



VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 13TH MEETING

Chairman: Mr. NAIK (Pakistan)

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OBSERVANCE OF DISARMAMENT WEEK

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The meeting was called to order at 11.00 a.m.

OBSERVANCE OF DISARMAMENT WEEK

The CHAIRMAN: As announced previously, this meeting of the Committee which is being held on United Nations Day is devoted to the observance of Disarmament Week.

It is my pleasure to inform the Committee that we have received messages from the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General, which will be read out respectively by me and by the Assistant Secretary-General, Centre for Disarmament.

I shall now read out the message from the President of the General Assembly:

"At its tenth special session in 1978 the General Assembly proclaimed the week beginning 24 October as a week to be devoted to fostering the objectives of disarmament. Disarmament Week appropriately starts on the day commemorating the founding of the United Nations. It is meant to remind us that the central aim of the United Nations is the building of a structure of durable peace or, in the words of the Preamble of the Charter, 'to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind'.

"Military expenditures now amount to \$500 billion a year, which means that \$1 million are spent every minute. That is happening while millions of human beings are living in hunger and poverty, lacking education and employment. The existing nuclear weapons arsenals are capable of destroying the world many times over and still continue to be stockpiled while their performance is constantly being refined. Conventional weapons of ever-increasing sophistication are ceaselessly accumulated. Under such circumstances, not only the maintenance of international peace and security, but the very survival of mankind is threatened.

(The Chairman)

"Disarmament must remain a major objective of the United Nations. Without progress towards disarmament, it is doubtful, to say the least, that the other objectives, including those in the economic and social fields, could be attained. The United Nations provides, and must continue to provide, a framework for multilateral disarmament negotiations. There is no other place where this can be done as well, where all countries can meet and participate in finding solutions to the pressing problems with which we are faced.

"Disarmament Week provides us with an opportunity to increase public awareness of the dangers of the arms race and to create an atmosphere conducive to progress in disarmament negotiations. Intensified measures to provide factual information about the armaments situation and disarmament efforts could help to encourage constructive participation of the public in fostering the goal of disarmament. The vital matters of peace and disarmament are not the concern of Governments alone. They concern each and every individual.

"This is the third consecutive year in which Disarmament Week has been celebrated. The Governments and peoples of the world must use the occasion to reaffirm their faith in disarmament. They must resolve not to allow the horrors of war to devastate the world once again."

I am sure I reflect the sentiments of all the members of the Committee in expressing our appreciation of this important message from the President of the General Assembly.

I call on the Assistant Secretary-General, Centre for Disarmament.

Mr. MARTENSON (Assistant Secretary-General, Centre for Disarmament):

I have been asked by the Secretary-General to convey the following message:

"The observance of United Nations Disarmament Week signifies our consciousness of the compelling necessity to bring rationality to international life and to devote the world's collective resources to the fulfilment of genuine human needs. It helps to focus attention on one of the biggest challenges facing mankind. We know the consequences of a nuclear confrontation, yet we do little to eliminate this threat.

"Disarmament Week is being observed this year at a time when international relations are passing through a very difficult phase. The world is witnessing serious conflicts of power and interest. There is frequent resort to violence. The arms race is spiralling towards unprecedented heights. In a world whose population in large part suffers from lack of basic physical necessities, one million dollars are spent per minute on military pursuits. Civilization faces the real and ever present possibility of self-extinction.

"It is apparent that we have yet to attain the lasting peace and security which would assure a stable world order. However, the mere fact that we are aware of our failure constitutes an element of promise for giving a new and constructive direction to the endeavours of the international community. It contains the seed of a new impulse towards halting and reversing the arms race and narrowing the gulf between the rich and the poor.

"We should not resign ourselves to the belief that the arms race is, and will always remain, humanity's ineluctable fate. We have to combat the tendency to regard disarmament as a utopian goal. From a pragmatic point of view, it is not disarmament but an unrestrained arms race which is proving to be an illusory objective. The waste and futility of the acquisition of weapons without end are being demonstrated time and again. But this does not by itself bring about a change of course. We need to remain vigilant and seize every possible chance of reducing tensions and taking meaningful measures towards disarmament. The positive results of the United Nations Conference on Certain Conventional Weapons, which just ended

(Mr. Mortenson, Assistant Secretary-General, Centre for Disarmament)

in Geneva, show the possibility of a constructive dialogue on disarmament despite international tensions. I regard this as an encouraging sign.

