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New York

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 40th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. BAGBENI ADEITO NZENGEYA (Zaire)

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The meeting was called to order at 11.10 a.m.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF HIS EXCELLENCY GENERAL SEYNI KOUNTCHE, PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL AND HEAD OF STATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE NIGER

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): Before beginning our work, I should first like to express the sorrow that is felt by the entire international community on the death of the President of the Republic of the Niger, His Excellency Mr. Seyni Kountché, and to extend to the Government and the people of the Niger our heartfelt condolences.

Similarly, we express our belief that the people of the Niger will, as it has always done in the past, continue to co-operate with all countries throughout the world, and work for the safeguarding of international peace and security to the benefit of the whole of mankind. I am sure that was the message President Seyni Kountché always put before his people and that that people will continue to uphold these ideals.

Therefore, on behalf of the entire First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly and the officers of the Committee, and on my own behalf, I wish to extend to the delegation of the Niger our deepest sympathy for the sudden loss that its country has suffered by the departure of this eminent statesman, President Seyni Kountché.

I invite members of the Committee to stand and observe a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of President Seyni Kountché.

The members of the First Committee observed a minute of silence.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): I call on the representative of Malawi, who will speak on behalf of the Group of African States.

Mr. PHIRI (Malawi): I am honoured for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Group of African States in this Committee. It is indeed with deep regret that we learned of the untimely death yesterday of His Excellency

(Mr. Phiri, Malawi)

President Seyni Kountché of the Niger. It is not only the Niger that has lost an outstanding leader but Africa and the entire international community.

When he assumed the leadership of the Niger in 1974 President Kountché inherited a country facing daunting problems - economic and social, as well as others. It is a measure of the success of his pragmatism, far-sighted leadership and policies that, despite the persistent problem of drought that has ravaged the region in which the Niger is situated, and of which it is an integral part, that country has enjoyed substantial economic and social stability and progress, particularly in the food sector. Indeed, food self-sufficiency was one of the priorities that President Kountché set as the corner-stone of his country's development.

General Kountché's interest in international understanding and co-operation was well known; it has been made manifest in the leading role he led his country to play in various forums, such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS); our continental organization, the Organization of African Unity (OAU); and in the United Nations. His passing away at this time will rob not only the Niger and Africa but also the whole world of a leader, the impact of whose quiet wisdom has contributed so much to development.

We mourn the loss of President Kountché, and we express the sincere belief that, while we mourn the loss of a leader whom we may not be able to emulate fully, we shall have benefited from the example he set us.

On behalf of the Group of African States, I should like to express, through the Niger delegation, our sincere condolences and deep sympathy to the people and the Government of Niger.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): I call on the representative of Bahrain, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Asian States.

Miss AL-ALAWI (Bahrain) (interpretation from Arabic): It is indeed with great sorrow that we learned of the passing of the President of the Niger. His people have lost a remarkable leader, statesman and personality who devoted his life to the service of his country and contributed effectively to the cause of his country and international peace by means of participation in the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Non-Aligned Movement and the United Nations.

(Miss Al-Alawi, Bahrain)

On behalf of the Group of Asian States, of which my delegation has the honour of being Chairman for this month, I should like to convey through you, Mr. Chairman, to the family of the late President and the people of Niger my sincere condolences on their loss. We hope that his soul will rest in peace.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): I call on the representative of Poland, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States.

Mr. NOWORYTA (Poland): On behalf of the Group of Eastern European States I have the sad duty to convey to the Government and people of the Republic of the Niger our sincere condolences upon the decease of the President of the Supreme Military Council and Head of State of the Republic of Niger, His Excellency Seyni Kountché. The contribution of Seyni Kountché to the promotion of the welfare of the people of his country, the liberation process of Africa and the cause of African unity is well known and greatly appreciated far beyond his country and the African continent. We join the people of the Republic of the Niger in their sorrow at the death of their distinguished and respected leader.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): I call on the representative of Argentina, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

Mr. CAPPAGLI (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): On behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, it is with great sadness that I perform the duty of expressing to the Government and people of the Republic of the Niger our deepest sympathy at the passing of President Seyni Kountché. His death is most untimely and is an irreparable loss to Niger, a country that has been afflicted by natural disasters. We wish that country and people every success in its future endeavours.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): I call on the representative of Luxembourg, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Western European and other States.

Mr. MILLIM (Luxembourg) (interpretation from French): The Chairman of the Group of Western European and other States learned with distress of the passing of the distinguished African statesman, His Excellency the President of the Republic of the Niger. On behalf of the Group of Western European and other States I associate myself with previous speakers in extending to the Government and people of the Republic of the Niger our most heartfelt condolences.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): I call on the representative of Yemen, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Arab States.

Mr. ALSAIDI (Yemen) (interpretation from Arabic): The papers today have informed us of the passing of Mr. Seyni Kountché, President of the Republic of the Niger. Niger, with which we have friendly Islamic ties, has lost a great man who has worked for his country's progress and stability. On behalf of the Group of Arab States I should like to express our deep sorrow and offer our condolences to the delegation of Niger and to ask it to convey our condolences to the Government and people of Niger and the family of the late President.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): I call on the representative of the United States, who will speak in his capacity as representative of the host country.

Mr. GRANGER (United States of America): It was with very deep regret that the delegation of the United States learnt of the death of President Kountché. On this sombre occasion we pay tribute to President Kountché's statesmanship as a force for peace and stability in west Africa and to the wisdom with which he guided Niger's constructive approach at the United Nations. We

(Mr. Granger, United States)

salute his leadership in many other areas as well, and his manifold and consistent efforts to revitalize Niger's economy in trying circumstances. He was a pioneer in finding effective solutions to Africa's problems of economic recovery and reform. All of us here who admired his leadership will miss him.

AGENDA ITEMS 48 TO 69 (continued)

CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION ON DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): I shall call first on those delegations wishing to introduce draft resolutions.

Mr. ZAPOTOCKY (Czechoslovakia): First, I would like to join previous speakers in expressing our condolences on the sudden passing of the President of Niger, Seyni Kountché, and to convey our deep sympathy to the Government and people of that country.

In my statement today I would like to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.37/Rev.1, on international co-operation for disarmament.

The main objective of the draft resolution is identical with that of the General Assembly Declaration on International Co-operation for Disarmament, of 1979. The draft resolution is to be understood as an appeal to redouble efforts aimed at the implementation in present conditions of the recommendations and decisions of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, with full regard to new developments and positive changes in the approaches to the issues of disarmament and international security, the influence of which is already visible.

