanksgiving Day holiday.

If we were to adopt any draft resolutions with financial implications under the agenda items of international security, it would rather overburden our Fifth Committee colleagues if we were to give them only one day to study and act on such draft resolutions.

In that connection, I should like to remind you, Mr. Chairman, that unlike representatives from Geneva or from Headquarters, people like us, who are based in New York, must live with our Fifth Committee colleagues the year round. I do not want to live beneath the wrathful gaze of our Fifth Committee colleagues for the rest of the year. Moreover, you very wisely indicated that last year our work was completed in 62 meetings; so when we are requested to make greater efforts, we can terminate our work successfully within that number of meetings.

That leads me to make my second comment. We also find that there is a visible imbalance in the cuts proposed for the number of meetings. For example, why have disarmament-related meetings been cut 13 per cent from last year's number, while the number of meetings related to Antarctica have been cut by some 60 per cent? But no cuts have been proposed in regard to international security related meetings.

(Mr. Aoki, Japan)

We are fully aware of the very important proposal made by the socialist countries under agenda item 141, but we have plenty of time between now and 20 November in which the co-sponsors could undertake informal consultations with the rest of us to ensure the expeditious consideration and successful conclusion of their proposal.



Mr. EDIS (United Kingdom): I cannot forbear to observe that you, Mr. Chairman, are well known to my delegation and we are pleased to see you presiding with the backing of such an impressive Bureau.

With regard to the item before us, in all the circumstances to which you have drawn attention, the broad timetable which you have suggested seems sensible to us. No delegation, I think, is more conscious than my own of Fifth Committee considerations, which we very much bear in mind. The Fifth Committee must be given time to consider any draft resolutions from this Committee with financial implications. I believe it is true that the Special Political Committee also is due to terminate its work on 24 November.

I have a comment also in addition to that made by a Vice-Chairman of the Committee about the allocation of meetings between items which is proposed in this document. It is, I think, true to say that the vast majority of draft resolutions in this Committee relate to disarmament items, and I also find a certain imbalance in the proposal for allocation of meetings between items. I wish to make a suggestion here, in view of the comments made by the representative of Japan, a Vice-Chairman of the Committee, and also my own comments which representatives are just hearing.

Since in fact the Bureau of our Committee has only just been elected - and presumably you, Mr. Chairman, have not yet had a chance to consult it - I wonder, whether in the light of the comments you have heard and any additional remarks that might be made, you might like to defer a decision on this matter to consult the newly elected officers. We could perhaps then be able to reach a decision quickly, at the Committee's next meeting.

Mr. BARNETT (Jamaica): We wish to extend our congratulations to you,

Mr. Chairman, and the other officers of the Committee on your election.

On the matter before us, the organization of work, it seems to me that the comments we just heard from the representatives of Japan and the United Kingdom have a measure of validity to the extent that they refer to an order of work that has not yet been tested. We understand that the programme of work suggested by the Chairman - which, I think, more or less meets with a measure of approval - is somewhat flexible and can be modified in the light of the circumstances and the Committee's functioning; that is to say, there is no a priori rigidity implied in the document before us.

Therefore, we assume that in the light of our proceedings during forthcoming days appropriate adjustments will be made to take account of the prevailing circumstances and the work of other Committees, including the Fifth Committee, and the plenary Assembly. Thus, it is my delegation's understanding that the programme of work presented by the Chairman is not a rigid one, but is a proposal subject to change as the circumstances warrant.

Mr. NUNEZ MOSQUERA (Cuba) (interpretation from Spanish): The

representative of Jamaica has said much of what my delegation wanted to say.

Actually, we would have preferred a broader programme that would have allowed more time for the consideration of the important items which have been assigned to the Committee. None the less, my delegation is not opposed to adopting the programme submitted by the Chairman and which provides that we finish our work on 26 November; however, it should remain a flexible programme. It is clear from the footnote in document A/C.1/41/3 that the Committee will be able to introduce adjustments in the programme on the basis of the decision of the General Assembly concerning the closing date of this session.

I think it is premature for the Bureau - which was just elected - to decide now on a set date for the completion of our work, in the light of the draft

(Mr. Nufiez Mosquera, Cuba)

resolutions which will have to go to the Fifth Committee. But I think if we do not adopt the programme now, on the thirteenth we will be in the same situation as today. I therefore urge representatives to adopt the programme proposed by the Chairman, on the understanding that the footnote is clear that it will be possible to adjust the programme if our work so requires. But, I repeat: I think this is a very limited programme, given all the items assigned to us.

