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FORTY-FIRST SESSION

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VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 46TH MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ZACHMANN (German Democratic Republic)

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ORGANIZATION OF WORK

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The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

AGENDA ITEMS 46 TO 65 AND 144 (continued)

CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION UPON DRAFT RESOLUTIONS ON DISARMAMENT ITEMS

The CHAIRMAN: As a result of my informal consultations with a number of delegations, and taking into account that informal consultations are still going on on a number of draft resolutions before us, it is my intention to take action on draft resolutions today as follows: at this morning's meeting, those listed in cluster 13, that is, A/C.1/41/L.4, L.24/Rev.1, L.41 and L.42, and the one listed in cluster 8, that is, A/C.1/41/L.20, with the amendments contained in document A/C.1/41/L.75; and at this afternoon's meeting, those listed in cluster 12, that is, A/C.1/41/L.54 and L.71/Rev.1, with the amendments contained in document A/C.1/41/L.84, and those in cluster 6, that is, A/C.1/41/L.27, L.44 and L.50. After the consideration of those draft resolutions, we shall have concluded our work on all draft resolutions under agenda items dealing with disarmament questions.

If I hear no objection, we will proceed accordingly. I shall therefore call on those representatives wishing to make statements on draft resolutions in cluster 13.

Mr. DHANAPALA (Sri Lanka): On 3 November the delegation of Sri Lanka, on behalf of the sponsors, introduced draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.24, stating our hope that we could arrive at a consensus draft resolution on the prevention of an arms race in outer space for the first time ever. That hope has not been fulfilled. Over several days we have been ready to negotiate seriously and sincerely and reach a compromise on the basis of a consensus draft resolution. The need for such a draft resolution has never been greater, and the fact that we have failed is cause for deep regret to my delegation. A consensus for cosmetic purposes was, of

(Mr. Dhanapala, Sri Lanka)

course, possible; but that was never our objective. We must now hope that we can achieve the same result we achieved over recent years: the adoption by this forum by recorded vote of one draft resolution on the subject so that there is one unambiguous message conveyed by this assembly of Member States on a subject that is so vital to our collective security.

With this objective in mind, the sponsors of L.24 have worked hard to achieve a positive result acceptable to all groups and preserving the basic principles of that draft resolution.

Draft resolution L.24/Rev.1, which I am introducing this morning, is based substantially on resolution 40/87, adopted last year with no negative votes cast against it. The eighth preambular paragraph recalls the relevant paragraphs of the Harare Declaration of the Eighth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-aligned Countries. The existing treaties relating to outer space are reaffirmed as a timely expression of their vital importance, when they could be in jeopardy because of ongoing developments or unilateral actions. The draft resolution also recalls the obligation of all States to refrain from the threat or use of force in their space activities.

It is a logical corollary that there can be no introduction of weapons, including anti-satellite weapons, in space with a consequential arms race in outer space. While the importance of bilateral negotiations is recognized, the draft resolution asserts the role of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating body with the primary role in negotiating a multilateral agreement or agreements as appropriate to prevent an arms race in outer space.

(Mr. Dhanapala, Sri Lanka)

An ad hoc committee with an adequate mandate for that purpose must be re-established in the Conference on Disarmament at the beginning of its session in 1987.

I should like to express my appreciation in particular to the delegation of Egypt for its assistance in the difficult process of negotiations, as well as to the other sponsors of this draft resolution. I should also like to thank the other groups that have co-operated with us to achieve a result that consolidates the success of previous years. We hope that on this basis we can reach further progress at our next session.

I am also grateful to you, Mr. Chairman, for your readiness at all times to assist in our negotiations and for your deep concern for their success.

(Mr. Dhanapala, Sri Lanka)

In conclusion, I am confident that draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.24/Rev.1 will attract the same wide support resolution 40/87 did at the last session of the General Assembly.

Mr. FAN Guoxiang (China) (interpretation from Chinese): In introducing A/C.1/41/L.4, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, on 5 November, I stated that we agreed with the principal objective and basic content of L.24, proposed by Sri Lanka, Egypt and other countries and, through consultations, we should like to strive, as in the past few years, for the adoption of a draft resolution on the prevention of an arms race in outer space with the widest possible support.