(Mr. Zapotocky, Czechoslovakia)

Under the terms of draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.37/Rev.1 the General Assembly would stress the vital need to proceed to balanced, mutually acceptable, comprehensively verifiable and effective measures towards halting the arms race and attaining disarmament, particularly in the most dangerous nuclear field, for the preservation of peace and the strengthening of overall international security.

The draft resolution points to the interests of all States in the adoption of concrete effective disarmament measures which would, through conversion, release considerable material, financial and human resources to be used for peaceful purposes and, with the assistance of the respective international machinery, particularly for overcoming economic underdevelopment in the developing countries.

A conviction is expressed in the draft of the need to strengthen constructive international co-operation of all States on the basis of political good will and on the increased openness in military matters in accordance with the priorities established in the Final Document of the first special session devoted to disarmament. It is stressed that international co-operation should, as a matter of priority be aimed at averting nuclear war through the gradual elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, the discontinuation of nuclear-weapon tests, the prevention of an arms race in outer space, conventional disarmament on a global scale, taking into account the characteristics of the different regions, and at confidence building as an indispensable component of relations among States.

Furthermore, the draft resolution reflects the view that progress towards a nuclear-weapon-free world can be executed stage by stage in terms of both wider participation and armaments to be covered.

The essential requirements for making international co-operation in the field of disarmament more effective are contained in the eighth to twelfth paragraphs of the preamble.

(Mr. Zapotocky, Czechoslovakia)

The eighth paragraph of the preamble addresses the issue of a broader internationalization of disarmament negotiations as an important factor contributing to their success. Internationalization of disarmament efforts means, first and foremost, the strengthening of multilateralism in tackling all disarmament issues through gradually broadening the participation of States in negotiations and through ensuring that full and accurate information on all disarmament matters is available to the international community.

Indeed, first important steps towards this objective have already been taken and an increased dynamism of the efforts of the international community in the whole sphere of disarmament is becoming evident. Satisfaction with such a development is expressed in the ninth preambular paragraph.

The tenth preambular paragraph, in this connection, places emphasis on the need to continue and further expedite the negotiations between the two nuclear-weapon States possessing the most important nuclear arsenals, while the eleventh paragraph underlines the responsibility of all nuclear-weapon States for contributing to the objective of nuclear disarmament.

The last preambular paragraph of this draft resolution draws attention to the fact that in the nuclear space age the reliable security of all countries in all spheres of international relations can be ensured only by political means and through the joint efforts of all States.

Accordingly, in operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution, all States are invited to increase co-operation and to redouble efforts in disarmament negotiations on the basis of reciprocity, equality, undiminished security and the non-use of force in international relations. In this way, the qualitative enhancement and quantitative accumulation of weapons, as well as the development of new types and systems of weaponry, especially weapons of mass destruction, could be prevented and a meaningful and all-embracing disarmament process secured.

(Mr. Zapotocky, Czechoslovakia)

Operative paragraph 2 underscores anew the importance of strengthening the effectiveness of the United Nations in fulfilling its central role and primary responsibility in the sphere of disarmament.

Also closely linked with this aim is the emphasis placed in operative paragraph 3 on the necessity of refraining from the dissemination of any doctrines and concepts that may endanger international peace and security by justifying nuclear war.

At the same time, under operative paragraph 4 all States would be invited to consider, in a spirit of co-operation, ways and means to achieve the broadest possible internationalization of disarmament negotiations.

The remaining operative paragraphs 5 to 9, in essence, reiterate the objectives, appeals and provisions contained in the resolutions previously adopted by the General Assembly on this subject.

Allow me to take this opportunity to express my thanks to all delegations that have extended, during consultations, their support for the ideas of promoting broad international co-operation to attain the goals of disarmament. Active, straightforward and constructive co-operation is becoming an ever more important prerequisite of any genuine progress in the field of disarmament. Such co-operation should be instrumental in developing a broad process of disarmament. That is the aim of draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.37/Rev.1. Czechoslovakia continues to be ready to work together with all countries to attain these aims.

Mr. van SCHAİK (Netherlands): We wish to join others in expressing our sincere condolences to the delegation of the Niger on the demise of His Excellency General Seyni Kountché.

(Mr. van Schaik, Netherlands)

On behalf of the sponsors, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Norway, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom, and on behalf of my own delegation, I wish to introduce some amendments to draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.61, on the report of the Conference on Disarmament.

As I said, when we introduced the text on 27 October, the delegations that sponsored this draft resolution are inspired by the wish to achieve a consensus. We were happy with suggestions that had been made to improve the text and that would, we feel, meet that purpose. We are therefore introducing the following amendments.

First, we wish to insert, as the second preambular paragraph, a new text reading as follows:

"Bearing in mind that considerable and urgent work remains to be accomplished in the field of disarmament."

(Mr. van Schaik, Netherlands)

Under the second amendment, the former second preambular paragraph would become the third preambular paragraph and would read as follows:

"Convinced that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, should play a central role in the implementation of the Programme of Action set forth in section III of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly".

The former third preambular paragraph would become the fourth preambular paragraph and would be unchanged.

Next, we propose a new operative paragraph 2, to read as follows:

"Reaffirms the role of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community".

The former operative paragraph 2, which began with the words "Calls upon the Conference on Disarmament", would be deleted.

The last amendment would include a new operative paragraph 3, to read as follows:

"Requests the Conference on Disarmament to intensify its work in accordance with the relevant provisions set forth in paragraph 120 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly".

The former operative paragraph 3 would become operative paragraph 4 and the former operative paragraph 4 would become operative paragraph 5, and both would be unchanged.

We hope that the draft resolution thus amended will assist the Committee in attaining the proposed positive result. My delegation would be very happy with such an outcome, as a token of the generally shared recognition of and appreciation for the work that has been done this year at the Conference on Disarmament.

Mr. BATIOUK (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) (interpretation from Russian): First, I wish to express my delegation's condolences to the delegation and the people and Government of Niger on the demise of their President, Mr. Kountché.

On behalf of the delegations of Czechoslovakia and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, I am submitting today to the First Committee the revised text of draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.33, entitled "Implementation of General Assembly resolutions in the field of disarmament".

