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Chairman: Mr. ZACHMANN (German Democratic Republic)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.55 a.m.

AGENDA ITEMS 67, 68, 69 and 141 (continued)

CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION UPON DRAFT RESOLUTIONS ON INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ITEMS

The CHAIRMAN: As I stated earlier, this morning the Committee will

proceed to take decisions on draft resolutions under agenda items 67, 68, 69 and 141 related to international security (A/C.1/41/L.89/Rev.1, L.90/Rev.1, L.91 and L.92/Rev.1).

The Committee will take action on the draft resolutions based on the sequence under agenda items 67, 68, 69 and 141. Before we take action on those draft resolutions, I shall call on those delegations wishing to introduce draft resolutions. Then with respect to each draft resolution to be acted upon I shall call on those delegations wishing to make statements other than statements in explanation of vote which they regard as necessary with respect to particular draft resolutions. Subsequently I shall call on those delegations wishing to explain their position or vote before a decision is taken on any particular draft resolution. Then, after the Committee has taken a decision on a draft resolution, delegations will have the opportunity to explain their position or vote after the decision is taken on the draft resolution.

I first call on the Secretary.

Mr. KHEPRADI (Secretary of the Committee): I wish first of all to inform members of the Committee that the Bahamas has become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.91.

Secondly, I draw the attention of members to draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.59/Rev.1. The second line of operative paragraph 5 should begin "to ensure compliance with and implementation of ...".

The CHAIRMAN: I call now on representatives wishing to introduce draft resolutions.

Mr. BORG (Malta): On behalf of the delegations of Algeria, Cyprus, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Romania, Tunisia, Yugoslavia and Malta, I have the honour to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.90/Rev.1, entitled "Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region".

As is evident from the number of statements made in the past few days, many speakers have found it appropriate to express their concern about the tense situation that has prevailed in the Mediterranean region during the past 12 months. The draft resolution before us once again brings into focus the situation prevailing in the Mediterranean region and the commitments that have been made to peace, security and co-operation in that region. In fact, that is the main theme running through the text.

When last year the Assembly adopted by consensus resolution 40/157, no one would have thought that the Mediterranean would pass through turbulent moments, let alone a crisis resulting in an escalation of tension and direct armed confrontation. No one would have thought that the littoral States of the Mediterranean would find themselves involved in a situation where international peace and security were on the verge of being shattered. The events in the region make it all the more imperative that all of us work in unison in order to consolidate the ongoing initiatives and endeavours being carried out by individual

(Mr. Rorq, Malta)

countries or by groups of countries to bring to the shores of the Mediterranean everlasting peace and tranquility for all its peoples.

The political realities in the Mediterranean region are many. Those realities have tended to disturb our process of a regional approach even before it was completely in place. It is, therefore, of primary importance that the promotion of this question of peace, security and co-operation in the region be recognized and reaffirmed once again this year by the Assembly, as in past resolutions.

By the terms of the draft resolution, the Assembly would also express its deep concern at the continuing military operations in the Mediterranean and the grave dangers which these create for peace, security and general equilibrium in the region. At the same time it would take into consideration the necessity to intensify efforts towards the promotion of peace, security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region.

In that regard, the draft resolution reaffirms the importance of the Helsinki Final Act and recalls the important Declarations of non-aligned countries, in particular the Final Declaration adopted at Valletta in 1984, in which commitments were assumed with the objective of contributing to peace and security in the region. To that end, the draft resolution reaffirms the primary role of Mediterranean countries. We believe there is both a need and the possibility for all Mediterranean States to work together to define the future destiny of the region in their own way.

The draft resolution takes note of the agreement reached by the 35 participants in the Stockholm Conference on Confidence and Security Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe, which has been seen as a major breakthrough for the small neutral and non-aligned countries.

(Mr. Borg, Malta)

A new addition to this year's text is that the General Assembly would welcome the efforts realized by the non-aligned Mediterranean countries to strengthen regional co-operation in various fields among themselves and between them and the European countries. We believe that there are a number of existing elements on which we can build our present initiatives. It is relevant to point to the reflection in the draft resolution of the desire of the non-aligned countries to launch a process of consultations with European Mediterranean and other European countries on peace, security and co-operation in the region. We should all work effectively together to make that process a success in the year to come.

With the exception of operative paragraph 2, the Committee will note that no substantial changes have been made to the operative part as contained in last year's resolution 40/157. As regards paragraph 2, the sponsors wanted to highlight the very important paragraph 24 of the Stockholm Document of the Conference on Confidence and Security Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe, which refers specifically to the Mediterranean. The adoption of that paragraph by the 35 States participating in the Conference emphasizes the special focus the Conference gives to the Mediterranean chapter of the Helsinki Final Act and to the commitments undertaken therein.

In the other operative paragraphs the draft resolution reaffirms important principles which have been unanimously accepted, and which provide all Mediterranean States with the possibility of working together to define their future in their own way.

The draft resolution continues to look forward to further communications from all States, in particular the Mediterranean States. It also invites the Secretary-General to give due attention to the question of peace, security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region and, if requested to do so, to render

(Mr. Borg, Malta)

advice and assistance on concerted efforts by Mediterranean countries in the promotion of this question.

The draft resolution invites States members of the relevant regional organizations to lend support and to submit to the Secretary-General concrete ideas and suggestions on their potential contribution to the strengthening of peace and co-operation in the Mediterranean region.

Finally, it requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-second session, on the basis of all replies received and notifications submitted in the implementation of the present provisions and, taking into account the debate on this question during the current session, an updated report on the issue.

Intensive and exhaustive consultations have been held in these last few days on the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/41/L.90. In draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.90/Rev.1, the sponsors have taken into account the views of delegations of other Mediterranean countries as well as those of other delegations, with a view to arriving at consensus on this very important item. The agreement reached is a tribute to all delegations involved in the consultations, which have been carried out in a frank and friendly manner. The sponsors very much appreciate that attitude, which made our task easier and smoother. The result of the exercise is contained in document A/C.1/41/L.90/Rev.1.

In conclusion, the Maltese delegation, on behalf of the other sponsors, recommends that the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/41/L.90/Rev.1 be adopted by consensus.

Mr. STRUGAR (Yugoslavia): I feel honoured to be introducing the draft resolution on "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security" contained in document A/C.1/41/L.91.

(Mr. Strugar, Yugoslavia)

The international political and economic situation shows no signs of improvement. There has been no let-up in confrontation in the bid to attain supremacy and spread one's own influence in the world. The independence and secure development of many countries - non-aligned ones in particular - are in jeopardy, and bloc policies, pressure, aggression and intervention continue to bedevil the age in which we live. Peace, security and disarmament are the issues that concern the destiny of the world, so they can hardly be the monopoly of big Powers.

(Mr. Strugar, Yugoslavia)

Détente can bear fruit only if it is universal, if all countries are involved in it and are responsible for it. There can be no stable peace and security if they depend exclusively on what the big Powers and their bloc organizations decide or agree upon.

Multilateral negotiations, particularly within the United Nations, are the key to solving the global crisis, which has spared no area of contemporary international relations. The United Nations is an irreplaceable forum for the maintenance of international peace and security and true negotiations, based on the principles of the United Nations Charter and on the participation of all countries on a footing of equality.

Guided by this conviction and desiring to promote international security, the group of sponsors of the draft resolution - Algeria, the Bahamas, the Congo, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Madagascar, Mali, Nigeria, Pakistan, Romania, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda and Yugoslavia - have worked out a draft resolution on the review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security. The sponsors have highlighted the principles that should be abided by in order to achieve lasting peace and security. Similarly, they point out the need to enhance the effectiveness of the Security Council and strengthen the role of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General, in accordance with the Charter.

Finally, the sponsors earnestly hope that the draft resolution will receive the broadest support in the Committee.

Mr. OTT (German Democratic Republic): I have the honour to introduce the draft resolution entitled "Need for result-oriented political dialogue to improve the international situation" (A/C.1/41/L.92/Rev.1).

(Mr. Ott, German Democratic Republic)

Since the basic ideas and purpose of the draft resolution have already been explained, both in the statement by the Foreign Minister of my country in the general debate during the current session of the General Assembly and in my delegation's statement in the Committee, I can be brief, confining myself to a few remarks.

First, our initiative starts from the growing awareness and recognition that dialogue and negotiations are indispensable for improving international relations, creating a climate of trust and solving the global issues facing mankind. This is embodied in the first and sixth preambular paragraphs. The third, fourth and fifth preambular paragraphs reflect positions on, and a general assessment of, the international situation, outlined in the Committee's debate on security issues. The second preambular paragraph expresses the general expectation that the resumed dialogue between the Soviet Union and the United States will be continued with a view to achieving agreement on the halting of the nuclear-arms race, on a radical reduction of their nuclear arsenals, on nuclear disarmament and the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

Secondly, we are firmly convinced that political dialogue and negotiations, if conducted with a sense of responsibility in a constructive atmosphere and on a basis of equality, taking into account the legitimate interests of all States, will contribute to improving the international situation and solving fundamental political issues. A call for conducting dialogue and negotiations to that end is contained in operative paragraph 2.