Just now the representative of Sri Lanka has introduced the revised text of L.24, resulting from the consultations among the various sponsors of this revised draft resolution. The Chinese delegation appreciates the positive efforts made by the non-aligned countries to arrive at a single text on this issue and we also appreciate the co-operation and the spirit of compromise expressed by the various parties throughout the consultations.

China's basic position on the prevention of an arms race in outer space has been stated on many occasions in the past. Here I should like to stress the following few points once again.

First, in order to prevent an arms race in outer space, the most important and urgent task at present is to reach agreement through negotiations on the complete prohibition and total destruction of space weapons.

Secondly, the various parties should at the same time strictly observe existing international law and instruments on outer space. This will contribute to the above-mentioned negotiations. It goes without saying that the word "observe"

(Mr. Fan Guoxiang, China)

here means that States should observe the international legal instruments to which they have given their signature and ratified.

Thirdly, in order to create favourable conditions for the negotiation of an international agreement on the prohibition of space weapons, we call upon all countries with a space capability to refrain from the development, testing and deployment of space weapons.

The above-mentioned position of the Chinese delegation has in the main been reflected in draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.24/Rev.1. For that reason, we shall support it; also we wish to become a co-sponsor. The Chinese delegation will not insist on a vote on A/C.1/41/L.4.

Mr. ISSRAELYAN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The Soviet delegation wishes to speak on the draft resolution put forward by the socialist group - Bulgaria, the Byelorussian SSR, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, the Ukrainian SSR and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics - in document A/C.1/41/L.42, entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space". This draft resolution appeals for the adoption of immediate measures to prevent an arms race in outer space, which would constitute a threat to peace. Draft resolution L.42 is the summation of the collective thinking of the socialist countries and represents the quintessence of the approach taken by this group of countries to the problem of preventing an arms race in outer space, which was put forward at the session of the Conference on Disarmament this year and in this Committee during the current session of the General Assembly.

It also reflects a number of points made by the non-aligned countries on this issue. We are gratified to note that the fundamental ideas contained in the draft put forward by the socialist countries have won a very broad and positive response

(Mr. Israelyan, USSR)

from participants and are duly reflected in draft resolution L.24/Rev.1, which was just introduced by the representative of Sri Lanka. The sponsors of draft resolution L.42 support the appeal in L.24/Rev.1 to "all States, especially those with major space capabilities, to refrain in their activities relating to outer space from actions contrary to the observance of the relevant existing treaties or to the objective of preventing an arms race in outer space".

The draft resolution quite clearly proposes that the Conference on Disarmament should hold talks on the conclusion of an agreement or agreements on the prevention of an arms race in outer space. It also contains an appeal to the Soviet Union and to the United States "to pursue intensively their bilateral negotiations in a constructive spirit aimed at reaching early agreement for preventing an arms race in outer space". The sponsors of L.42 agree with that approach to the purposes of the talks. The appeal is particularly timely in the light of what has been and what can be achieved on the basis of the high-level meeting at Reykjavik.

The way forward to a non-nuclear world and to clear skies for mankind is now darkened by the monstrous shadow of the possibility of an arms race in outer space. However, our efforts must be to prevent this cloud from turning into a real threat at the present time.

Motivated by the desire to achieve unanimity and to gain support for the efforts of the non-aligned countries aimed at preventing weapons from reaching outer space, the group of socialist countries, the sponsors of draft resolution L.42, do not insist that that draft resolution be put to the vote, but will support draft resolution L.24/Rev.1. At the same time we would appeal to all delegations to do likewise.

Mr. FRANCESCHI (Italy): I speak on behalf of the sponsors of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/41/L.41.

The draft resolution reflects our approach to the problem of the prevention of an arms race in outer space. We believe that this approach is valid and realistic. Its purposes and goals are the same as those pursued by other delegations in the Committee. At the same time, while reiterating their conviction that the Conference on Disarmament has a very significant role in the consideration of issues relating to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, the sponsors look forward to positive developments in the bilateral negotiations on this subject and wish to avoid interference between the two processes that would result in hindering them.

We are therefore convinced that draft resolution L.41 is a valid contribution to our debates and that its contents represent a sound basis for our future work.