"The United Nations provides wide-ranging and detailed information on the present drive for armaments and on the measures to be taken to curb this ever more threatening phenomenon. The dissemination of these stark facts helps to promote public awareness of the need to curb the acquisition of arms. The active support of an informed public enables Governments to initiate policies that must lead to disarmament. The desire of people to live a life free of want and fear can provide an irresistible force for halting the momentum of the arms race.

"We now start the preparations for the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament to be convened in 1982. I appeal to all Governments, to non-governmental organizations, to the mass media the world over, to help make that session a landmark in our quest for disarmament. We have to translate into substantive and unmistakable action the commitments undertaken by Member States under the United Nations Charter. As we enter the Second Disarmament Decade, let us help make the 1980s a decade of real disarmament."

The CHAIRMAN: May I ask the Assistant Secretary-General of the Centre for Disarmament to convey to the Secretary-General our appreciation of his important message.

I now call upon the representative of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, who will speak on behalf of the Eastern European States.

Mr. SHELDON (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) (interpretation from Russian): As Chairman of the Group of Eastern European States I should like to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me an opportunity to take part in this special meeting of the First Committee commemorating the start of this year's Disarmament Week. The commemoration of this week world-wide is proof that détente has taken deep root in international life in our time and that there exist real conditions for retaining it as a dominant trend in world policies and on that basis for resolving problems of disarmament. However, note must be taken of the fact that the States and peoples of the world are now living in a complex international situation.

(Mr. Sheldov, Byelorussian SSR)

The arms race is becoming ever greater in scope, and this was shown in messages read out today from the President of this session of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General of the United Nations. In certain of its trends the arms race is approaching the point beyond which the possibility for effectively curbing it may be lost.

The attempts by imperialist forces to acquire military superiority and to upset the balance of power in the world are becoming more overt. The feverish military preparations and unbridled propaganda - one could even say the cultivation of nuclear war - on the part of the forces of imperialism and hegemonism have reached an unprecedented level. Some people talk with amazing flippancy and lack of responsibility about unleashing nuclear war as if it were something normal, inculcating this criminal thought in people's minds. In a word, the imperialist circles are obviously embarking upon the path of a new cold war and they are creating a situation that is threatening universal peace and the security of all peoples.

In this complicated international situation, the socialist States remain convinced that objective reality contains realistic possibilities not only for restoring the true parameters of détente but for further deepening it, for bringing about normal peaceful co-existence among States with different social systems, for averting the threat of a nuclear conflict and for reducing the danger of war. Today it is urgent to break the trend towards heating up the international situation, whipping up the arms race and increasing the threat of war. To do that, all States must implement a realistic policy and renew constructive co-operation to resolve the acute international problems, particularly questions relating to the limitation and reduction of arms.

The principled and pragmatic approach of the socialist countries to these problems is well known. It has been emphasized by important proposals made at this session of the United Nations General Assembly which are balanced and realistic and encompass all aspects of curbing the arms race and implementing real disarmament measures, particularly nuclear

(Mr. Sheldov, Byelorussian SSR)

disarmament measures. Our countries reaffirm that there is no type of weapon with regard to which they would not be prepared to agree to limitations or reductions on a mutual basis, without diminishing the security of any side. There are no problems, global or regional, that they believe to be impossible to resolve by political means.

In the struggle for peace, security and détente the socialist States have always shown and continue to show consistency, a position of principle, a constructive approach, goodwill, boldness in taking initiatives, realism in negotiations and a readiness to take account of the legitimate rights and interests of others. Fresh proof of this was provided by the Declaration adopted in May this year at the meeting of the Political Consultative Committee of the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty and also the results of the meeting of Foreign Ministers of the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty which took place in the capital of the People's Republic of Poland. A communiqué which was adopted at the meeting of the Committee of Foreign Ministers of the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty notes the great importance of the Soviet Union's proposal to hold talks on medium-range nuclear weapons in Europe at the same time as and organically linked with talks on United States forward-based nuclear missiles. It also emphasizes the proposals made by the socialist States at the Vienna talks on the mutual reduction of armed forces and armaments in Central Europe, on 10 July 1980, which contained important new steps to meet halfway the position of the Western countries and it points out that in order to make progress in the Vienna talks on the attainment of a mutually acceptable agreement the Western countries participating in these talks must also demonstrate the political will for resolving the questions under discussion. That communiqué also notes the importance of other specific proposals on the matters of curbing the arms race and consolidating peace and strengthening international security contained in the Warsaw Declaration of the Political

(Mr. Sheldov, Byelorussian SSR)

Consultative Committee, dated 15 May 1980. All these proposals remain valid, and the States parties to the Warsaw Treaty are prepared to embark on serious, pragmatic discussions on each of these with the other States concerned."