Thirdly, operative paragraph 3 appeals to Member States to enhance the role of the United Nations as a forum for political dialogue and negotiations in order to implement the fundamental purposes of the Organization and settle other urgent

(Mr. Ott, German Democratic Republic)

international issues. This is imperative, particularly in view of the continuously tense international situation and the difficult problems facing the United Nations.

Operative paragraph 4 stresses the necessity for the Security Council to take effective measures to fulfil its special responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. Likewise, we consider it appropriate to encourage the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to facilitate dialogue and co-operation as a means to help scale down tensions and settle international conflicts peacefully.

We believe that this initiative corresponds with the purpose to which practically all States feel committed. We recall that the Warsaw Treaty member States and the Group of Non-Aligned Countries in their fundamental policy documents emphatically stress the need to conduct political dialogue and negotiations on a basis of equality in the interests of improving the international situation. For it cannot be overlooked that my country holds differing positions with regard to the views expressed at the Tokyo Summit. We noted with interest that the participants in that meeting also spoke out in favour of reducing differences through dialogue and negotiations. The German Democratic Republic is firmly convinced that political dialogue is an important means to promote international peace and security and equitable co-operation. The draft resolution presented by my delegation was formulated as a result of consultations with numerous States of various regional groups prior to and during the forty-first session of the General Assembly. All of those to whom we talked will certainly agree with me that we have shown the maximum flexibility and readiness to compromise. The delegation of the German Democratic Republic expresses its gratitude especially to the non-aligned countries, for their good co-operation. We hope that draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.92/Rev.1 will be adopted without a vote.

The CHAIRMAN: Since no other delegation wishes to introduce a draft resolution, I shall now call on those delegations wishing to make statements on the draft resolution in document A/C.1/41/L.90/Rev.1, which was submitted under agenda item 67.

If no delegation wishes to explain its position before a decision is taken on that draft resolution, we shall now take action on the draft resolution, entitled "Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region", which was introduced by the representative of Malta at the 59th meeting of the Committee on 26 November, and has the following sponsors: Algeria, Cyprus, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malta, Morocco, Romania, Tunisia, Yugoslavia. There has been a request that the draft resolution be adopted without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.90/Rev.1 was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: Since no delegation wishes to explain its position on the draft resolution we have just adopted, we shall now take up draft resolutions submitted under item 68 (A/C.1/41/L.91 and L.92/Rev.1).

Mr. TAYLHARDAT (Venezuela) (interpretation from Spanish): On behalf of my delegation I wish to comment briefly on draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.92/Rev.1, concerning the need for result-oriented political dialogue to improve the international situation.

In general terms my delegation has no difficulty or problem with the draft resolution. However, we have some reservations on its last operative paragraph, which proposes the inclusion on the provisional agenda of the next session of the General Assembly an item entitled "Need for result-oriented political dialogue to improve the international situation".

First, we believe that there is no need to include such an item on the agenda of the General Assembly at its next session. We feel that no country has any doubt about the need for political dialogue, especially dialogue between the super-Powers, nor do we think there are any doubts about the need for such a dialogue to be aimed at achieving concrete results. As the last preambular paragraph states, there is a growing awareness that dialogue and negotiations are imperative in order to improve international relations. I think that there has always been an awareness of this imperative need, and that what has been lacking so far is the political will to achieve concrete results.

What result do we expect to attain from an item such as that proposed in operative paragraph 6? The title of the item is vague, and, frankly, we do not understand the purpose of such an item. If what we have in mind is that the Assembly should adopt a resolution expressing its conviction that political dialogue is important, there is no need for a specific item on next year's agenda. We could here and now insert in the revised draft resolution an operative paragraph

(Mr. Taylhardat, Venezuela)

reaffirming as strongly as necessary the concept of the importance of political dialogue to improve international relations, bring about a climate of confidence, contribute to solving world problems and so on. I am sure that such a concept would be unanimously adopted.

We do not intend to oppose the draft resolution. As I said at the beginning of my statement, we do not oppose its adoption; we simply wished, with all respect to the authors of the draft resolution, to express our concern about including on the General Assembly's agenda an item that would undoubtedly lead to an interesting and speculative debate, but whose end result we cannot clearly see.

The CHAIRMAN: I shall now call on those delegations wishing to explain their position or vote before a decision or vote is taken on the draft resolutions submitted under agenda item 68 (A/C.1/41/L.91 and L.92/Rev.1).

Since it appears that no delegation wishes to explain its position or vote, we shall now begin to take action on the draft resolutions, beginning with draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.91, entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Yugoslavia at the 59th meeting of the Committee on 26 November and has the following sponsors: Algeria, the Bahamas, the Congo, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Madagascar, Mali, Nigeria, Pakistan, Romania, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda and Yugoslavia.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, 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, Zimbabwe

Against: United States of America

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.91 was adopted by 96 votes to 1, with 23

abstentions.

The CHAIRMAN: Next we shall take action on draft resolution

A/C.1/41/L.92/Rev.1, entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security" and subtitled "Need for result-oriented political dialogue to improve the international situation". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of the German Democratic Republic at the 59th meeting of the Committee on 26 November and is sponsored by 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, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, Sri Lanka, 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, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: United States of America

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Venezuela

Draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.92/Rev.1 was adopted by 91 votes to 1, with 28 abstentions.

The CHAIRMAN: I shall now call on those delegations wishing to explain their position or vote on the decisions on the two draft resolutions under item 68 (A/C.1/41/L.91 and L.92/Rev.1).

Mr. LOVING (United States of America): The United States has become increasingly concerned at the growing intrusion of rhetoric into the text of the annual draft resolutions on the review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security. Although the United States originally supported the Declaration adopted by the General Assembly in 1970, the continuing

(Mr. Loving, United States)

references in the annual draft resolutions on this topic to extraneous and contentious matters, the repetition of viewpoints which the United States finds objectionable, have caused us to re-examine our position on draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.91.

The United States opposes the following specific elements in the text of the draft resolution. The first is the assertion that the super-Powers are primarily responsible for a deteriorating international security climate. This ignores numerous other sources of conflict that have produced tremendous suffering in recent decades. The second is the assertion that an extension of the nuclear-arms race into outer space has occurred. The third is the linking of disarmament and development. The United States has already made it clear that it sees no inherent connection between these two topics. The fourth is the assertion that the United Nations is an indispensable forum for bilateral negotiations. Since the United Nations is a deliberative body, it cannot be truly argued that it is an appropriate forum for conducting negotiations.

My delegation also finds unacceptable the call for support for national liberation movements, reference to the need to establish a so-called new international economic order and the notion that international relations need to be democratized. The United States commends democracy to all as the best known form of self-government, and would wish to see all Member States fully apply its precepts. However, we recognize and fully respect the principle of sovereign equality in international relations.

In conclusion, my delegation cannot accept the effort in draft resolution L.91 to have the General Assembly direct the Security Council to hold periodic meetings to review specific areas of heightened tension around the world. Under the

(Mr. Loving, United States)

Charter, the Security Council takes the decisions it deems necessary with regard to the frequency and agenda of its own meetings.

For these and other reasons the United States voted against draft resolution L.91.

Mr. FAN Quoxiang (China) (interpretation from Chinese): The Chinese delegation voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.92/Rev.1, because we believe that, faced with the urgent problems of safeguarding peace, strengthening security and striving for disarmament, we do better to have dialogue and negotiation than to be engaged in confrontation. This is particularly so in East-West relations.

However, it should be pointed out that in the efforts to resolve regional disputes and eliminate hotbeds of tension dialogue and negotiation must be based on the principle of safeguarding the independence and sovereignty of States and opposing external aggression and interference. In this regard, operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution speaks in a general way about taking into account the legitimate interests of all States. This formulation is vague, and it is easy for it to be used to distort the rights and wrongs of principles. Therefore, the Chinese delegation must express its reservations about that paragraph, though we agree with the draft resolution as a whole.

The CHAIRMAN: Before we take up the next item on our agenda, there is a need for further consultation. I therefore suspend the meeting.

The meeting was suspended at 11.40 a.m. and resumed at 12.05 p.m.

The CHAIRMAN: During the consultations I have been asked by many

delegations about our programme of work for today. I have a feeling that many delegations would like us to conclude our work as soon as possible. Other delegations would like time for more reflection on the draft resolution before us. But, bearing in mind that we are at the very last stage of our consideration, and in view of the late hour, I suggest that we now take up draft resolution

A/C.1/41/L.89/Rev.1 and take action on it.

I shall now call on those delegations wishing to make statements on that draft resolution.

Mr. FISCHER (Uruguay) (interpretation from Spanish): I wish first of all to say that the initiative contained in draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.89/Rev.1 raised doubts in our mind; we have already explained these to the sponsors of the draft resolution. We pointed out ambiguities regarding the scope of their concept and its place in the collective security framework, and regarding, in particular, the statement on the need for the establishment of a comprehensive system of international peace and security.