At the same time, the sponsors of L.41 have repeatedly stated their sincere willingness to co-operate with a view to achieving consensus in the Committee on the issue of the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

We express our appreciation of the understanding and the spirit of compromise shown by many delegations to this end. We regret that our common efforts to attain this goal unfortunately did not succeed. However, progress was made. We hope that more will be achieved in the future consideration of this issue.

The delegations on whose behalf I have the honour to speak have noted the changes that have been introduced in draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.24/Rev.1. We appreciate the fact that those changes have allowed us once more to support the draft resolution, and we are also aware that they reflect the wish of many delegations to have a single draft resolution under agenda item 54. Accordingly, in a spirit of co-operation, the sponsors of draft resolution L.41 have decided not to press it to a vote.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. KHERADI (Secretary of the Committee): I wish to announce to the Committee that the following delegations have become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.24/Rev.1: the German Democratic Republic, Czechoslovakia and China.

The CHAIRMAN: I shall now call on those delegations wishing to explain their position or vote before a decision or a vote is taken on draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.24/Rev.1.

Mr. FRANCESCHI (Italy): I am speaking on behalf of the delegations of Belgium, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and my own delegation.

Our delegations will vote in favour of draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.24/Rev.1 because we can support the general thrust of the text, although many aspects of it do not fully reflect our thinking on the issue of the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

However, we shall abstain in the vote on operative paragraph 8 because it does not take account of the importance of the very substantive discussions which are taking place with encouraging prospects in the Conference on Disarmament. Indeed, the wording of the paragraph tends to prejudge the outcome of those discussions and does not for this reason, facilitate, the future work of the Conference.

I should also like to state that the fact that our delegations did not object to the inclusion in the draft resolution of a reference to the relevant parts of the Harare Declaration should in no way be construed as an endorsement of that document.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall now begin the voting on draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.24/Rev.1, entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space". This draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Sri Lanka at the

(The Chairman)

29th meeting of the First Committee, on 3 November 1986, and the revised version in document A/C.1/41/L.24/Rev.1 today. It has the following sponsors: Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cameroon, China, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Ethiopia, the German Democratic Republic, India, Ireland, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Romania, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Venezuela, Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe. A separate, recorded vote has been requested on operative paragraph 8.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, 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, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: United States of America

Abstaining: Belgium, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Operative paragraph 8 of draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.24/Rev.1 was adopted by 116 votes to 1, with 12 abstentions.*

*Subsequently the delegation of Zaire informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall now take a decision on the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/41/L.24/Rev.1, as a whole.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: None

Abstaining: United States of America

Draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.24/Rev.1, as a whole, was adopted by 130 votes to none, with 1 abstention.*

*Subsequently the delegation of Zaire informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.

The CHAIRMAN: I shall now call on those delegations wishing to explain their votes after the voting on draft resolution L.24/Rev.1.

Mr. LEVINE (United States of America): The United States abstained in the vote on draft resolution L.24/Rev.1, as it also did on resolution 40/87 in 1985.

My delegation voted "no" in the separate vote on paragraph 8 because the United States does not believe that there is a basis for multilateral negotiations on outer-space arms control at this time.

My delegation also objects to the reference to the Harare Declaration in the same context as General Assembly resolutions, as in the eighth preambular paragraph. We do not agree that such a document should be accorded a status comparable to that of resolutions. In our view the Harare Declaration is one-sided and biased on vital security and disarmament issues.

My delegation takes particular exception to the numerous critical references made to the United States by name in the Harare Declaration.

The United States notes with satisfaction the work accomplished in 1986 by the Conference on Disarmament and its relevant Ad Hoc Committee on the agenda item on the prevention of an arms race in outer space. We support continuation of the work of the Ad Hoc Committee and the pace of its efforts.

It is our hope that in 1987 the Committee can commence its work under its existing mandate without unnecessary delay.

Ms. LETTS (Australia): The prevention of an arms race in outer space is an objective of priority importance in the field of disarmament. We believe this to be a universal objective. This was demonstrated by the serious efforts made this year to arrive at a single consensus resolution, which would have demonstrated in an unequivocal way the fact that the prevention of an arms race in outer space is an objective shared by all.

(Mr. Letta, Australia)

My delegation would like to express its thanks to those parties who worked very hard to achieve such an outcome, and regrets that once again this year it was not possible to bring about the desired result.

