



VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 42nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. SACHMANN (German Democratic Republic)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.55 p.m.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The CHAIRMAN: First of all, I should like to inform members about our programme of work for this afternoon and for tomorrow. The result of my informal consultations is as follows. This afternoon we shall take up draft resolutions in cluster 12: A/C.1/41/L.22, under agenda item 60 (a); and A/C.1/41/47, under agenda item 62. Hence this will be a short meeting, and I hope that the time made available to delegations will be used effectively for informal consultations.

After having received a number of requests for postponement on action on draft resolutions, we have agreed with the main sponsors that tomorrow, 13 November, we shall take up the following draft resolutions in various clusters. Tomorrow morning, we shall first take up cluster 10 in its entirety. We shall then go on to draft resolutions in cluster 6: A/C.1/41/L.29, under agenda item 60 (c); L.66/Rev.1; and L.26.

In cluster 12, we shall consider and take action upon the following draft resolutions: A/C.1/41/L.46/Rev.1, L.51, L.69, and the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/41/29 under agenda item 63, Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace.

Next, we shall take action on the draft decision proposed by the Chairman, as contained in document A/C.1/41/L.78, under agenda item 65, International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development. It is hoped that we shall be in a position to consider the draft resolutions in cluster 9 contained in documents A/C.1/41/L.3 and L.52, both submitted under agenda item 26 (i).

(The Chairman)

Those are my intentions, and I should like at this stage to express my appreciation to the main sponsors of all the draft resolutions for their co-operation and understanding. We are doing our utmost to continue in an effective manner.

In this connection, I should like first of all to point out that I have on a number of occasions underlined the need for maintaining an appropriate degree of flexibility in implementing the programme of work in terms of the sequence of clusters concerned. What I meant by that was that whenever ongoing consultations might lead to possible mergers, or because of amendments or revisions or related matters, a dispensation could be granted on the grounds that this would indeed facilitate advancing the work of the Committee. However, it is my sincere hope that progress in our work will not be obstructed because of considerations such as a need to seek further instructions on the part of individual delegations, although I must immediately testify that this is done entirely in good faith.

Nevertheless, I must appeal to members that, starting tomorrow, we must do our utmost to proceed as systematically as we can on the basis of the clusters contained in the informal paper.

If there is no objection to my proposed programme, we shall continue to take action on draft resolutions in cluster 12.

Mr. EDIS (United Kingdom): Mr. Chairman, excuse me for interrupting you. We have listened carefully to what you have said. We are very happy to extend all the co-operation we can to your difficult job here, but I do just want to make one point, if I may.

There is one draft resolution on which, as you announced this morning, we might be voting this afternoon, and that is draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.3. I note that you have postponed this vote until tomorrow, according to what you have just

(Mr. Edis, United Kingdom)

announced. We ourselves are not aware of the need for any instructions or any particular consultations on this draft resolution, but in view of your appeal and what I said at the beginning, we shall not of course make any counter-proposal to what you have suggested. But I should just like to make the point that we hope that this draft resolution will definitely be brought to a vote tomorrow.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of the United Kingdom for his co-operation and, as I have already informed the Committee, draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.3 and the other remaining draft resolutions listed under cluster 9 are on the agenda for tomorrow morning.

AGENDA ITEMS 46 TO 65 AND 144 (continued)

CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION UPON DRAFT RESOLUTIONS ON DISARMAMENT ITEMS

Mr. MacSHIONNBHAIRR (Ireland): Mr. Chairman, before we begin to discuss the agenda items you have proposed, I wish, with your permission, to make a general statement on items 47, 48, 55 and 60 of the Committee's agenda.

The items under consideration, 47, 48, 55 and 60, concern the conclusion and negotiation of the cessation of all nuclear test explosions by all States for all time.

Over the years this Committee has in many resolutions set out this particular item as one of the highest priorities in all negotiations relating to nuclear disarmament. In the recent past there has been a further heightening of the interest in concluding such a treaty as the most effective means of progress in the field of nuclear disarmament, and there has also been a greater coalescing of views among member States represented in this Committee as to the urgency and the eventual nature of such a treaty when elaborated.

It is the purpose of this Committee to provide, as a deliberative body, the stimulus to those negotiations - bilateral, trilateral or multilateral - and it is

(Mr. MacShionnbhairr, Ireland)

this single item that has been at the forefront of our agenda for so long. Hence we have a number of draft resolutions that deal directly with the subject. Under cluster 10, we have draft resolutions A/C.1/41/L.8, L.35, L.61, L.67 and L.72, and other draft resolutions that are before the Committee, the report of the Conference on Disarmament contained, in document A/C.1/41/L.51, and implementation of the decisions of the tenth special session, in document A/C.1/41/L.53.