We are introducing this draft resolution in an attempt to promote collective efforts to ensure genuine disarmament. Indeed, resolutions adopted annually by the General Assembly have precisely that goal. However, it is plain that despite the growing number of resolutions their practical effect remains far from satisfactory. Voting on draft resolutions cannot in itself be an end to our efforts. Resolutions are adopted not for the sake of being adopted but so that agreed measures can be taken on the basis of the clearly expressed intentions of Governments.

At this session of the General Assembly, more and more is being done to avoid competing draft resolutions. A growing number of draft resolutions are being adopted by consensus, without a vote - or at least without a negative vote. In that way, the authority of the resolutions that are adopted is enhanced and they become more practicable.

In view of the new circumstances, new attitudes - sincere and constructive attitudes - must be taken towards the implementation of the resolutions. In our view, the full potential of our Organization must be used and everything possible must be done to enhance the authority and decisions of the United Nations and to strengthen their moral and legal status.

(Mr. Batiouk, Ukrainian SSR)

The First Committee is at present trying to improve the procedure for the adoption of decisions. The final result of these efforts should be to improve the implementation of resolutions. Otherwise, efforts to adopt even faultless texts would be unproductive and would not achieve their goal.

In view of all that, the co-sponsors have deemed it possible to include in operative paragraph 1 of the revised text of draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.33 a provision that all Member States should make every effort to facilitate consistent implementation of General Assembly resolutions in the field of disarmament. That provision is based on paragraph 115 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, on disarmament.

(Mr. Batiouk, Ukrainian SSR)

I would particularly like to stress that the draft resolution submitted by the sponsors is essentially a procedural one. It is fully consistent with the provisions of the Charter concerning the recommendatory nature of General Assembly resolutions and, of course, does not change, nor is it intended to change, anything in the status of the decisions adopted. This was never part of the sponsors' intention. The main goal of the revised draft resolution, A/C.1/42/L.33/Rev.1, as expressed in paragraphs 2 and 3, is to invite all Member States, without exception, to a broad and democratic exchange of views on ways and means of improving the situation with regard to the implementation of General Assembly resolutions in the field of disarmament.

In order to summarize the views of States, paragraph 3 of the draft resolution contains a request addressed to the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly each year an appropriate report compiled on the basis of answers of Member States.

We realize the many complications involved in the problem of implementing the General Assembly's disarmament resolutions. Nevertheless, we are convinced that the role of the United Nations in the disarmament field could be substantially strengthened, inter alia, through the conscientious implementation by Member States of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.

In conclusion, we would like to point out that in the light of contacts we have had with members of the Committee on the revised draft resolution, certain changes have been made. These affected primarily paragraph 1, where, instead of the words "Calls upon all Member States to", the words "Deems it important that all Member States" have been proposed, and the words "arrive at" should be followed by the words "mutually acceptable".

(Mr. Batiouk, Ukrainian SSR)

The sponsors have held consultations with all interested delegations, taking into account the wishes and comments which they expressed, and are counting on wide support for the revised draft resolution, A/C.1/42/L.33/Rev.1.

Mr. DJOKIC (Yugoslavia): At the outset of my intervention, may I express the most sincere condolences of my delegation to the delegation of the Niger on the passing of the President of the Niger, Seyni Kountché.

Three draft resolutions on the implementation of the recommendations and decisions of the tenth special session of the General Assembly have been submitted to the Committee this year: by the German Democratic Republic, A/C.1/42/L.6; the Federal Republic of Germany, A/C.1/42/L.39 and by the group of non-aligned and developing countries, A/C.1/42/L.70. The number of resolutions is telling proof of the importance that Member States attach to the questions relating to the implementation of the recommendations and decisions of the first special session devoted to disarmament. This interest is all the more significant since we are facing the important and highly responsible task of preparing the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, at which we shall be able to assess to what extent we have succeeded in realizing the goals we set for ourselves in the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

The sponsors of the draft resolutions were in touch during the past several days, exploring the possibility of submitting to the Committee one joint draft resolution, instead of three separate resolutions, on the implementation of the recommendations and decisions of the first special session devoted to disarmament. To achieve this goal, they invested considerable efforts, motivated by a sincere desire to reach solutions that could be generally acceptable. They reached preliminary agreement on many questions, and on others they were within reach of

(Mr. Djokic, Yugoslavia)

such agreement. However, despite all these efforts and the sponsors' good intentions, it proved impossible to reach agreement on some important questions. Different approaches, reflected in different ideas as to how to formulate these questions in the joint draft resolution, made it impossible for the sponsors to lead their consultations to a successful completion.

The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.70 regret that negotiations have not been concluded successfully. They maintained that it would be important for the General Assembly to reach consensus on the text of the resolution on the implementation of the recommendations and decisions of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament in the year which precedes the holding of the third special session devoted to disarmament. They believed that this would greatly contribute to the creation of a more favourable atmosphere in the forthcoming preparations for and the joint approach of Member States to the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

I must point out that the consultations were conducted in a very constructive and friendly spirit, with full respect for the positions of others. I would also like to express the gratitude of my delegation to the Ambassador of the German Democratic Republic, Mr. Harald Rose, and the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr. Paul Joachim von Stulpnagel, for their noble efforts to bring our deliberations to a fruitful end. The fact that we have not succeeded this time takes nothing away from the credit due us for our endeavour.

However, the sponsors of draft resolutions A/C.1/42/L.70 and A/C.1/42/L.6 were not discouraged by that outcome, and they continued their bilateral consultations.

Now I am pleased to be able to inform the members of the Committee that, proceeding from their respective drafts, the sponsors have reached agreement on the joint text of the draft resolution. May I now introduce draft resolution

(Mr. Djokic, Yugoslavia)

A/C.1/42/L.70/Rev.1, which the German Democratic Republic has joined in sponsoring. The seventh preambular paragraph of the revised text has been changed from the original draft and now reads as follows:

"Stressing once again that the active participation of Member States in effective disarmament negotiations is necessary for discharging their responsibility to contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security, that all States have the right to contribute to efforts in the field of disarmament, that it is more than ever imperative in the present circumstances to give a new impetus to negotiations on disarmament, in particular nuclear disarmament, at all levels and to achieve genuine progress in the immediate future and that all States should refrain from any actions which have or may have negative effects on the outcome of disarmament negotiations,".

In conclusion, I would like to thank the sponsors of both draft resolutions for their efforts to reach solutions acceptable to both sides, whereby they made a most direct contribution to the successful outcome of their consultations.