The socialist countries favour the speedy attainment of agreement at these talks on problems of disarmament and they favour the immediate resumption of the talks which have been suspended or broken off. In this connexion, material confidence-building measures and disarmament measures should be harnessed with political and legal contractual steps to reduce the danger of war and also to strengthen the guarantees of the security of States. Only this comprehensive approach can pave a reliable path towards lasting peace and international security. That is how it has been defined also in the Final Document of the special session of the General Assembly on disarmament. That is the appeal contained in the Declaration adopted at the last session of the United Nations General Assembly on international co-operation for purposes of disarmament.

The fact that Disarmament Week begins on United Nations Day is symbolic, but the symbolism has a real basis: the authority and possibilities of the United Nations. Instead of military preparations and doctrines which cultivate nuclear war and the use of force, the General Assembly, as the most representative political forum of the States of the world, should, on the basis of the proposals made, counter these and replace them with specific actions capable of curbing the increased threat of war, should reduce the tension that has arisen in international relations, should take effective measures to prevent an increase in the arms race, should try to increase the number of States parties to existing treaties and agreements, should try to promote the entry into force of the treaties that have been signed, especially SALT II, and should encourage the attainment of agreement on new disarmament measures, while strengthening the principle of the non-use of force in international relations and various confidence-building measures also.

(Mr. Sheldov, Byelorussian SSR)

The foundations of the future are built today and the future of peoples depends on which solutions of acute international problems are found by States today - all States together and each acting individually.

The delegations of the socialist countries appeal to all States not to take steps which might further complicate the situation. We should combine our efforts to halt the growth of tension and to continue the policy of détente and peaceful co-operation, so that real success can be attained in the disarmament field.

To destroy the designs of the aggressive forces, to safeguard peace, to halt the arms race and to uphold détente - that is the historic task of those who cherish peace on this earth.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the representative of Chile, who will speak on behalf of the Latin American States.

Mr. DIEZ (Chile) (interpretation from Spanish): The delegation of Chile, in its capacity as current Chairman of the Latin American regional group, has the high honour of representing the States Members of that group in this special meeting in which we are commemorating Disarmament Week.

On this occasion I should like to recall that the General Assembly in paragraph 102 of the Final Document of the tenth special session, devoted to disarmament,

"... proclaims the week starting 24 October, the day of the foundation of the United Nations, as a week devoted to fostering the objectives of disarmament". (General Assembly resolution S-10/2, para. 102)

Last year the General Assembly took note with satisfaction of the reports of the Secretary-General on the measures adopted by governmental and non-governmental organizations to foster the objectives of disarmament and on the elements of the model programme for Disarmament Week and it called on all States to disseminate on that occasion information on the consequences of the arms race.

(Mr. Diez, Chile)

Beginning on 24 October, the day of the foundation of the United Nations, Disarmament Week is dedicated to the promotion of the objectives to which this Committee is dedicated. That is to say, during that week all the elements which make up the Programme of Action, as adopted in the Final Document of the tenth special session of the General Assembly, devoted to disarmament, are to be synthesized for the information of world public opinion.

Interpreting that mandate and convinced of the urgent necessity to halt the arms race, the Group that I represent wishes on this occasion to reiterate its deep commitment to peace and its eagerness to support any initiative which will lead us gradually to general and complete disarmament under strict international control.

Although these are difficult times in international relations, given the various focal points of tension or confrontation in different parts of the world, we must not waiver in our conviction that world peace can be maintained without alteration if all States pledge to abide by the principles of the Charter of our Organization with greater fidelity and if they adhere strictly to the rules of international law.

The principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of other States and of the peaceful settlement of disputes have become increasingly pertinent.

An atmosphere of international distrust only promotes the growth of the arms race, with a consequent increase in military expenditure, which is an obstacle to the better use of resources for solving the grave problems faced primarily by the least developed countries of the third world, such as hunger, unemployment, inflation and the lack of health care.

