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New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 30th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. CALLE Y CALLE (Peru)

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ORGANIZATION OF WORK

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The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 122: REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND ON THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)
(A/36/33; A/C.6/36/2)

AGENDA ITEM 118: PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES BETWEEN STATES (continued)
(A/36/116, 447, 518, 584; A/C.6/36/5)

1. Mr. ESCUDERO (Ecuador) said that, in the light of recent international developments and the need for positive changes in the status quo, his delegation accorded the highest priority to the peaceful settlement of disputes and the maintenance of international peace and security. The Special Committee on the Charter must endeavour to finish its work as soon as possible, with particular emphasis on the completion of the draft Manila declaration on the peaceful settlement of disputes. His delegation fully supported the procedural suggestions made at the 26th meeting by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Philippines; those suggestions should be incorporated in the resolutions to be adopted under agenda items 118 and 122.

2. His delegation welcomed the effort made by the Chairman of the Special Committee to give some direction to that Committee's discussion of the proposals relating to the maintenance of international peace and security. The proposals contained in subsection A of the Chairman's document (A/36/33, para. 268) were all constructive; if accepted, they could help the international community both to overcome the current paralysis in the system for maintaining international peace and security and to enhance the effectiveness of the Security Council. The formulation in proposal 32 bis was particularly imaginative. At its next session, the Special Committee should give priority consideration to the 13 proposals in subsection A and also examine the draft recommendation presented by Egypt on behalf of the non-aligned countries of the Special Committee (A/36/33, para. 269).

3. His delegation accorded the highest priority to the elaboration of a declaration on the peaceful settlement of disputes. The draft Manila declaration contained some paragraphs on which general agreement had been reached in the Special Committee. It was disheartening to note that a few delegations were systematically blocking approval of generally acceptable concepts in a veiled attempt to elaborate a declaration that would merely reproduce provisions of the United Nations Charter or paragraphs of the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. That would defeat the whole purpose of the work done over the past years. The declaration should not only represent a contribution to the interpretation of the Charter principles relating to the peaceful settlement of disputes, but should also be a positive expression of the progressive development of international law. It was therefore essential to develop further the principles embodied in the Declaration on

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(Mr. Escudero, Ecuador)

Principles of International Law, strengthen the role of the competent United Nations organs and encourage Member States to use the existing mechanisms for the peaceful settlement of disputes. The Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security would be supplemented by a declaration on the peaceful settlement of disputes.

4. In replying to a note verbale from the Secretary-General, his Government had already indicated in some detail the elements which it felt should be included in such a declaration (A/35/391/Add.1, pp. 3-4, para. 6). His delegation wished to place particular emphasis on the points made in subparagraphs 6 (a), (b), (d), (i), (m) and (o) of the reply.

5. Ecuador considered that the Special Committee's mandate should be renewed.

6. Mr. ENKHSAIKHAN (Mongolia) said that the Special Committee had made progress in discharging its mandate under General Assembly resolution 35/164. Paragraph 7 of its report (A/36/33) showed that it had arrived at an innovative agreement regarding the election of its officers. His delegation hoped that strict application of the agreement at the Special Committee's future sessions would facilitate its work and allow it to devote more time to substantive matters.

7. His delegation noted with satisfaction that the Special Committee had been able to concentrate on the two main issues: the maintenance of international peace and security, and the peaceful settlement of disputes. The document prepared by the Chairman of the Special Committee (A/36/33, para. 268) was a helpful device, since it grouped all the proposals relating to the maintenance of international peace and security into three categories. His delegation believed that by considering those areas in which general agreement was possible, the Special Committee would better be able to fulfil its mandate.

8. Some of the proposals could, if implemented, help to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations. Of particular interest to his delegation was proposal 10 bis, under which members of the Security Council would be encouraged to implement Article 28, paragraph 2, of the Charter and to hold periodical meetings at a high level. That proposal was consistent with one recently made by a permanent member of the Council. President Brezhnev had stated that it would be useful to call a special session of the Security Council, with the participation of the top leaders of its member States, in order to look for keys to improving the international situation and preventing war; if they so wished, the leaders of other States could also take part in the session.

9. Under Articles 24, 25 and 26 of the Charter, the Security Council was vested with broad powers with regard to the prevention of acts of aggression and breaches of the peace and was competent to take any action likely to maintain international peace and security. Special sessions of the type proposed by President Brezhnev would give more authority and weight to the Council's decisions. Such sessions would afford leaders an opportunity to exchange their

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(Mr. Enkhsaikhan, Mongolia)

views on specific issues, establish business-like contacts and make their own contribution to strengthening international peace and security and enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations through the mechanism provided by the Charter. The peace-keeping functions of the Security Council would thus be complemented by its peace-building efforts and functions.

