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FIRST COMMITTEE

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-THIRD MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Tuesday, 19 November 1974, at 10.30 a.m.

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. ORTIZ de ROZAS	(Argentina)
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. COSTA LOBO	(Portugal)

- Reduction of the military budgets of States permanent members of the Security Council by 10 per cent and utilization of part of the funds thus saved to provide assistance to developing countries /24/ (continued)
- (a) Report of the Special Committee on the Distribution of the Funds Released as a Result of the Reduction of Military Budgets;
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General
- Napalm and other incendiary weapons and all aspects of their possible use: report of the Secretary-General /27/ (continued)
- Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons: report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament /28/ (continued)

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- Urgent need for cessation of nuclear and thermonuclear tests and conclusion of a treaty designed to achieve a comprehensive test ban: report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament /29/ (continued)
- Implementation of General Assembly resolution 3079 (XXVIII) concerning the signature and ratification of Additional Protocol II of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Treaty of Tlatelolco): report of the Secretary-General /30/ (continued)
- Implementation of the Declaration on the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace: report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean /31/ (continued)
- World Disarmament Conference: report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference /34/ (continued)
- General and complete disarmament: report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament /35/ (continued)
- Implementation of General Assembly resolution 2286 (XXII) concerning the signature and ratification of Additional Protocol I of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Treaty of Tlatelolco) /100/ (continued)
- Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East /101/ (continued)
- Prohibition of action to influence the environment and climate for military and other purposes incompatible with the maintenance of international security, human well-being and health /103/ (continued)
- Declaration and establishment of a nuclear-free zone in South Asia /107/ (continued)

AGENDA ITEMS 24, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 34, 35, 100, 101, 103, 107 (continued)

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): No delegation has inscribed itself to comment on the various draft resolutions that the Committee is considering. I do not know whether any delegation would still wish to speak at this time even though its name is not listed to speak.

Mr. CLARK (Nigeria): I presume, Mr. Chairman, that we are talking about the two draft resolutions in documents A/C.1/L.681 and A/C.1/L.682. If this is so, I should like to make a suggestion.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I have invited delegations to comment on any of the draft resolutions that are before the Committee, not only the draft resolutions in documents A/C.1/L.681 and A/C.1/L.682. We are having a sort of general debate on the various draft resolutions and draft amendments, not just discussing certain specific ones. Therefore, if the representative of Nigeria wishes to comment on those in documents A/C.1/L.681 and A/C.1/L.682, that is perfectly in order.

Mr. CLARK (Nigeria): I should prefer to wait until we address ourselves to those two particular draft resolutions.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): Since no delegation wishes to speak or to comment on the various draft resolutions, I believe we can make use of our time by proceeding to a vote on the draft resolutions in documents A/C.1/L.685 and A/C.1/L.686. In this connexion, I should like to express my thanks to the delegation of the Soviet Union and to the head of that delegation, Ambassador Roschin, who had requested consideration and a vote on these two draft resolutions for tomorrow, but who, in order to co-operate with the Chairman and expedite our work, very courteously agreed that we might vote on them today. I wish therefore to thank Ambassador Roschin for being so gracious.

Therefore, I believe that in accordance with the appropriate order, we should first take up the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.685, on agenda item 30, entitled "Implementation of General Assembly resolution 3079 (XXVIII) concerning the signature and ratification of Additional Protocol II of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Treaty of Tlatelolco)". This draft resolution was introduced here at the appropriate time by the representative of Mexico on behalf of the co-sponsors.

For explanations of vote before the vote, I shall now call on those delegations that have asked to speak for that purpose, the first of which is the delegation of Cuba.

Mr. BLANCO (Cuba) (interpretation from Spanish): With regard to the draft resolutions in documents A/C.1/L.685 and A/C.1/L.686, on Additional Protocols II and I, respectively, of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America, the Revolutionary Government of Cuba reaffirms once again its conviction that the disarmament of our country, confronted as it is by the only nuclear Power of the Western Hemisphere, a Power which throughout history has plundered our wealth, is not the most appropriate way to achieve the lofty aims envisioned in the Treaty.

(Mr. Blanco, Cuba)

We are in favour of peace, because it is an inalienable right of peoples. For this very reason we are compelled to denounce any illusion which, in the pursuit of so lofty an objective, in practice tends to weaken that right or to remove it as a possible choice. The history of our hemisphere has been a history of United States intervention in Latin America -- military intervention and economic aggression, one of the variants of which, namely, a blockade, is being inflicted on my country, open or concealed subversion, these form the basic history of relations between the northern colossus and our weak and Balkanized countries. Why should Latin America renounce any particular armaments if the United States does not also renounce the nuclear weapon? Why this unilateral commitment, when the only nuclear Power in our hemisphere not only does not assume a like responsibility but, furthermore, maintains under military occupation the colonial territory of Puerto Rico and the Panama Canal Zone as well as a whole chain of military bases throughout Latin America? As long as that imperialist and colonialist Power does not, on the one hand, renounce the role of policeman it has arrogated to itself in our part of the planet and does not on an equal footing commit itself to denuclearization of its own territories, the Treaty of Tlatelolco, far from achieving the lofty purposes which inspired it since the Government of Mexico took this initiative, can only contribute to making even more precarious the relative peace we enjoy at present.

