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PROVIS IONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE FORTY-NINTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 24 October 1986, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. GURINOVICH (Byelorussian SSR)
(Vice-President)

later: Mr. MOUSHOUTAS (Cyprus)
(Vice-President)

- International Year of Peace [21]

- (a) Reports of the Secretary-General
- (b) Draft resolutions
- (c) Amendments

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In the absence of the President, Mr. Gurinovich (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 21 (continued)

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PEACE

- (a) REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/41/586 and Add.1, A/41/628 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and Add.1(Corr.1)
- (b) DRAFT RESOLUTIONS (A/41/L.9 Rev.1, A/41/L.10)
- (c) AMENDMENTS (A/41/L.13)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): Today is United Nations Day. I congratulate States Members. The Assembly is now discussing the agenda item on the International Year of Peace, which I think is most appropriate, peace being the principal purpose of the United Nations.

Mr. KOSTOV (Bulgaria): The unanimous decision of the General Assembly to declare 1986 the International Year of Peace has been welcomed very warmly by world public opinion. The decision reflected the serious concern of the international community at the danger of nuclear war looming over the planet, as well as the explicit will and determination of the peoples to avert a nuclear conflagration and live in peace, security and mutual understanding.

In adopting that decision the United Nations proceeded from the idea that 1986 should be a year of active struggle for peace and in-depth reflection on the inalienable right of peoples to peace, the relationship of peace, economic development and social progress, and the urgent necessity of achieving disarmament and preventing a nuclear catastrophe as imperative prerequisites for peace.

(Mr. Kostov, Bulgaria)

However, the essence of the International Year of Peace is not only to increase awareness of the perils hanging over humankind because of extremist reactionary forces; it is to be found above all in the appeal to all countries and peoples to undertake concrete and effective action to safeguard peace and to unite their efforts in the struggle against the military threat.

The motto under which The International Year of Peace is being held, "To safeguard peace and the future of humanity", is acquiring a critically significant and crucial importance. In the words of the President of the Council of State of the Peoples Republic of Bulgaria, Todor Zhivkov:

"Today there is no more important task facing mankind than that of maintaining peace, which means saving life on Earth."

This year political thinking at the highest level has undergone serious changes. One of the most important theses, which has become crystal-clear, is that in the age of nuclear missiles, when vast stockpiles have been amassed of the most sophisticated and destructive weapons, capable of annihilating several times over all life on our planet, the peace and security of States and the future of nations cannot be ensured by military means. Any attempt to tackle the cardinal problems of the present day by the use of force is fraught with serious danger to the survival of mankind. The realities of our time compel us to adopt an entirely new approach to the problems of peace and war, national and international security. This approach must be based first and foremost on excluding war from international relations, on the cessation of the arms race while proceeding to genuine disarmament and the settlement of international disputes and conflicts by peaceful means alone.

(Mr. Kostov, (Bulgaria))

We note with satisfaction that this approach has been gradually making headway in international relations, although in a difficult struggle with the outmoded militaristic approach of the use of force. A vivid example of this was the summit meeting in Reykjavik between Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan.

The countries of the socialist community, including the People's Republic of Bulgaria, have always been ardent champions of peace. This year alone they have put forward a number of extremely important peace initiatives the implementation of which would make a crucial contribution to the promotion of lasting peace in the world. The Soviet proposals for the gradual elimination of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction by the year 2000, the elimination of chemical weapons and a significant reduction in conventional armaments and armed forces from the Atlantic to the Urals, as well as the Soviet programme for co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space, and other important initiatives are a vivid demonstration of responsibility and concern about the future of world peace and of realism and the political will to save present and succeeding generations from the scourge of war.

The proposal submitted by a group of socialist countries to include in the agenda of the present session an item concerning the establishment of a comprehensive system of international peace and security is also in full accord with the basic goals of the International Year of Peace. The adoption by the General Assembly of relevant decisions on this question would contribute to making the International Year of Peace the first step towards a better and safer world.

(Mr. Kostov, Bulgaria)

The People's Republic of Bulgaria has supported from the very outset the declaration of 1986 as the International Year of Peace and has been exerting efforts at both the national and the international levels to ensure that the Year's purposes and goals are implemented. The People's Republic of Bulgaria is pursuing a consistent foreign policy of principle in keeping with the ideals of international peace and security. In a Declaration adopted on 21 March 1986 for the commemoration of the International Year of Peace, the National Assembly of Bulgaria unanimously declared that

"The People's Republic of Bulgaria will contribute to making the International Year of Peace a year of important positive changes on behalf of peace, security and disarmament and in the interest of realizing the noble purposes of the United Nations".

My country attaches particular importance to the maintenance of peace, security and understanding and to the promotion of good-neighbourly relations and co-operation in the Balkans. Our proposals to rid the Balkan peninsula of nuclear and chemical arms and to conclude with the other Balkan countries bilateral agreements, including a code of good-neighbourly relations, pursue the same objectives.

In the International Year of Peace the People's Republic of Bulgaria has put forth new concrete initiatives designed to implement the idea of a nuclear-weapon-free Balkans - such as: first, a solemn declaration by the Governments of the Balkan countries that no nuclear weapons should be deployed on their territory and that, where such weapons already exist, they would not accept new ones and would reduce existing stockpiles; secondly, the convening of an assembly of the peoples of the Balkan countries, with the participation of political figures, representatives of peace movements and of trade union, women's,

(Mr. Kostov, Bulgaria)

youth and student organizations, clergymen and others, to consider the problems related to freeing the Balkans of nuclear weapons; thirdly, the convening of a meeting of parliamentarians from the Balkan countries to consider the same problems. Our proposals proceed from the understanding that, given the current tense international situation, transforming entire regions into nuclear-weapon-free zones would contribute to improving the political climate and to strengthening peace and security in a regional as well as a global context.

A broadly-represented National Co-ordinating Committee, of which Minister for Foreign Affairs Mladenov served as Chairman, was established in connection with the International Year of Peace. As the Secretary-General of the United Nations was duly informed, a varied and wide-ranging programme of events dedicated to the Year was prepared and has been vigorously put into effect. The programme envisages many events and undertakings in the political, cultural, scientific and sports fields. Local and nation-wide events have been organized, including some with international participation.

The main conclusion to be drawn from the commemoration of the International Year of Peace in Bulgaria so far is that the Year has become a spontaneous manifestation of the commitment on the part of Bulgarian people from all walks of life to the ideals of peace, security and understanding among peoples.

The International Year of Peace has demonstrated that there are enormous potential possibilities for mobilizing public opinion and the entire world community on behalf of the struggle for peace and security. The success of the Year depends to a large extent on not losing sight of its objectives, ideas and achievements and on continuing and intensifying the efforts in support of peace.

The Bulgarian delegation is of the opinion that the activities in connection with the International Year of Peace should not be limited to this year alone. It

(Mr. Kostov, Bulgaria)

should continue with the undertaking of events and activities which will ensure full implementation of General Assembly resolution 40/31 of 24 October 1985. That would contribute to attaining the noble objective of the world to enter the twenty-first century in conditions of lasting peace, security, mutual confidence and co-operation.

Mr. BELONOGOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian: It is highly symbolic that on the very day of the fortieth anniversary of the entry into force of the United Nations Charter - that is, on this Organization's birthday - the General Assembly solemnly adopted a Declaration proclaiming the International Year of Peace. And now, exactly one year later, we are again discussing the question of the International Year of Peace.

The proclamation of the International Year of Peace demonstrated that the international community intended to take concrete actions aimed at ensuring a radical change for the better in international affairs and at stopping, in real terms, and reversing the process of material preparations for mankind's nuclear self-destruction. At moments crucial for mankind, all peoples start to demonstrate a new way of thinking and, in fact, start acting in a new manner that is consonant with the realities of the nuclear-space age. For the first time, entire groups of countries and Governments have set forth for the international community's consideration forward-looking plans to break out of the nuclear deadlock. For the first time in recent years, a tendency is taking shape to reduce the confrontation of opposing forces, to search for reasonable compromise, and to abandon conservative views based on notions - blown out of proportion - of national prestige and selfish rights, interests and power. A more favourable background is being created for the development of dialogue and serious negotiations on key problems of the present time.

(Mr. Belonogov, USSR)

The Soviet Union's concrete initiatives and steps have been very instrumental in creating this favourable atmosphere. The beginning of this year - the Year of Peace - was marked by an event of historical importance: the programme of comprehensive security through disarmament put forward by Mikhail Gorbachev on 15 January. Its implementation would enable mankind to enter the twenty-first century without nuclear and other kinds of weapons of mass destruction. The unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions introduced by the Soviet Union on 6 August 1985 has been extended on several occasions. In this International Year of Peace, silence reigns at the Soviet testing sites; that testifies, more than any words could do, to the genuine responsibility of the USSR for the destiny of the world - especially if we take into account the fact that throughout this period tests have been and are still being carried out in Nevada. The integrated programme of conventional arms reductions put forward by the socialist Warsaw Treaty member countries is a large-scale and profound programme. The Soviet Union has introduced proposals opening the way to banning chemical weapons and has put forward initiatives concerning the safe development of nuclear energy and many other matters.

That is but a short list of major initiatives put forward by the socialist countries in this Year of Peace, initiatives aimed at saving mankind from the threat of nuclear annihilation.

The Soviet-American summit meeting in Reykjavik has become a major international event in the struggle against the arms race and for the banning and elimination of nuclear weapons in order to save the world from the nuclear threat.

(Mr. Belonogov, USSR)

As Comrade Gorbachev, the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, stressed in his statement on 22 October:

"It is the common view that the meeting has raised to a new level both the Soviet-American dialogue and the East-West dialogue as a whole. It has been taken out of the plane of technical estimates and numerical comparisons to new parameters and dimensions.

"This height reveals new prospects for the solution of the current acute problems - security, nuclear disarmament, the prevention of new spirals in the arms race - and the new realization of the opportunities that have opened up before mankind."

The Soviet Union's position at the Reykjavik meeting was honest and open-minded. It was based on the principles of equality and equal security, took into account the interests of the two countries, their allies and peoples of all States, and has become a concrete expression of a new approach and new thinking dictated by the realities of the nuclear-missile age.

The Soviet delegation arrived at the meeting with constructive and the most radical arms reduction proposals in the entire history of Soviet-United States negotiations. The proposals take into account the interests of both sides. Far-reaching and interconnected, they constitute an integrated package and are based on the programme announced on 15 January for the elimination of nuclear weapons by the year 2000. The gist of the package is as follows:

The first proposal is to cut down by half all strategic arms, without exception.

The second proposal is fully to eliminate Soviet and United States medium-range missiles in Europe and immediately to start talks on missiles of this type in Asia, as well as on missiles with a range of less than 1,000 kilometres. We suggest freezing the number of such missiles immediately.

(Mr. Belonogov, USSR)

The third proposal is to consolidate the régime of the anti-ballistic missile Treaty and to start full-scale talks on a total ban on nuclear tests.

It was on the basis of the Soviet proposals that the discussions in Reykjavik began.

As a result of laborious efforts and penetrating arguments, the two sides' positions drew reassuringly closer on two out of three issues. The logic of the talks brought the sides to determining specific deadlines periods for the elimination of strategic offensive arms. Together with President Ronald Reagan, the two sides agreed that such arms of the USSR and the United States can and must be fully eliminated by the year 1996.

An accord was also reached on the complete elimination of United States and Soviet medium-range missiles in Europe and on a radical cut in the missiles of this class in Asia.

We attach fundamental importance to these accords between the USSR and the United States. They have shown that nuclear disarmament is possible. Such is the first half of the truth about the Reykjavik meeting. But there is also the other half, and it consists in the fact that the United States side frustrated an agreement which it seemed was quite near at hand. The United States Administration is now trying in every way to convince people that a possible major success with concrete agreements was not achieved owing to the intransigence of the Soviet side over the programme of the so-called strategic defence initiative.