Mr. ROSE (German Democratic Republic): I should like to join the previous speakers in expressing our deeply felt condolences to the delegation of the Niger on the passing of President Seyni Kountché.

Now that the delegation of Yugoslavia introduced draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.70/Rev.1, my delegation would like to state that it does not insist on a vote on its draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.6.

(Mr. Rose, German
Democratic Republic)

Our thanks go to the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.70 and, in particular, to the representative of Yugoslavia, Mr. Djokic, for submitting it and for their constructive co-operation in the efforts to combine the two drafts.

One of the main concerns of draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.70/Rev.1 in the view of the German Democratic Republic, is to activate the multilateral negotiating process, in view of the encouraging developments in international relations and the remarkable progress in the negotiations between the Soviet Union and the United States. Therefore it attaches particular importance to the principle contained in document A/C.1/42/L.70/Rev.1, that bilateral and multilateral negotiations must complement and stimulate each other. We express the hope that the draft resolution will find full support in the Committee and thus give new impetus in particular to the work of the Geneva Conference on Disarmament.

Mr. KORSGAARD-PEDERSEN (Denmark): First of all I should like to join previous speakers in expressing, on behalf of my delegation, our condolences to the delegation of the Republic of the Niger on the loss it has suffered in the death of the President of the Republic.

I should like to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.12/Rev.1, regarding conventional disarmament. My delegation in the past few days has had consultations with various groups of countries. The changes in draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.12/Rev.1 resulted from those consultations. I shall not go into the substance and the reasoning behind those changes, but only indicate where they are to be found, as compared to document A/C.1/42/L.12.

In the first preambular paragraph, we have deleted the reference to resolution 35/156 A of 12 December 1980. In operative paragraph 1, line 1, the word "substantive" has been deleted. In operative paragraph 2, line 1, the definite article "the" before "basis" has been replaced by the indefinite article "a". In

(Mr. Korsgaard-Pedersen,
Denmark)

operative paragraph 4 in the second to last line, the words "on its deliberations and recommendations" have been deleted.

We hope that draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.12/Rev.1, on conventional disarmament, will meet with the approval of all the members of this Committee and will be adopted by consensus.

Mr. PATOKALLIO (Finland): I should like to begin by associating my delegation with the condolences expressed by previous speakers upon learning of the demise of the President of the Niger.

On 4 November, my delegation introduced draft decision A/C.1/42/L.36, on the subject of a United Nations verification data base. Finland was joined in sponsoring this draft decision by Bulgaria, Canada and Sweden.

As is known, the Disarmament Commission has already accomplished useful work on the subject. In its report on the 1987 session the Disarmament Commission agreed that, given the uneven distribution of technical verification capabilities, the United Nations should examine the possibility of compiling and managing a verification data base.

The purpose of draft decision A/C.1/42/L.36 was to facilitate such examination by requesting the Secretary-General to submit to the Disarmament Commission, at its next session, a preliminary report on existing capabilities and facilities within the United Nations Secretariat relevant to the establishment of a data base. The decision to go ahead with such a preliminary report would not have had any financial implications. The requested report would have been prepared by the Department for Disarmament Affairs within existing resources.

I would stress that Finland's purpose in suggesting such a report by the Secretariat was to provide additional information to the Disarmament Commission so as to help it to have an informed and constructive discussion of the subject.

(Mr. Patokallio, Finland)

Naturally, such a report would assist our further deliberations in the Disarmament Commission only if it were perceived to be helpful by all. That is why we asked that the draft decision be adopted without a vote.

We are aware of the many complexities and unanswered questions regarding the idea of a United Nations verification data base. We consider that a preliminary report by the Secretariat on what the United Nations already has in this field might have helped to answer some of those questions without in any way committing anyone to accepting the idea itself.

We fully recognize and respect that others may have other views on this and on how best to approach the subject, in view of the forthcoming session of the Disarmament Commission. None the less, we regret the fact that the draft decision could not command a consensus within this Committee. Consequently, conscious of the need to work on the basis of consensus in this important area, Finland and the other sponsors have decided not to press draft decision A/C.1/42/L.36 to a vote.

Finland, for its part, continues to attach importance to the idea of a United Nations verification data base and will pursue the matter. It is our hope that the Disarmament Commission will, at its next session, be able to elaborate a concrete recommendation on this subject on which the General Assembly could act at its forty-third session.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): The Committee will now continue its decision-taking process on draft resolutions dealing with disarmament agenda items contained in cluster 14 and appearing in the programme suggested by the Chairman. We have in mind draft resolutions A/C.1/42/L.6, which the sponsors have suggested not be the subject of a vote, L.13, L.17, L.33/Rev.1, L.37/Rev.1, L.47 and L.55. The four remaining draft resolutions in cluster 14, that is,

(The Chairman)

A/C.1/42/L.39, L.60/Rev.1, L.70/Rev.1 and L.76/Rev.1, are still the subjects of consultations among delegations, and those delegations will inform me when they are ready to submit those drafts for the approval of the Committee.

I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. KHERADI (Secretary of the Committee): In connection with draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.47, which is part of the cluster to be taken up today, I wish to make the following statement on behalf of the Secretary-General.

In operative paragraph 5 of draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.47 the United Nations is requested to lend its assistance to States and regional institutions which may request it, with a view to the institution of measures within the framework of a regional disarmament effort. It is difficult to foresee the nature and scope of the activities mandated until such time as the Secretariat receives a request for assistance. It is the Secretariat's intention to respond to such requests within the availability of existing resources.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): Before we take a decision on the various draft resolutions that I have listed, I call on those representatives who wish to make statements other than in explanation of vote.

Mr. NOWORYTA (Poland): I wish to make some remarks on the question of regional disarmament, in connection with draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.47, introduced by the representative of Belgium.

My Government is sincerely convinced that there is a close and necessary link between global and regional disarmament efforts but that neither type should wait for results to be achieved in the other sphere. On the contrary, they should be carried on simultaneously, for they are complementary. That is why my country notes with satisfaction the growing interest and goal-oriented activity of many States in the field of regional disarmament.

Every effort towards disarmament is important, be it multilateral, bilateral or unilateral. We are deeply convinced of the responsibility of all States, irrespective of their size and potential, for the future of the world, and of their

(Mr. Noworyta, Poland)

ability to contribute to that future. We also think that it is appropriate to make peace within neighbourhoods, for the more peaceful the neighbourhood, the more stable are regions and the world at large.