Despite the reservations we still have regarding some paragraphs of the draft resolution, my delegation will vote in favour of the revised text, with the following understandings: We view favourably the joint proposal to give a new impetus to international security within the framework of the Charter and through active participation by all members of the international community. This initiative has the merit of referring to the effectiveness of the Organization in the field of collective security and to the problem of how to strengthen the effective implementation of the principles of the Charter. Thus, we shall vote in favour with the understanding that we must first and foremost solemnly reaffirm, as the text before us does,

"... that the collective security system embodied in the Charter of the United Nations continues to be a fundamental and irreplaceable instrument for the preservation of international peace and security". (A/C.1/41/L.89/Rev.1, para. 1)

and to reaffirm

"... the need to adhere strictly to the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations". (para. 2)

(Mr. Fischer, Uruguay)

Violation of those principles has marked the past 40 years of world rivalry and bloc confrontation. We need only remember that the present world balance is based on respect for the Charter, which proscribes the threat or use of force in international relations. What is nuclear deterrence if not the threat of mutual destruction? We need only recall the indissoluble relationship between disarmament and collective security.

In our view, those principles constitute a historic achievement by the international community and are irreplaceable in their present form and formulation.

We consider too that the activities of the Organization, which express the will of the international community, while subject to growing constraints, have nevertheless developed and been strengthened through the resolutions adopted by United Nations bodies and by the conclusions reached in specialized studies. New criteria, tasks and concepts have developed the idea of international security and have confirmed its relationship with economic and social development and with full exercise of the human rights it would guarantee. We believe that the task of the day is to create a systematic, organic framework on the basis of ideas and criteria already defined in the recent activities of the United Nations.

What has taken place to date in the field of international security concerning the viability of any concrete action has underscored the primary joint responsibility of Powers with the greatest ability to define the international system, especially the responsibility of the five permanent members of the Security Council, both de facto and de jure.

Moreover, we consider that the problem of the functioning of a system of collective security should already be under negotiation between the two super-Powers in the context of their talks on disarmament, which cannot be divorced from collective security. Yet this should not prejudice action by multilateral bodies, which should also be discussing strengthening international security.

(Mr. Fischer, Uruguay)

Such a realistic appraisal of this item should not be an excuse for postponing the necessary participation - growing, active and democratic - by all States in decisions affecting the common good of the international community: decisions concerning the maintenance of and respect for international security.

The unavoidable international realities impeding the functioning of a system of international security will not be changed through mere shifts in approach or outlook. We consider that the Organization's discussion and analysis of this initiative can and should mobilize Member States for concrete action, especially with a view to shouldering joint responsibilities for guaranteeing and revitalizing the functioning of a system of international security. The use of other forums, the scene of antagonistic debates without practical results, would invalidate the principle at the core of this draft resolution.

In keeping with what I have said, we shall continue to work for this initiative and to renew our support, assuming that the initiative does not become a prisoner of its title or foster preconceived ideas. It must not lead to ideas of an alternative institutional structure distinct from the system established by the United Nations Charter.

Mr. BIRCH (United Kingdom): Before draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.89/Rev.1 is put to the vote, I should like to explain why my delegation cannot support it. First of all, I should like to express our appreciation to the sponsors of the draft resolution for their evident willingness to take account of a number of comments made by delegations, during the debate and informally, on the original text. This is reflected in the changes that appear on the revised text.

Nevertheless, the amendments were introduced late last night. The subject of international peace and security is important, and delegations must be clear exactly what they are being asked to support.

(Mr. Birch, United Kingdom)

We therefore regret that the Committee was not given more time to consider the revised draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/41/L.89/Rev.1, and its full implications.

The attitude of my delegation towards this draft resolution is based upon our firm view that full compliance by all States with the provisions of the United Nations Charter is an essential prerequisite for the preservation of international peace and security. Without such a commitment backed up by appropriate action, the accepted standards of international behaviour are undermined. This, we believe, is the premise upon which the draft resolution should have been based. Draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.89/Rev.1 takes greater account of this point than did its predecessor, but it could, in our view, be even more clearly spelled out.

We regret that some of the preambular paragraphs still include unbalanced language. We should also like to point out that not all the resolutions referred to in operative paragraph 6 have been supported by the United Kingdom delegation.

On a more fundamental point, many delegations expressed the view during our debate that there is no need to establish a new system of international peace and security. The United Nations Charter provides a perfectly adequate and comprehensive framework. That is certainly the position of our delegation. In revising their draft resolution, the sponsors have taken some account of that point, but as it is currently formulated operative paragraph 7 of the revised draft resolution is still ambiguous. It is not clear from the text whether the Committee thinks that a new system is or is not necessary. The door is, as it were, left ajar.

My last point is that if in putting forward this initiative the purpose of the sponsors was to exchange views on how the role of the United Nations can be strengthened in maintaining international peace and security - and parts of the

(Mr. Birch, United Kingdom)

draft resolution suggest that it was - they could, of course, have put forward their ideas in the Charter Committee, which has been mandated specifically to examine that subject.

Those are the main comments my delegation wished to make about the draft resolution. We are firmly of the view that a draft resolution on the important subject of international peace and security should have commanded the full support of all members of the Committee. Had further revisions been accepted by the sponsors, particularly with regard to operative paragraph 7, we are confident that such an outcome could have been possible. We therefore regret that the text of draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.89/Rev.1 is not acceptable to my delegation.

Mr. AKRAM (Pakistan): The Pakistan delegation had a number of questions and doubts concerning draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.89. Some of those doubts were expressed in our statement on agenda item 141. To put it briefly, we felt that the objectives of draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.89 were unclear, that, as formulated, the draft resolution might have sought a diversion of international endeavours away from the main provisions of the Charter, and that the text conceived of the establishment of some new system of security other than the one envisaged in the Charter.

Taking those views into account, my delegation had informally suggested to the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.89 a number of amendments. We appreciate that the sponsors have taken several of those amendments into account, especially by identifying in a clearer manner the causes of the present grave international situation, by affirming the collective security system of the Charter and by reiterating the fundamental principles of the Charter as well as the invaluable role of the United Nations in the preservation and promotion of international peace and security.

(Mr. Akram, Pakistan)

We in the Pakistan delegation interpret the desire expressed in draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.89/Rev.1 to continue consideration of this question in the future within the ambit of the provisions that have now been inserted in the revised text, rather than within that of the initial premises and proposals presented to the Committee. In other words, the design in the future discussion of this matter is clearly to strengthen international peace and security through the observance and implementation of the United Nations Charter, through the implementation of United Nations resolutions and decision, and through the full utilization of the system of collective security provided for in the Charter.

In our view, therefore, the draft resolution as revised does not envisage a new system of international peace and security.

In view of those remarks, and although my delegation still has certain doubts and reservations regarding the language and concepts of some of the preambular paragraphs and, in particular, regarding operative paragraph 7 of the draft resolution as revised, and taking into account the responsiveness of the sponsors to several of our suggestions, the Pakistan delegation will vote in favour of the draft resolution.

Mr. SCHMIDT (Federal Republic of Germany): In its statement on Monday, 24 November, my delegation made some general observations on problems of international security. We pointed out that the Charter should unalterably remain the uncontested basis of any action aimed at strengthening international security. What is called for are concrete decisions for the implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Charter and their translation into practical policies of States.

My Government is of the view that the United Nations Charter should not be duplicated by establishing a new system of international peace and security. Elaborating new instruments that merely repeat general principles and objectives for the behaviour of States and that only reaffirm in a declaratory manner already existing norms will be of little avail.

My Government notes with satisfaction that draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.89/Rev.1 no longer calls explicitly for the establishment of a new system of international peace and security. However, the text still contains some elements to which we cannot fully subscribe. We regret that a text could not be worked out on which a consensus would have been possible. My delegation will therefore abstain in the vote on draft resolution L.89, as revised.

Mr. LOVING (United States of America): As my delegation indicated yesterday, the United States has given the proposal contained in draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.89/Rev.1 careful consideration. We continue to object, both to the draft resolution itself and to the underlying premises upon which it is based. The United States believes that the Charter of the United Nations already provides the world community with a vital and an irreplaceable system of international peace and security, a system which has served the world well for the past four decades.

(Mr. Loving, United States)

It is simply not necessary for us all to elaborate a new document or establish another system which would duplicate, if it did not impede, the functioning of the Charter and the organs already established under it. Of course, these organs, which are all functioning vigorously today, might perform better still if Member States complied fully with their obligations under the Charter. But the provisions of the Charter remain the best basis for maintaining international peace and security.

While the United States holds firmly to the views just expressed, my delegation has participated in recent exchanges of views with the sponsors of draft resolution L.89/Rev.1. My delegation expressed regret that the proposal before us this morning remains vague and potentially dangerous to the smooth functioning of the Charter. The sponsors have provided inadequate explanations of what they hope to achieve through L.89/Rev.1. They have spoken of their wish for dialogue, but they have been unable - or perhaps unwilling - to provide the Committee with a clear account of what they hope to achieve through their proposal.