However, taking into consideration that a special situation obtains during this session, my delegation is ready to adopt the programme now.

Mr. BARTHELEMY (United States of America): I shall not pre-empt my delegation's proper and formal congratulations that will be addressed to you, Mr. Chairman, and the other officers of the Committee at a later time.

I should like to make one additional comment to those that we have already heard about the limited time available to us. I think most of us regret that, but we must adjust to the financial constraints that the General Assembly as a whole is faced with and, therefore, do the best job with the time that we have.

I draw delegations' attention to the fact that, while there is superficially a balance between the three parts of our timetable - a relation between numbers of agenda items and meetings is in fact only superficial - and while there are 20 agenda items on disarmament, if past practice is followed one can anticipate four times that many draft resolutions under those items. For that reason my delegation shares the view of others that there is some imbalance in the proposed number of meetings. We believe it would be desirable for the Bureau to give somewhat further consideration to a possible change in the distribution of meetings. While we would not wish any extensive delay in the adoption of the programme of work and timetable, we see no difficulty or significant disadvantage for us in postponing that until the Committee's officers have had a chance to review it and report on it to the Committee.

Mr. GURINOVICH (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) (interpretation from Russian): Please accept my sincere congratulations, Sir, on your election to the chairmanship of the First Committee. I wish you every success in carrying out your responsible task. The congratulations of my delegation go also to the other officers of the Committee.

I wish to say that, unlike some others who have spoken, we agree with the programme of work you have proposed. Everyone knows that we are as much in favour of saving money here in the United Nations as anyone else. But international security and disarmament are not areas where the most effective savings can be made.

As to talk of a balance in our meetings among three basic groups of agenda items, I should say there is no balance. Disarmament and security questions are interrelated and come under the very name of this Committee: the Committee on disarmament and related international security questions. The Committee played an important role in the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

There must be clarity in our programme of work. As the Chairman has consulted with the other Committee officers, I suggest that the Committee agree to the programme of work he has proposed, with the understanding that we could always review matters should we decide later to cut one or two meetings from our programme.

The CHAIRMAN: I should like to sum up the comments made on the proposed programme of work. Let me say first that I appreciate the general support among those who participated in the debate on the document before us for the proposed programme of work.

In preparing the proposed programme of work and timetable, we proceeded on the basis of the necessity to be as flexible as possible in the allocation to meetings of the agenda items before us. Taking into account the General Assembly's outstanding recommendation on the closing date of the forty-first session of the

(The Chairman)

General Assembly. We arranged the proposed programme of work and timetable with a target date which, in my opinion, is a realistic one. It is realistic too when compared with last year's programme of work and timetable.

Our flexible approach, of course, includes the permanent factor of the time available to the Committee for consideration of the items on its agenda. We must also take into account the item included in the agenda of the General Assembly at its forty-first session, item 141. As far as the allocation of meetings to the general debate and consideration of and action upon draft resolutions on international security agenda items is concerned, members will see from the proposed programme that no additional meetings were added for consideration of that group of items.

It is my intention that the Committee should take a decision today on the proposed programme of work and timetable, because I consider this to be the beginning of making our work as efficient and rational as possible. In the course of the consideration of the items, and taking into account the deadline for the closure of the list of speakers on the first cluster, general debate on all disarmament items, items 46 to 65 - which will be 6 p.m. on Tuesday, 14 October - we will see in somewhat greater detail how we can proceed. The date of 26 November is only a target. No one is preventing me, after consultations with the Committee officers, from recommending to the Committee that the closing date for our work be pushed forward.

I shall be making further comments and proposals after the adoption of the programme of work, to which I urge representatives to listen carefully. We can save time and can discuss thoroughly all the important disarmament and international security items before us.

(The Chairman)

It is my wish to take a decision now. Recognition will be given to statements by delegations during today's short exchange of views. We look forward to co-operation with the Committee officers; we shall be meeting very soon, and, in the course of our deliberations, we shall take the necessary decisions, as suggested by representatives today.

Mr. BARTHELEMY (United States of America): I appreciate the clarification you have given us, Mr. Am I right in understanding that the Committee can expect that, once the officers have had an opportunity to hold a meeting and if it is their view that it would be possible or appropriate to make some adjustment in our schedule - that is the length of time of the Committee's work or the division of meetings among the three groupings of agenda items - we will have a report on that matter and will have a chance to consider it again?