The regions with the greatest density of armaments, and thus the most vulnerable to military confrontation, should become a priority focus of disarmament efforts. This is above all the case as regards Europe. As the Polish Foreign Minister, Marian Orzechowski, said in his statement to the General Assembly:

"One can no longer walk around the European powder-keg with a lighted match, for sooner or later an explosion is bound to occur with incalculable consequences for the whole world." (A/42/PV.22, p. 26)

That philosophy underlay the Rapacki plan, and it still remains valid.

Although the plan failed to be implemented in Europe, it gave rise to the well-known disarmament initiatives in Latin America, the South Pacific, Africa and Asia, and this only adds to the concept of regional disarmament.

The same philosophy underlies the Jaruzelski plan, which we have already presented in the Committee. It is, however, worth recalling that the plan, by merging nuclear and conventional disarmament measures in Central Europe, is aimed at lowering the level of the offensive potentials of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and Warsaw Treaty Organization military forces and goes halfway to meeting the security concerns of the European States, particularly in the context of the imminent elimination of intermediate-range nuclear forces in the region. In addition, it is intended to maintain the momentum gained at the Stockholm Conference in the field of confidence- and security-building measures. Another important feature of the plan is that it refers to a single continent, but at the same time approaches the issue of security in broader terms.

(Mr. Noworyta, Poland)

The Polish proposal is only one of numerous initiatives recently undertaken in various regions of the world with the aim of stepping up the regional disarmament process. We believe that draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.47 could have referred more directly to those specific steps, not only because of their indisputable importance, but also with a view to fostering new initiatives.

Nevertheless, although it does not do so comprehensively, the draft resolution properly and in a timely way addresses the issue of regional disarmament. Bearing this in mind, and guided by a spirit of co-operation, Poland has become a sponsor.

Mr. NIEUWENHOYS (Belgium) (interpretation from French): I wish first to extend the sincere condolences of the Belgian delegation to the delegation of Niger on the death of the Head of State of the Republic of the Niger, His Excellency Mr. Seyni Kountché.

I have asked to speak in order to suggest a technical correction to draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.47 on regional disarmament, which was the subject of the statement by the representative of Poland. I suggest that in the English translation the fourth line of paragraph 6 be amended to include a comma after the word "Affairs" and the word "is" on the same line be changed to "are", so that the last two lines would read "Affairs, and the United States Institute for Disarmament Research, are conducting in the field of regional disarmament". Those changes are being made in the original French version.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): I call on the representative of the United States, who wishes to explain his vote before the voting.

Mr. GRANGER (United States of America): Draft resolution

A/C.1/42/L.33/Rev.1, sponsored by Czechoslovakia and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, calls on all Member States to make every effort to facilitate consistent implementation of United Nations General Assembly resolutions in the field of disarmament. Those resolutions are recommendations, neither more nor less. In suggesting that all General Assembly resolutions dealing with disarmament matters should be implemented by Member States, the draft resolution seems to purport to accord any and all such resolutions a special quasi-binding status among other General Assembly resolutions. There is no basis in the Charter for such a proposition. The United States, therefore, will vote against the draft resolution.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): We shall now proceed to take a decision on draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.13, on agenda item 63, entitled "Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly". The draft resolution, sponsored by the delegation of Cyprus, was introduced by the representative of Cyprus at the 28th meeting of the First Committee, held on 2 November 1987.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against. United States of America

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

Draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.13 was adopted by 103 votes to 1, with 21

abstentions.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): We turn now to draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.17, submitted under agenda item 62 (a), entitled "General and complete disarmament: Prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of radiological weapons". The draft resolution, sponsored by the delegation of Iraq, was introduced by the representative of Iraq.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lac People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Israel, United States of America

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Burma, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela

Draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.17 was adopted by 94 votes to 2, with 27

abstentions.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): We turn now to draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.33/Rev.1, on agenda item 62, entitled "General and complete disarmament", which was introduced by the representative of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic at the 40th meeting of the First Committee, held on 11 November 1987. The draft resolution is entitled "Implementation of United Nations resolutions in the field of disarmament", and was sponsored by the delegations of Czechoslovakia and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

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

Against: Israel, United States of America

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

Draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.33/Rev.1 was adopted by 100 votes to 2, with 23 abstentions.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): We turn now to agenda item 66, entitled "Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session". Draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.37/Rev.1, entitled "International co-operation for disarmament", was introduced by the representative of Czechoslovakia, the sponsor, at this meeting of the First Committee, that is, on 11 November 1987.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

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

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

Abstaining: Austria, Bahamas, Brazil, Chile, Finland, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Malta, Sweden, Uruguay

Draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.37/Rev.1 was adopted by 90 votes to 18, with 11 abstentions.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): We shall now turn to sub-item (a) of agenda item 63, entitled "Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly". Draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.47, entitled "Regional disarmament", was introduced by the representative of Belgium at the 34th meeting of the First Committee, on 6 November 1987. The draft resolution was slightly amended by the representative of Belgium and the amendments were brought to the attention of the Committee this morning. We have also just heard the statement made by the Secretary of the Committee on that same draft resolution. The draft resolution is sponsored by the following countries: Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Liberia, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Zaire. The sponsors of the draft resolution would like it to be adopted without a vote. May I take it that the Committee adopts the draft resolution?

Draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.47, as orally amended, was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): We now turn to the last draft resolution for this morning, draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.55, which was introduced by the representative of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic at the 39th meeting of the First Committee on 10 November 1987. This draft resolution was introduced under agenda item 55, entitled "Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons".

(The Chairman)

The draft resolution is sponsored by the following countries: Afghanistan, Angola, Benin, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Ethiopia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Mozambique, Poland, Romania, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Viet Nam.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Central African Republic, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: United States of America

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

Draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.55 was adopted by 106 votes to 1, with 18 abstentions.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): The Committee has thus finished its work on the draft resolutions in cluster 14 to be considered this morning.

I call on those representatives who wish to explain their votes or positions.

Mr. ZIPPORI (Israel): We voted against draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.17 because of the completely unjustified reference to Israel in the penultimate preambular paragraph. One can really question, after seven years of one of the bloodiest wars of the century, launched by Iraq, whether the Israeli attack against the inactive nuclear reactor constitutes an "unprecedented danger to peace and security". However, our vote against that draft resolution does not in any way change our long-held and often-expressed position that all States must refrain from attacking or threatening to attack nuclear facilities devoted to peaceful purposes.