If the sponsors of draft resolution L.89/Rev.1 believe that there is something wrong with the functioning of the Charter, why have they not told us in simple and direct terms precisely what is wrong and how they propose to remedy it? Indeed, why is a proposal addressing the functioning of the Charter before the First Committee and not before the Sixth Committee and its appropriate Working Group on Charter Review?

The United States delegation notes that draft resolution L.89/Rev.1 incorporates a number of amendments. My delegation acknowledges the efforts made by many other delegations which have submitted amendments seeking to clarify issues that were unclear in L.89 as originally submitted. Nevertheless, we remain unable to accept much of the language in the current first, second and third preambular paragraphs.

(Mr. Loving, United States)

The United States also does not agree with the assertion in the sixth preambular paragraph that the United Nations is an indispensable forum for bilateral negotiations. Since the United Nations is a deliberative body, it naturally follows that it is not necessarily an appropriate forum for conducting negotiations.

The United States delegation cannot accept the provisions of operative paragraph 5, which suggest that implementation of the collective-security provisions of the Charter should depend upon unspecified actions on a wide range of other issues. The United States also does not agree with the provisions of all the resolutions cited in operative paragraph 6.

Finally, the United States continues to believe that, to study the establishment of some new, amorphous and allegedly comprehensive system of international peace and security is an unnecessary and fruitless task. Therefore, the United States evidently cannot accept the suggestion in operative paragraph 7 that discussion of this vague proposal should be renewed at the next session of the General Assembly. Debate on this draft resolution in the Committee has made clear that many delegations agree with this position.

The United States cannot be a party to the adoption of draft resolution L.89/Rev.1, the implementation of which would inevitably undermine the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter. Therefore, the United States delegation will vote against this ill-conceived initiative.

Mr. MAJBOOR (Netherlands): Before draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.89/Rev.1 is put to the vote, I wish to explain briefly the main reasons prompting the Netherlands delegation to abstain in the voting.

Before doing so, let me say that my delegation appreciates that the sponsors of this draft resolution were willing to take into account a number of comments, if

(Mr. Ma joor, Netherlands)

not reservations, as brought forward by a considerable number of delegations. The Netherlands is firmly of the view that the Charter of the United Nations is the essential, fundamental and irreplaceable basis for the preservation of international peace and security. Compliance by all States with the United Nations Charter would obviate the need for the discussion of the establishment of a new comprehensive system of international peace and security. In my delegation's view, this fundamental consideration is insufficiently reflected in draft resolution L.89/Rev.1 before us.

It is in that line of thought that we have particular reservations with regard to the eighth preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 1 and 7 of the draft resolution. Apart from the sometimes unnecessarily alarmist language of the some of the preambular paragraphs of the draft resolution, we have reservations as well with regard to operative paragraph 6, to which, given its vagueness, we cannot subscribe.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will now take a decision on draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.89/Rev.1, "Establishment of a comprehensive system of international peace and security". The draft resolution, with the typographical correction in operative paragraph 5 referred to by the Secretary of the Committee earlier, was introduced by the representative of Hungary at the 52nd meeting of the First Committee on 20 November 1986. The sponsors of the draft resolution are Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Chad, China, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Sri Lanka, 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: France, United States of America

Abstaining: Australia, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Kampuchea, Denmark, Gabon, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Portugal, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.89/Rev.1 was adopted by 82 votes to 2, with 35 abstentions.

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

Mr. NUÑEZ MOSQUERA (Cuba) (interpretation from Spanish): My delegation voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.89/Rev.1, "Establishment of a comprehensive system of international peace and security," because, in expressing awareness of the urgent need to strengthen universal security on the basis of the Charter of the United Nations and in compliance with the generally recognized norms and principles of international law, we are recognizing the right of all States inter alia to make their sovereign choice of the ways and forms of their development.

Mr. Nufiez Mosquera, Cuba)

When operative paragraph 4 calls upon States to focus their efforts on ensuring security on an equal basis for all States and in all spheres of international relations, it is asking us to focus our efforts on economic security as well. We would simply draw attention to the fact that the enormous external debt our countries are enduring and the maintenance of an unfair international economic order that has been imposed upon us are clearly proof of the lack of economic security in our times.

Lastly, in deciding to continue consideration of this question at the forty-second session, the Assembly is recognizing the need for all States, and for developing countries in particular, to express their views on this important problem of our day.

Mr. KEISALO (Finland): Finland voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.89/Rev.1, "Establishment of a comprehensive system of international peace and security". We felt it appropriate to do so, taking into account the general thrust of the draft resolution. The draft resolution is broadly supportive of strengthening international peace and security through the medium of the United Nations. Finland fully agrees that the world needs a comprehensive system of international peace and security. The United Nations aspires to be precisely such a system, and any support it is given in this difficult task is welcomed by my country.

Finland has consistently supported the United Nations since it became a Member 31 years ago. A few years ago Finland, together with the other Nordic countries, put forward a number of concrete ideas for the strengthening of the United Nations. The five Nordic countries suggested, inter alia, various measures that would give the Secretary-General a stronger hand in seeking to prevent conflicts, in close co-ordination with the Security Council. The importance of strengthening and improving United Nations peace-keeping operations in various ways was also

(Mr. Keisalo, Finland)

stressed. Those concrete ideas for strengthening the United Nations as a system - indeed as the system of international peace and security - are outlined in greater detail in document A/38/271. In our view, those ideas retain their full validity even today.

We regret the fact that the present draft resolution was not able to command a consensus within the Committee. We appreciate the fact that the sponsors of the draft resolution at this point wanted first of all to hear the views and ideas of others. We do, however, feel that it would have been helpful had the sponsors been more concrete about their own ideas of putting into practice what they have suggested.

As stated earlier, my delegation appreciates the general intention of the draft resolution, and we therefore voted in favour of it. However, we do have reservations about some of the concepts and formulations used in the draft resolution. For example, it is not altogether clear to us what is meant in the sixth preambular paragraph by the reference to the democratization of international relations. On the whole, that preambular paragraph seems to define the role of the United Nations rather narrowly.

We welcome the fact that, in operative paragraph 4, the draft resolution, instead of referring to equal security, now speaks of ensuring security on an equal basis, a formulation that conveys the idea, as we see it, of every State's equal right to security regardless of its size, social system or level of development.

Now that the draft resolution has been adopted by the Committee, we hope also that concrete measures will be taken to strengthen the United Nations capacity to maintain international peace and security.

Mr. EWERLOF (Sweden): I have asked to speak in order to explain the vote of the Swedish delegation on draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.89/Rev.1. My delegation has carefully studied the explanatory note in document A/41/191, in which the item

(Mr. Ewerlof, Sweden)

concerning the establishment of a comprehensive system of international peace and security was proposed for inclusion in the agenda of this session of the General Assembly. We have also taken due note of the statements made by the delegations that proposed this new item. My delegation can sympathize with many of the considerations that lie behind this initiative. We share the view that in an increasingly interdependent world States have no alternative but to increase their co-operation and to seek political solutions to their common problems.

With regard to the question of a comprehensive system of international peace and security, my delegation would like to note that the Charter of the United Nations already contains the basic principles for the attainment of such a noble aim.

(Mr. Ewerlof, Sweden)

In Sweden's view, the best way to improve the international situation is for all States to respect these principles. We are not convinced of the need to embark on a discussion on the elaboration of new such principles. It would be difficult to avoid the duplication of the Charter in such an exercise, which could also risk¹⁷ undermining its clear and unambiguous provisions. Our main effort should be to increase compliance with the Charter and to work for concrete progress in the many unresolved questions already on the agenda.

My delegation has abstained in the vote on draft resolution L.89/Rev.1. We recognize that considerable improvements have been made in the text. However, the changes made do not fully meet all our concerns. Our basic problem still remains that we do not see any need for a continued discussion of an item entitled "Comprehensive system of international peace and security."

We also have some reservations with regard to certain elements in the text. For example, we are not certain what a democratization of international relations means. We do not share the view that non-interference is a generally recognized principle. The recognized norm in question is the principle of non-intervention. We are not entirely certain of the implications of operative paragraph 4. Operative paragraph 5 is, in our view, too weak when it comes to describe the obligations of States to comply with the United Nations Charter.

Mr. THANAPUTTI (Thailand): Thailand recognizes that, as the sole, universal multilateral mechanism dedicated to the maintenance of the international peace and security of the world, the United Nations should be strengthened to be able to play a more vigorous and effective role in accordance with the purposes and principles of its Charter. In this respect, the Charter obligations should be respected by all United Nations Members.

My delegation welcomes the initiative concerning a comprehensive system of international peace and security as a constructive endeavour which may contribute

(Mr. Thanaputti, Thailand)

to the fulfilment of the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter. It is our earnest hope that a wide-ranging and productive dialogue on important international issues, particularly those relating to the present item, would continue and eventually yield fruitful results. Such a dialogue can only be achieved if the negative trends in international development are reversed and the drift from the Charter's principles and purposes is halted and corrected.