It is even being asserted that the USSR lured the United States into a trap by putting forward breath-taking proposals on cutting down strategic offensive arms and medium-range missiles and that later on we ostensibly demanded, in the form of an ultimatum, that the strategic defence initiative be renounced. But the essence of our stand and of our proposals is as follows: we are for the reduction, and then the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, and are firmly opposed to a new

(Mr. Belonogov, USSR)

stage of the arms race and to its transfer to outer space. Hence, we are against the strategic defence initiative and are for the consolidation of the anti-ballistic missile Treaty.

It is clear to every sober-minded person that if we embark upon the road of deep cuts, and then complete elimination of nuclear weapons, it is essential to rule out any possibility which could be used by either the Soviet side or the United States side for gaining unilateral military superiority. We perceive the main danger of the strategic defence initiative to be precisely the endeavours to transfer the arms race to a new sphere and to go into outer space with offensive arms, and thereby to achieve military superiority. Thus, the strategic defence initiative has become the main obstacle to ending the arms race, to getting rid of nuclear weapons, and is the main obstacle to a nuclear-free world. Continuation of the strategic defence initiative programme would sweep the world into a new stage of the arms race and destabilize the strategic situation. It is in vain that Washington now claims that we are moving towards an agreement. To eliminate nuclear weapons as a means of deterring American aggression and to receive in return a threat from outer space is unacceptable to the Soviet Union.

Now the intent is to whitewash the self-defeating stand of the United States Administration, which came to the meeting unprepared - one might say with the old baggage. But when the situation required clear answers, the United States scuttled the possibility of concluding the meeting with concrete agreements. In the new situation that has emerged since Reykjavik - they want the USSR to return to the old approaches, to the fruitless numerical discussions, to go around in circles. They want to use the Geneva talks again as a screen, not as a forum for seeking agreements. This is to be regretted.

The results of the Reykjavik meeting caused excitement in the whole world because, for the first time in many decades, it brought us so far ahead in our

(Mr. Belonogov, USSR)

efforts to achieve disarmament and showed that the removal of the nuclear threat was a realistic possibility. The results of the meeting encourage all those who want a breakthrough for the better.

We proceed from the premise that discussion in the world on the results of the meeting is, as one might say, only just beginning. We hope that the joint efforts of the peoples of the world, political and public circles and the United Nations aimed at turning into reality the possibilities that were opened up by the Reykjavik meeting, will continue to increase.

The Soviet Union has invested maximum good will in these proposals. We do not withdraw them and everything that has been said to substantiate and develop them remains valid.

"We will act", said Comrade Gorbachev. "We will not depart from our policy of peace, of struggling against the arms race, of banning and eliminating nuclear weapons and removing the danger from the planet. And I am convinced that we are not alone in this struggle."

What happened in Reykjavik must greatly encourage all peoples, public organizations, and the Governments of all States, independent of their affiliation, to acknowledge the need to join the general struggle to normalize the international situation and strengthen world peace. One of the main lessons of Reykjavik is that new historical thinking, in line with the realities of the nuclear age, is a sine qua non for putting an end to the critical situation in which the world finds itself at the end of the twentieth century.

(Mr. Belonogov, USSR)

The time has come to take action - decisive action upon which the fate of mankind will depend. The struggle for nuclear disarmament has entered a new and higher stage; from here on it is necessary to redouble efforts to cut nuclear weapons drastically and to eliminate them completely.

Today it is becoming increasingly evident to everyone that all States and peoples of the world must take energetic and urgent measures to maintain and strengthen world peace and to prevent nuclear war. This urgent need is in complete harmony with the motto of the International Year of Peace: "To safeguard peace and the future of humanity". It is the realization of the deadly consequences of a nuclear holocaust for the whole world that makes all people of good will join the anti-war movement, which has acquired such tremendous magnitude. Today this movement has become a powerful factor in world politics and is playing an important role in creating the conditions necessary for States to take practical measures to eliminate the threat of nuclear war and to halt and reverse the arms race.

The attention of politicians, scientists, physicians, writers and world public opinion generally is centred on the problem of human survival in this nuclear and space age. A whole series of initiatives put forward by peace activists have appeared in the international arena, and other initiatives are being discussed at international forums and in relevant negotiations.

The desire of peace-loving States and peoples to end the drift towards the nuclear abyss and to put the course of events back on the track of détente has also been reflected in the Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace, adopted by the General Assembly on the initiative of the Mongolian People's Republic. The realization of the right of peoples to peace is a major responsibility for each State, because only in conditions of peace will it be possible to ensure real respect for other basic human rights.

(Mr. Belonogov, USSR)

The problems concerning the future of the world, civilization and culture were the subject of the meeting of eminent men of the academic world held recently in Kirghizia, one of the republics of the Soviet Union. At his meeting with the delegates at this forum, the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union stated, among other things, that mankind always had enough wisdom, courage and conscience to understand the causes of a disaster, but often, unfortunately, that was only after the disaster had taken place. How different the world would look if the people had been able to prevent those disasters each time they appeared on the horizon.

We have always learned the lessons of the past and, surmounting difficulties and sufferings, we have moved forward choosing our path. "But what will happen", asks Comrade Gorbachev, "if we are unable to eliminate the nuclear threat that hangs over our common home? If that happened there would be no possibility of correcting the error."

The main demands of peace-loving forces reflect the most urgent needs of our time, namely, to prevent nuclear war and the spread of the arms race into new spheres, first of all into space; to persuade all nuclear Powers to refuse to be the first to use nuclear weapons and to ban those weapons, stop their testing, freeze military arsenals and start their gradual reduction and complete elimination; and to insist energetically that all States carry out their international obligations to limit the arms race.

The report of the Secretary-General indicates that the commemoration of the International Year of Peace has taken on a truly international character. In more than 60 countries national focal points have been established to commemorate the Year. Leaders of many countries have commemorated the beginning of the Year by sending messages and making statements. The Eighth Conference of Heads of State

(Mr. Belonogov, USSR)

and Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Harare, pronounced itself unequivocally in favour of continuing efforts within the framework of the International Year of Peace.

In his message on the Soviet Union's participation in the commemoration of the International Year of Peace, Comrade Gorbachev stated that the peoples could and should make sure that the Year was recorded in history as the year when we had begun the establishment of a comprehensive system of world security, and that every year from then on until the end of this century should become a milestone on the way to the complete elimination of nuclear weapons and the threat of total destruction.

During the International Year of Peace the parliaments of a number of States are holding special meetings and adopting declarations on behalf of the Year in which they support its main objectives and programmes. The statement issued by the Commission on Foreign Affairs of the Chambers of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics - the Soviet of Union and the Soviet of Nationalities - expressed the hope that the International Year of Peace would pave the way for mankind to a peaceful future.

Many Governments have informed the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the rallies and meetings held in commemoration of the Year and of various other events organized in their countries.

Numerous events, such as international conferences, seminars, meetings, sessions and competitions devoted to the International Year of Peace have been organized in the Soviet Union. Books, booklets and films are being released on the subject. Mass media - television and radio, newspapers and magazines printed in millions of copies - cover the United Nations activities relating to the maintenance of peace, disarmament and the prevention of nuclear war.

(Mr. Belonogov, USSR)

Within the framework of the International Year of Peace, scores of millions of Soviet people have participated in mass rallies for peace held in Moscow, Leningrad, Volgograd and many other cities of the Soviet Union. These events have actually turned into a national referendum for strengthening peace, removing the danger of war and saving the present and future generations from the threat of nuclear catastrophe.

The events that enjoyed the broadest public participation were the "Day of Trade Union Action for Peace" and the "Peace Lesson" conducted in all the schools of our country. For 80 million Soviet students, the "Peace Lesson" has become a lesson inspiring the younger generation to share in the concern for the destiny of mankind. The message of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the occasion of the "Peace Lesson" stressed that all Governments and peoples of all countries should lend their efforts to the strengthening of international security and the preservation of peace.

A number of important international conferences devoted to the International Year of Peace have been held in the Soviet Union, such as the conference in Tbilisi, the international forum of science and technology and peace problems, the international conference of European and North American non-governmental organizations, the meeting of Soviet and American representatives of the public in Yurmala and so forth.

The Soviet Union has rendered and will continue to render all possible support to the efforts of the United Nations within the framework of the International Year of Peace that will contribute to the solution of the key tasks of our time.

(Mr. Belonogov, USSR)

The activities carried out in the context of the International Year of Peace have demonstrated the keen interest of the international community in the solution of key issues of the present time. One can say that support for the International Year of Peace has acquired a global dimension. The Secretary-General of the United Nations and the secretariat of the International Year of Peace have played a major role in that process. We share the Secretary-General's conclusion that the International Year of Peace is an important impetus for the development of international co-operation and that it provides a unique opportunity for specific and concerted actions within the interest of peace. The programme for the Year proves the great potential of the United Nations in stimulating and co-ordinating the ongoing interaction of States and Governments, governmental and non-governmental organizations and agencies. Joint and concerted action within the framework of the Year has become an important tool for strengthening the United Nations and increasing its effectiveness. We support the proposals to hold - within the context of the forty-first session of the General Assembly - a meeting of representatives of the public of the Member States of the United Nations.

As the Secretary-General of the United Nations has stressed in his report, the International Year of Peace will enable actions for peace, including actions by the United Nations, to be kept constantly in the focus of attention. That conclusion proves that the goals of the International Year of Peace should continue to guide the activities of our Organization in the years to come.

We are of the opinion that the General Assembly should by every means possible support efforts made in the context of the International Year of Peace. Moreover, it should provide another stimulus for the future so that the International Year of Peace will mark the birth of a new type of political thinking, liberating mankind from the threat of total destruction and mobilizing the general public to that end.

Mr. HUANG Jiahua (China) (interpretation from Chinese): On this day a year ago, the General Assembly of the United Nations solemnly proclaimed 1986 as the International Year of Peace. This initiative has since then attracted general interest and wide response from all over the world. A forceful impetus in itself, it also affords the countries of the world a chance to reflect upon and explore a suitable way to safeguard peace and security for mankind at large. At the same time, it is a perfect occasion for the people of the world to express their heartfelt desire for and strong commitment to peace and a better world.

Peace, to man, is a noble ideal. The memory of the tragic aftermath of the two world wars remains fresh in people's minds. The continuous local conflicts and wars over the 40-odd years after the Second World War have plunged the people once more into profound anxiety. The grim realities all point to the dark likelihood of yet another world conflagration, and the people of the world, while enjoying relative peace, cannot but be aware of all the latent dangers and respond to this threat by enthusiastically joining in the struggle to preserve world peace. As the Secretary-General of the United Nations pointed out in his report, an obvious trend can be detected from the various activities of the people today. At the time when people are worried and anxious about the instability of the international situation, people are filled with the aspiration, determination and potential for the love of peace, yearning for peace, and actively working for the cause of peace. As pointed out also by China's Foreign Minister, Wu Xueqian, in his statement at the present session of the General Assembly, "The popular will for peace is an irresistible trend in the world today." (A/41/PV.8, p. 42)

The safeguarding of world peace is the major purpose and objective of the United Nations; it is also the primary duty and task of this Organization.

(Mr. Huang Jiahua, China)

Over the past year, in the context of promoting the International Year of Peace, the United Nations and other international bodies and organs have worked actively and earnestly for the enhancement of international exchanges, the promotion of international co-operation and the preservation of world peace. More than 300 non-governmental organizations world wide have demonstrated the same strong interest, enthusiasm and innovative spirit in carrying out the programme for the International Year of Peace and have scored gratifying achievements in many areas. Facts have proved that activities for the International Year of Peace are not only viable, but can be very fruitful indeed.