All of those draft resolutions have a common denominator in calling for the urgent cessation of nuclear testing and for the elaboration of a multilateral treaty for that purpose. All of them but one contain in their operative parts calls for the elaboration of a treaty prohibiting all nuclear-test explosions by all States for all time as a matter of the highest priority. That consensus - or near consensus - on what should negotiate in elaborating such a treaty is one which has over the past few years gelled to a considerable degree. Through the resolutions of this Committee, we are therefore increasingly committing ourselves to a halt to all test explosions by all States.

In draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.35, introduced by the representative of Mexico, the Committee is asked to reaffirm:

"its conviction that a treaty to achieve the prohibition of all nuclear-test explosions by all States for all time is a matter of the highest priority".

In draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.72, introduced by New Zealand, its operative paragraph 1:

"Reaffirms its conviction that a treaty to achieve the prohibition of all nuclear-test explosions by all States in all environments for all time is a matter of fundamental importance".

(Mr. MacShionnbhairr, Ireland)

The same can be said of other draft resolutions on this question, A/C.1/41/L.61, A/C.1/41/L.67 and indeed, in others such as A/C.1/41/L.51, the report of the Committee on Disarmament, introduced by Yugoslavia, which:

"Urges the Conference on Disarmament to undertake, without further delay, negotiations with a view to elaborating a draft treaty on a nuclear-test ban".

(Mr. MacPhionnbhairr, Ireland)

That could also be said of L.53, again introduced by Yugoslavia, which calls upon the Conference on Disarmament to elaborate draft treaties on a nuclear-test ban.

We have some difficulty, however, with one of the draft resolutions on this subject which we feel does not help to gell the consensus - or quasi-consensus - because, as we know, the vast majority of States represented in the Committee favour the priority elaboration of a test ban.

The draft resolution my delegation feels somewhat detracts from the growing consensus on this question is contained in document L.8, and was introduced by the representative of Hungary. In particular we find that its call for a multilateral treaty on the prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests to the exclusion of a generalized formulation such as is contained in all other draft resolutions before the Committee on the subject detracts from attempts to arrive at a common description of the treaty we should be striving to achieve in the various forums in which it is discussed.

In paragraph 12 of the Final Document of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, in 1985, the Conference deeply regretted that, except for certain States, a comprehensive multilateral nuclear-test-ban treaty banning all nuclear tests by all States in all environments for all time had not been concluded and called for negotiations on such a treaty.

More recently the six countries associated under the five-continent peace and disarmament initiative - Argentina, Greece, Mexico, India, the United Republic of Tanzania and Sweden - in their Mexico statement of 7 August affirmed that no issue was more urgent and crucial today than bringing an end to all nuclear tests.

In these circumstances, where there is a growing consensus within the Committee and within the international community, when it sits, as we do here, in a Committee of the Whole, to describe the treaty which we should be describing

(Mr. MacFhionnbhairr, Ireland)

as the banning of all nuclear-test explosions for all time, we feel that it would be extremely useful for the sponsors of L.8, this group of parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, who have introduced this draft resolution, to consider amending that draft resolution so as to reflect the growing consensus as to the nature of such a treaty.

There is no attempt here to prejudice the negotiations to produce a multilateral treaty, but at the outset it is important to my delegation that we should state nothing but also state adequately the kind of language this Committee in its large majority can adopt. In that sense the language contained in paragraph 1, which calls for the banning of all test explosions of nuclear weapons, is in the view of my delegation restrictive. We would therefore suggest that a slight amendment might be introduced to one preambular and one operative paragraph. If you, Mr. Chairman, do not wish me to introduce an amendment at this stage I should of course be prepared to submit it in writing. But perhaps it would be useful for me to do it orally, in keeping with the dialogue that is characteristic of this Committee, rather than with the formalism that might otherwise be involved in a written submission.

I would therefore propose to the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.8 an amendment to the third preambular paragraph, line 2, that the words "nuclear-weapon tests" be replaced by the words "nuclear-test explosions". In operative paragraph 1, line 4, my delegation would propose that the words "test explosions of nuclear weapons" be replaced by the words "nuclear-test explosions" and that the words "and would contain provisions, acceptable to all, preventing the circumventing of this ban by means of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes", be deleted, since those words would then of course become redundant as we would have presented the possible scope of this treaty in a more open manner for subsequent negotiation and would no longer prejudice those negotiations.

(Mr. MacPhionnbhairr, Ireland)

In conclusion, it is true that the various groups and countries represented here do have nuanced views on the question of what the eventual treaty that should emerge might look like on the question of scope. It is true that at its meeting in Harare the Non-Aligned Group called for the negotiation and conclusion of a comprehensive multilateral nuclear test-ban treaty prohibiting all nuclear-weapon tests by all States in all environments for all time. But it is also true that in this Committee of the Whole we must seek to find language which brings us together for the single most important purpose of this Committee, which is the promotion of the conclusion, through its deliberations, of measures of disarmament, and in particular, as its first priority, as we have always stated, the rapid conclusion of a comprehensive test-ban treaty.