Mr. HU Ziaodi (China): Before I proceed to explain our vote, the Chinese delegation would like to express our deep condolences to the delegation of the Niger on the death of President Seyni Kountché.

The Chinese delegation voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.33/Rev.1 since, in our view, the main thrust of this draft resolution is of positive significance in that it calls upon all Member States to make an effort to facilitate the implementation of General Assembly resolutions. In the meantime, I wish to point out that in previous years the General Assembly has adopted numerous resolutions in the field of disarmament and all countries have maintained their own positions regarding those resolutions. On some issues, big differences - even differences of principle - exist. Our vote in favour of L.33/Rev.1 does not affect the positions which we have maintained regarding certain resolutions related to disarmament issues.

Mr. GRANGER (United States of America): I should like to explain why my delegation is unable to support draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.13, a resolution which concerns the role of the Security Council in disarmament. The United States does not believe that the United Nations should, or can, play a central role in nuclear-arms reduction negotiations. The United Nations does, of course, provide a unique arena for the discussion of important international issues, and the views of the Member States are fully taken into account in the bilateral process of nuclear-arms control and disarmament negotiations.

The Security Council has the potential to play a crucial role in the maintenance of international peace and security when its members, acting on behalf of the full United Nations membership, are able to find common ground. However, the Security Council is incapable, institutionally, of assuming a pre-eminent role on nuclear-arms reductions. Security Council debates would merely duplicate

(Mr. Granger, United States)

discussions already being held in the Conference on Disarmament, the First Committee and the Disarmament Commission. Furthermore, the creation of a new disarmament machinery under the Security Council would needlessly duplicate the ongoing responsibilities of the Department of Disarmament Affairs. For these reasons, my delegation has voted against draft resolution L.13.

Miss SOLESBY (United Kingdom): I should like to take this opportunity first to express to the delegation of the Niger the deep condolences of my delegation on the sad death of the late President of the Niger.

I should like to explain my delegation's vote on draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.13. The United Kingdom firmly supports the security system established by the Charter of the United Nations under which the Security Council has the primary role in the maintenance of international peace and security. We welcome the recognition of this in the preambular part of this draft resolution.

However, as a matter of principle, we have reservations about the appropriateness of the General Assembly directing the Security Council to take specified action. We also doubt the need in practice for the establishment of new bodies in the United Nations system to address disarmament issues. Accordingly, we have abstained on the draft resolution.

Next, I should like to explain our vote on draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.33/Rev.1. While I thank the delegate of Czechoslovakia for his explanation, we still find it difficult to understand the aim of this resolution. It is clear that General Assembly resolutions are important expressions of opinion. If they carry the support of all, their persuasiveness is all the greater. However, it is clear that General Assembly resolutions, whether carried by consensus or not, and whether on disarmament or other subjects, have no binding force and are certainly not legally binding in any way. I note that the delegate

(Miss Solesby, United Kingdom)

of Czechoslovakia has said that his text does not carry this implication. This is not at all clear to us from the text itself, but his explanation makes any justification for the resolution still more unclear. We have therefore abstained on this resolution.

I also wish to explain our vote on draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.55. As the delegate of the Byelorussian SSR explained in his introduction of the draft, certain changes have been made to the text this year to make it less objectionable from our point of view. However, despite a prolonged effort on our part, and that of the Byelorussian delegation, it did not prove possible for the sponsors to go the extra few paces to enable the draft to be passed without a vote. This is disappointing, and we have accordingly abstained on the draft resolution. We hope that next year more flexibility will be possible to enable the resolution on this subject to be passed unanimously.

Mr. RATH (India): My delegation joins others who have expressed their condolences to the delegation of the Niger on the death of President Kountché.

We wish to explain our vote on draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.33/Rev.1 on the implementation of General Assembly resolutions in the field of disarmament. My delegation voted in favour of the draft resolution with the understanding that operative paragraph 1 can apply only to resolutions that we have supported.

Mr. NUÑEZ (Cuba): My delegation would like to explain its position with regard to draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.47 on regional disarmament, which the Committee has just adopted without a vote.

(Mr. Nuñez, Cuba)

We welcome the fact that in their draft resolution the sponsors have confirmed the importance of having regional disarmament measures taken at the initiative of all the States concerned and with their participation. Similarly, we welcome the fact that they have highlighted the necessity of bearing in mind the characteristic conditions of each region and also the fact that disarmament efforts made in one region cannot be isolated from those efforts in other regions or from global disarmament efforts, both in the nuclear and in the conventional field.

Nevertheless, when reference is made to regional disarmament, we should also stress the fact that this measure cannot possibly affect the security of the States of the region. It should also be pointed out that this measure should take account of priorities laid down by the General Assembly for disarmament, and primarily nuclear disarmament, and that those measures are particularly necessary in regions where there is a high concentration of arms, both nuclear and conventional.

In order to promote the adoption of regional disarmament measures in certain other regions, we must for example dismantle foreign military bases, which are still proliferating, and military manoeuvres, which threaten and intimidate sovereign States, must be suspended. We must eliminate colonial situations which still persist, and there should be a cessation of acts of hostility and aggression against States in all regions, to mention only a few of the elements that are damaging to the implementation of regional disarmament measures.

Mr. SCHIALER (Peru) (interpretation from Spanish): Peru also wishes to be associated with the sincere condolences expressed to the Republic of the Niger on the death of President Seyni Kountché.

My country has asked to speak in order to comment on draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.17, on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of radiological weapons, which has just been adopted by this Committee.

(Mr. Schialer, Peru)

In operative paragraph 2, an important mandate is given to the Conference on Disarmament, which my delegation welcomes. Without prejudice to the value of that mandate, but in view of the possible repercussions that any attack on nuclear facilities might have on the civilian population, that question should also be examined in the relevant forums in the light of the humanitarian consequences that might ensue.

Mr. MASHIADI-GIAHVEHCHI (Islamic Republic of Iran): First of all, I should like to join previous speakers in expressing the heartfelt condolences of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the untimely demise of the President of the Niger.

The Islamic Republic of Iran voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.17, regarding the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of radiological weapons. We are interested in the fifth paragraph of the preamble, which says:

"Deeply concerned that the destruction of nuclear facilities by conventional weapons causes the release into the environment of huge amounts of dangerous radioactive material, which results in serious radioactive contamination,".