The Chinese Government and people have responded actively to the United Nations initiative on the International Year of Peace. Over the past year, China has participated actively in various international and regional activities sponsored by the United Nations, including a symposium on the International Year of Peace, and a consultative meeting with various national co-ordinating bodies. It has also participated in some large-scale functions organized by non-governmental organizations in the context of the International Year of Peace, including the First Earth Run, now in progress, and the recently concluded Children's World Fair. At the same time, we have also organized in China activities including the "Chinese People's Rally for World Peace" and a symposium on the subject, various cultural and sports activities, and exhibitions on calligraphy, painting and photography, all with peace as the main theme. Recently, a film dedicated to the International Year of Peace, Under the Same Sun, was inaugurated in our capital. I believe this film will soon be made available to our friends in other countries.

All these activities, when viewed from a global perspective, are but a drop in the ocean. For in safeguarding world peace, mankind has put at stake its own security and future. This struggle has therefore become a great cause shared by hundreds of millions of people and all the peace-loving countries in the world.

(Mr. Huang Jiahua, China)

To safeguard world peace, it is necessary, first and foremost, to stop the arms race, especially the nuclear arms race. Today, the arms stockpiles of the super-Powers have reached alarming proportions, enough to destroy the earth many times over. Such a monumental accumulation of arms runs the risk of flaring up one day, entailing all the unthinkable consequences.

(Mr. Huang Jiahua, China)

Having made disarmament, especially the complete prohibition and destruction of nuclear weapons, their major goal, the people of the world strongly demand that the super-Powers halt their dangerous arms race and take the lead in drastically reducing their nuclear armaments in order to lessen their confrontation and benefit the cause of peace.

To safeguard world peace it is necessary to stop regional conflicts and local wars. Wars in places such as Afghanistan, Kampuchea, the Middle East, South Africa and Central America have for a long time been causing countless deaths and casualties and threatening world peace. People of all countries strongly condemn foreign military aggression and demand the immediate withdrawal of foreign aggressor troops from occupied countries. They also strongly demand the elimination of the remnants and effects of colonialism and the total eradication of racism and the barbarous system of apartheid.

Safeguarding peace also requires the strengthening of friendship and co-operation among all countries. The numerous developing countries strongly demand that the existing inequities and unfairness in the world be redressed. They yearn for the establishment of a new pattern in international relations and a new international economic order on a more fair and rational basis, through which international co-operation will be strengthened, leading to the common prosperity of all countries.

China needs peace. The Chinese people desire peace and have always devoted themselves to the maintenance of world peace.

China attaches great importance to disarmament. The Chinese Government has on many occasions put forward proposals on disarmament, calling for the complete prohibition and destruction of all nuclear weapons and laying particular emphasis on the major responsibility of the super-Powers in this respect. We have declared

(Mr. Huang Jiahua, China)

to the world time and again that at no time and in no circumstances will China be the first to use nuclear weapons. As an act of good faith and on its own initiative China has reduced its armed forces by 1 million.

In the international arena China has consistently opposed power politics and hegemonism, rejected such acts as the big bullying the small, the strong dominating the weak, the rich suppressing the poor, and refrained from determining its relations with other countries according to their social systems or ideologies. We stand for peaceful coexistence with all countries that transcend ideology and comply strictly with the five principles of peaceful coexistence.

China extends its deep sympathy and firm support to all peoples and countries victimized by foreign aggression and oppression in their just struggle to safeguard their sovereignty, independence and right to national self-determination, and regards that as its binding international obligation.

Everywhere in the world today, we are pleased to note, the struggle to safeguard world peace is on an unprecedented scale, increasing constantly in scope and depth. The forces for peace in the world are growing rapidly.

The International Year of Peace will soon be over, but the people of the world will not slacken their efforts to oppose wars of aggression and safeguard world peace. We can rest assured that so long as the people of the world persist in their efforts to safeguard world peace they will eventually be successful. The Chinese Government and people will, as always, work together with all peace-loving countries and peoples to contribute our share to the noble cause of safeguarding world peace.

In conclusion, we wish to express our gratitude and appreciation to our colleagues on the International Year of Peace secretariat. They have done a great amount of commendable work in carrying out the Programme of the International Year

(Mr. Huang Jiahua, China)

of Peace and in co-ordinating various international, regional and national efforts and activities. We are also grateful to Costa Rica, on whose positive initiative a series of earnest and meaningful activities have been carried out. We sincerely hope that the United Nations will continue to contribute to the cause of peace and play an even greater role, thus living up to the expectations of the peoples of the world as a truly important international Organization.

Mr. BATIOUK (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) (interpretation from Russian): The maintenance of peace on Earth is a matter of concern for all of us, and the desire of the peoples for peace, the anxiety of everyone in all countries, has been manifested in the proclamation by the General Assembly of 1986 as the International Year of Peace.

In this debate on agenda item 21 delegation are giving an account of the numerous activities undertaken in their countries at the governmental and non-governmental levels within the framework of the International Year of Peace. It can be said with conviction that the International Year of Peace, proclaimed by the General Assembly, has been a clear demonstration of the desire of peoples to prevent the world's sliding into a nuclear catastrophe and to open the way to a secure world.

A powerful start was given to the International Year of Peace by the proposal of the Soviet Union on 15 January of a programme of comprehensive security through disarmament. At the heart of that programme is the plan for the step-by-step elimination of nuclear weapons and the prohibition of offensive space weapons. It provides for the complete elimination of nuclear and all other weapons of mass destruction by the year 2000 and a substantial reduction in conventional weapons.

Constant concern for the maintenance of peace dictated the Soviet Union's decision to extend its unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests until 1 January 1987. That clearly shows the sincerity of the Soviet intention to

(Mr. Batiouk, Ukrainian SSR)

achieve nuclear disarmament. As can be seen from the reaction of many people in all countries and all continents, the Soviet moratorium on nuclear testing has been the most remarkable event in the International of Year of Peace. The complete prohibition of nuclear tests would be a major step towards general disarmament.

The scope of the initiatives of the socialist countries is seen in the proposal to establish a comprehensive system of international peace and security, submitted by 10 countries, including the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, at the present session.

Demonstrating a high sense of responsibility before all the peoples of the world and its readiness to compromise in order to achieve the principal aim of a stable peace in conditions of reliable security, the Soviet Union made a series of major new proposals in Reykjavik.

(Mr. Batiouk, Ukrainian SSR)

They were the most far-reaching proposals that had ever been put forward in the context of Soviet-American negotiations. They would make it possible to find a general approach to resolving key issues, and, we can say without exaggeration, would lead the world to peace.

For the first time in many decades the meeting in Reykjavik enabled the two sides to move a long way forward towards nuclear disarmament. In Reykjavik new possibilities were opened for achieving agreement on the elimination of strategic offensive weapons within the next 10 years. There was also great progress with respect to the question of verification. In these circumstances, the anti-ballistic missile Treaty takes on key significance, and this was the reason for the Soviet proposal to the effect that the USSR and the United States of America make a commitment not to exercise their right to nullify that Treaty and to observe strictly all of its provisions for the next 10 years.

However, as the meeting showed, within the framework of its so-called strategic defence initiative programme the military-industrial complex in the United States is trying to put weapons in outer space, and this made it impossible to reach agreement in Reykjavik on the most substantive issue. None the less, it was clear that the elimination of the nuclear threat is possible and is a realistic aim, and that the negotiations should be continued. The search for peaceful solutions cannot be ended; it must be carried on through the efforts of all peace-loving forces. This is the aim of all States and social organizations and of the world public, within the framework of the International Year of Peace.

The International Year of Peace is being observed widely in the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. Special measures are being organized by a commission headed by Yevgeny Katchaglovsky, the First Deputy Chairman of the Ukrainian Council of Ministers. The first working day in 1986 was observed in the Ukraine as a day of peaceful labour. By decision of all workers their paycheques for that day were

(Mr. Batiouk, Ukrainian SSR)

transferred to the Soviet Peace Fund. This was a gesture from the heart, prompted by the feelings and convictions of my countrymen with regard to the proclamation of 1986 as the International Year of Peace.

For our people there is no more cherished goal, no aim closer to their hearts, than the preservation of peace. They know all too well what war means and they are absolutely determined to prevent a return of the horrors of war.

Within the framework of the International Year of Peace, which we wanted to convert into a decade of stable guaranteed peace for all, we held a Peace Watch on 25 February, a week of action against war and for security and co-operation in Europe in May and a week of struggle for peace in June. On 1 September in many schools and other educational institutions in the Ukraine there was a lesson on peace. Many millions of people participated in anti-war rallies, meetings and sports events dedicated to the International Year of Peace.

During the week of action against war and for security and co-operation in Europe, held in May 1986, at the request of the World Peace Council, there were 23,000 anti-war rallies and manifestations in which more than 12 million people participated. They demonstrated the unshakeable determination of the Ukrainian SSR to participate actively in efforts to achieve the aims and purposes of the Year to and to make their contribution to the strengthening of peace.

In August there were mass demonstrations by workers in the Ukraine in support of the Soviet moratorium on nuclear tests and an appeal to the United States to follow the example of the USSR. The whole population participated in events arranged in observance of the International Year of Peace, especially representatives of the present generation.

In April, in Kiev, the fourth International Student Festival of Peace was held and students from more than 100 countries studying in the Soviet Union

(Mr. Batiouk, Ukrainian SSR)

participated. The principal theme of the festival was the unity of the peace movement as a necessary condition of a successful struggle against the threat of nuclear war.

There were a number of meetings, festivals and other events during the year with the theme of the ideals and purposes of the International Year of Peace. End the arms race, preserve outer space for peaceful purposes, enter the twenty-first century without nuclear weapons - these were the appeals to the peoples and Heads of State launched by those who participated in the event called Bike for Peace, which took place along a route connecting Kiev, Prague, Montreal and New York. This aroused great interest on all sides and hundreds of local bicyclists participated at various points along the route. The mass reaction of the population to the appeal to consolidate peace by active measures showed clearly that the peoples of the world are united by a burning desire for a firm and stable future for present and future generations.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Javier Perez de Cuellar, in his message at the beginning of the International Year of Peace rightly stated:

"As the International Year of Peace begins, let all be mindful that its theme - "To Safeguard Peace and the Future of Humanity" - provides an important focus not only for 1986 but for the years ahead."

All peoples are awaiting specific results from the policies of their Governments. They are demanding peace, and an end to the game in which the fate of humanity is the stake. We need a new kind of thinking based on the concept of the inadmissibility of nuclear war and the need for common, determined efforts to eliminate the nuclear threat and establish world security through radical disarmament measures.

(Mr. Batiouk, Ukrainian SSR)

The delegation of the Ukrainian SSR fully supports the view that the activities, ideals, aims and purposes of The International Year of Peace have permanent value. We support the proposal to maintain and extend these worthy activities in the future. As indicated in draft resolution A/41/L.9/Rev.1:

"the ideals and objectives contained in the Proclamation of the International Year of Peace will remain a valuable source for future dialogue and action to promote and achieve peace".

The International Year of Peace is closely linked to the implementation of the Declaration of the Right of Peoples to Peace in draft resolution A/41/L.10, submitted by the delegation of the Mongolian Peoples Republic, in which, among other things all States and international organizations are called upon to do their utmost to contribute to the implementation of the right of peoples to peace through the adoption of appropriate measures at both the national and international level.

We support the provisions of both these draft resolutions the aim of which is to stimulate the struggle of the peoples of the world to establish international peace and security.