My delegation voted in favour of L.24/Rev.1 because of the importance we attach to the need to prevent an arms race in outer space and our belief that practical measures in this field are a matter of considerable urgency.

Such measures are being negotiated at the bilateral level between the USSR and the United States. We fully support these negotiations and look forward with expectation to the result.

Action in the multilateral forums should be constructive and complementary to progress in the bilateral negotiations.

We believe that there are several measures that can and should be considered in the Conference on Disarmament and that the Conference should be enabled to continue its useful work on the prevention of an arms race in outer space at the beginning of its 1987 session. Draft resolution L.24/Rev.1 will provide a solid basis for the commencement of such work.

While unfortunately it was not possible to arrive at a single consensus resolution this year, we believe that draft resolution L.24/Rev.1 does come very close to expressing a commonly agreed view on the need to prevent an arms race in outer space. We are therefore very grateful to the sponsors of draft resolutions L.4, L.41 and L.42 for withdrawing their draft resolutions to enable this Committee to vote on a consolidated draft that we hope will be the precursor to a single consensus resolution next year.

The CHAIRMAN: Since there are no other speakers in explanation of vote after the vote on L.24/Rev.1, we shall now return to cluster 8, in which the

(The Chairman)

following documents are before us: draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.20 and document L.75, containing amendments to that draft resolution.

I shall now call on those delegations wishing to make statements on the draft resolution and on the amendments.

Mr. RUSSAIN (Maldives): My delegation would like to make the following oral amendments to its proposed amendments (A/C.1/41/L.75) to draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.20.

Amendment number in L.75: on the second line, replace the words "nuclear capability" with the words "peaceful nuclear programmes".

We have held extensive consultations among interested States. As we said when introducing the amendments earlier in this Committee, it is my delegation's conviction that the realization of such a broad objective requires the evolution of a concept that is simple, straightforward and at the same time general in application. We feel sure that this slight change to our proposal will make the language even more clear and precise. We believe that this change will strengthen our intentions and accommodate the interests of a great many delegations.

(Mr. Hussain, Maldives)

As we said before, when introducing our proposal, our intentions were well-meaning, sincere and earnest. We are convinced therefore that our proposed amendments, with the slight modification I have just made, will appeal to the authors and sponsors of the original draft resolution (A/C.1/41/L.20). We thank the large number of delegations that have given us encouragement and support and those that have extended their full co-operation.

Mr. MANSUR (Pakistan): I wish briefly to state that the Pakistan delegation will support the amendments proposed by the delegation of Maldives (A/C.1/41/L.75), of which paragraph 3 has just been orally revised by the Ambassador of Maldives.

Mr. ADAN (Somalia): I should like to take this opportunity to comment on draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.20 and proposed amendments to that draft resolution (A/C.1/41/L.75), on agenda item 50, "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia".

Widely accepted by the international community, the concept of zones of peace and nuclear-weapon-free zones is an important element of the step-by-step approach to general and complete disarmament under effective international control. As affirmed at the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, the establishment of zones of peace can contribute to strengthening the security of the States of the zones and international peace and security as a whole.

In the context of nuclear disarmament - the disarmament goal that has been given the highest priority by the world community - the establishment of zones free from nuclear weapons would obviously provide valuable support for the non-proliferation régime. The impetus for the development of the concept of zones of peace has come not only from the wish of non-nuclear-weapon States to banish

(Mr. Adan, Somalia)

nuclear weapon) and all their frightful consequences from their regions, but also from the wish of many non-aligned States to take steps to prevent their countries and territories from being drawn into cold-war confrontations. The concept draws further validity also from the certainty that if implemented it would enhance friendly relations between States and strengthen regional security through mutually agreed measures of demilitarization.

For those reasons, among others, my delegation supports the initiative outlined in draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.20.

The CHAIRMAN: I call next on delegations wishing to speak in explanation of vote before the voting on draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.20.

Mr. TEJA (India): Once again this Committee has before it a proposal on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia, contained in draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.20. Also before it is a set of amendments (A/C.1/41/L.75) as orally revised. The delegation of India will vote against both draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.20 and the amendments contained in document A/C.1/41/L.75, since neither document takes into account the provisions of the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, which underline that a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia can be established only if and when all the States of the region have successfully and freely arrived at arrangements for the establishment of such a zone and if and when the characteristics of the region being proposed as a nuclear-weapon-free zone can be objectively seen as justifying the establishment of such a zone in South Asia.