My delegation also considers that international peace and security is predicated not only on the resolution of political or military issues but also on accomplishments in the non-military fields, namely, in the fields of social and economic development and human rights, as well as the control and elimination of all injustice, the system of apartheid, foreign occupation and alien domination. In this connection my delegation supports the view that the United Nations has an important role as an indispensable forum for conducting negotiations and achieving agreements on measures to strengthen international peace, security and co-operation.

In light of the foregoing, my delegation voted in favour of the draft resolution just adopted.

Ms. LETTS (Australia): In abstaining in the vote on draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.89/Rev.1, "Establishment of a comprehensive system of international peace and security", my delegation was very conscious of the fact that the sponsors of the draft resolution were receptive to the concerns of others regarding the fundamental and irreplaceable nature of the collective security provisions of the United Nations Charter and the need for the international community to adhere strictly to its principles.

We also welcomed the exhortation in operative paragraph 5 to all Member States to contribute to practical measures to ensure compliance with and implementation of the provisions of the Charter with particular regard to the crucial and interrelated areas of disarmament, crisis and conflict settlement, economic

(Ms. Letts, Australia)

development and co-operation and the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

We would also like to stress that we have no objections to the idea that Members of the United Nations should be given the opportunity to outline their views on how the international-security situation could be improved. Indeed, we would encourage such an exchange of views and practical measures directed towards that end. However, my delegation firmly believes that this must be done within the existing framework of the collective security provisions of the United Nations Charter. We query the need to devote time and resources on the creation of a new system. To entertain the notion of the creation of a new system of international security seriously puts into question the requirement for States to comply with existing obligations under the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and other recognized norms and principles of international law.

For this reason, Australia still had considerable reservations regarding draft resolution L.89/Rev.1. The concept of a comprehensive system of international peace and security could, in our view, leave the door open to the notion that there might be a system that could be developed separately to the collective security provisions of the Charter. This may not have been the intention of the sponsors of the draft resolution. Accordingly, we would have preferred that the draft resolution make it absolutely clear that the concept of a comprehensive system of international peace and security would be elaborated entirely within the framework of the existing system of collective security embodied in the Charter.

While Australia welcomed the sponsors' recognition in the fifth preambular paragraph that people have the sovereign right to choose their own ways and forms of development, my delegation had reservations about the language used in some of the other preambular paragraphs. In the first preambular paragraph, it is far too pessimistic to state that the entire world is in a tense and dangerous situation and

(Ms. Letts, Australia)

to suggest that we are on the brink of a nuclear catastrophe. The recent meeting between General Secretary Gorbachev and President Reagan in Reykjavik and ongoing nuclear and space talks between those two nations bear witness to the fact that there are serious efforts under way to reduce the incentives for and likelihood of a nuclear confrontation, and we hope and expect that such efforts will continue.

Further, the East-West confrontation on which this pessimistic judgement in the first and third preambular paragraphs appears to be based is not at issue in many parts of the world. Australia's region, for example, enjoys relative stability.

Australia is deeply conscious of the fact that the consequences of a nuclear war would bear catastrophic consequences for the entire planet and that the escalation of the global arms race contributes to the danger of nuclear confrontation. However, we must stress that the arms race is not confined to the nuclear field. Concerns about nuclear weapons should not obscure the serious build-up in conventional forces by some countries and the serious implications that such a build-up has for regional and international security.

Finally, my delegation would like to thank those delegations who worked hard to direct this initiative towards the objective of further exploring the ways and means in which the community of nations could work towards enhancing international peace and security. We again stress that this must be done within the framework of the Charter and organs of the United Nations and in strict compliance with the principles and purposes of the Charter and generally recognized norms and principles of international law. The draft resolution now adopted, in the view of my delegation, remains equivocal on this fundamental point.

Mr. FAN Guoxiang (China) (interpretation from Chinese): The Chinese delegation voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.1/11/L.89/Rev.1. We had some differing views with regard to the original version of the draft resolution. However, since many delegations have put forward amendments and the sponsors accepted quite a number of them, we have voted in favour of it.

(Mr. Fan Guoxiang, China)

But we also wish to explain our attitude in connection with the vote. The Chinese delegation is of the view that the preservation of world peace and the strengthening of international security are among the most important tasks of the contemporary world. In this regard, the indispensable prerequisites are that States firmly abide by the purposes and principles of the Charter, particularly those concerning the safeguarding of the independence and territorial integrity of States, and that they be guided by these principles in their inter-State relations. It is particularly important that those countries that are carrying out aggression against, interference with, and occupation of, other countries comply with the relevant General Assembly resolutions and immediately cease those actions.

That view is reflected in draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.89/Rev.1, and we can agree with it. However, there is mention in the draft resolution of a comprehensive system of international peace and security. We feel that the specific contents of this system and the relationship between it and the Charter are still unclear. Therefore, we express our reservations in this regard.

Mr. MOREL (France) (interpretation from French): My delegation voted against draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.89/Rev.1. Our position is explained by reservations of substance which my country continues to have. Despite amendments revealing the concerns of many countries, there are still fundamental difficulties. We are opposed to the establishment of a new system of international peace and security and any attempt to bring one about. In our view, the Charter is the irreplaceable, unique framework for the conduct of States in international security matters.

The preambular paragraphs and operative paragraph 7 contain dangerous implications in respect of the establishment of a new system. One cannot be so vague on such an important subject. It is not in the interests of our Organization

(Mr. Morel, France)

for a cloud of ambiguity to remain or for the language to be equivocal. There are sufficient disagreements between Member States, and the international situation is sufficiently complex, for us to desist from encouraging such ambiguities in an artificial way.

Those are our reservations and our objections of substance with regard to the draft resolution.

Mr. MORELLI (Peru) (interpretation from Spanish): The delegation of Peru voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.89/Rev.1. However, we regret that it contains no specific mention of the Final Document adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session, devoted to disarmament. In its introduction the Final Document expressly establishes a link between international security and disarmament.

We also believe that the operative part of the draft resolution that we have just adopted should contain a reference, even if in general terms, to General Assembly resolutions on the links between international security and disarmament and between international security and development. We therefore hope that future developments relating to the resolution that we have just adopted will take due account of these comments.

With regard to operative paragraph 7, the delegation of Peru fully agrees that consideration of the question should continue at the next session of the General Assembly. But, with regard to the Spanish text and the title of the resolution in Spanish, in our view this is a matter not of creating, but of improving and fully complying with, the existing system of international peace and security.

(Mr. Morelli, Peru)

I referred specifically to the Spanish text, because it speaks of the "creación" - creation - of a system of international peace and security, whereas the original English text, as finally revised, does not use the word "creation" - at least, not expressly. The Peruvian delegation submits that matter for consideration by the Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: That comment has been duly noted.

Mr. GARCIA ROBLES (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): The representative of Peru covered all of the points that I had intended to make. I support what he said; the original is the English text, and therefore the Spanish text should be brought into line with it and should read "Comprehensive system of international peace and security", and not "Establishment of".

My second point has to do with the adjective that should apply to the word "system". This matter dates back 10 or 12 years, because there is another comprehensive system - in this case, a disarmament programme, which has been entrusted to the United Nations Conference on Disarmament. Originally "comprehensive" in English was translated into Spanish by the word "general" and then by "global". I drew attention to this in the Committee and I said, having asked all representatives from Latin America about it, that we were all of the opinion that the translation into Spanish should be "programa comprensivo". Therefore, here we should refer to "sistema comprensivo de paz y seguridad internacionales".

Having made those things clear, I wish to say that my delegation very much regrets the outcome of the vote on this important draft resolution. There were 82 votes in favour and 2 against, with 35 abstentions. The delegation of Mexico was among the 82 delegations that voted in favour. In my view, in order to be fully effective, the procedure proposed here must be based on resolutions adopted by consensus - or without a vote, as it is now customary to put it.

(Mr. Garcia Robles, Mexico)

That should not be impossible, because I am certain that if those who put forward some of the arguments that have been advanced here think about the matter a little they will realize that those arguments are not necessarily opposed to the draft resolution.

It has been said that the Charter is the basic instrument. Obviously, that is so, as the amendments to the draft resolution make perfectly clear. But the situation is similar to that in domestic politics, where the Constitution is the basic instrument of a State: that does not mean there is no need for laws usually described as regulating the Constitution. In my view, this comprehensive system of international peace and security would have exactly the same effect with regard to this matter as a law regulating the Constitution.

We may, at the next session, be able to limit the text of the draft, confining it to those paragraphs which are essential in order clearly to define what it is about and what we are asking to be done - which, as I see it, is to take basic Charter principles - which of course are immutable, and no one is attempting to change them - relative to international peace and security. Next, we must bear in mind that the Charter is already 40 years old and that when it was adopted in San Francisco - and I was privileged to be there - the first atomic bombs, the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs, had not yet been exploded. That is why the Assembly, in the first resolution it adopted in 1946, hastened to try to fill that gap. Ever since then it has made disarmament - which, as the representative of Peru rightly said a few minutes ago, is closely linked to security - a matter of prime importance.