Mr. ABISINITO (Papua New Guinea): I speak today on behalf of the seven South Pacific Forum Member States of the United Nations: Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

We come from a region of the world which in recent decades has had and still experiences a reasonable degree of peace and stability. That is a fortunate consequence of our historical circumstances and geography. Remoteness has its costs, but it has its benefits too.

Although some of us do not enjoy a particular wealth of resources, the absence of conflict has enabled us to make sound long-term decisions about the exploitation and management of what we do possess.

We are deeply concerned, as we believe all countries are, to preserve our security. Our concern is deeply felt. Many of us have in our memory the agony and deprivations of war.

We see, in different parts of the world, other people enduring that misery. Our hearts go out to them. The technological development of weapons of war has exacted a particular cost in some parts of our region. The testing of nuclear weapons has been an affront to the people of the region. Regrettably, such testing is still inflicted on us.

We shall continue to protest against that activity. Here in the United Nations we will also pursue our collective objective that all countries, particularly those which possess nuclear weapons, should agree to terminate the arms race and to reduce their military arsenals, for we regard the very essence of the purpose of the United Nations to be the promotion of peace. The Organization was built from the ruins of war. Its Charter affirms that fundamental purpose.

Last year, at the fortieth anniversary of the Organization, we Member States rededicated ourselves to the Charter. We also unanimously proclaimed this year the

(Mr. Abisinio, Papua New Guinea)

International Year of Peace. The Secretary-General has noted in his annual report on the work of the Organization that a major purpose of this year is:

"to encourage the strengthening of the United Nations as a central element in assuring peace in the coming decades". (A/41/1, p. 3)

The dedication of 1986 as the International Year of Peace has helped to remind us of our shared interests. Within our region, our co-operation as members of the South Pacific Forum is a most effective means of maintaining dialogue and understanding which are important foundations for peace. Our concern is to address the political and economic inequalities which, if unresolved, may lead to instability.

The International Year of Peace has also provided the focus for numerous regional activities, designed to promote public awareness of, and support for, the United Nations and its Charter, and to accelerate the process of seeking peace and justice through practical programmes of action.

Both our non-governmental organizations and our Governments have worked together. Prominent among their activities have been a regional seminar on the International Year of Peace which was held in Suva, Fiji, at the very beginning of the year. In August, the South Pacific Forum adopted three Protocols to the South Pacific Nuclear-Free-Zone Treaty. They will be opened for signature by the nuclear-weapon States before the end of the year. The Forum reiterated its view that the Treaty was a significant addition to the existing arms control and disarmament régime and would make an important contribution to protecting the region's favourable security environment. The "First Earth Run", one of the primary international events of the International Year of Peace, will traverse the region at the end of November and beginning of December.

(Mr. Abisinito, Papua New Guinea)

On the national level, many of us have organized observances, conferences and other activities. Postage stamps and commemorative coins have been issued. By small steps and large, the peoples of the South Pacific have taken the opportunity provided by the International Year of Peace to dedicate themselves anew to the cause of peace. For instance, the people of Papua New Guinea observed the International Year of Peace by organizing poetry and poster competitions, "Walk and Run for Peace" rallies, and other activities. These events reflect Papua New Guinea's commitment to international peace.

We acknowledge Costa Rica's role in giving life to this initiative. The experience of this year has been of great value. As 1986 - the International Year of Peace - draws to a close, we are resolved to build upon the achievements of this important year.

Mr. BUTLER (Australia): May I begin by associating myself and my delegation completely with the statement that has just been made by the representative of Papua New Guinea on behalf of the South Pacific Forum Member States of the United Nations. In what I shall say now, I should like to add to that statement from the perspective of Australia.

In a little more than a year from now Australians will commence celebrating their bicentennial year. The year 1988 will mark 200 years since people of European origin settled in Australia. Their journey to Australia was long and hard and many perished. This illustrated what was, then, the relative isolation of Australia from many other parts of the world.

The arrival of those settlers in Australia was not an end but a beginning. The new settlers encountered a land and conditions that made the harshness of their journey seem easy. Our vast continent has rewarded the efforts of its people but it is a difficult land and those efforts have, necessarily, been heroic.

(Mr. Butler, Australia)

A little over 100 years after that first settlement the six colonies, which had been established on the Australian continent, forged unity in the modern Australian State - the Commonwealth of Australia, and the first test to which that unity was put was the test of war.

At the beginning of this century young men and women from the Commonwealth of Australia, all volunteers, went back to Europe to fight in that dreadful and bitter conflict, the so-called war to end all wars, the First World War. We suffered terrible losses and, indeed, there was a significant resultant imbalance between the male and female population of Australia for the whole of the following generation.

Like others, we then passed through hard economic times and, just when those burdens seemed to be lightening, the world plunged into war again and Australians went to war again, this time in Europe, North Africa and the Pacific. Again we paid dearly.

It is thus easy to understand why Australia played a vigorous part in the negotiations, at San Francisco, on the Charter of the United Nations.

It is easy to understand why we became an original Member of the United Nations and why, today, Australians strongly support the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the United Nations and its family of organizations and why in this year, the International Year of Peace, the celebration and observance of the Year of Peace has been carried out in Australia with a vigour and level of public interest which has probably not been matched anywhere else in the world.

Simply, peace has been important to Australia throughout all of its history. The European settlement of Australia had, in many respects, an unhappy and un-peaceful origin.

(Mr. Butler, Australia)

A good number of our first European settlers were transported to Australia as convicts, because some of the Australian colonies had been established as penal settlements. The choice of that location of a distant prison was itself a product of conflict, the American War of Independence, because the outcome of that war meant that the American colonies would no longer be available as a place to which convicts could be sent.

Because our first test as a unified nation, our first experience of the conduct of our own international relations, was the experience of war, the need for peace is deeply inscribed in the consciousness, the historical memory, of all Australians. Following the second terrible conflict and breakdown in Europe just 45 years ago - what some might call the last great demonstration of European tribalism - a second great wave of migrants and refugees came from Europe to Australia and became Australians. Because of their origins they brought with them a deep rejection of war and desire for peace.

Then, as a result of conflict in Asia and South-East Asia during recent decades, we have again welcomed to Australia tens of thousands of new Australians, this time people of Asian origin, and they too have had a bitter experience of war and yearn for peace.

It is also true that throughout our history we have lived with our indigenous people, the aboriginal Australians, and for too long in the past in circumstances which were not what they should have been, but we are rectifying this. Australia is now a truly multiracial and multicultural society and this has meant that peace within our own society and amongst all of our variety of people is and remains a major Australian value.

In order to facilitate community involvement in the celebration and observance of the International Year of Peace, my Government committed \$3 million to such

(Mr. Butler, Australia)

activities. Details of our International Year of Peace activities are provided in document A/41/580. Our national activities have been co-ordinated by a National Consultative Committee on Peace and Disarmament established specifically for the International Year of Peace. In each of the States which make up the Commonwealth of Australia a State-level consultative committee for the International Year of Peace has been established. Those committees are made up of citizens from all walks of life and backgrounds. They are truly representative of the whole Australian community. It has been of immense importance, too, that they have been made up of individuals with a clear personal dedication to peace, to the role of the United Nations and to disarmament.

Materials on the nature and purpose of the International Year of Peace have been disseminated widely in Australia through the media. The response to those actions throughout the whole community has been overwhelming. Simply, there has barely been a community anywhere in Australia, a city or town no matter how large or small, in which throughout the year there has not been a variety of activities celebrating, publicizing, analysing, discussing or giving expression in art to the virtue of peace and to the importance of this Year.

The national and State committees have received tens of thousands of applications from citizens, groups and individuals for financial support for International Year of Peace activities. The task those committees have faced has been difficult because so many applications had merit. Simply, the interest expressed in the International Year of Peace and the constructive proposals made for its celebration and observation were many times larger than the very considerable sum of money that the Government made available for International Year of Peace programmes. For this reason a great deal was also done on the basis of voluntary participation and voluntary community contributions.

(Mr. Butler, Australia)

There cannot be the slightest doubt that peace is one of the highest values of the Australian community, and the decision by the United Nations to observe 1986 as the International Year of Peace has been deeply appreciated in Australia and vigorously supported throughout our community.

I had the honour a year ago of outlining in the Assembly the approach Australia would take towards celebration and observation of 1986 as the International Year of Peace, and in a sense what I have said today is by way of a report. I can report to the Assembly that we have implemented our programme and that it has been a success far beyond what we could have foreseen.

The message from this is clear. In Australia peace is seen positively. Peace is seen as a positive situation, not merely as the absence of war. Peace is seen, quite specifically as a desirable state of relations between all peoples and between all States.

Our Australian celebration and analysis of the International Year of Peace has also made another point very clear. Peace is sometimes difficult to achieve, but must be striven for. It will not arrive of its own accord. But surely all this proves is the well-known reality that one of the worst reasons for refusing to take up a challenge is that one knows that it will be difficult. Instead the reverse is true: that anything that is worth while must be seized with both hands and, struggled for, for as long as is necessary. Peace in today's world is precisely such a challenge, and peace is as necessary to life as is breathing itself.

If one were to try to sum up the aspirations which bind together the multicultural and ethnically mixed community which makes up the modern Australian community I would say that it is this: Australians share the common belief that every person is entitled to a decent standard of living, to individual liberty and to life within a framework of peace.

(Mr. Butler, Australia)

In our pursuit of peace we place great faith in the purposes and principles of the United Nations and in the work that it carries out daily, throughout the world, in addressing the cruel problems of poverty, food, public health and human rights. We also insist upon the role of the United Nations in ensuring that disarmament makes its correct and irreducibly important contribution to the maintenance of peace.

It is for these reasons that we have welcomed and supported the United Nations International Year of Peace, and it is for these reasons that we will continue to work for peace.

I conclude by expressing the gratitude of my delegation to that of Costa Rica for the work it has done in bringing so many of us together on draft resolution A/41/L.9/Rev.1, of which my delegation is proud to be a co-sponsor. We commend it to the Assembly, in the earnest hope that it will be adopted by consensus.

Mr. ARMSTRONG (New Zealand): The Ambassador of Papua New Guinea spoke earlier on behalf of the members of the South Pacific Forum. He set out very clearly the desire of the countries of our region to live in peace and security. He reaffirmed our support for the International Year of Peace. New Zealand endorses everything he said. I should like now briefly to outline some of the activities that have been undertaken in New Zealand as part of the Year.

New Zealand supported completely the proclamation of the International Year of Peace by this Assembly. Above all, the United Nations stands for peace. Its Charter is the corner-stone of international law. Its primary purpose is to preserve the peace. It was entirely appropriate, therefore, that on the fortieth anniversary of its founding the United Nations should have declared 1986 the International Year of Peace.

(Mr. Armstrong, New Zealand)

New Zealand's commitment to working for peace through this Organization is of long standing. At the first session of the Assembly, held in London, our then Prime Minister, Mr. Peter Fraser, stated our country's belief that the establishment of

"security, peace, and human brotherhood is the highest and noblest task confronting mankind". (Official Records of the General Assembly, First part of the first session, 14th plenary meeting, p. 221)

He reaffirmed New Zealand's commitment to the success of the Organization. He said,

"The choice before the nations today is to decide to live in peace and friendship, observing national and international social and economic justice, or to face mutual annihilation. The nations must accept peace or perish". (Official Records of the General Assembly, First part of the first session, 14th plenary meeting, p. 227)

The International Year of Peace has provided a unique opportunity to increase public awareness of and support for the objective of peace; to emphasize the principles and purposes of the United Nations; to encourage the promotion of peace and security through practical action undertaken at all levels of society.