We regret that this proposal - which has been repeated now for over a decade - serves to introduce an unnecessarily discordant note in the process of regional co-operation, which countries of South Asia are working hard to promote. It has been stated that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia

(Mr. Teja, India)

could play an important role in preventing nuclear proliferation and in providing a degree of assurance to non-nuclear-weapon States of the region regarding their security.

It is the considered and consistent view of my delegation that, first of all, any such zone must be conceived as part of a nuclear-disarmament programme, since nuclear weapons have reduced the entire world to a single military theatre. In this nuclear age, as findings on nuclear winter have shown, no area or region of the world can be isolated from the consequences of a nuclear conflict. Secondly, the idea of a nuclear-weapon-free zone must emanate voluntarily from all the States of the region in question. Finally, such a zone must involve a well defined and distinct geographical and political unit, rather than an ambiguously defined area without any specific boundaries. So far as South Asia is concerned, none of those criteria have been met.

In addition, there has been a continuing escalation over the last decade of the deployment of external nuclear and non-nuclear armaments and forces in the South Asian region and in the areas immediately contiguous to it, both on land and in the ocean. In such a security environment, it would be quite unrealistic to hope that States of the South Asian region would obtain a credible and reliable security guarantee through the establishment of such a so-called nuclear-weapon-free zone in the area.

It is our earnest hope that all the delegations present here will take note of those considerations concerning draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.20.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall now take a decision on draft resolution

A/C.1/41/L.20, which was listed in cluster 8, entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Pakistan at the 36th meeting of the First Committee, held on 6 November 1986.

We shall first take a decision on the amendments contained in document A/C.1/41/L.75, as orally revised by the representative of Maldives. It has been requested that amendments relating to the preambular part of the draft resolution and those relating to its operative part be voted upon separately. We shall therefore vote first on paragraphs 1 to 4 of document A/C.1/41/L.75, as orally revised, relating to the preambular part of draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.20. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Kampuchea, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lesotho, Liberia, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia

Against: India, Mauritius

Abstaining: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Benin, Bhutan, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Ethiopia, France, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Mongolia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Paraguay, Poland, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia, Zimbabwe

The amendments to draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.20 contained in paragraphs 1, 2, 3, as orally revised, and 4 of document A/C.1/41/L.75 were adopted by 77 votes to 2, with 44 abstentions.*

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will now vote on the amendments to operative paragraphs 2 and 4 of draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.20 contained in paragraphs 5 and 6 of document A/C.1/41/L.75. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Kampuchea, Djibouti,

*Subsequently the delegation of Zaire advised the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.

Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lesotho, Liberia, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: India, Mauritius

Abstaining: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Benin, Bhutan, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Ethiopia, France, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Mongolia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Poland, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia

The amendments to draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.20 contained in paragraphs 5 and 6 of document A/C.1/41/L.75 were adopted by 78 votes to 2, with 44 abstentions.*

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will now vote on draft resolution

A/C.1/41/L.20, "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia," as a whole and as amended. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Kampuchea, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, Gabon, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lesotho, Liberia, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru,

*Subsequently the delegation of Zaire advised the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.

Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Bhutan, India, Mauritius

Abstaining: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Austria, Bahamas, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Ethiopia, France, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Norway, Poland, Suriname, Sweden, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia

Draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.20, as a whole, as amended, was adopted by 90 votes to 3, with 37 abstentions.*

The CHAIRMAN: I now call upon those delegations wishing to make statements in explanation of vote after the voting.

Mr. DHANAPALA (Sri Lanka): The delegation of Sri Lanka would like to explain its vote in favour of draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.20, as amended. The concept of nuclear-weapon-free zones is intrinsically good and desirable, and Sri Lanka is in favour of it. Paragraphs 60 to 63 of the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament dealt with this subject comprehensively and definitively. Paragraph 63 (e) states:

"All States in the region of South Asia have expressed their determination to keep their countries free of nuclear weapons. No action should be taken by them which might deviate from that objective. In this context, the question of establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia

*Subsequently the delegation of Zaire advised the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.