It is not Latin America that endangers international security in this hemisphere. The truth lies elsewhere. Foreign bases bind the destiny of our nations to the military strategy of Yankee imperialism, which is very different from the real interests of the Latin American people. An essential objective of the struggle for international peace and security is to achieve the dismantling and removal of those bases. The North American financial oligarchy drains our wealth without pity through its transnational companies and firms and its reaction is haughty and overbearing when any Latin American Government exercises its sovereignty in an attempt to change the situation. The basic objective of the struggle for peace in our hemisphere is to safeguard our natural resources. There are colonial territories in our hemisphere, that of our brothers in Puerto Rico for example, on whom is brutally inflicted a constant process of military and economic oppression, culminating in the

(Mr. Blanco, Cuba)

deliberate destruction of its culture. An essential objective of the struggle to open up new vistas in Latin America is the achievement of independence for the brother republic of Puerto Rico.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I regret that I have to interrupt the representative of Cuba. However, in accordance with the practice we have followed from the beginning of this session in the First Committee, I should be grateful to him if in all his remarks -- and your Chairman will never for any reason limit his right to speak -- he will confine himself to the item under discussion. In this case it is an explanation of vote in regard to the draft resolution on the Treaty of Tlatelolco (A/C.1/L.685). I should be most grateful if the representative of Cuba would co-operate with the Chairman and, taking into account these remarks, I invite him to continue his statement.

Mr. BLANCO (Cuba) (interpretation from Spanish): Mr. Chairman, in the first place I thank you for your remarks. I respect your opinion as Chairman of this Committee. Nevertheless, I believe that I am referring to a whole series of matters which are linked to the objectives pursued by the Treaty of Tlatelolco. I am referring to a whole series of circumstances prevailing in Latin America which are linked to the security of the hemisphere, which is also an essential objective of the Treaty of Tlatelolco. I am referring to them in a circumstantial manner, just as other representatives in this debate, when referring to other matters, have made allusion to different political circumstances that have also given rise to debate and to statements in exercise of the right of reply at the ends of meetings. I know that you, as usual, have called the representatives to order, inviting them to keep to the item under discussion. Such was the aim of my remarks, to point out what are the circumstances prevailing in our hemisphere and what are the essential objectives to be pursued, if we want to implement those objectives which are also those of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, in a realistic and tangible way. However, I shall abide by your remarks and end my statement now.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I most sincerely thank the representative of Cuba for his co-operation.

Mr. BLANCO (Cuba) (interpretation from Spanish): There are territories in our hemisphere which are occupied by force and against the expressed will of their respective Governments, as in the case of the Panama Canal Zone and the Guantanamo base. The suppression of such interference is also an unavoidable task in the struggle for peace and security in our hemisphere. Recent history completely confirms our conviction that the circumstances which have determined our attitude from the outset towards the Treaty of Tlatelolco have not altered in any way. Therefore we can only reaffirm our position on the basis of the facts which I have described.

Allow me, Mr. Chairman, in concluding this statement, to extend my greetings and congratulations to you, since I did not have an opportunity to do so earlier, on the very wise selection of yourself to be Chairman of this Committee, which you have been guiding so skilfully and so worthily.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I thank the representative of Cuba for the cordial words he has been kind enough to address to me.

Mr. ROSCHIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The Soviet Union assigns considerable importance to the question of the establishment of a nuclear-free zone which would fully guarantee the non-nuclear status of the region concerned. On the basis of this approach the Soviet Union defines its attitude towards the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America, that is, the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

The Soviet Union fully understands the motives which have guided the sponsors of the draft on the nuclear-free zone in Latin America. At the same time, the Soviet Union feels that the viability of that zone depends on the extent to which the obligations of States parties to the zone completely ensure its nuclear-free status. In the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America, along with provisions which are truly designed to achieve the goals sought, there are provisions which do not correspond to the tasks set.

(Mr. Roschin, USSR)

The USSR has stated its attitude towards this Treaty on numerous occasions during sessions of the General Assembly and in the Committee on Disarmament: the Soviet side believes that the Tlatelolco Treaty does not fully guarantee the non-nuclear status of Latin America. Bearing this in mind, the delegation of the Soviet Union will not support the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/L.685 and in the course of the vote on that draft, we shall abstain.

The delegation of the Soviet Union likewise will abstain on the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/L.686.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): Does any other delegation wish to speak at this stage? Since there are no speakers, we shall begin the procedural vote in pursuance of rule 128 of the rules of procedure.

The draft resolution (A/C.1/L.685) was adopted by 83 votes to none, with 14 abstentions.

