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MEETING**

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Chairman: Mr. Constantine EUSTATHIADES (Greece).

AGENDA ITEM 75

Consideration of principles of international law concerning friendly relations and co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations (A/5192, A/C.6/L.505, A/C.6/L.507 and Add.1) (continued)

1. Mr. KHIN CHHE (Cambodia) said that the preambles of the two draft resolutions, that submitted by Czechoslovakia (A/C.6/L.505) and that submitted by the eight Powers (A/C.6/L.507 and Add.1), were based on approximately the same principles of the Charter: they referred first to the obligation of States to practise tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours, and then to the promotion of international co-operation in the political field and to encouragement of the progressive development of international law and its codification. While the preambles of the two texts resembled each other, however, the operative parts did not. The operative part of draft resolution A/C.6/L.507 and Add.1 could be divided into two sections: the first affirmed the principles of international law concerning friendly relations and co-operation among States; the second called for the inclusion as topics in the provisional agenda of the eighteenth session of the obligations to respect the territorial integrity and political independence of States, and to settle disputes by peaceful means.

2. Draft resolution A/C.6/L.505, however, contained a much longer list of principles, each accompanied by a clear and concise explanation. Among them were: prohibition of the threat or use of force; prohibition of weapons of mass destruction; general and complete disarmament; prohibition of war propaganda; collective security; sovereign equality; non-intervention; liquidation of colonialism in all its forms; respect for human rights; co-operation in economic, social and cultural fields; and State responsibility. His delegation was particularly glad to note the reference to the need for general and complete disarmament under strict international control, which corresponded to a similar declaration, in which his own Government had participated, made at the Conference of the Heads of State or Government of Non-aligned Countries held at Belgrade in September 1961.

3. In draft resolution A/C.6/L.507 and Add.1, the expression "to respect international rights" in the third preambular paragraph might give rise to two different interpretations. It might mean "international rules" or even "active performance", as opposed to the words "duty" or "obligation". In order to avoid any ambiguity, he proposed that the whole phrase beginning with those words should be replaced by the words "to fulfil international obligations".

4. Both drafts were constructive, and his delegation found it extremely difficult to choose between them. The principle of general and complete disarmament stated in draft resolution A/C.6/L.505 involved a difficult and complex political problem which, in spite of persistent efforts by both sides, had not yet been solved. The same might be said of the principle of State responsibility, which was also still subject to controversy. In order, therefore, to preserve the spirit of unanimity characteristic of the Sixth Committee, he suggested that the sponsors of the two draft resolutions should meet informally to prepare a single draft, of which his delegation would be glad to be a sponsor.

5. The CHAIRMAN expressed regret that no more delegations were prepared to speak on the item at that meeting or next day. He reminded the Committee that its time was short, and suggested that it might pass on to the next item on its agenda, consular relations.

6. Mr. MILANKOVIC (Yugoslavia) said that the present item was the most important on the Committee's agenda, and discussion of it should not be interrupted.

7. Mr. EL-ERIAN (United Arab Republic) agreed with the representative of Yugoslavia. The statements made by the sponsors of the two draft resolutions had been so outstanding that it was not surprising that delegations needed time to study those draft resolutions and those statements before making their comments.

8. Mr. AMADO (Brazil) recalled that it was customary in the Sixth Committee to begin discussion of an item with a general debate and then submit draft resolutions. Since the Committee was already seized of two draft resolutions, delegations would obviously require time to study them and possibly to consult their Governments.

9. U SAN MAUNG (Burma) supported the representatives of Yugoslavia, the United Arab Republic and Brazil. His delegation was giving very serious consideration to the two draft resolutions, and felt that a brief pause in the general debate would be bound to expedite the Committee's work.

10. The CHAIRMAN said that it appeared to be the consensus of the Committee that the present order of discussion of the agenda items should not be changed.

The meeting rose at 11.20 a.m.