The central focus of the New Zealand Government's support for the International Year of Peace has been to encourage community involvement in the Year. To that end, two committees were established in New Zealand. The Officials Committee comprises representatives of Government Departments. Its Chairman is the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, and it has sought to co-ordinate Government activities in support of the Year. The other, the Aotearoa Committee, comprising representatives of non-governmental organizations - has focused on promoting and co-ordinating activities by non-governmental bodies. In addition, regional committees have been established in various parts of the country to act as a

(Mr. Armstrong, New Zealand)

channel of communication between community groups and individuals and the Aotearoa Committee.

In promoting the observance of the Year the New Zealand Government has taken careful account of the Secretary-General's advice that the celebration of the International Year of Peace should not require or expect lavish expenditure. That is important. If the Year is to be genuinely meaningful, ordinary citizens must be willing to recognize the importance of peace and to work positively both during the Year and thereafter, rather than relying on the resources of Governments. Nevertheless, the Government recognized that a certain level of public funding was necessary to assist in the overall administration of activities of the International Year of Peace. It therefore contributed to the administrative expenses of the Aoterea Committee and the costs of liaison with peace groups and other organizations. Assistance was also given for specific projects - principally in the preparation of materials for use in schools and universities; for holding peace festivals, and for projects with the theme of "Peace and the Tangata Whenua".

Government Departments have undertaken a number of important activities in support of the Year: The Education Department has worked to bring the message of the International Year of Peace to the young people of New Zealand; it has incorporated aspects of "peace studies" into school curricula - an innovation that will be of benefit in years to come. The Human Rights Commission has assisted with the preparation of materials on conflict resolution and related subjects. The Health Department has prepared articles on the theme of "Radiation in War and Peace". The Post Office has issued two stamps to commemorate the International Year of Peace. The Forest Service has established a "peace grove" of native New Zealand trees in a State Forest Park. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has included material on the International Year of Peace in publications on disarmament and on the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations; it also invited a number of eminent

(Mr. Armstrong, New Zealand)

visitors to New Zealand in order to increase public awareness and understanding of peace issues.

Among non-governmental organizations, a wide range of activities for the International Year of Peace has been undertaken by community and peace groups both nationally and at the local level. These include peace education courses, camps for children, lecture tours by overseas speakers, dedication of peace groves, and the holding of many seminars, workshops, festivals and exhibitions having as their theme the promotion of peace.

These activities show that in New Zealand the commemoration of the International Year of Peace has truly been a grass-roots effort. The Government has played its part but the real celebration of the Year has been within the community. It is significant for this Organization, that a basic theme of that effort has been the promotion of support for the United Nations. This was shown very clearly earlier this week when the Government awarded to the United Nations Association of New Zealand the IYP Peace Award for the group making the most significant contribution to the International Year of Peace in New Zealand.

The Year is almost over. We consider its value to lie in part in the focus on peace which it has encouraged over a limited period of time. The conclusion of the Year will not, however, see any diminution in our support for its objectives. That support will continue. The objectives of the International Year of Peace are central to the United Nations; they are central to our efforts to build a truly better and more peaceful world. We are therefore pleased to co-sponsor the draft resolution contained in document A/41/L.9/Rev.1.

Mr. WIRYONO (Indonesia): The International Year of Peace, with its theme "To Safeguard Peace and the Future of Humanity", provides us with an opportune occasion to reaffirm our commitment to the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter, and gives a renewed impetus to finding solutions to the arms race

(Mr. Wiryono, Indonesia)

and regional conflicts, and to the promotion and maintenance of equitable and stable relations among nations.

Our Organization, born out of the turmoil and chaos of the Second World War, has for over 40 years worked effectively towards the realization of the common aspirations of all people to peace, and remains the principal multilateral framework capable and effective enough to achieve such a lofty goal. Peoples around the world that are living under the heel of foreign domination, or that are yet to free themselves from the indignity of apartheid and colonialism, can look to the United Nations for guidance and assistance in achieving their inalienable right to self-determination and can be sustained by our commitment to their cause. It remains our solemn obligation to fulfil the pledge we made to the world and to ourselves to achieve mutual respect, understanding and sovereign equality through implementation of the Charter.

Despite all the multilateral and bilateral meetings on disarmament held during the International Year of Peace, however, the world has continued to witness an acceleration of the arms race, both nuclear and conventional, with its attendant consequences for mankind. Meanwhile, expenditures for armaments have reached unconscionable proportions, robbing peoples of sorely needed resources to contend with poverty, human misery and deprivation in many parts of the world. However, some signs of reassurance appeared recently on the horizon, when the leaders of the two super-Powers met in Iceland. It is to be hoped that that meeting will be resumed soon and result in a major breakthrough leading ultimately to a world of abiding peace and security.

Although it must be admitted that universal peace remains elusive, as regional conflicts and struggles for power continue to inflict untold suffering upon millions of people, no small amount of success has been achieved, and we shall continue to be guided by our faith in the ultimate victory of our cause and in the moral consequences of our quest.

(Mr. Wiryono, Indonesia)

In the social and economic fields, the United Nations has taken a leading part in guaranteeing respect for the dignity of the human spirit and person through ensuring respect for human rights, and in seeking an end to apartheid and racial discrimination, while famine relief programmes in Africa and disaster aid in many parts of the world have saved millions from starvation, giving true meaning to the term "international community". In addition to these notable achievements, the United Nations has been an active proponent and motivating force in seeking a more just economic distribution, facilitating development efforts in many countries.

In attempting to raise the quality of life for all men and women, and in holding out hope for a better future for our children, the United Nations has removed much of the frustration that leads to tension and to the continuation of the cycle of violence. While it has not been able to prevent all conflicts, the United Nations has attended to the needs of refugees and other casualties of war, such as widows and orphans, with a noble passion.

The International Year of Peace has served as an excellent vehicle for increasing public awareness of such activities as those I have just mentioned. In drawing attention to the successes of the Organization in humanitarian, social, cultural, economic and political areas it will crystallize public support for future endeavours to implement the principles of the Charter, advancing the cause of peace.

My delegation has followed with keen interest the many national activities of the Member States in celebration of the International Year of Peace and we are indeed encouraged by the overwhelmingly positive response it has received throughout the world. These efforts will no doubt contribute to the furtherance of international peace and co-operation.

Indonesia too has promoted the International Year of Peace with many national activities, an account of which we transmitted to the Secretary-General in a note

(Mr. Wiryono, Indonesia)

verbale. In his statement at the 13th plenary meeting of the General Assembly at this session, the Foreign Minister of Indonesia, who is chairing the National Committee of Indonesia for the International Year of Peace, stated that our adherence to the principle of universal peace was not only a moral obligation for Indonesia, but a constitutional mandate.

It is our sincere and earnest hope that expressions of commitment to the Charter and to the principles of the Year in favour of global peace and an end to conflict among nations may continue to be heard long after the Year's end, and that true and lasting results may be achieved towards global peace.

Mrs. CASTRO de BARISH (Costa Rica) (interpretation from Spanish): It is an honour for me to introduce the draft resolution contained in document A/41/L.9, which has now been revised in document A/41/L.9/Rev.1. The draft resolution is sponsored by the delegations of Bahamas, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Colombia, Costa Rica, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Malta, Morocco, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Samoa, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Thailand, Togo, Uruguay and Venezuela, to which were subsequently added the delegations of Australia, Belize, Canada, China, Chile, Gambia, Indonesia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, the Philippines and Singapore.

The main purpose of the draft resolution is to highlight the importance of the proclamation, exactly one year ago today, of the International Year of Peace with appreciation of the fact that the promotion of peace is the basic objective of the United Nations, and that its attainment is the common ideal of all the peoples of the world. The search for peace is the very *raison d'être* of our Organization.

(Mrs. Castro de Barish, Costa Rica)

In the preamble, appreciation is also expressed of the fact that this basic objective has generated an enthusiastic response on the part of the international community and gives an important impetus for increased international co-operation towards the attainment of peace.

There is an expression of welcome of the governmental and non-governmental action for the implementation of the programme of the Year and, further, of the action undertaken by the Secretary-General, as well as the co-operation extended by the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, and the participation of subsidiary bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, as a response to General Assembly resolution 40/10 of 11 November 1985.

There is recognition of the concrete and substantive contribution made by the international community as a whole towards understanding and dialogue between nations and peoples, and to the efforts required, in particular during 1986 and beyond, with a view to achieve the goal of genuine peace.

In operative paragraph 1 the General Assembly conveys its thanks to the Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and to the world community for their efforts in the promotion of peace, and invites them to persevere in those efforts, inspired by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as by the objectives and the spirit of the International Year of Peace. Although this year will come to an end, we believe that each and every day should be devoted to the cause of peace.

In operative paragraph 2, gratitude is also expressed to the Secretary-General and the secretariat of the International Year of Peace for their valuable efforts in promoting and fulfilling the request of the General Assembly contained in resolution 40/10 by maintaining links with the national co-ordinating committees, educational institutions, the mass media and others in the activities carried out during the International Year of Peace.

(Mrs. Castro de Barish, Costa Rica)

Here I should like to point out that our delegation, as have many other delegations that joined with us, made an effort to draft these paragraphs without including a specific reference to professionals, students, or youth, and to those persons and groups that had enthusiastically contributed to the celebration of the Year, in order to accommodate suggestions by some delegations that wished more general terms to be used, since that was their preference. We have also included the word "dialogue" in one of the preambular paragraphs and in one of the operative paragraphs, in order to accommodate another request.

In operative paragraph 3 it is recognized that the ideals and objectives contained in the Proclamation of the International Year of Peace will remain a valuable source for future dialogue and action to promote and achieve peace.

In operative paragraph 4 the General Assembly underscores the contribution made to the Programme of the United Nations and to the activities during the Year by non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, the mass media and others, and as I said earlier, the word "others" was included in order to satisfy the concerns voiced by those who did not wish to see specific categories of people mentioned, something which to us was extremely important and meaningful, but in order to achieve a general agreement, we included this word, although it is not really acceptable to us. 🍌

So far I have been referring to the original text of the draft resolution (A/41/L.9). Now let me explain the changes that have been reflected in the revised draft (A/41/L.9/Rev.1), which we would like to introduce in our desire to find a formulation that will be generally acceptable to all. The sponsors of the original draft resolution (A/41/L.9) held a meeting yesterday morning in order to find a form of words that would make it possible to arrive at a compromise text.

(Mrs. Castro de Barish, Costa Rica)

Now we know that compromise does not mean that one has to give up everything, but rather to give way on some points and to retain others. We also had indications to the effect that operative paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 were not acceptable to certain delegations. There were also certain amendments in document A/41/L.13 submitted by the Soviet Union and other delegations from Eastern Europe. In a spirit of accommodation in order to achieve consensus, we decided to eliminate the aforementioned paragraphs since certain delegations were not ready to give the draft its support - not only those delegations that submitted amendments, but others as well. We now have operative paragraph 5 in document A/41/L.9/Rev.1, which: "Requests the Secretary-General to use the Trust Fund established for the International Year of Peace for the promotion of peace, and to report thereon;" This new operative paragraph 5 takes into consideration the first amendment set out in document A/41/L.13 of the Soviet Union. After discussing the matter with the representative of the Soviet Union, we note that it is now acceptable.

I should like to point out that this amendment, which refers to operative paragraph 6 of the original draft, does imply some sacrifice for us, because the Trust Fund would benefit to a certain extent the University of Peace, with headquarters in Costa Rica. All members know that the only financing of that University is through voluntary contributions. We had also requested the inclusion of the United Nations Centre for Disarmament and Peace with headquarters at Lomé, Togo. We should like to thank the representative of Togo for his understanding and for accepting the deletion of that paragraph so that we may reach a consensus. We now have the new formulation in operative paragraph 5 of document A/41/L.9/Rev.1.