Mr. BLAIN (Gambia): Gambia would like to vote in favour of this resolution.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): The vote of Gambia will be recorded in the records of the Committee. Unfortunately, the representative of Gambia requested that his vote be recorded after I had declared that the voting procedure was completed. Nevertheless, his position, as I have indicated, will be reflected with the appropriate comment in the record of the present meeting.

Since no delegation wishes to explain its vote after the vote, I shall assume that we have concluded consideration of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/L.685 referring to agenda item 30.

We shall now proceed to consider the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/L.686, Corr.1 and Corr.2, on agenda item 100, entitled "Implementation of General Assembly resolution 2286 (XXII) concerning the signature and ratification of Additional Protocol I of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Treaty of Tlatelolco)". This draft resolution was



(The Chairman)

introduced at the appropriate time by the representative of Mexico. Does any delegation wish to explain its vote before the vote?

Mr. de PRAT GAY (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): My delegation will abstain in the vote on draft resolution A/C.1/L.686, since we have reservation in regard to the contents and impact of the third preambular paragraph and operative paragraph 1.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): Since there are no other speakers, we shall now vote on the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/L.686.

The draft resolution (A/C.1/L.686) was adopted by 84 votes to none, with 18 abstentions.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): Does any delegation wish to speak to explain its vote after the vote?

Mr. GIVAN (United States of America): While the United States supports Treaty of Tlatelolco as an important regional effort to inhibit nuclear proliferation which may serve as a constructive example for similar efforts where, we were unable to vote in favour of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/L.686.

The position my Government has taken since the inception of the Treaty with respect to United States territories in the region and, therefore, with respect to the Optional Protocol I remains unchanged.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): Since there are no further motions of vote after vote, I shall therefore consider that we have concluded the discussion of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/L.686.

(The Chairman)

I should like to consult the Committee once again whether any delegation wishes to speak at this stage of our work on any of the draft resolutions or amendments which are before the Committee, namely, those in documents A/C.1/L.681, L.682, L.690, L.691, L.693 and L.694.

Mr. ECKERBERG (Sweden): Mr. Chairman, I should just like to inform you so that the planning of the work can be simplified that the Swedish delegation intends to speak on the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.691 regarding napalm tomorrow morning.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): That will obviously facilitate the organization of our work. Since we have no meeting this afternoon, we shall, in principle, as we agreed at a previous meeting, consider at tomorrow morning's meeting the draft resolutions contained in documents A/C.1/L.681 and L.682 on agenda item 107, entitled "Declaration and establishment of a nuclear-free zone in South Asia".

Likewise, in the course of the day, we could also take up -- in the morning if we have time, if not, in the afternoon -- the draft resolution on agenda item 35 entitled "General and complete disarmament", contained in document A/C.1/L.690 and the amendments thereto. We shall also hear, as just announced, the statement by the representative of Sweden on the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.691. The Committee may therefore be able to vote on that draft resolution on Thursday.

Delegations wishing to speak on any other proposal, of course, would be free to do so either in the morning or in the afternoon.

Mr. MISHRA (India): Our Committee decided yesterday that in principle it would be ready to vote this morning on the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/L.681. We are happy to go along with the wishes of some delegations that would prefer to have the vote take place tomorrow. But I should like to urge that the voting not be postponed beyond tomorrow morning.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I had thought that the vote on that draft resolution could take place today. However, since efforts are under way and consultations are taking place to try to reconcile the two draft resolutions on this item and since I am always in favour of conciliation and reconciliation, I am most happy to give additional time to the delegation that has undertaken that effort in the hope that it will be successful. I therefore think that we can vote on that draft resolution tomorrow.

Mr. CLARK (Nigeria): Mr. Chairman, I am not quite sure whether you agreed that we should introduce our draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.694, which is co-sponsored by 25 African countries, tomorrow afternoon.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): It would be very timely if that draft resolution could be introduced tomorrow afternoon. That would enable the Committee to vote on it sometime this week before Friday.

Mr. AKHUND (Pakistan): Mr. Chairman, I wish only to confirm what you have just conveyed to the Committee, that is, that efforts are indeed underway to reconcile points of view on agenda item 107, and to say that as a co-sponsor of one of the drafts under that item, Pakistan assures the Committee and all concerned of its full co-operation

(Mr. Akhund, Pakistan)

in bringing those efforts to a successful conclusion. If, unfortunately, they do not succeed, we are also willing to have the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.682 voted on tomorrow, as you have proposed.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I note that both the delegations of India and Pakistan agree on voting on the drafts tomorrow. It would be a most positive step if they were also to agree in other ways so that the efforts of both delegations could be successful.

I should like to announce that the delegation of Cyprus has informed me that it has joined the co-sponsors of the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.691.

I should like to announce that the delegation of Austria has joined the co-sponsors of the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.690 and also the co-sponsors of the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.691.

Mr. MACKERNAN (Ireland): The delegation of Ireland wishes to be recorded as having voted in favour of document A/C.1/L.685. We were not present when the vote on this particular draft resolution took place.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): The vote of the delegation of Ireland will be noted in the verbatim record.

The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.