Therefore, what should we consider in order to define this comprehensive system of international peace and security, a system which we are not going to establish, but which will be based on updated Charter principles? Together with

(Mr. Garcia Robles, Mexico)

those principles we would then consider the declarations and resolutions on the same questions adopted by the Assembly by consensus. There are plenty of them: the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security; the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament; the Declaration on Human Rights; the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations; and the International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, etc.

What we have in paragraph 5 of the draft resolution is something along those lines. It reads:

"Calls upon Member States to make their contribution to practical measures to ensure compliance with and implementation of the provisions of the Charter with particular regard to the crucial and interrelated areas of disarmament, crisis and conflict settlement, economic development and co-operation, the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms". (A/C.1/41/L.89/Rev.1, para. 5)

If in our consideration of this item next year we confine ourselves to specific, basic aspects that are virtually, if not totally, procedural in nature, I believe we shall be able to adopt a resolution unanimously. However, it is unrealistic to expect that a few weeks' work in the Committee can produce the system we seek.

A few moments ago I referred to the comprehensive disarmament programme. It is now seven years since work on it began, and we have still not finished it, even though there is a body that deals exclusively with it - the Conference on Disarmament.

(Mr. Garcia Robles, Mexico)

Therefore, I suggest that we consider creating an ad hoc body to deal with the matter that we ask one of the appropriate existing bodies to try to draw up this comprehensive system of international peace and security based mainly on Charter principles and using all the basic instruments adopted since 1945.

CONCLUSION OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee has concluded its consideration of agenda item 141 and all other agenda items allocated to the First Committee.

I now call on the Secretary of the Committee, who has a statement to make.

Mr. KHERADI (Secretary of the Committee): I should like to draw the attention of the Committee to a conference room paper bearing the symbol A/C.1/41/CRP.1, which contains a summary of programme budget implications for the 1987-1988 biennium resulting from draft resolutions and the draft decision adopted by the First Committee during the forty-first session of the General Assembly, and which is submitted in accordance with rule 154 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the representative of Cameroon, Ambassador Paul Engo, who will speak as Chairman of the Group of African States.

Mr. ENGO (Cameroon): It gives me great pleasure to make these concluding remarks at the end of the deliberations of the First Committee, and it is an honour to do so on behalf of the Group of African States. It is also a privilege for my delegation to represent this Group of very important sovereign States, which are also members of the United Nations.

I take this opportunity to express our profound appreciation and deepest respect to you, Sir, for the efficient and effective manner in which you have directed our work, and through you to thank the other officers of the Committee.

(Mr. Engo, Cameroon)

The overall atmosphere has been businesslike, and whatever progress has been made has been very much due to the magnitude of your commitment and the remarkable way in which you have readily provided guidance and leadership as Chairman of this important Committee. Members of the African Group found their experience of your unfailing wisdom and the consummate diplomatic skill with which you presided over our crucial deliberations to be rewarding - indeed, an important contribution to the Committee's achievements at this forty-first session.

(Mr. Engo, Cameroon)

The African Group also wishes to place on record the profound appreciation of its membership of the co-operation of members of other geographical regions. We want all delegations to know that we have drawn immense knowledge from their collective experience and competence and their constructive suggestions and proposals in the course of consultations.

I also extend our deep sense of gratitude to the secretariat and to the team of incredibly competent interpreters, whose dedication fostered the attainment of understanding and the scope of our success. How persistently the simultaneous reproduction of our often spirited outbursts came out unabridged and better sounding in languages foreign to that in which we express ourselves!

I now turn to the core of the business of the First Committee. The Committee has once again beaten its own record - not a record that is complimentary to it - by adopting more draft resolutions this year than at previous sessions. Whether this reflects a great achievement or not will be judged by others, employing various criteria. For our own stocktaking, we must note that we have repeated most of the resolutions, even those under items which have been on our agenda for many years. The arguments for this proliferation and repetitive monotony appear to be that they reflect the views and concerns of sovereign States in an age of the threat of a nuclear holocaust and that man seems to be the slave of his own scientific and technological progress. We do not, of course, subscribe to any of these arguments.

We appreciate that efforts have been made to merge certain draft resolutions. We have in mind, in particular, the draft resolutions in cluster 13 of the Chairman's suggested paper concerning "Prevention of an arms race in outer space" - agenda item 54 - and in cluster 2 on "Verification in all its aspects" - agenda item 62 (n) (iii). However, it is our belief that had more time been made available for further consultations many more such positive results would have

(Mr. Engo, Cameroon)

been achieved. It is the sweet lesson of the session that we have the capacity to engage the problem of de facto duplication if we put our reflective minds to it.

With regard to the problems of peace and security, we are reminded that this year is the sixteenth anniversary of the adoption by this universal Organization of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security. This year was also declared the International Year of Peace. We are proud to note that the peoples of Africa have carried out various kinds of activities to mark that solemn occasion.

It is against this background that we can review the international environment and the results of the work of the First Committee in promoting the international community's commitment to the objective of the United Nations - the maintenance of global peace and security.

We note with regret that as representatives prepare to return to their capitals the tyranny of uncertainty in the international situation continues to present a bewildering picture of crisis, of tensions and gloomy prospects for lasting universal peace. To apportion blame to any of the multiplicity of conflict spots would do nothing but fan unproductive diatribes, forcing those who do wrong to mount a defence, supported by the might of acquired facilities in technology.

What we must continue to address is perhaps the human conscience: the attitudes of peoples and their representative governmental institutions, which must be turned away from the wild obsession with confrontation to the broader self-preserving craving for conditions of lasting peace. This universal institution remains the last forum in which to organize such peace through the patient reconciliation of our conflicting interests and the harmonization of the actions of States. Instead of general resolutions referring to the subject, it may be more useful for the concept of confidence-building to become a major item in the General Assembly itself. We need to build bridges of understanding and to study

(Mr. Engo, Cameroon)

more practical ways and means by which the desirable fellowship of man, our mutual predicament before natural disasters as well as man's internal darkness, can be soberly addressed.

Earlier in our deliberations we welcomed the summit meeting of the two super-Powers of the age in Reykjavik, Iceland, not so much for the limited identifiable results, but for the progressive step forward towards understanding and consequential lessening of tensions that it represented. The willingness of the two leaders - United States President Ronald Reagan and Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev - to meet and discuss ways and means of reducing the threat of nuclear weapons on Earth and in outer space must continue to be encouraged. We also congratulate both nations on coming to tell the United Nations something of the story of their endeavours, recognizing the imperative need to involve the rest of mankind.

It is in the same frame of mind that we appeal to the two leaders to understand the nature of their rendezvous with history. The power accorded to them at this period is a two-edged sword which could be used as a means to enhance peace and development or as a weapon of illusion and self-destructive pride.

Power generally involves both privilege and responsibility, but most of all it offers an opportunity for the greater values of meeting the imperatives of human well-being and survival. Soviet leader Gorbachev and President Reagan must be encouraged in their crowded daily routine to remain conscious that with every step they tread history. What does each want history to narrate about them, about this generation? What type of world do they, as well as all of us, desire to bequeath to our children, our grandchildren and generations unborn?

Regional tensions and conflicts continue to increase at an alarming rate, leaving along the avenues of human existence needless destruction, inexplicable devastation, senseless death and a crescendo of misery for men, women and children

(Mr. Engo, Cameroon)

deprived of the right to better standards of living, whose hopes have been replaced by fears, some of whom have never, from birth, felt love and peace, and consequently are schooled in the mechanisms of self-preservation which respond to animal emotions and instincts.

This state of affairs in contemporary times results from acts of aggression, military and other forms of foreign occupation and intervention by States ruled by insensitive human beings. The African region symbolizes the theatre in which exploitation, cruelty, immorality, murder and defiance of values of decency have been performed as parts of a system called apartheid.

The African Group notes that yet again this Committee has been divided on the signal which needs to be universally communicated to the racists in South Africa - that the despicable and dehumanizing system of apartheid is anachronistic in this civilized age and that the occupation of Namibia is illegal and immoral and will no longer be tolerated.

(Mr. Rngo, Cameroon)

To those who preach patience, flexibility and even understanding in the wake of bloodshed and protilence, and who themselves have shown no visible expertise in these fields, we appeal for a revitalized commitment to the values promulgated by the Charter and by the inner sense of human dignity. We must all act together and speedily terminate this impudent challenge.

If our differences and narrow selfish interests lead us to failure, we shall have established on the African continent a subregion that will emit the same sense of discord, injustice and conflict as we now help, by lack of a common resolve, to infuse in its peoples. The world may well know worse conditions of tension, as the future leaders of the multi-racial societies there use the God-given wealth of the land, their advances in science and technology and the abundance of human resources, instructed in tension and wasteful conflict during the formative years, to present new forms of global instability. This is not a hope; it is a real fear. Our globe is so small today that the plight of a tiny country in a remote part of it could trigger untold sorrow and disaster for other countries, big and small, in other parts. Let that truth escape the consciousness of no one; let it not be lost in the vibrations of senseless preoccupations with illusions of comfort and of power.