The CHAIRMAN: I confirm that that is my understanding. If we take a decision in principle on the proposed programme of work and timetable today, we shall do our utmost, after consultations with the other Committee officers, to make further recommendations for greater efficiency and rationality as we start our work.

There being no further comments, I shall take it that the First Committee decides to adopt the programme of work and timetable set out in document A/C.1/41/3.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: I should like now to draw the attention of the Committee to the rules and recommendations of the General Assembly affecting the work of the Main Committees, in particular those contained in document A/INF/136/Rev.1 and in General Assembly decision 14/401. In order to make full use of the time and facilities available to us, I intend to open the meetings of the Committee promptly - I repeat: promptly - at 10.30 a.m. and 3 p.m., and shall endeavour to close the meetings at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. respectively, subject to any further decision of the General Assembly.

At the same time I wish to point out that it will be my intention to convene meetings of the Committee when a sufficient number of speakers is on the list. I believe that, as a general rule, we should have no less than four speakers for a

(The Chairman)

given meeting, so that we can utilize the time and resources available to us in the most effective manner possible and in order to obviate the need to close our meetings early for lack of speakers.

I should like also to draw the attention of members of the Committee to the fact that the General Assembly decided at the current session to waive the requirement of the presence of one quarter of the members for declaring open a meeting of a Main Committee and for permitting the debate to proceed. That recommendation was made on the understanding that such a waiver does not imply any permanent change in the provisions of rules 67 and 108 of the rules of procedure and that in accordance with those rules the presence of a majority of the members shall still be required for any decision to be taken.

The list of speakers for the general debate on all disarmament agenda items is open as of today, and will be closed on Tuesday, 14 October, at 6 p.m. Some delegations have already indicated their intention to participate in the general debate, and the Secretariat has taken note of those requests. I urge delegations kindly to place their names on the list of speakers at their earliest convenience, if possible by the beginning of the general debate next Monday.

To facilitate the task of the officers of the Committee and that of the Secretariat, members of the Committee should submit draft resolutions as much in advance as is feasible so as to allow sufficient time for consultations. The Secretariat has asked me to request members of the Committee to note that draft resolutions, amendments, revisions and indications of sponsorship should be given in writing to the Secretariat in order to avoid any possible misunderstanding. Requests for the use of conference rooms for group meetings should also be given in writing to the Secretariat, and as far in advance as possible. It would be appreciated also if delegations could provide the conference officers with 30 copies of a statement when a prepared text is to be delivered.



(The Chairman)

I wish now to make a few final remarks. It will be my major concern to ensure that the work of the First Committee is carried out as efficiently and on as rational a basis as possible so that the endeavours towards arms limitation and disarmament and towards the strengthening of international security through dialogue and co-operation may be effectively enhanced. In doing so I intend to draw on the experience of my worthy predecessors, who have made such valuable contributions during their terms as Chairmen of the Committee.

I recall the innovation introduced at the thirty-eighth session by the Ambassador of Norway, Mr. Tom Eric Vraalsen, namely the "clustering" of draft resolutions, which has proved to be a very useful device in simplifying the voting procedure. That procedure has since become an unwritten rule which, as I stated earlier, I too shall follow. Another instance is the proposal made at the thirty-ninth session by the Ambassador of Brazil, Mr. de Souza e Silva, which provides for a rearrangement of the agenda of the First Committee with a view to grouping specific disarmament items within a particular framework.

This enumeration would remain incomplete without mention of the consultations undertaken by the Ambassador of Indonesia, Mr. Ali Alatas, the Committee's Chairman at the fortieth session, with respect to the proposals advanced earlier, on the results of which he reported to the Committee. I shall heed his recommendation that further extensive consultations should be held on the matter, and I therefore request delegations to be available for such consultations.

In my view, the significance and complexity of the issues on the agenda require that all possibilities for consultation and co-ordination be used. The Committee officers should be still more actively involved in that process.

(The Chairman)

Together with the other officers of the Committee and with interested delegations, I shall do my best to see to it not only that the session runs on schedule but also that it plays an active part in the solution of problems, in the drafting and adoption of draft resolutions and decisions, and so forth. Also, I am well aware of the need for and value of personal contacts with representatives; I hope to intensify these in the near future.

The meeting rose at 4.50 p.m.