We were appalled to learn from information furnished a few weeks ago by the Secretary-General that each year, for example, more than a million children die of malaria in Africa alone and that to check this illness on a global basis approximately \$2 billion would suffice, that is, the amount spent on armaments in less than two days. Moreover, the Deputy Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recalled at the inaugural meeting of the First

(Mr. Diez, Chile)

World Congress on Disarmament Education held in June this year:

"There are 800 million people living on the verge of hunger. In 1978 30 million children under the age of 5 years died of hunger, while diseases caused by the absence of potable water claim 25,000 victims a day."

It is disheartening for us to realize that expenditures on armaments contribute to a considerable extent to delaying the urgent measures to establish a more equitable new international economic order that would help to lessen the anguish and despair of the least developed countries.

We note that both horizontal and vertical nuclear proliferation is increasing and that the nuclear weapons stockpiled in the arsenals of the great Powers are enough to destroy mankind many times over.

There has been no success in arriving at a general and complete nuclear-test-ban treaty. Such a treaty would represent considerable progress towards the limitation and control of that type of weapon.

Military research continues unabated, with the refinement of new weapons of mass destruction which render conventional warfare more cruel and more deadly, especially dangerous for civilian populations. Radiological weapons, environmental warfare, chemical and bacteriological weapons and the militarization of outer space should be proscribed by treaties which must be agreed through the negotiating machinery, there being no justification for delaying their approval.

The Group of Latin American States, guided by a commendable spirit of brotherhood, has demonstrated its commitment to peace and completed subregional and regional agreements such as the Declaration of Ayacucho and the Charter of Conduct of Riobamba. It has also set an example for the world by its successful initiative in the adoption of a treaty on a nuclear-weapon-free zone, the Treaty of Tlatelolco, whereby the possibility was banned of manufacturing, acquiring, transferring or accepting the emplacement of nuclear weapons, without thereby renouncing the peaceful use of nuclear energy. We hope that that example will be followed by other areas of the world, such as Africa, the Middle East and southern Asia.

(Mr. Diez, Chile)

Guided by that same spirit of peace, the General Assembly, in its resolution 34/111, approved the idea of establishing a University for Peace, with its headquarters in Costa Rica, whose initial financing was to be shared by the Latin American countries. It is hoped that thereby an effective contribution will be made to peace in that, in the short term, more than 2,000 students annually will acquire specialized skills in disseminating the idea of peace and thus contribute to halting the arms race. The same purpose would be served by the establishment of a United Nations institute for disarmament research, as set forth in resolution 34/83 M of the General Assembly.

(Mr. Diez, Chile)

We Latin Americans - and we say this with special pride - firmly believe that only in an atmosphere of peace will it be possible to achieve the progress we fervently desire, and we call upon the major Powers to set aside their antagonism and exercise the political will to find through international co-operation solutions to the major problems besetting mankind.

It is our hope that the United Nations will gain an increasing capacity to intercede in order to resolve conflicts, the outbreak of which often takes us by surprise, thereby delaying their speedy resolution and giving rise to the danger that they will go beyond their initial parameters.

Finally, on this day we are pleased to pay a special tribute of appreciation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to all of his staff which works selflessly with us in our tasks, and especially on this occasion to the Centre for Disarmament, which gives shape and substance to our declarations, negotiations and resolutions. We would also extend our congratulations to you Mr. Chairman, whose commitment to peace and disarmament is well known to us all.

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the representative of Somalia, who will speak on behalf of the Group of African States.

Mr. ADAN (Somalia): Sir, since this is the first time I have spoken in this Committee, may I first of all congratulate you on your election as Chairman and express the conviction that, with your wide experience, diplomatic skill and personal wisdom, you are eminently placed to guide our work to a successful conclusion.

(Mr. Adan, Somalia)

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the African States at this important observance of the beginning of Disarmament Week. The United Nations has set aside a number of periods for special attention to pressing international problems. None of the problems emphasized in this way deserves more attention, more widespread understanding of its implications, or a stronger commitment to rational solutions than the problem of disarmament, and in particular nuclear disarmament.

The Final Document of the tenth special session of the General Assembly rightly states: "Nuclear weapons pose the greatest danger to mankind and to the survival of civilization." There is indeed no doubt that the steadily escalating nuclear arms race brings us all ever closer to the dreadful prospect of nuclear war. The description of such a war by the Secretary-General's Group of Experts for the study of nuclear weapons as "the highest level of human madness" should be given serious attention in the light not only of the well-known policy of the balance of terror but also in the light of the more recently publicized concept of limited nuclear war.