We welcome the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones and other zones of peace throughout our troubled planet. For us, they are a prelude to arms control and disarmament. It is our hope that the regional centres for peace and disarmament will, by proper execution of their functions, enhance these prospects.

As we peruse the expanding calendar of disarmament-related issues to be treated in 1987, we are conscious of the quality of co-operation that the African Group, too, must provide to meet similar commitments in other geographical regions. The Preparatory Committee, the proposed Conference on Disarmament and

(Mr. Engo, Cameroon)

Development, the United Nations Disarmament Commission and the Preparatory Committee for the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament will present opportunities to test our collective will to promote a reinforced mutuality of interest in building a new and safer world.

To conclude, we emphasize that Africa attaches considerable importance to issues concerning disarmament and development. The serious debt crisis, compounded by unfavourable terms of trade and protectionism, continues to weigh heavily on our developing nations, thus widening the unfortunate gap between the North and the South, the rich and the poor and the strong and the weak. Under such conditions, peace, stability, security and development will be impossible in the absence of genuine measures of arms control and disarmament. In our view, any freezing and reduction of military budgets will alleviate the burden of poverty and underdevelopment of small and medium-sized States, as well as help in the recycling of military industries in militarily important countries.

We also consider that co-operative efforts must be made towards genuine arms control and disarmament by recognition of the equal right of all States to security and States' legitimate security needs, together with renunciation of unproductive rivalry for superiority.

In spite of its apparent shortcomings in the field of disarmament, we continue to express hope in the United Nations, convinced of its credibility.

Once again, we thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the inspired leadership you and your Bureau have given to the Committee. We are proud that a great son to whom Africa gave birth, our brother Doulaye Corentin Ki of Burkina Faso, was Rapporteur and part of that Bureau.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Cameroon for the kind sentiments he expressed about me and the other officers of the Committee.

I now call on the representative of Jordan, Mr. ALI Nashashibi, who will speak on behalf of the Chairman of the Group of Asian States.

Mr. NASHASHIBI (Jordan) (interpretation from Arabic): On behalf of the Chairman of the Asian Group for this month, I am very pleased to speak for the Group.

I pay tribute to you, Mr. Chairman, for the excellent way in which you have conducted the Committee's business during the forty-first session of the General Assembly. This is not surprising, in view of your well-known diplomatic skill and wisdom. We have experienced it throughout your conduct of the Committee's work. Your co-operation has had a great effect on the Committee's work. It was able to achieve constructive and positive results, leading to the adoption of many important resolutions. They are important for our countries, because they aim at the creation of a world in which peace, security and tranquillity prevail. When our countries joined the United Nations they had that in mind.

I also thank the two Vice-Chairmen, Ambassador Douglas Roche of Canada and Mr. M. Aoki of the Permanent Mission of Japan. I also thank the Rapporteur, Mr. Corentin Ki, and the Committee's Secretary, Mr. Sohrab Kheradi, and the other officers of the Committee, all of whom contributed to the Committee's successful conduct of its business.

I cannot fail also to thank the simultaneous interpreters; I pay tribute to their painstaking efforts in interpreting at the meetings. I also thank all those who contributed conference services, and on behalf of the Asian Group I thank, and express our appreciation of, all the ladies and gentlemen who are members of the Committee for their contribution in making its work successful. I say "Bon voyage"

(Mr. Nashashibi, Jordan)

to those who are returning to their capitals. We hope to meet at the next session next year in order further to promote world peace and security.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Jordan for his warm sentiments expressed to me and the other officers of the Committee.

I now call on the representative of Czechoslovakia, Ambassador Jaroslav Cesar, who will speak as Chairman of the Group of Eastern European States.

Mr. CESAR (Czechoslovakia): As the First Committee comes to the end of its work, I am privileged as Chairman of the Eastern European Group of States to extend to you, Mr. Chairman, our most sincere and heartfelt congratulations on the excellent way in which you have guided the Committee during the many days and weeks of our deliberations. It has been an unusually fulfilling session, and your task was particularly demanding. Yet you led the work of the Committee to a positive outcome with exceptional diligence, resourcefulness and energy, which deserve our admiration.

(Mr. Cesar, Czechoslovakia)

Your diplomatic skills and perseverance, Sir, in working together with delegations made it possible for the Committee to carry out its complex task manfully under the time constraints with the greatest possible effectiveness. Your success is also a tribute to your country, the German Democratic Republic, whose important contribution to the cause of peace and the strengthening of international security is generally recognized.

During this session important new relations of co-operation among Member States have begun to materialize, and innovative approaches to inter-related problems of disarmament and comprehensive international security in all their aspects have emerged. We believe that they can broaden the horizons of our thinking and strengthen and accelerate our concerned efforts to solve these paramount issues of our time confronting the international community.

At the same time we have witnessed, and we were able constructively to assess, the important new developments related to nuclear and space weapons. These issues continue to be the core of the First Committee's work.

The resolutions that the Committee adopted this year signify the growing awareness of the whole international community of the acute need to stop the arms race, to prevent nuclear annihilation and to build common security by political means rather than by accumulating weapons and still further upgrading the dangerous balance of balance of terror. Thus they constitute an important contribution to the cause of peace and the purposes of the Charter.

I wish to express our appreciation to the Vice-Chairmen and the Rapporteur as well as to our Secretary and all his colleagues for the way in which they performed their responsible duties and for their dedication to our common goals.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Czechoslovakia for his very kind words about me and the other officers of the Committee.

(The Chairman)

I now call on the Representative of Nicaragua, Ms. Laura Medina, who will speak on behalf of the Chairperson of the Group of Latin American States.

Ms. MEDINA (Nicaragua) (interpretation from Spanish): On behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group of States, I wish to convey to you, Sir, our gratitude for the excellent work you have done at the head of this important Committee. We have seen how your fairness, intimate knowledge of the issues and diplomatic skills have got us out of difficulties which arose during the course of our work.

Latin America and the Caribbean, which are a nuclear-weapon-free zone under the Treaty of Tlatelolco, are firmly committed to general and complete disarmament. We are therefore interested only in making a positive contribution to all initiatives to that end.

Since the failed Reykjavik summit there has been a general consensus in the Committee about the need for talks between the two super-Powers to continue. We hope that the 92 resolutions adopted by the Committee will not remain in a vacuum, since they are no more than a reflection of the international community's deep concern about all aspects of disarmament.

On behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group, I also congratulate the Vice-Chairmen, Ambassador Roche and Mr. Aoki, and the Rapporteur, Mr. Ki, who so ably supported you in your work, Sir. We also pay tribute to the Secretary, Mr. Kheradi, whose professional qualities and effective support are well-known to all. We also wish to express gratitude to the rest of the secretariat team: the interpreters, conference officers, and other administrative staff, without whose dedication and support it would have been impossible to do our work.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Nicaragua for the kind sentiments she expressed about me and the other officers of the Committee.

(The Chairman)

I now call on the Representative of Australia, Mr. Richard Woolcott, who will speak in his capacity as Chairman of the Group of Western European and Other States.

Mr. WOOLCOTT (Australia): It is my privilege on behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States to make a short statement at the conclusion of our deliberations on the disarmament and international security items at the forty-first session of the General Assembly.

This year we have dealt with a record number of draft resolutions, and because of the exigencies of time and resources we have done so in a shorter period than usual. This has naturally meant that strains on, and efforts of, individual delegations have been at a maximum. We realize, too, that for you, Mr. Chairman, and the other officers of the Committee the strain and effort have been intense. As always, it has been of great importance to have fair and firm guidance and direction from the Chair to enable us effectively to complete our tasks. Your guidance, Sir, has been consistent, and we thank you for the work you have performed on behalf of the members of the Committee.

It would be wrong to measure the output and effectiveness of the First Committee by the number of resolutions it has adopted. Our preference would be for fewer draft resolutions, more of which dealt with matters of substance and were able to attract wider support. Although consensus results were achieved on 22 resolutions - a pleasing result in itself - we should regard this proportion as only a minimum, and focus our efforts in future on steadily increasing the proportion of the total number of resolutions we can adopt with the support of all States.

The First Committee began its important deliberations immediately following the meeting between the leaders of the United States and the Soviet Union in Reykjavik. We began in a climate of some uncertainty, but in the hope that

(Mr. Woolcott, Australia)

collectively we could build on the results of that meeting. We have been pleased by the tenor and substance of the debate. Delegations have shown consistent thoughtfulness in their approach to the Committee's work. In this connection, Mr. Chairman, I refer particularly to the response by delegations to your urging that competing draft resolutions where possible be merged as a means of achieving consensus results and advancing the Committee's work.

On behalf of the Group of countries for which I speak, I wish to note that there were several areas in which we can be pleased with the results achieved. I refer particularly to decisions we took on the holding of a conference on the relationship between disarmament and development and to progress on the banning of nuclear testing and on the holding of a third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

We commend you, Sir, for your efforts to advance the work of previous Chairmen of the Committee towards revising the organization of our work. It is our hope that your successor will approach this task with the same vigour and determination.