10. His delegation was in favour of examining proposals 1, 3, 4, 7 and 34 currently before the Special Committee and would support all constructive proposals that would strengthen the Charter and the United Nations on the basis of strict observance of the spirit and letter of the Charter.

11. On the other hand, some of the proposals before the Special Committee, harmless as they might seem, could upset the existing balance of powers and functions of the main orders of the United Nations, and would thus be detrimental to the effectiveness of the Organization. Whatever the motives of the States submitting them, the proposals aimed at revising the main tenets of the Charter, such as the unanimity rule, were extremely dangerous for the maintenance of international peace and security. Since its inception, the United Nations had made a substantial contribution to the cause of strengthening international peace and security and developing mutually beneficial co-operation among nations. It had played a significant role in providing active support to peoples struggling for national independence and freedom and against colonialism, neo-colonialism and racism. Most importantly, for more than three decades mankind had been spared a world war. Due credit for that achievement should go to the United Nations.

12. The United Nations had therefore stood the test of time and its Charter had proved to be sufficiently flexible to accommodate the changes that had taken place in the world during the past 36 years. The violation of some of the provisions of the Charter and the non-implementation of some United Nations resolutions were not the fault of the Charter. The responsibility rested exclusively with Member States themselves. Implementation of the Charter depended more on the political will of Member States than on its provisions. Strict implementation of those provisions and of the documents adopted in conformity with and on the basis of the Charter would have brought just and equitable solutions to many international problems.

13. The unanimity rule in the Security Council had often been criticized as the main source of weakness and ineffectiveness on the part of the United Nations. There had been cases in which the veto had been used by certain permanent members contrary to the will of the majority of Member States. Such cases, however, had occurred not because the existence of the veto itself was contrary to the will of the majority, but because the permanent members in question had exercised or rather misused the veto in their own selfish interests. Criticism should therefore be addressed not to the Charter provisions, but to those permanent members. The delicate mechanism of the Security Council should not be altered.

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(Mr. Enkhsaikhan, Mongolia)

The great importance attached by Mongolia to the Council's role in maintaining international peace and security had found expression in its recent proposal to conclude a convention on mutual non-aggression and non-use of force in relations among States of Asia and the Pacific, with the participation of all the permanent members of the Security Council.

14. His delegation was satisfied that the Special Committee had made progress in its work on the elaboration of the draft Manila declaration on the peaceful settlement of disputes. It was also pleased that paragraphs 1 to 14 of section I and paragraphs 1 to 3 of section II had, more or less, been formulated. Although there were numerous square brackets in those paragraphs to indicate formulations on which no agreement had yet been reached, his delegation believed that, with the goodwill and co-operation of delegations, those square brackets could be gradually eliminated. It was encouraging to note that some of the paragraphs, such as paragraph 14 of section I, had no square brackets at all and could thus be considered as enjoying the broad support of Member States. His delegation hoped that the remaining paragraphs of section II, as well as the preamble and section III, would soon be submitted by the Special Committee to the Sixth Committee for its consideration.

15. His delegation firmly believed that the elaboration and adoption of a universal declaration on the peaceful settlement of disputes, in full conformity with and on the basis of the relevant provisions of the United Nations Charter, would be helpful in restoring, maintaining and strengthening international peace and security. Mongolia could not support proposals that would alter the delicate balance of power between the main organs of the United Nations. It could not support a proposal to establish a permanent commission of the General Assembly to fulfil functions of mediation, good offices and conciliation. The setting up of such new bodies before fuller use was made of the existing machinery provided for in Articles 28 and 29 and Chapters VI and VII of the Charter would be unnecessary and even counter-productive.

16. Direct negotiations between the parties concerned afforded the most important, most effective and most flexible means of peaceful settlement. It was therefore no accident that Article 33 of the Charter and most of the international agreements concerning the peaceful settlement of disputes mentioned negotiation before the other means. Without negotiations, it would be impossible to have recourse to many of the other means. For example, good offices were intended to induce the parties concerned to start direct negotiations, while mediation was intended to facilitate such negotiations.