The necessity for nuclear disarmament should be apparent when we consider how the nuclear threat overshadows all our efforts to create a better world. Without nuclear disarmament the struggles for freedom of oppressed peoples, with whom we often express solidarity, could become meaningless, the children whose interests we supported in the International Year of the Child might never grow up to enjoy the fruits of our concern and the relatively modest but essential plans formulated for the Development Decades would certainly become irrelevant. Even now, the expenditure of billions of dollars for the perfection of the weapons of death and destruction, while a majority of the world's people go hungry, indicates the lop-sided and grim order of priorities which governs world peace, security and progress.

(Mr. Adan, Somalia)

The African Group share with the Asian and Latin American States the duty of representing developing countries. In the long perspective of history, our struggle to establish stable societies and decent living conditions for our people has just begun. Many of us have taken steps to ensure the permanent exclusion of nuclear weapons from our regions, a process in which the Latin American States have laudably taken the lead. But it is particularly frustrating for us to realize that the choices governing our survival under tolerable conditions are completely out of our hands.

We watch the steadily escalating nuclear arms race as though it were a nightmare from which we must certainly awaken, but at the same time we face the terrible reality of the nuclear threat. This threat cannot be ignored or pushed aside when the world has already been brought within minutes of nuclear holocaust through electronic malfunctions of strategic-weapons systems. The nuclear threat must also remain prominent in our minds when we see the growing prevalence of tension and armed conflict in the world, the failure of the policy of détente and the lack of progress towards the implementation of the recommendations and decisions of the tenth special session. Indeed, not only is there a lack of progress in this direction, but several retrograde trends have appeared with regard to high-priority decision on the elimination of weapons of mass destruction.

In the perilous situation in which the world finds itself, the leadership role of the United Nations in educating and mobilizing international public opinion on disarmament questions is a vital one. Not only in the week ahead, when a new impetus is given to the disarmament campaign, but on a year-round basis, the task must be pursued of bringing home to peoples everywhere, from the grass roots to national leaderships, the fact that the arms race in nuclear weapons is indeed "the highest level of human madness".

(Mr. Adan, Somalia)

In educating world public opinion on disarmament issues, the United Nations must not neglect to point out the underlying causes of tension and conflict. International efforts to end the arms race in nuclear and in sophisticated conventional weapons are not likely to be successful unless hegemonist and imperialist ambitions are relinquished, unless great historical injustices to peoples are righted, unless foreign, colonial and racist domination of peoples is ended and unless oppressed peoples are allowed to enjoy their inalienable right to self-determination and national independence.

This world Organization and its specialized agencies, such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), have made a good start in the campaign to facilitate research and the publication of factual material on disarmament, in co-operation with Governments, non-governmental organizations and scholarly institutions. The Comprehensive Study on Nuclear Weapons carried out by a Group of Experts appointed by the Secretary-General (A/35/392) is a significant and timely document which should be required reading for the leadership of all Member States. It is the sincere hope of the African Group that these efforts and many others being carried out at national and international levels will have the desired effect. The Governments most concerned must be forced by the demand of their peoples and by international public opinion to put the long-term interest of global survival before self-defeating short-term national and materialist interests.

Today, the thirty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, is a fitting day to emphasize the sombre truth expressed in the Final Document that "Mankind is confronted with a choice: we must halt the arms race and proceed to disarmament or face annihilation." (resolution S-10/2, para. 18)

(Mr. Adan, Somalia)

It seems inconceivable that the latter alternative could be chosen, but this will certainly be the case if the nuclear Powers do not show more political will and determination for nuclear disarmament than they have done so far. We earnestly hope that they will respond to the appeal of the peoples of the world, whose fate is in their hands, for a future based on peace and progress.

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the representative of Bhutan, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Asian States.

Mr. PRADHAN (Bhutan): Sir, since my delegation is speaking for the first time in this Committee, I should like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your assumption of the chairmanship of this Committee. Your personal abilities are well known to us and we are therefore confident of our work here being guided to a successful conclusion.