I should like to draw the attention of delegations in the First Committee to the fact that, since our nuclear facilities for peaceful uses in Bushehr in the south of the country have been subjected to various aerial attacks, we attach great significance to this draft resolution and hope that the general wish expressed here will be respected by all Member States.

Mr. TAYLHARDAT (Venezuela) (interpretation from Spanish): I should like to explain my delegation's abstention on draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.17. While recognizing the danger of a military attack on a nuclear facility, it seems to us

(Mr. Taylhardat, Venezuela)

to be rather excessive to make the assertion that an attack on a nuclear facility would be tantamount to the use of radiological weapons. It is indeed true that in some cases the effects of an attack of this type could be comparable to the use of radiological weapons, but this would not occur in all cases.

We also note that there is a discrepancy between the third preambular paragraph and operative paragraph 1, since the third preambular paragraph it says:

"that armed attacks against nuclear facilities ... could be tantamount to the use of radiological weapons"

whereas in operative paragraph 1 it is asserted that they are:

"tantamount to the use of radiological weapons ...".

I should like to add that my delegation shares the view expressed by the representative of Peru and we consider that the drafting of an international instrument designed to establish the prohibition of military attacks on nuclear facilities is a subject that should be examined in a diplomatic conference, and not in the Conference on Disarmament.

Therefore my delegation felt obliged to abstain on this draft resolution, since the statements and assertions made in the third preambular paragraph and operative paragraph 1 could have an influence on the work that is to be done by the Conference.

Mr. NASHASHIBI (Jordan): Jordan would like to associate itself with all Member States that have presented their deep condolences on the sad occasion of the passing away of the late President of the Niger, Mr. Kountché.

Jordan voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.17 because of our firm and unwavering conviction that attacks against nuclear facilities devoted to peaceful purposes constitute an unprecedented threat to international peace and security and will create chaos in an already explosive and troubled region of the world.

Mr. ROWE (Australia): I also would like to express, on behalf of the Australian delegation, to the delegation of Niger our condolences on the death of President Kountché.

Australia abstained in the voting on draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.33/Rev.1, on the implementation of disarmament resolutions. While Australia supports most United Nations disarmament resolutions, we do not see value in a resolution which calls for the implementation of a whole class of resolutions and in relation to the particular resolution adopted this morning there are provisions that we cannot support because they call on us to implement resolutions we have opposed.

Moreover, we see little value in the proposed annual report by the Secretary-General, called for in paragraph 3 of the resolution. Resolutions on individual disarmament items often contain provisions for such reports on implementation. This new proposed report would duplicate them and, in our view, be a waste of increasingly scarce United Nations resources.

Australia also abstained in the voting on the draft resolution on the prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons, A/C.1/42/L.55. Specific reference is made in that draft resolution to the relevant item on the agenda of the Conference on Disarmament. The only weapons specifically mentioned, however, under that Conference on Disarmament agenda item are radiological weapons. The United Nations General Assembly's agenda for this session contains item 62 (a), which deals specifically with the report of the Conference on Disarmament on radiological weapons - in fact we have already adopted a resolution on that report, a resolution of which Australia was a sponsor (A/C.1/42/L.5).

There is no other substantive issue under this item, since no other weapons of mass destruction have been conceived. The current item, therefore - that is

(Mr. Rowe, Australia)

item 59 - in relating particularly to the title of the draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.55, is in our view superfluous and we consider, frankly, that it diverts resources and attention from higher priority tasks.

Mr. van SCHAIK (Netherlands): I should like to explain the abstention of my delegation in the voting on draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.55 on the prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons. Over the years the Netherlands has actively supported the idea that negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on multilateral agreements on weapons of mass destruction would be feasible only if those negotiations concerned well-defined and identified weapons of mass destruction. We are of the opinion that only if the feasibility of manufacturing such weapons, based on new scientific principles, has been clearly established will it be possible to enter into negotiations aimed at an adequately verifiable prohibition of such weapons.

It is our conviction that there are at present no indications that such new types of weapons of mass destruction are imminent. Nevertheless, the subject should be kept under review, because the prevention of the emergence of new types of weapons of mass destruction is of the utmost importance.

In this connection we wish to recall that at its 1987 session the Conference on Disarmament considered the issue of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons but then no new weapons were identified.

Although a real effort has been made this year to make draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.55 a consensus resolution, we have not been successful. My delegation, among others, has difficulty with the sixth preambular paragraph, in which we would have liked to see it clearly expressed that modern science and technology should not lead to the practical development of such weapons. We have difficulties also

(Mr. van Schaik, Netherlands)

with operative paragraph 2, because we think it sufficient if the situation is reviewed at periodic intervals. My delegation therefore abstained in the voting. We hope that it will be possible next year to arrive at a consensus on this subject. We seem no longer to be very far from that.

Mr. MARTYNOV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) (interpretation from Russian): Our delegation would like to take this opportunity to associate itself with the condolences expressed to the delegation of the Niger upon the death of its President.

We would like to explain our vote on draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.33/Rev.1. In our view the draft resolution deals with a crucial issue. Why do we adopt draft resolutions in the United Nations, in particular in this First Committee? Those draft resolutions do not merely express the views of the General Assembly. They are adopted pursuant to the provisions of the Charter and are therefore recommendations. Why, then, do we produce these recommendations? I would say that recommendations are adopted in order that States may respect them in devising their mode of conduct. If that were not the case, the recommendations would be meaningless.

If we wish to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations - and much mention is made of that in the First Committee - then mention should also be made of enhancing the effectiveness of decisions taken and adopted and that should be done by implementing and applying them. In this connection it is certain that resolutions adopted by consensus, or without a vote, would be of particular use and that resolutions that are voted upon require on the part of States that they pay attention to them and heed them sufficiently, and that they should consider themselves, therefore, to be morally bound by those resolutions, which should determine their future action.

(Mr. Martynov, Byelorussian
Soviet Socialist Republic)

The fact that draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.33/Rev.1, in operative paragraph 3, calls upon all States without exception to have a thorough exchange of views on the various means of implementing those resolutions means that this draft resolution deserves our fullest support.

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the representative of the United Kingdom, who wishes to introduce a draft resolution.