17. Negotiations served not only as a means of settling disputes, but also as a means of strengthening international peace and security, seeking common solutions to many international problems and developing mutually beneficial co-operation among States. Negotiations afforded an important tool for regulating and creating new relations among nations. Those regulatory and creative functions of international negotiations were acquiring increasing importance in the

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(Mr. Enkhsaikhan, Mongolia)

contemporary interdependent world. In due course, the international community should therefore define the general rules of conduct for States with regard to negotiations.

18. His delegation believed that the Special Committee's mandate should be extended.

19. Mr. WENTZEL (Federal Republic of Germany) said that the results of the 1981 session of the Special Committee had certainly not lived up to the expectations of all its members. However, as rightly emphasized in paragraph 19 of its report (A/36/33), progress had been achieved in a number of respects. Such progress was due in no small measure to the constructive attitude of the non-aligned members of the Special Committee and to the creative approach of its Chairman.

20. In keeping with the terms of reference set out in General Assembly resolutions 35/164 and 35/160, the Special Committee had accorded greater priority to the questions of international peace and security and peaceful settlement of disputes than to such matters as the rationalization of existing United Nations procedures and the updating of the Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs.

21. The discussion relating to international peace and security had been based on the systematic compilation of proposals made between 1976 and 1980. The Special Committee had progressed as far as section V of the compilation and, for lack of time, had been unable to take into consideration such important matters as the status of the Secretary-General. It had, however, systematically discussed highly relevant areas of the Charter, such as the roles of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

22. Although the relative importance of the document prepared by the Chairman of the Special Committee (A/36/33, para. 268), as well as its structure and content, still had to be discussed, the Chairman had made a constructive attempt to comply with paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 35/164. To the extent that the proposals grouped in subsection A of the Chairman's document concerned such matters as the reasons for the inability of the United Nations to safeguard international peace, the possibility of strengthening the United Nations in that respect, and the use and modernization of the United Nations fact-finding machinery, they afforded a suitable basis for work at the Special Committee's next session; they reflected the norms embodied in the United Nations Charter or in General Assembly recommendations and thus stayed within the existing legal framework of the United Nations.

23. His delegation welcomed such an approach. Any reform of United Nations structures should initially take place within the framework of the Charter. Before any modification of the Charter was contemplated, all the possibilities provided for therein should first be exhausted. The inefficiency of the United Nations in maintaining international peace was primarily the result of a lack of readiness on the part of Member States to abide by the principles of the Charter and to use the instruments available for crisis management; it was not due to

(Mr. Wentzel, Federal Republic
of Germany)

weaknesses of outdated Charter provisions. Member States which, because of political differences, did not observe the system of responsibility-sharing envisaged in the Charter had helped to create the impression that the Charter's machinery for the maintenance of international peace needed overhauling.

24. At its next session, the Special Committee would have to consider the draft recommendation presented by Egypt on behalf of non-aligned countries of the Special Committee (A/36/33, para. 269), which it had been unable to consider at the 1981 session owing to lack of time. Also for lack of time, the Special Committee had had to suspend its consideration of the draft declaration on the peaceful settlement of disputes. In the meantime, discussion of the outstanding sections concerning the functions of the Security Council, the International Court of Justice and the Secretary-General had begun in the Sixth Committee's Working Group on the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes.

25. The Federal Republic of Germany attached great importance to the obligation laid down in Article 2, paragraph 3, and Article 33 of the United Nations Charter. That obligation was correlative with the prohibition against the threat or use of force. Those Charter provisions were especially significant in view of the potential for conflict in the modern world and the increasing points of contact and interdependency among nations. His Government had at all times advocated the increased use of the existing instruments for the peaceful settlement of disputes, including international arbitration. Owing to the complexity of the subject, the form and content of a declaration on the peaceful settlement of disputes required further careful study. What really mattered was that States should make better and more intensive use of the possibilities for settling disputes by peaceful means already provided for in the United Nations Charter.

26. The paper on the rationalization of procedures introduced by the Chairman of the Special Committee should be studied thoroughly. That subject should be excluded from the mandate of the Special Committee so that it could concentrate on its principal tasks.

27. He stressed the importance of updating the Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs and thanked the Legal Counsel for his detailed description of the practical difficulties that such an updating process would involve. In view of the special importance of the Repertory as a reference work for the application and interpretation of Charter provisions, an attempt should be made to overcome those technical difficulties, despite the expense that would be incurred for administration and co-ordination.

28. It was clear from the difficulty and complexity of the Special Committee's mandate that spectacular results could not be expected within a short time. In the light of the prevailing political situation, his delegation considered the results of the 1981 session to be satisfactory and therefore advocated a renewal of the Special Committee's mandate.