It is indeed a great honour for me, as Chairman of the Asian States, to address this most important inaugural function. The observance of a disarmament week starting on 24 October, the day on which the United Nations was founded, is not only symbolic but an important event of immense significance. It is vital continually to focus the attention of the international community and the peoples of all nations on the dreadful phenomenon of the arms race being pursued by man for mutual destruction. Though there has been a consistent and profound concern on the part of many and though a search for solutions to that most serious problem goes on, this week will help further to disseminate information and create a broader understanding of the issue. Such a broad-based awareness will result in the emergence of the necessary conditions, both at the national and international levels, for a more vigorous pursuit of those meaningful international agreements which will permit us to initiate the actions for attaining general and complete disarmament.

The international community has always displayed profound concern at the increased sophistication, accumulation and spread of weapons of mass destruction. However, in present circumstances, we cannot even foresee when countries will put a halt to and thereafter reverse the trend of the arms race. A cursory look at the armaments situation reveals an alarming picture. It has been estimated that the existing nuclear arsenal has a million times the destructive capacity of the Hiroshima bomb. In spite of the existence of such a destructive potential, investments for the further improvement, development and increase of the present armaments stockpile continue unabated. As a result, all life on this planet is today threatened by a nuclear holocaust, which could be sparked off, not necessarily through a conscious decision, but through human error and miscalculation.

(Mr. Pradhan, Bhutan)

The situation looks desperate. It is for that reason that the present efforts of the international community and private organizations must be continued and further intensified to halt and reverse the arms race. In that gigantic task we must always bear in mind that ultimate success can be achieved only if an international atmosphere which is of the correct mix, as it were, is permitted to evolve. There can be no peace and happiness when three-fourths of humanity live in squalor and economic deprivation. We cannot expect the pangs of hunger and poverty to remain forever silent and docile. The international community is committed to take steps to alleviate the widespread and acute economic disparities in the developing countries. However, the results so far have been negligible, while the economic plight of the third world continues to deteriorate. Within the framework of our efforts to create a more fair and just international economic order, a massive transfer of resources to the developing countries is a primary necessity. The existing hesitations to effect the flow of resources to the developing countries would be removed to quite an extent if the expenditures at present being channelled into armaments were to be meaningfully lowered. It is of great importance that the enormous world armaments expenditure be diverted gradually but speedily to the needs of general international economic stability and well-being and to the development of the developing countries in particular.

Suspicion and distrust among nations is also a primary cause of the arms race. There will always be problems and disputes among nations. However, we must resort not to the use of force or the threat of force, but rather to peaceful negotiations, while meticulously abiding by the professed norms of international behaviour and conduct. It is heartening to know that confidence-building measures, particularly among the bigger Powers, are being initiated. Such confidence-building measures are very necessary to bring calm to areas of tension and to areas where the potential for an outbreak of hostilities exists. Such efforts would contribute to creating a climate conducive to general and complete disarmament.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the representative of New Zealand, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Western European and other States.

Mr. FRANCIS (New Zealand): The value of disarmament week lies in its pointed reminder of the destruction and suffering caused by war, of the threat to humanity which will persist so long as more armaments and more deadly weapons continue to be made, and of the obligations that we all have, as people, as citizens and as Governments, to foster the objectives of disarmament.

The members of the Group of Western European and Other States, on whose behalf I have the privilege of speaking, are firmly committed to those objectives. In their own countries they will be observing this disarmament week. Each of them will be encouraging that public discussion of the issues which is so necessary if we are to come to acknowledge the full consequences of the arms race, and if we are to move on from there and really come to grips with the basic issues of disarmament.

We have all, directly or indirectly, suffered from wars in the past. That experience must surely make us all the more determined to prevent conflict in the future. The devastating consequences of nuclear war in particular are too searing to contemplate.

It will not be enough to devise ways of reducing arms and verifying that nations have disarmed. It will be no less important to strengthen institutions for keeping the peace. It is therefore especially fitting that this day, on which we inaugurate the third disarmament week, is also the day on which we commemorate the founding of the United Nations. It is here that the nations of the world must continue their search for ways of resolving conflicts without resort to armed force. We must put a stop to the diversion of the world's resources to unproductive military purposes. We cannot afford to waste the energies and talents of people on the production of weapons of destruction. The urgent need today is for that wealth and energy to be put to constructive use, to economic and social development that will benefit all peoples. Our task is to create confidence in a future in which relations among States will be pursued within the framework of a durable peace.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the representative of the Netherlands who will speak on behalf of the nine States members of the European Community.