So I would appeal to the sponsors of draft resolution L.8, who quite evidently have the same motivation as my delegation, to attempt to bring the language of their draft resolution into line with that of the six or seven other draft resolutions dealing with this subject that are before the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Ireland, who has spoken on the different clusters of draft resolutions before us, and proposed amendments to draft resolution L.8, listed under cluster 10, which, as we have agreed, we shall consider and take action upon tomorrow morning.

We come now to cluster 12. As agreed, we shall now take action on draft resolutions L.22 and L.47. Before we do so, I shall call on those delegations that wish to make statements on those draft resolutions.

First, I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. KHERADI (Secretary of the Committee): I should like to inform the Committee that the following delegations have become sponsors of the respective draft resolutions: A/C.1/41/L.47, Mozambique; L.72, Vanuatu.

The CHAIRMAN: As it appears that no delegation wishes to make a statement on the draft resolutions in cluster 12, I call now on delegations wishing to explain their votes before the voting.

Mr. EDIS (United Kingdom): I wish to speak on behalf of the member States of the European Community in explanation of vote on the draft resolution in document A/C.1/41/L.22, entitled "General and complete disarmament: Contribution of the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to the cause of arms limitation and disarmament".

The Twelve will not be able to support that draft resolution. Indeed, we question why such a draft resolution is necessary. The draft resolution, like similar resolutions on which it is based, ignores the procedures and priorities which have already been agreed upon for pursuing these questions within the United Nations system. Moreover, the draft resolution cuts across discussions which, on the initiative of a group of African countries, have been taking place and are expected to continue in the Disarmament Commission on the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament. The Twelve share the view, which has been endorsed by all Member States in a wide range of consensus documents, that the Department for Disarmament Affairs is responsible for co-ordinating disarmament activities within the United Nations system, including liaison with the relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations and other institutes and bodies.

The Twelve have on a number of occasions emphasized their belief that United Nations activities in this field should contribute to concrete measures of arms control and disarmament. Specific deliberative and negotiating bodies have been established within the United Nations system for that purpose. Rather than encouraging the specialized agencies to engage in activities that are likely to detract from the important tasks for which they have been specifically mandated and which are frequently of particular benefit to developing countries, the General

(Mr. Edis, United Kingdom)

Assembly should, in our view, concentrate on ways of making maximum use of the existing United Nations disarmament machinery.

For those reasons, the 12 member States of the European Community will, as I said, not support draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.22.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will now take a decision on the draft resolutions in cluster 12.

The first is contained in document A/C.1/41/L.22 and is entitled "General and complete disarmament: Contribution of the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to the cause of arms limitation and disarmament". This draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Czechoslovakia at the 36th meeting of the First Committee, held on 6 November 1986, and is sponsored by Cuba, Czechoslovakia and the German Democratic Republic. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Austria, Brazil, Chile, China, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Liberia, Malawi, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Uruguay

Draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.22 was adopted by 95 votes to 15, with

18 abstentions.

The CHAIRMAN: We turn next to draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.47, entitled "Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session: International co-operation for disarmament". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Czechoslovakia at the 33rd meeting of the First Committee, held on 5 November 1986, and is sponsored by the following delegations: Afghanistan, Angola, Congo, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, the German Democratic Republic, Guyana, Hungary, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Mozambique, Poland, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and Viet Nam. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Austria, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Finland, Greece, Ireland, Malawi, Morocco, Paraguay, Sweden

Draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.47 was adopted by 95 votes to 19, with

11 abstentions.

The CHAIRMAN: I call now on delegations wishing to explain their votes after the voting on the draft resolutions in cluster 12.

Mr. TAYLHARDAT (Venezuela) (interpretation from Spanish): My delegation voted in favour of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/41/L.22. We hope that this draft resolution does not result in other bodies in the United Nations system submitting proposals and resolutions on disarmament items which, besides giving rise to debate and discussion more properly held in the United Nations bodies competent to address disarmament issues, could also contribute to weakening rather than strengthening the efforts of those bodies to find specific effective disarmament measures.

(Mr. Taylhardat, Venezuela)

It is our view that the excessive diffusion of debates on disarmament issues throughout bodies that have no specific disarmament expertise does not truly represent a contribution to the cause of disarmament. The activity of specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, to which the fourth preambular paragraph of L.22, on which we have just voted, refers, and the activities referred to in operative paragraphs 1 and 2 should be conceived in a way that will mean support for and the strengthening of the work of those bodies that do have specific competence in the field of disarmament.

The CHAIRMAN: As we agreed, there is no other business before the Committee for this afternoon. I hope the remaining time will be effectively used for informal consultations.

The meeting rose at 4.35 p.m.