Operative paragraph 8 of document A/41/L.9 has now become operative paragraph 6 of the revised text, which: "Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a final report on the results of the Year;" Operative paragraph 9 of document A/41/L.9 has now become operative paragraph 7 of the revised draft. Here, also,

(Mrs. Castro de Barish, Costa Rica)

in order to find a compromise formula we have agreed, despite our desire to maintain the original drafting which was shared by the sponsors and by many other delegations, to delete the words: "to that end", so that it now reads: "Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-second session the item entitled 'International Year of Peace'".

Subsequently, the sponsors of document A/41/L.13 called on us to include operative paragraph 5 as it appeared in document A/41/L.9 as a negotiating point with the amendment in document A/41/L.13. But the elimination of operative paragraph 5 from document A/41/L.9 was the result of suggestions made by other delegations from other groups and therefore it was not possible because the sponsors had already taken a decision to eliminate operative paragraph 5 on the basis of comments made with respect to that paragraph. Furthermore, we have made tremendous effort to ensure that the draft resolution would represent a consensus text as a result of the changes introduced.

My delegation would like to recall that in order to achieve general agreement it has been necessary to sacrifice points of view by all interested parties, including our own. This has been the only way to find a text which, while it may not be satisfactory to everyone, does none the less reflect the most important parts of all views, which are all aimed at promoting the International Year of Peace and its successful termination in 1986. For this reason the sponsors of document A/41/L.9/Rev.1 call on all delegations to give their support to this compromise text in a spirit of accommodation and co-operation so that this last draft resolution on the International Year of Peace can be adopted today without vote.

Finally, my delegation wishes to place on record its gratitude to all delegations that have gone along with us now and throughout the years of preparatory work for the International Year of Peace in this, our final effort,

(Mrs. Castro de Barish, Costa Rica)

which has made an important contribution to the overall efforts undertaken by the United Nations in order to attain one of its main objectives, namely, to promote and maintain peace, which is the common ideal of all peoples throughout the world.

Ms. KGABI (Botswana): On 24 October 1986, at a solemn meeting commemorating the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations, the General Assembly adopted the Declaration which proclaimed 1986 as the International Year of Peace. It called upon all peoples of the world to join in decisive efforts of the United Nations to protect peace and the future of all mankind.*

On behalf of the delegation of Botswana, I would like to express our gratitude to the Secretary-General and to the secretariat for the International Year of Peace, for their valuable efforts in promoting and fulfilling the request of the General Assembly, contained in resolution 40/10, through, inter alia, maintaining liaison with national co-ordinating committees, academic institutions, information media and others involved in activities during the year.

In declaring 1986 the International Year of Peace, the international community hoped that such action would provide an opportunity to consider ways and means of increasing the chances of peace in the world and that the legitimate aspirations of mankind would be fulfilled. Throughout the year, support for the International Year of Peace was reflected in programmes which included workshops, conferences, seminars and other activities. The report of the Secretary-General (A/40/669), indicated that between January and May 1985, for example, four regional seminars were organized to prepare for the International Year of Peace and to promote its objectives. Topics such as Peace and Development; Peace and Disarmament; and Preparations for life in Peace were discussed. Documents were adopted and

* Mr. Moushoutas (Cyprus), Vice-President, took the Chair.

(Mrs. Kgabi, Botswana)

consensus emerged. Such consensus reflected a general agreement that a broad approach was necessary if peace was to have a meaningful definition in today's world.

Peace should not only be taken to mean the absence of war but it must also mean the non-violation of human rights and rights of people. At this juncture, I would like to refer to the statement made by Mr. Kabanda of Rwanda, at the fortieth session of the General Assembly, that:

"The concept of peace is an uneasy bedfellow with the concept of racism, in the same way as peace and war are naturally in opposition. Thus racism, whatever its guise and particularly in the most refined and pernicious form, apartheid, colonialism and all other systems or policies which keep a part of mankind in a position of slavery or degradation, reveal a lack of awareness of human rights and the rights of people."

However, despite the call by the international community for peace, South Africa continues to carry out its policies of internal repression and oppression and external aggression and destabilization on its neighbours in the southern Africa region. This is reflected in South Africa's continued illegal occupation of Namibia, the presence of its illegal administration and of its troops in the Territory. The régime continues to subjugate the peoples of Namibia, denying them the right of self-determination. The continued exploitation of Namibia's natural resources, a cause for underdevelopment, is yet another manifestation of South Africa's policies of aggression and destabilization in the region.

This threat to peace is not confined to southern Africa alone. The Gulf, Afghanistan, the Middle East and Kampuchea are areas still ravaged by war and paralysed by conflict. My country, like the rest of mankind, wishes to see peaceful and durable solutions to these problems.

(Ms. Kgabi, Botswana)

The question of disarmament and nuclear weapons is a burning issue in relation to world peace and security. In that connection, I should like to refer to my Minister's statement during the general debate here, in which he said:

"I need only say that those that bear the primary responsibility for the continuing arms race must continuously take into account the concerns of the millions of people around the world who are fearful of the prospects of a nuclear holocaust". (A/41/PV.25, p. 58)

It has been said that "wars begin in the minds of men". It is, therefore, in the same minds that a total abandonment of nuclear weapons can be brought about, and this has to be worked at.

My delegation thus calls for the prevention of nuclear war, the prevention of the extension of the arms race and the ending of all nuclear tests, and hopes for fruitful results at the ongoing talks between the super-Powers. We further call for the complete elimination of the use of force and all non-peaceful means of settling international disputes. We reiterate that countries should unequivocally prohibit the use of mass annihilation, as well as the use of political pressure, economic coercion and aggressive propaganda against other countries.

As indicated in the Secretary-General's report, the abundance of human talent and material resources at present being devoted to the arms build-up and militarization could be more positively utilized in developing the means of securing a stable and lasting peace.

In conclusion, I should like to say that, without commitment to peace, the outstanding problems the world faces in this era cannot be successfully resolved. Instead the lack of peace will have a negative effect on the development of all mankind.

Mr. KEDLA (Lao People's Democratic Republic) (interpretation from French): My Government and the Lao people, like all the peoples of the world, warmly welcomed the resolution adopted by the General Assembly at its commemorative meeting on 24 October 1985, proclaiming the year 1986 the International Year of Peace. That decision followed upon resolutions 39/11 and 40/11 of the General Assembly, adopted on 12 November 1984 and 11 November 1985, on the right of peoples to peace, a right for the effective enjoyment of which a lengthy struggle has to be waged.

It is well known that the international situation in recent years has been characterized by an increase in tension and serious conflicts, and an acceleration of the arms race, both nuclear and conventional, for which the responsibility lies with the warlike circles of imperialism as does the responsibility for the continuation of the criminal policies and practices of the racist Pretoria régime in South Africa and the Zionist Tel Aviv régime in the Middle East. In other parts of the world we note that threats to the peace and security of peoples continue unabated.

The international community was able to see clearly which of the two nuclear Powers was responsible for the collapse of the recent summit conference in Reykjavik. It is regrettable that that imperialist super-Power should have clung at all costs to its Star Wars programme, whose implementation will push our planet and with it all civilization, to the brink of nuclear catastrophe. Whatever happens, the peace-loving peoples of the world will continue their struggle against any policies and practices that pose a threat to the peace, security, freedom and independence of the peoples, or to peaceful coexistence among all peoples of the world regardless of their political and social systems.

Peace and security, as well as freedom, independence and justice, are noble ideas for whose realization all the peoples of the world have always striven with determination. But it is not enough for a State to boast about its attachment to

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these noble ideas enshrined in the United Nations Charter; it must also demonstrate its good intentions by specific deeds. Unfortunately, nowadays we are witnessing an increase in conflicts and serious tension provoked by the policies of aggression, intervention and State terrorism pursued by certain imperialist, colonialist, and neo-colonialist Powers and other reactionary forces in various parts of the world.

All such policies are obviously contrary to international law and to the United Nations Charter. The concept of peace means not merely the absence of war; it means more than that. True peace cannot be imagined except with honour and freedom and in conjunction with the effective exercise of political, economic and social rights. From this point of view, my Government welcomes and supports the proposal made by 10 socialist countries to establish a comprehensive system of international peace and security, encompassing the political, military, economic and humanitarian spheres.

However, we should not have any illusions about this; by this I mean that a determined struggle will have to be waged by the peoples of the world to ensure the establishment of such a system. That is why the peoples of South Africa and Namibia, under the guidance of their national liberation movements, are still conducting their heroic struggle against the racist Pretoria régime. This is true also of the martyred Palestinian people and other Arab peoples that are still stubbornly fighting against the Zionist occupation forces of Israel. It is also true of Central America, where peace and security are seriously threatened by the interventionist and aggressive policy being pursued relentlessly by an imperialist super-Power.

The idea of peace and security is deprived of all meaning if certain imperialist, colonialist and neo-colonialist Powers continue to refuse to implement scrupulously the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, including those

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relating to the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples. We all know that several islands in the various oceans of the world are still the victims of exploitation by the colonial and administering Powers. What is even more serious is that these small Non-Self-Governing Territories are in the process of being transformed into military and nuclear bases of the colonial Powers. My delegation is happy to note, however, that the international community, and particularly the United Nations, the depositary of the hopes of the oppressed peoples, have made considerable efforts to mobilize all countries and peoples of the world to ensure the implementation of the lofty aims and objectives of the International Year of Peace.

The realities of the world today are such that it is useless for anyone to try to live in a vacuum. The concept of the interdependence of peoples and peaceful coexistence of nations has inexorably taken over. In the nuclear and space age, it is dangerous and even nonsensical for any nuclear Power to nourish the hope that it will be able to emerge victorious from a nuclear conflict. In this regard, the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic unreservedly supports all the proposals and initiatives of the Soviet Union, other socialist countries and peace-loving and justice-loving countries throughout the world aimed at reducing international tension and establishing peaceful coexistence among nations with different political and social systems.

The proposal contained in the statement of 15 January 1986 by the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, that all nuclear weapons should be eliminated by the year 2000 should be taken up by the other major nuclear Power. The unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests, observed and extended several times by the Soviet Union, is undoubtedly in the interests of the peace and security of our planet. It is very desirable that this noble example be followed by the other party.

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Democratic Republic)

The Lao Government also supports all initiatives aimed at proclaiming various regions of the world, including South-East Asia, zones of peace, stability and co-operation. The Lao People's Democratic Republic, together with the People's Republic of Kampuchea and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, has spared no effort to make that noble idea a reality in our region.

In implementing the Programme of the International Year of Peace, the Lao People's Democratic Republic has organized many activities, the details of which have already been communicated to the Secretary-General. They include meetings, singing and art competitions, symposiums at various institutes and schools, special stamp issues and newspaper articles and radio and television programmes on the theme "For peace and against war". The Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace, held in Vientiane in February this year, made a notable contribution to heightening public awareness.

The Lao Government and people, which have been the victims of a long war of foreign aggression and whose aspiration to live in peace with all the countries and peoples of the world never wavers, will spare no effort to make their contribution to the preservation and strengthening of international peace and security.

Mr. KNIPPING VICTORIA (Dominican Republic) (interpretation from Spanish): The United Nations could consider no more appropriate item than that concerning peace, which is the very essence of the Organization and the reason for its establishment.

Everyone knows that it was the ideal of peace that led to the Organization's creation at the end of the devastating world conflagration. The horrors of the Second World War spurred the peoples, deeply perturbed by so much destruction, pain, suffering and grief, in their perpetual search for peace, as they were

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already fully convinced that only through peace could they ensure their survival, progress, well-being and happiness.

Although in purely legal terms the United Nations Charter is an international treaty, it may also be regarded, for the reasons I have just given, as a programme of action and an instrument dedicated to the promotion of international peace and security, whose purpose is "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war".

