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Chairman: Mr. Otto R. BORCH (Denmark).

AGENDA ITEM 39 (continued)

**Implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of
International Security: report of the Secretary-General
(A/9038, A/9057 and Corr.1, A/9078, A/9083, A/9122,
A/9129; A/C.1/1037, 1040, 1041)**

1. Mr. SAFRONCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (*translation from Russian*): Once again the First Committee is considering one of the most important problems of the day, the question of the strengthening of international security. The experience of the last few sessions has shown that the discussion of this problem is in keeping with the vital interests of all peace-loving States since it is designed to bring about a fuller use of the United Nations capacity to strengthen peace and to defend the political independence of all States. The unanimous adoption at the twenty-fifth anniversary session of the General Assembly of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security [*resolution 2734 (XXV)*] was a major event in the struggle of the peace-loving democratic forces of the United Nations for the implementation of its fundamental central task: the maintenance of international peace and security. The overwhelming majority of States—primarily the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America—have given the widest support to the proposal of the Soviet Union for the comprehensive consideration of this problem by the United Nations, and this is clearly demonstrated by the decisions at both the third Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries held at Lusaka in 1970 and the fourth Conference held at Algiers in September 1973.

2. The consideration of this question at this session is taking place under special circumstances. In spite of the designs still being harboured by certain forces in a number of cases and which are being intensified in other cases—forces which even now think in terms of the old categories of the cold war and are coming out in favour of an unbridled increase in military budgets and the stepping up of nuclear potential, something which today's facts reject—in the world at large a more favourable and largely novel atmosphere is taking shape. In international relations we note a perceptible change in favour of the reduction of tension and the slackening of the threat of a direct

confrontation between the two world systems. The foundations are being laid for qualitatively new relations among States and the principle of peaceful coexistence among States with different social systems is gaining ever wider international legal recognition.

3. Evidence of important positive changes that have taken place in the international atmosphere is the cessation of war in Viet-Nam, which was a tremendous triumph for the Viet-Nameese people and the continuing easing of tension and the normalization of the situation in the Indo-Pakistan subcontinent, the agreements on the normalization of relations among European States, the successful conclusion of the preparatory consultations and the beginning of the work of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, talks on the reduction and multilateral agreements with regard to armed forces and armaments in Central Europe, agreements for the prevention of nuclear war and the limitation of strategic armaments concluded between the Soviet Union and the United States, and finally, the expansion of the scale of international economic, scientific, technological and cultural co-operation. In this way, we have before us evidence of a tremendously important change in international relations, a change-over from the cold war to détente, from military confrontation to the stabilization of security and peaceful co-operation.

4. With regard to the important positive changes which have occurred in international relations, the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Leonid Brezhnev, in his speech at the World Peace Congress on 26 October stated:

“The protracted and persistent struggle of the peoples against the outbreak of a new world war, for a lasting peace and international security, has been marked in recent years by appreciable success, by considerable progress. To mention the most important factor, the danger which has hovered over the head of mankind ever since the second half of the forties, the danger of the outbreak of world nuclear rocket warfare, has begun to decrease, and the prospects for the preservation of universal peace have become ever better and ever more reliable than they were 10 or 12 years ago.”

5. The Soviet delegation considers it necessary to point out that, in the atmosphere which prevails at the present time, tremendous importance should be attached to the further activation of the efforts of all countries, great and small, to confirm lasting peace on earth. The peoples of the Soviet Union are well aware and will always remember that with the peoples of the socialist countries, the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America, they constitute an important part of the constant, permanent army of national liberation, progress and peace on our planet. In this regard,