(Mr. Dhanapala, Sri Lanka)

has been dealt with in several resolutions of the General Assembly, which is keeping the subject under consideration." (S-10/2, para. 63 (e))

More recently, in the Declaration adopted by consensus at the Harare summit meeting of countries members of the Non-Aligned Movement, the Heads of State or Government

"affirmed that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned, and taking into account the characteristics of each region, constituted an important disarmament measure. They expressed support for all individual and regional initiatives or proposals which envisage the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in such a manner. The establishment of such zones in different parts of the world should be encouraged, with the ultimate objective of achieving a world entirely free of nuclear weapons." (A/41/697, p. 33)

It is in that context that the Sri Lanka delegation has consistently supported the Treaty of Tlatelolco, and, from 1974, the General Assembly resolution calling for a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia.

At the same time, we are mindful of the need to take into account the special characteristics of each region. There is no one model that is applicable universally. Nuclear-weapon-free zones must enjoy a consensus in the region if they are to succeed. Regional initiatives cannot reach fruition without that congruence of opinion. We hope that stage will be reached in South Asia as early as possible.

Mr. GODSON (United Kingdom): My delegation supported resolution L.20 concerning the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia. The United Kingdom believes that the process of establishing such zones in different parts of the world should be encouraged provided that the particular characteristics of each region are taken into account and that all the States of the region concerned agree to the establishment of the zone in question. Accordingly, it was in that spirit that my delegation supported resolution L.20.

Mr. MOLANDER (Sweden): On several occasions Sweden has expressed its positive attitude with regard to the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones. In Sweden's opinion, one of the most fundamental prerequisites is that general agreement should exist among all the States concerned.

Other important elements are the non-possession of nuclear weapons of zonal States, as well as the absence and the non-deployment of nuclear weapons in such States. Another essential element is the commitment by the nuclear-weapon States not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against targets within the zone.

In line with those principles, Sweden could not support draft resolution L.20 regarding the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia, since it was evident that all States concerned were not prepared to support that draft resolution.

Mr. SALLES (Brazil): My delegation, as with similar draft resolutions in the past, could not support draft resolution L.20 on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia, because it does not command unanimous support in the region.

Mr. WIDOPO (Indonesia): The delegation of Indonesia should like to explain briefly its vote on the draft resolution contained in document L.20 and the amendments contained in document L.75, as subsequently amended orally, on the

(Mr. Widopo, Indonesia)

establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia. My delegation's decision regarding the issue in various regions of the world is already well known. We agree that it is an effective regional approach to preventing proliferation. However, it is generally recognized that the proposal for the establishment of such a zone should be initiated by the States of the region concerned, based on voluntary participation and common agreement leading to arrangements freely arrived at among them.

Based on this position of my Government, and despite our support in principle of the concept of nuclear-weapon-free zones, my delegation abstained in the vote on draft resolution L.20 and its amendments contained in document L.75, as subsequently amended orally, as it did with similar draft resolutions in past years.

Mr. YAMADA (Japan): In cluster 8 my Delegation voted in favour of the resolutions in document L.20, as amended, and in document L.25 A. It has always been the view of my Government that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone, either in South Asia, in Africa or in any other region for that matter, will contribute to the overall objective of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, as well as to the peace and security of the region in question.

However, my delegation wishes to reiterate its view that the establishment of such a zone would require the fulfilment of a number of conditions. For example, it should be agreed upon at the initiative of the countries in the region and by all the countries concerned, including the nuclear-weapon States, as the case may be. It should also strengthen the peace and security not only of the region but also of the world as a whole.

My delegation also considers it highly desirable that all the countries in the region concerned adhere to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

The CHAIRMAN: We have thus concluded taking action this morning on all draft resolutions in clusters 8 and 13.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The CHAIRMAN: This afternoon I intend to take up the remaining draft resolutions starting with those in cluster 12: A/C.1/41/L.71/Rev.1 and the amendments to the draft resolution contained in L.84, and we shall then go on to draft resolution L.54.

The next - and I hope the last - disarmament draft resolutions are those in cluster 6, that is, A/C.1/41/L.27, L.44 and L.50. That is the programme of work for this afternoon's meeting.

The meeting rose at 11.55 a.m.