Miss SOLESBY (United Kingdom): I should like to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.22/Rev.1, which is sponsored by the following countries: Australia, Belgium, Botswana, Canada, Denmark, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Iceland, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Samoa, Spain, Swaziland, Turkey, the United States of America and my own delegation.

A number of changes have been made in both sections of the text following intensive consultations with other delegations in the Committee. They represent a genuine attempt on our part to put into practice our conviction that the search for compromise can produce results. We have held detailed discussions on the draft resolution, in particular with the delegation of the Soviet Union. I should especially like to express my gratitude to the members of that delegation for their constructive approach.

We have been able to merge into draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.22/Rev.1 some of the ideas in the Soviet Union's own draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.42 on confidence-building and openness in military matters. In addition, we have responded to other suggestions made to us and accommodated them wherever possible. We are now able to announce that as a result of these efforts the Soviet Union will not press draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.42 to a vote.

I should like to draw attention to operative paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.22/Rev.1. The sponsors of the draft resolution are keenly looking forward to next year's third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. We, of course, intend to make a positive input into that session. That is why we have requested the Secretary-General to report to the session on the implementation of resolutions on objective information on military matters. We envisage that that report will, inter alia, include the views of States on the subject and an account and assessment of the replies that have been received in response to the United Nations standardized reporting instrument on

(Miss Solesby, United Kingdom)

military expenditures. We all firmly believe that this report will considerably assist consideration of this item at the special session.

Finally, the revised draft resolution which I am introducing has been drafted with the intention of commanding the widest possible support in the Committee. It is in this spirit of compromise and accommodation that it has been put forward and it is with this in mind that I commend it to the Committee in the hope that it will be adopted by consensus.

Mr. NAZARKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): First, the Soviet delegation would like to express its condolences to the delegation of Niger and to the Government and people of that State on the passing of the Head of State, His Excellency Mr. Seyni Kountché.

The Soviet delegation, together with the delegations of a number of other socialist States, is, as the Committee is aware, a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.42, on confidence-building and increased openness in military matters. In putting forward this draft resolution, the sponsors, proceeded from the conviction that a broad approach to confidence-building and openness in military matters should help to eliminate sources of suspicion and create an atmosphere of clarity and predictability in moving towards genuine disarmament.

As a result of intensive consultations with the delegation of the United Kingdom, as the Committee has just been informed by Ambassador Solesby, we find reflected in draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.22/Rev.1, the main ideas contained in draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.42. I should like to express our gratitude to the delegation of the United Kingdom for their spirit of co-operation, as a result of which, in the operative part of draft resolution L.22/Rev.1, we find a new paragraph 4, which invites all Member States to transmit to the Secretary-General, not later than 15 April 1988, their views concerning ways and means of ensuring

(Mr. Nazarkin, USSR)

confidence and furthering openness in military matters. We feel that the answers of States will help progress towards confidence, trust and openness. Part of this process is openness in the area of military expenditures. The repeated attempts to proceed to a reduction of military budgets have always been rejected, with references to the difficulty of comparison. Indeed, comparison of defence expenditures is no easy matter, since the armaments price structure and price formation mechanisms of States differ fundamentally.

Upon the conclusion of the radical reforms of price formation that we have indicated it will be possible realistically to compare overall military expenditures. It will be possible, even in the next two or three years, to compare the figures which are of interest to ourselves and our partners and which would reflect the expenditures of the sides.

Draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.22/Rev.1 also contains some other provisions which reflect our approach to the question of openness in military matters.

With regard to the report by the Secretary-General referred to in draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.22/Rev.1, it is our belief that this report should be of a purely factual nature.

We also believe that the formulations in draft resolution L.22/Rev.1 do not predetermine our attitude to the existing system of standardized reporting of military expenditures.

The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.42 declare that they will not ask that this be voted upon and the delegations of Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic and the Soviet Union will join the sponsors of draft resolution L.22/Rev.1.

Mr. ALI (Niger) (interpretation from French): Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the people and Government of Niger, and on behalf of our delegation, I should like

(Mr. Ali, Niger)

to thank you most sincerely for your moving words and for the feelings of sympathy that you have so kindly expressed to us upon the cruel loss of the President of the Supreme Military Council and Head of State of the Republic of the Niger. His passing creates an immense void in Niger, not only for the people who identified with him in his struggle to liberate our country from the natural constraints to which it is subject, but also for the whole of Africa, where he was one of the most respected Heads of State.

I wish to reiterate to all delegations here who were kind enough to share with us our great sorrow at the passing of President Kountché our profound gratitude and warm and sincere thanks.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): The representative of Iraq wishes to speak in exercise of the right of reply. I would remind him of the procedure agreed upon at a previous meeting.

Mr. MOHAMMED (Iraq) (interpretation from Arabic): I should like to express our condolences to the delegation of the Niger.

I wish to comment on the statement made by the representative of Israel in explanation of his vote on draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.17.

In my opinion he should be the last to express sorrow on the tragedy between Iraq and Iran in view of the sinister Zionist role played by his entity in fanning the fires of the Iran-Iraq war and his régime's exploitation of that war in striking at Iraqi nuclear facilities used exclusively for peaceful purposes.

I should also like to inform delegations that the Abu Shahr project is not subject to the nuclear guarantees of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and that Iraqi installations are subject to such IAEA guarantees.

PROGRAMME OF WORK

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): I should like to inform the Committee of the programme for tomorrow, Thursday, 12 November.

In the morning the Committee could examine cluster 8, which, as members may recall, was in abeyance. Three draft resolutions have been presented within cluster 8. Consultations are being held on them and we hope that they will be concluded today, since this afternoon should be used for intensive consultations so that we can take up the draft resolutions in cluster 8.

We shall return to cluster 10; consideration of draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.12 was suspended following consultations.

We shall then turn to cluster 11, containing five draft resolutions. In view of the statement made by the Soviet Union representative, who is not going to

(The Chairman)

press A/C.1/42/L.42 to a vote, we shall have only four draft resolutions to consider: A/C.1/42/L.22/Rev.1, A/C.1/42/L.48, and perhaps A/C.1/42/L.54 and A/C.1/42/L.66.

If we have enough time we could also deal with cluster 13, three draft resolutions of which are still being discussed.

I would remind delegations that we have postponed consideration of four of the draft resolutions in cluster 9 and, today, of four of the draft resolutions in cluster 14. Depending on the results of consultations, we may revert to clusters 9 and 14 later.

The meeting rose at 1.25 p.m.