However, peace can be achieved only in a world where there are no blatant economic, social and cultural inequalities and injustices. Therefore there can be no doubt that the gap between the rich and poor countries, which increases daily, is a dangerous cause of social tension. Can there be a balance in international relations while the distressing phenomenon of underdevelopment persists? Can the representatives of nations in a world of such disequilibrium speak the same language and give their words the same meaning?

These anxieties necessarily lead us to maintain that equality is a prerequisite for the establishment of peace. In that regard, it is pertinent to note the following paragraph of the preamble to the Charter, which acknowledges that prerequisite when it tells us that the peoples of the United Nations are determined

"to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small".

A quick glance at the present international situation reveals the following: a third of mankind is enjoying the benefits of progress in science, technology, the economy, education and culture, while two thirds are excluded from the enjoyment of such benefits, with the great majority of them living in desperate conditions.

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Dominican Republic)

That is, paradoxically, the tragic reality of our time, since we are living in an age of astonishing advances in science, medicine, technology and all other fields of human knowledge.

What can we deduce from all this? We are inevitably led to the conclusion that peace is possible only on the basis of freedom, justice, equality and the co-operation and solidarity of all peoples. Therefore, peace must have a positive content and a dynamic meaning. Peace cannot mean simply laying down arms, nor is it the absence of war. Peace is positive co-operation between all States, big and small, dedicated to establishing fair, more equitable relations that guarantee respect for human rights and the fundamental rights of all peoples in an atmosphere of brotherhood, order and harmony. Peace is a commitment to prevent conflicts or settle them by peaceful means. Peace is a commitment to ensure economic development and social well-being. Finally, peace is hope for a better world.

However, to promote peace and strengthen the inherent desire for peace of all societies, the United Nations must contribute to creating a new world consciousness in the quest for peace by carrying out an active educational campaign. Both the United Nations itself, as a legal entity with its own independent juridical personality, and Member States must participate in the campaign in order to prepare present and future generations to live in peace, for, as the Constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization clearly states:

"since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defence of peace must be constructed".

A valuable instrument that could make a notable contribution to the campaign - or, rather, the crusade - is the press, with its mission to inform peoples about current international problems, by promoting values and attitudes in favour of peace.

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Dominican Republic)

Although war appears to be a constant factor in the history of mankind we believe none the less that the ideal of peace can be attained. We will not be shaken in our conviction despite the constraining difficulties related to the present economic situation arising from the aggravation of the negative impact of debt, the increasing arms race, the deplorable and morally reprehensible racial discrimination, religious intolerance, the unjustifiable violation of human rights and fundamental liberty and freedoms, the tendency to use force in international relations, and the egoism of putting national interests above general interests. Although it is a common desire of all peoples to achieve peace we must start a new dialogue and a better understanding to achieve this end. This dialogue which is a necessary condition must recognize the economic and social imbalances we have at present and also requires clear-cut attitudes and constructive approaches towards the establishment of a new international order which contains the seeds of a new era of peace, stability, co-operation and solidarity. We should like to quote from one of the preambular paragraphs in resolution 40/3 which approved the proclamation of the International Year of Peace, when it considered that "efforts and activities to achieve positive results in international co-operation for the promotion of peace must be intensified during the Year and for ever ...".

Therefore we must continue to promote peace, since this is the overriding purpose of the United Nations.

Consideration of this item before us could not be more timely than it is today, 24 October, a day which internationally commemorates the United Nations. This is a happy and meaningful coincidence which prompts us to reiterate our constant support for the principles and purposes of the United Nations. For this reason and because we totally identify ourselves with the ideals of peace, we are a sponsor of the draft resolution which the General Assembly has before it now.

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Dominican Republic)

On other occasions the Dominican Republic, a peace-loving country, has stated that without peace there can be no economic progress or social development. We have said that without peace there can be no harmonious and civilized relations between peoples. We have stated that peace is of the highest social value. We have stated that peace must be the main consensus which inspires the purposes of the United Nations.

Finally, peace, the common heritage of mankind, must be based on social justice, co-operation and international solidarity.

Mr. FARES (Democratic Yemen) (interpretation from Arabic): First of all, allow me to begin with this quotation: "The representatives of the people of Democratic Yemen express their hope that the parliaments of the world will respond to this special appeal concerning the International Year of Peace and will contribute to and participate in this noble cause: the maintenance of international peace and security and the development of mutual co-operation between all peoples".

This was part of the message sent by Comrade Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, Chairman of the Presidium of the People's Supreme Council, to all the parliaments of the world and to which was attached the appeal issued by the Supreme Council to all the parliaments of the world on the international proclamation, by the General Assembly of the United Nations, of 1986 as the International Year of Peace. The appeal states that: the Supreme People's Council welcomed the proclamation of 1986 as the International Year of Peace, and supported the programme for the International Year of Peace and its purposes and objectives so that all the peoples of the world might live in peace and security.

The People's Supreme Council in its appeal called upon all the Yemeni people and all the peace-loving peoples and parliaments throughout the world to express their solidarity against the threats directed towards the peoples of the world and

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their right to live in peace and stability, and to make every effort to stabilize and maintain peace and security, give every form of support to all peoples' right to self-determination. They were also called upon to denounce the threat of war and the escalation of the arms race in order to set up peaceful international relations built on peaceful coexistence between different economic, political and social systems, to continue the struggle to build a new international economic order, as well as to co-operate actively to make the International Year of Peace a year in which important changes will prevail for peace, security and disarmament, and to give practical effect to the noble human principles of the United Nations. The appeal reflects the conviction of the People's Council in Democratic Yemen that peace is a single unified ideal.

The dangers of war cannot be overcome and international peace cannot be built in this world except on the principles of justice, equality, freedom, the safeguard of national sovereignty, and social progress for all peoples and all nations. As for the arms race, the mobilization of military arsenals, the building of military bases on foreign territories, the intervention in the internal affairs of other countries and the usurpation of their national resources - they pose a threat to international peace as a whole.

Democratic Yemen considers peace and its consolidation as one of its primary objectives. It is also the cornerstone of its foreign policy and of all its political and diplomatic activities. Democratic Yemen was therefore in the forefront of those countries which welcomed the International Year of Peace and took the necessary steps to implement the decisions and resolutions of the General Assembly in the matter.

(Mr. Fares, Democratic Yemen)

A decree of the Cabinet established a national committee for the International Year of Peace, to be responsible for setting up the programmes and activities, and with appropriate terms of reference to pursue the aims of the General Assembly resolution which proclaimed 1986 as the International Year of Peace. We reviewed a number of the activities and programmes carried out by the national committee in the message we sent to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and which is to be found in document A/41/628. We are happy to state that the national committee is continuing its activities in order to disseminate knowledge of the International Year of Peace and the role of the United Nations in promoting international peace and security and finding peaceful solutions to international conflicts and disputes.

Although the current international situation gives reason for pessimism in view of the prevailing tensions, and international conflicts, the fundamental differences that exist in international relations, the continuing escalation of the arms race, and particularly the nuclear-arms race, and the appearance of such new possibilities as the attempt to militarize outer space, we consider that the International Year of Peace, with its principles, purposes and objectives, offers a new perspective, calling for optimism. The International Year of Peace helps give us grounds for optimism when we look at the world of today, with all the many contradictions to be found in modern international relations, because there are many positive steps we can take to bring some kind of pressure to bear on those international contradictions and which can open the way to peace, freedom and security.

Among those positive steps, we refer to the peaceful and constructive proposals presented by the USSR, designed to remove the shadow of a nuclear war and to put an end to the feverish arms race. We must also refer to the important decisions which resulted from the summit Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement held in Harare and the success of the Stockholm Conference, the signing of new agreements on the peaceful development of nuclear power, the growing acceptance of

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of the idea of nuclear-free zones and zones of peace, including the Pacific Ocean and the Indian Ocean, the growth of understanding of the struggle for peace, the support and consolidation of international co-operation in various financial, commercial, social and humanitarian fields of activity, and the growing conviction of young people of the need to divert the increasing amount of resources which are being wasted on armaments to peaceful purposes, in order to achieve progress and to assist in the development of the developing countries.

The celebration of the International Year of Peace should help us to create the necessary suitable conditions for the elimination of the threat of nuclear war and to lay the foundations for international peace and security and international co-operation. In Democratic Yemen, we reaffirm our readiness to do all we can to achieve the noble principles of the International Year of Peace, both now and in the future.

Dame Nita BARROW (Barbados): In the International Year of Peace, the Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) met in Georgetown, Guyana, and agreed that the Caribbean region should be preserved as a zone of peace. In taking this decision, our leaders not only took on a moral commitment to peace in the region, but demonstrated their determination to co-operate on the international scene for the total elimination of the scourge of war. We in the Caribbean have long recognized that our greatest resource is people, and that their development finds its greatest expression in an atmosphere of peace. And that is why the tradition in the region has been to concentrate expenditure of scarce resources on education, health services, diversification of agriculture and development of industry, rather than on militarization.

The decision of the CARICOM Heads of Government also reflects the attitudes of the general public. Those attitudes were made abundantly clear by the involvement

(Dame Nita Barrow, Barbados)

of non-governmental organizations and large sections of the community, of all ages, in their individual capacities, in the "Million Minutes of Peace" Appeal.

It took only one thought and that thought grew and became reality. In less than one year the "Million Minutes of Peace International Appeal" launched by an imaginative international Committee, has captured the imagination of millions of people in 69 countries, representing all regions of the world. As the largest non-fund-raising project for the International Year of Peace, the Appeal has carried the message of peace to all people of the world, from children in African villages and American schools, to islanders in the Philippines, the Pacific and the Caribbean, from average citizens of all ages to Heads of State and world leaders.

Over one billion minutes of peace have been donated world-wide through prayer, meditation and positive thoughts of peace. That's a grand total of one billion, twenty-four million, four hundred and fourteen thousand, six hundred and twenty seven minutes, ranging from 600 minutes from one small country to over 500 million from a larger one.

As a patron of the Appeal, I had the honour of participating in the launching of the Barbados appeal on 16 September and the pleasure of observing the response by Government and the public since then. Nearly one million minutes were contributed to the Appeal by the people of Barbados.

This overwhelming response to the International Year of Peace and the various initiatives that developed from the Year is a powerful symbol of the deep desire and personal commitment to peace from the peoples of the world. They are anxious to see the advent of peace in the world and are eager to make their own personal contribution to that end.

Whatever the detractors of this Organization may say, the peoples of the world have demonstrated their confidence in and their support of the United Nations and its ideals.

(Dame Nita Barrow, Barbados)

Today the Foreign Minister of Barbados, in his address to the nation on the occasion of United Nations Day, told Barbadians:

"My message on the occasion of United Nations Day is essentially this. The world has not seen a global war since its Charter was proclaimed; that counts for something. The world has seen over one hundred new States taking their legitimate place in the Organization, bringing richness and colour that now give it a unique character. I do believe that in 41 years of growth the United Nations is in a better position to achieve its purpose as conceived by its founders. Small States in the system cannot contemplate failure for the United Nations. If they do, they give up hope for the maintenance of international peace and security. They abandon their aspirations at achieving international economic, social, cultural and humanitarian issues, and at promoting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all."

It is our hope that 1986 will not just be remembered as another successful "international Year" but that our collective efforts may prove to be only a beginning and will eventually result in the true attainment of peace.

We must never forget that beyond all else peace is the purpose for which this organization stands.

My remarks can find no better conclusion than the words of actor Ben Kingsley, another patron of the International Appeal Committee, whose art put him in touch with Gandhi's great spirit of peace:

"A minute of peace is a truth that the hands can touch."

The PRESIDENT: In accordance with General Assembly resolution 477 (V) of 1 November 1950, I now call on the Observer of the League of Arab States.