Mr. FEIN (Netherlands): Speaking on behalf of the States members of the European Community, I welcome this opportunity to express the views and sentiments of the Nine on this first day of this week dedicated to disarmament.

The choice of 24 October, United Nations Day, commemorating the foundation of the United Nations, to initiate the annual Disarmament Week illustrates the close link between the objective of disarmament and the very essence of the Organization as a peace promoting effort.

The purpose of this week is, of course, to enhance the awareness of public opinion with regard to disarmament so that there can be a constructive and enlightened debate of all aspects of disarmament, including relevant problems and the general framework in which subsequent disarmament measures could be achieved.

During the present week the many activities organized on the initiative of private groups and non-governmental organizations within our countries testify to the seriousness and importance our peoples attach to the objective of disarmament.

A number of the States on whose behalf I have the honour to speak are or have been actively engaged in United Nations peace-keeping operations in various parts of the world, and all States members of the European Community support financially United Nations peace-keeping efforts. This is an additional reason for our peoples to demand that disarmament efforts be pursued on a priority basis; for in safeguarding peace and freedom, arms, in our view, can be only the tools of last choice.

Security is a prerequisite for all disarmament efforts.

We are not unaware of the complexities of this relationship. Specific concrete measures of disarmament require strict and effective international control. The elaboration of such measures can be enhanced only in an international climate in which mutual confidence can prosper. It is obvious that these prerequisites for an international climate conducive to disarmament efforts, that is, mutual confidence and a sense of security, are not well served when a militarily powerful nation intervenes in a neighbouring country in order to impose or maintain by force a régime to its liking.

(Mr. Fein, Netherlands)

It is the sincere wish of the Governments of the States members of the European Community and the peoples they represent that trust between nations may be restored, thereby allowing the creation of a climate in which more substantial progress towards concrete measures of disarmament could be achieved.

With these brief remarks, I conclude this statement at the outset of Disarmament Week on this day commemorating the foundation of the United Nations.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the representative of Iraq, who will speak on behalf of the Arab States.

Mr. HUSSAIN (Iraq) (interpretation from Arabic): Mr. Chairman, speaking in this Committee for the first time as I take the floor at the beginning of Disarmament Week on behalf of the Group of Arab States, I should like to congratulate you on behalf of my delegation and of our fraternal Arab countries on your assumption of the chairmanship of this Committee.

We are pleased to see the representative of a friendly country presiding over the work of this Committee. My delegation will spare no effort in co-operating with you in discharging the tasks entrusted to this important Committee.

The observance of Disarmament Week is among the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session. Since that time we have grown used to the idea of observing Disarmament Week throughout the world, and in particular in this Committee. We think the basic element for taking real steps to bring about disarmament is none other than the political will of all States to do so. Doubts and a lack of trust among States are the major obstacle hampering any progress in the field of disarmament. It is regrettable that our hopes of seeing world peace established through disarmament have not been attained.

I am alluding here to the annual military expenditures on a world-wide scale evaluated in 1970 as \$256 billion, and in 1980 as \$500 billion. Furthermore, several treaties on disarmament that we had hoped to see concluded last year have not been concluded to this day. Furthermore, the international community was unable to resolve the numerous international problems facing it.

(Mr. Hussain, Iraq)

My country and the other Arabic countries would like to mention, in particular, the question of Palestine, because the Zionist entity continues its complete occupation of Palestine as well as vast territories that belong to Arab countries; it insists on considering Jerusalem as its capital and continues to expel Arab citizens by force and to build settlements.

General and complete disarmament is one of the basic aims of all peoples of the world who cherish freedom and peace and who aspire to a world free from the scourge of war, aggression and all forms of threat. Unfortunately, the hope expressed by Mr. Waldheim, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, of seeing real progress in the field of general and complete disarmament by the end of the 1970s was not realized, notwithstanding the conclusion of the Second Disarmament Decade. This means that none of the primary tasks of disarmament such as devoting resources that have been released through disarmament measures, to the promotion of scientific and technical progress and the economic development of the developing countries, has been attained either because of the pursuance of a policy of aggression, hegemony and oppression of peoples by exploitation or of the predominance of the logic of force, which endangers the national interests and freedom of peoples by the use or threat or force.