(Mr. Woolcott, Australia)

In conclusion, on behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States, I wish to extend my sincere congratulations to you, Sir, as Chairman of our Committee, on a job well done, and to thank you, and also to extend our thanks to all the officers of the Committee, who worked solidly to ensure that we dealt with our work in an efficient and effective manner. No statement would be complete without extending our special thanks to our Secretary, Mr. Kheradi, for his stalwart efforts, and to Mr. Jan Martenson, our Under-Secretary-General, for his unswerving support. The conference officers, support staff and interpreters have once again performed their various tasks with the professionalism we have come to admire. We thank them all very warmly.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the Ambassador of Australia for the kind sentiments he has expressed to me and the other officers of the Committee.

Having adopted the draft resolutions regarding international security, we have fulfilled the work programme of this year's session of the First Committee, despite the shorter period of time at our disposal. As we commenced our work on 13 October I offered some personal reflections on the important tasks before us, how to approach them and how to contribute to their possible solution. In reviewing our record during this session, one may recall that after rather intense work the Committee adopted 65 resolutions and two decisions dealing with various questions of arms limitation and disarmament.

My own personal assessment is that one of the positive results of the Committee's work at the forty-first session is that the majority of resolutions reaffirmed the urgent need for concrete measures in both the nuclear and conventional fields. I would mention particularly those calling for the prevention of the extension of the arms race to outer space, its termination on Earth, the prevention of nuclear war, the cessation of nuclear-weapon tests, nuclear

(The Chairman)

disarmament, a global and comprehensive ban on chemical weapons and, not least, measures for conventional disarmament and regional disarmament. All these issues have been the subject of various initiatives, proposals and ideas. What is required now is action to implement them. Effective use should therefore be made of the existing negotiating bodies, especially the Geneva Conference on Disarmament, in order to seek respective agreements on the priority items on its agenda.

When we commenced our deliberations, we did so against the backdrop of the resumed dialogue between the leaders of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America, which generated such high hopes and expectations. Their meeting in Reykjavik was universally acknowledged to be of historic importance. It was encouraging to note that this meeting, apart from an understandable disappointment at the lack of results, led to the unanimous call by the representatives of member States in the First Committee for the continuation and acceleration of negotiations between the two countries.

In 1978 the General Assembly at its first special session devoted to disarmament declared:

"Mankind today is confronted with an unprecedented threat of self-extinction arising from the massive and competitive accumulation of the most destructive weapons ever produced." (resolution S-10/2, para. 11)

To avoid the catastrophe of human annihilation, it is imperative to take appropriate measures, including both bilateral and multilateral efforts for the prevention of nuclear war and for nuclear disarmament.

As Chairman of the First Committee, I am also satisfied to note that the general debate was conducted in a businesslike atmosphere and that a constructive approach, flexibility and readiness to compromise prevailed in the deliberations and negotiations. There is a growing conviction that a continuous build-up of arms

(The Chairman)

arsenals does not spell more security for States, and that all issues of concern for mankind can no longer be solved by other than political means.

Let me make a few remarks concerning the number of draft resolutions. While in recent years a steady increase in the number of proposals adopted has been recorded, we were able to halt this tendency at the forty-first session. This is all the more remarkable, since the original number of draft resolutions presented was considerably larger than in the previous year. Greater readiness for co-operation was shown by representatives, and it resulted in the merging of a number of draft resolutions. A vivid example of those endeavours was the adoption of only one resolution on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, on the cessation of the nuclear-arms race and nuclear disarmament, on compliance with arms limitation and disarmament agreements and on verification in all its aspects.

Moreover, it was possible - though only to a minor extent - to increase the number of resolutions adopted by consensus.

Thanks to the spirit of co-operation and a striving for common solutions, it was also possible for me, as Chairman, to propose for adoption by the Committee a draft decision concerning the holding in New York of an international conference on disarmament and development, in 1987, a decision which Member States adopted by consensus.

Despite the positive developments and the favourable outcome in general, in some areas progress still remains unrealized. For example, relevant efforts made this year did not result in the adoption by the Committee of a single text on the cessation of all nuclear-test explosions, an issue to which considerable importance has been attached for a number of years.

The Committee adopted three resolutions on the question of Antarctica. Regrettably, however, it was once again unable to do so on a consensus basis. I

(The Chairman)

note that a number of delegations have stressed the need to restore consensus on this item.

The Committee adopted four draft resolutions on security items. The draft resolution on the strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region points to the close relationship between the security of this region and the security of Europe as a whole. It also underlines the importance of promoting peace, security and co-operation in the Mediterranean area and of strengthening further the economic, commercial and cultural links in the region.

Two draft resolutions were adopted under the item "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security". One draft resolution stressed, inter alia, the need for the main organs of the United Nations responsible for the maintenance of peace and security, particularly the Security Council, to contribute more effectively to the promotion of international peace and security by seeking solutions to unresolved problems and crises in the world. Another draft resolution adopted under the same item calls for result-oriented political dialogue to improve the international situation.

Finally, the Committee adopted a draft resolution on a comprehensive system of international peace and security, an item included on our agenda at this session. It calls upon States to focus their efforts on ensuring equal security for all and to contribute to working out the basic ideas for such a system.

Our deliberations covered a wide range of problems relating to international peace and security. The consideration of the international security agenda items this year attained a new dimension. Fifty-two delegations participated in the debate.

(The Chairman)

Debates in the Committee also highlighted the fact that international security meant a plea for dialogue and co-operation rather than confrontation. In my view, our endeavours to define the comprehensive system of security prompted attempts by States to identify, enlarge and develop all possible areas of agreement.

(The Chairman)

In this regard, the United Nations was viewed as an irreplaceable forum for advancing the goals of international peace and security, whose role and machinery in this regard should be fostered.

With regard to the question of further enhancing the effectiveness of the First Committee's work, I have conducted informal consultations with some of the previous Chairmen of the Committee and representatives of regional Groups. Those consultations were a useful and necessary experience. They have led to a number of interesting ideas and proposals, both of a long-term and short-term nature, as well as of a general and specific character.

Although divergent points of view continue to persist on a number of specific proposals, a certain measure of agreement emerged on one or two aspects. Delegations generally felt that it would be conducive to greater efficiency in the Committee's work if more time were allocated for the consideration of, and action on, draft resolutions, thus facilitating the process of consultation and negotiation in order to explore possibilities of merging draft resolutions. In this context, many delegations would appear to be in favour of advancing the commencement of the First Committee's work by one or two weeks, thereby allowing the Committee to have more time at its disposal at that stage of its proceedings. As part of this process, there also appeared to be general agreement that the Committee should establish an earlier deadline for the submission of draft resolutions.

Based on the very useful exchange of views that has taken place, I intend to continue these consultations with Permanent Missions in New York and on other occasions, and I shall certainly be available to assist the next Chairman in whatever manner he may deem necessary or appropriate so that at a future session the Committee may take such action as it deems proper.

(The Chairman)

In conclusion, I wish to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to all the members of the Committee who have contributed to the successful conclusion of our work and, by displaying a spirit of co-operation and understanding, have made my task easier. My personal thanks go, above all, to the Vice-Chairmen of the Committee, Ambassador Douglas James Roche and Mr. Morahisa Aoki, as well as to the Rapporteur, Ambassador Doulaye Corentin Ki. They have considerably lightened my own burden through their unflagging co-operation and assistance, and they deserve credit for their share in ensuring the Committee's effective functioning.

In addition, on behalf of the officers of the Committee as well as on my own behalf, I extend my deep gratitude to all the members of the Secretariat, who have shown high dedication and a sense of responsibility and have thus, under the able guidance of the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, Mr. Jan M. tenison, and the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Security Council Affairs, Mr. Viacheslav Ustinov, very much facilitated the efficient and smooth functioning of the Committee. In this respect, we owe a great deal to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament, Ambassador Miljan Komatina.

I pay a special tribute to Mr. Sohrab Kheradi, Secretary of the Committee, for his dedication and for his intense efforts to further the Committee's work. I am personally very much impressed by his high professional qualifications and his commitment to do the utmost to carry out all the tasks that the Committee faced.

I wish also to express my thanks and gratitude to all Mr. Kheradi's colleagues in the secretariat of the First Committee, including Mr. Sattar and Ms. Patil. We are also very much indebted to the Under-Secretary-General for Conference Services, Mr. Eugeniusz Wizner, and to the Director of the Interpretation and Meetings Division, Mr. Aleksandr Kokorev, for their circumspection and for the support

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they have given to the First Committee's work. Our thanks also go to the interpreters, translators, verbatim reporters and press officers, as well as to the conference and document officers and the technical staff members who have worked so hard and so well behind the scenes, especially today during this extended meeting.

The present complicated international situation has given us reason to intensify our efforts to contribute to solving the crucial problems facing mankind, exclusively through peaceful means and by enhancing dialogue and co-operation between States in the United Nations. It is in this perspective that I shall now adjourn the meeting. First, I wish once again to thank all of you and to wish those of you who are returning to your home countries or posts a safe journey. I wish you all happiness and success.

The meeting rose at 2.05 p.m.