Mr. MAKSOUD (League of Arab States): The International Year of Peace is of primary and vital importance to the Arab peoples and the Arab nation. The reasons are many. We have an ethical commitment to peace. We have a vested

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interest in its promotion and its realization. The ethical commitment is a broad and almost universal consensus. The vested interest is particularly characteristic of those nations and societies, especially in the third world of which we are part, that are cognizant of the fact that their expeditious development and progress and the upgrading in the quality of life are linked to the progress towards real and viable world peace.

Because of those two imperatives, the League of Arab States has consistently supported the efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General in this regard and has repeatedly urged the need for States to comply with the provisions of the United Nations Charter and the United Nations resolutions. That is a crucial prerequisite for restoring the effectiveness of the United Nations system and the credibility of its resolutions.

It is our firm belief that the United Nations is and will be for a long time to come, the principal instrument for genuine and purposive peace. It is, however, essential to define the word not only in terms of an absence of war but also in terms of enhancing equity, freedom and justice. In the final analysis peace should be assumed while the quest for justice should be our compelling purpose. That is why we believe that the remaining obstacles to the achievement of international peace should be faced squarely by the international community and the United Nations.

In this respect we urge the super-Powers to focus more intensively on the problems of overall disarmament instead of the petty breaking down of their diplomatic presences and thus rid the peoples of the world from the anxieties that inhibit them from the creative endeavours that are inherent in the purpose of life.

The threat that nuclear, ballistic and advanced armaments represent has frustrated much of the resilience needed to achieve the overall objectives of the

(Mr. Maksoud, League of Arab States)

United Nations. We urge, furthermore, that in the pursuit of international peace the Middle East conflict be resolved within the framework of the United Nations and in accordance with its Charter and resolutions.

For that reason the League of Arab States, especially at its last session on 18 and 19 October this year, reaffirmed its call for a well-conceived and well-structured United Nations international conference on the Middle East. We believe that this should be pursued immediately and in a sustained manner, in order that the problems of the Middle East may be resolved in such a way as to promote and contribute to the efforts for peace.

It is obvious that in this respect Israel's withdrawal from all Arab territories and the enabling of the Palestinian people to exercise their right of self-determination are the two principal pillars for a durable, comprehensive and just peace in the region. Hence it is clear that inextricably linked with the objective of peace is the issue of self-determination for the Palestinians and the people of South Africa and Namibia. Self-determination is a manifestation of human equality and dignity. As long as those issues remain unaddressed - an apartheid régime in southern Africa and Israel's occupation and violation of Palestinians' national and human rights - peace will remain elusive and threatened.

That is the challenge on this forty-first anniversary of the United Nations Charter.

The PRESIDENT: Before the Assembly proceeds to take a decision on draft resolution A/41/L.9/Rev.1 I would inform the General Assembly that the delegation of Poland wishes to be added as a co-sponsor of the draft resolution.

The General Assembly will now begin the voting process on draft resolutions A/41/L.9/Rev.1 and A/41/L.10.

I call on the representative of Costa Rica who wishes to raise a point of order.

Mrs. CASTRO de BARISH (Costa Rica) (interpretation from Spanish): My delegation had asked that draft resolution A/41/L.9/Rev.1 be adopted without a vote. We cannot vote on peace. We must adopt the draft resolution without a vote; preferably by consensus, but without a vote. I hope that is how it will happen and I beg delegations to accede to this request on the part of Costa Rica and all the 45 co-sponsors.

The PRESIDENT: I fully share the view of the representative of Costa Rica. It was my intention that we should do exactly that.

The Assembly will first take a decision on draft resolution A/41/L.9/Rev.1.

If I hear no objection I shall take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt the draft resolution.

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 41/9).

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/41/L.10. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Liberia, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Samoa, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Zaire.

Draft resolution A/41/L.10 was adopted by 104 votes to none, with

33 abstentions (resolution 41/10).*

*Subsequently, the delegations of Romania and Senegal advised the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour; the delegation of Papua New Guinea had intended to abstain.

The PRESIDENT: I shall now call on representatives who wish to explain their position on the draft resolutions that have just been adopted.

Mr. GODSON (United Kingdom): On behalf of the 12 States members of the European Community, I wish to address some remarks to the draft resolution contained in document A/41/L.9/Rev.1, on which the General Assembly has just taken action.

Our delegations welcome the sentiments behind the initiative taken by Costa Rica to establish 1986 as the International Year of Peace. We believe that it has helped to focus international attention on a primary goal of the United Nations - that is to say, to strengthen the maintenance of international peace and security. The delegations on whose behalf I am speaking have therefore been pleased to join the consensus on previous resolutions relating to this subject, in particular resolution 40/3, which formally proclaimed 1986 as the International Year of Peace.

As 1986 draws to a close, the need for the international community to continue the search for practical measures that will contribute to a strengthening of international peace and security remains, of course. That is the spirit in which the 12 members of the European Community approached the draft resolution in document A/41/L.9/Rev.1.

Our support for the draft resolution was based on the understanding that it does not detract from the guidelines endorsed by consensus by the General Assembly in 1980 regarding International Years in general. These include the agreement in those guidelines that special secretariats established for the celebration of International Years should be dissolved immediately upon the conclusion of those Years, and that any evaluation after the Year has ended should be carried out within the budgetary resources provided for the Year.

By definition, International Years come to an end when the particular calendar year ends. In supporting the draft resolution in document A/41/L.9/Rev.1, the

(Mr. Godson, United Kingdom)

Twelve wish to make it clear that we accept operative paragraph 7 in order to satisfy those delegations that feel that it is necessary to enable them to consider the Secretary-General's final report on the International Year of Peace.

I should like to reiterate the commitment of the 12 members of the European Community to international peace, and our determination to strive for a more peaceful and secure world.

The 12 States members of the European Community abstained on the draft resolution contained in document A/41/L.10.

When the Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace was introduced at the thirty-eighth session of the General Assembly, the representative of Ireland, whose country then held the presidency of the European Community, explained the misgivings of the Community's member States. In particular, he drew attention to the fact that the Declaration is not compatible with the United Nations Charter, and also questioned the value of such declaratory measures in terms of making a real and substantive contribution to the cause of peace. We continue to have these doubts, which are evidently widely shared by those others who abstained on the draft resolution.

It is our firm belief that actions by States that are consistent with their international obligations will do far more to strengthen international peace than any number of empty declarations.

It was for those reasons that the 12 members of the European Community abstained on draft resolution A/41/L.10.

Mr. STIRLING (United States of America): My delegation congratulates the delegation and Ambassador of Costa Rica as well as the impressive number and range of co-sponsors on the adoption of draft resolution A/41/L.9/Rev.1.

(Mr. Stirling, United States)

The concept of the International Year of Peace, as originally proposed by the delegation of Costa Rica, was a noteworthy concept, one which my delegation has supported in the General Assembly and other United Nations forums. We appreciate the efforts carried out by the Ambassador of Costa Rica on behalf of the International Year.

We have always been dismayed, however, when particular delegations have attempted to use the International Year of Peace as part of a campaign to place the blame on Western countries, and on my country in particular, for the growth of nuclear weapons and for breaches of peace, and to imply wrongfully that the United States seeks unilateral military superiority. Several of the statements made during this debate have been indicative of that campaign.

Peace will be obtained through the difficult but necessary process of negotiation and reconciliation on the issues that divide us, not through declarations that are substitutes for positive actions.

We seek in this forum to go forward in a spirit of consensus and co-operation. Particularly today - United Nations Day - we choose to emphasize the important role of the United Nations in maintaining peace and security.

My delegation wishes to make just a few brief comments on the resolution itself.

It is our view that operative paragraphs 6 and 7 should be considered in tandem. The Secretary-General has been requested to prepare a final report on the results of the Year. With the presentation of that report at the forty-second session of the General Assembly, the Assembly should conclude its consideration of the agenda item "International Year of Peace".

(Mr. Stirling, United States)

In that final report the Secretary-General has been asked to describe the uses to which the remaining balance of the International Year of Peace Trust Fund has been put in the promotion of peace. We look forward to examining the report in that regard.

Finally, we also recall General Assembly resolution 38/56 on the International Year of Peace, which took into account the guidelines for international years and anniversaries adopted by the General Assembly in its decision 35/424 of 5 December 1980. One of those guidelines indicates that, as a rule, special secretariats established for the celebration of international years should be dissolved immediately upon the conclusion of those years. We trust the Secretary-General's report will evaluate not only the results of the Year but the manner in which the guidelines for international years have been applied, including the above-mentioned guideline.

With respect to draft resolution A/41/L.10, we share the views outlined by the delegation of the United Kingdom, on behalf of the European community, and for those reasons also abstained in that vote.

Mr. MUTO (Japan): The Government of Japan has taken a number of steps in observance of the thirtieth anniversary of Japan's membership in the United Nations, as well as the International Year of Peace. These include the establishment within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of a liaison office for activities regarding Japan's anniversary and the International Year of Peace, and the decision to issue commemorative postage stamps.

The Japanese people have been informed of the Year, for example, through notices in Japan's national newspapers. Moreover, the Government has supported various events organized by private organizations, and in these and other ways Japan has actively participated in the Year.

(Mr. Muto, Japan)

In this spirit, my delegation joined the consensus on draft resolution A/41/L.9/Rev.1. In doing so, my delegation wishes to make one remark concerning operative paragraph 7 of this draft resolution. Since the International Year of Peace will officially end in December 1986, the inclusion of this item on the provisional agenda for the forty-second session of the General Assembly is solely intended to allow discussion of the final report of the Secretary-General. This is the understanding of my delegation and we wish to place it on record.

Mr. POULSEN (Denmark): Speaking on behalf of the five Nordic countries, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark, I should like to make some comments on the draft resolution contained in document A/41/L.9/Rev.1 which the General Assembly has just adopted. The International Year of Peace has been widely observed in all the Nordic countries and we were pleased to join the consensus on the draft resolution contained in document A/41/L.9. We did so on the understanding that it will be implemented, in full compliance with the guidelines for future international years, adopted by consensus by the Economic and Social Council in 1980 and confirmed by the General Assembly in the same year.

We also understand that the purpose of including the item entitled, "International Year of Peace" in the provisional agenda of the forty-second session of the General Assembly is to consider the final report of the Secretary-General.

Mr. AL-SAAD (Oman) (interpretation from Arabic): My delegation fully supports the establishment of true peace in all parts of the world, without exception, and in particular in the regions which are afflicted with wars and with unjustified violations and breaches of the peace, as in the case of the Iran-Iraq war, the Israeli occupation of Palestine and the occupied Arab territories, and the

(Mr. Al-Saadi, Oman)

situations in Afghanistan, Cambodia, South Africa and Namibia. We also hope to have regional peace in Central America, based on the Contadora principles. It is on this understanding of the contents of draft resolution A/41/L.9/Rev.1, that we supported it.

Mr. OKELY (Australia): As with similar draft resolutions in past years, Australia this year has been forced to abstain on the draft resolution on the right of peoples to peace contained in document A/41/L.10. We have done so for two main reasons: first, the draft resolution makes reference to resolution 39/11, on the terms of which my delegation has considerable misgivings; secondly, the draft resolution requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the resolution to the General Assembly at its forty-third session, and provides for an item entitled, "Right of peoples to peace" to be included in the provisional agenda of the forty-third session of the General Assembly. We see no need for either of these paragraphs, particularly in view of their budgetary implications.

Mr. SARRE (Senegal) (interpretation from French): Concerning draft resolution A/41/L.10, it should be clearly understood that Senegal considers that the right of peoples to peace as we understand it, should not take precedence over human rights.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 21.

The meeting rose at 1.25 p.m.