The greatest danger threatening humanity lies in nuclear weapons. My delegation considers that we should put an end to the nuclear-arms race in all its forms, in particular to the horizontal and vertical proliferation of nuclear weapons. It is imperative to avert the danger of war where nuclear weapons might be used. As stated in document A/35/392, a comprehensive study of nuclear weapons:

"The... number of nuclear warheads in the world today... may be in excess of 40,000. ... The total strength of present nuclear arsenals may be equivalent to about 1 million Hiroshima bombs, i.e., some 13,000 million tons of TNT. ... this is equivalent to more than 3 tons for every man, woman and child on the earth" (A/35/392, para. 9)

(Mr. Hussain, Iraq)

The greatest threat to the peoples of the Middle East and Africa is the possession by the racist entities in South Africa and occupied Palestine of weapons of destruction and their co-operation in this field. Notwithstanding the General Assembly resolutions condemning the possession of the nuclear weapon by the Zionist entity, that entity continues to develop its nuclear capacity and refuses to accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and to submit its nuclear facilities to the full control of the International Atomic Energy Agency. This means that the Zionist entity is determined to use the nuclear weapon against the Arab peoples, and that may lead the whole world into in a universal war.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the representative of Pakistan, who will speak on behalf of the member States of the Islamic Conference.

Mr. MARKER (Pakistan): It is a matter of special honour for Pakistan to address representatives in the First Committee on behalf of the member States of the Islamic Conference on the occasion of Disarmament Week which commences today.

Although this is the first time that a statement is being made on its behalf in this important Committee, the Islamic Conference has, since its very inception, been deeply concerned about the relentless arms race and particularly about the nuclear arms build-up, which constitutes an ever increasing threat to human civilization. That concern has been both reflected as well as demonstrated in the solemn commitment by the member States of the Islamic Conference to promote the cause of general and comprehensive disarmament. Those countries have always actively participated in their collective as well as their individual capacities, within and outside the United Nations framework, in promoting international peace and security and in adding their efforts to those of all other peace-loving nations of the world to arrest the global arms race and to strive for a safer world based upon the norms of international law and justice and not upon those of armed might and confrontation.

Inspired by the Islamic injunctions for universal peace and brotherhood and guided by the objectives of its Charter, which call upon the member States to take the necessary measures to support international peace and security founded on justice, the Islamic Conference has, inter alia, adopted several resolutions on specific disarmament questions.

Two of the primary concerns of the Islamic nations have been to keep their regions free from nuclear weapons and to secure effective guarantees against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. They have consistently called for nuclear-weapon-free zones in appropriate regions such as Africa, the Middle East and South Asia and have also extended their support to the idea of security assurances against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear States. Being themselves non-nuclear States the members of the Islamic Conference are also dedicated to the peaceful use of nuclear energy and are determined to secure the means to pursue that endeavour free from the menace of nuclear weapons. In that context the member States of the Islamic Conference attach special importance to items 37, 38, 39, 45 and 49 on the agenda of the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly. The reported detonation of a nuclear device in the vicinity of South Africa last year and the reports of nuclear collaboration between Israel and South Africa have been a source of serious concern to the members of the Islamic Conference.

The members of the Islamic Conference, who are among the developing nations of the world, constantly aspire to an environment of peace and security in which they can devote their energies and resources to the betterment of their peoples. Great-Power rivalry and contention for spheres of influence, which are the major motivations of the current arms race and which are at the heart of contemporary tensions in the various regions of the world, are totally abhorrent to the Islamic nations. On the eve of Disarmament Week the members of the Islamic Conference, along with all other peace-loving nations of the world, renew their resolve to strive for the strengthening of international peace and security in the belief that it can be attained only by eliminating from our planet the weapons of death and destruction and the devastating scourge of modern war.

The CHAIRMAN: Before adjourning this meeting I should like to note the presence among us today of the representative of Nigeria, Ambassador Adeniji, who has just rejoined his delegation in New York. His arrival from Geneva, where he presided over the United Nations Conference on Prohibitions or Restrictions of Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects, assumes particular relevance on this occasion when we are celebrating Disarmament Week. Ambassador Adeniji brings with him an important agreement achieved after lengthy negotiations in which he himself played a major role.

All the statements that have been made today have emphasized the constructive participation of the peoples of the world in fostering the goal of achieving disarmament. In that regard I should also like to note the presence among us of a distinguished member of the Indian Parliament, Mr. Mittal, whom we welcome here today.

The meeting rose at 12.10 p.m.