29. Mr. QUENTIN-BAXTER (New Zealand) welcomed the form in which the report of the Special Committee (A/36/33) had been drafted. It had enabled the Rapporteur to report in substance on the debate on each of the proposals in a way that would be of indispensable value to the Special Committee's future work, especially as that body was not provided with summary records. He hoped that the practice would be continued in future years.

30. It was true that the Special Committee had made only limited progress, but the draft recommendation presented by Egypt (A/36/33, para. 269) and the very valuable document prepared by the Chairman (A/36/33, para. 268) pointed the way to constructive debate.

31. His delegation attached great importance to the proposals concerning fact-finding, an area in which there was great hope of achieving immediate progress.

32. He drew attention to the references made by the representative of the Philippines to the notion of "false consensus". The consensus process was of the greatest value in its positive aspects, in that it encouraged delegations to moderate their individual, national desires in the general interest. However, in its negative aspects, the unanimity rule could be highly destructive. The majority view could not always prevail; there must be respect for all opinions if the vigour of the Organization was not to be impaired.

33. Commendable progress had been made on the question of the peaceful settlement of disputes. However, any commentary on the provisions of the Charter should take into account the subtlety of those provisions and seek to enrich them and to enhance the effectiveness of their practical implementation by United Nations organs; it must avoid the danger of having any restrictive effect.

34. He stressed the importance of updating the Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council and the Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs and expressed concern at the lack of progress thus far. Although that task was, as stated in paragraph 13 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.6/36/2), "essentially of a residual nature" in that the updating was done by personnel who were released from other tasks as and when that was possible, it would be a matter of grave concern if that were to mean that the work was not completed at all or performed at less than the highest possible standard. The work of updating the Repertory was directly related to the work of the Special Committee and no less important than any of its other tasks.

35. Since the work of the Special Committee was still at an interim stage, he trusted that its mandate would be renewed without, as yet, any substantial changes.

36. Mr. OUYANG Chuping (China) welcomed the fact that the Special Committee had made a certain amount of progress in its consideration of the question of the maintenance of international peace and security and of the draft Manila declaration on the peaceful settlement of international disputes. The view maintained by certain delegations that no changes could be made in the Charter

(Mr. Ouyang Chuping, China)

was absolutely untenable, and it was pleasing to see that the large number of constructive and specific proposals put forward by numerous countries, and especially developing countries, had gradually led the Special Committee away from endless procedural discussions and into substantive debate. In particular, the draft recommendation submitted by Egypt on behalf of the non-aligned countries (A/36/33, para. 269) had been a constructive step. Nevertheless, the work of the Special Committee had fallen short of expectations. Changing the status quo in the United Nations and strengthening its role were the common aspirations of many Member States, especially the developing countries, but further progress would require persistent efforts to overcome the obstacles created by the super-Powers, continued consideration of all proposals, avoidance of wrangling over procedural matters and more in-depth substantive discussion. Important proposals, especially those involving the revision of the Charter, should also be the subject of serious and extensive consultation since they touched on very complex political and legal issues. His delegation would support any proposal in keeping with the objective of enabling the United Nations better to reflect the aspirations of people the world over, thereby enhancing its credibility and authority.

37. Since the Special Committee had not completed the task entrusted to it by the General Assembly, its mandate should be renewed. It should accord priority to the question of the maintenance of international peace and security, completing its consideration of the proposals contained in the compilation, and include in its recommendation to the General Assembly those proposals which would genuinely help to strengthen the role of the United Nations and which could be accepted by the majority of Member States. It should also at some stage give due consideration to the draft recommendation submitted by the non-aligned countries (A/36/33, para. 269) and then, should time permit, to the proposals on other questions, in particular the rationalization of the existing procedures of the United Nations.

38. Mr. PETROVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had often emphasized that the only reliable way to strengthen the authority and effectiveness of the United Nations was through strict and unswerving adherence to the Charter of the Organization and consistent implementation of its provisions by all States.

39. In an increasingly difficult international situation it was evident that the reasons why the danger of war was not diminishing, why tensions and conflicts remained unresolved and why the vestiges of colonialism, racism and apartheid had not been eliminated, lay not in the "obsolescence" of the Charter or the inadequacy of its provisions, but rather in the actions of certain countries which, as a matter of policy, chose to ignore the obligations they had assumed under the Charter.

40. The Charter was an instrument of great and enduring significance, in that it both reflected the status of contemporary international relations and provided

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(Mr. Petrovsky, USSR)

a foundation for peaceful coexistence and co-operation on an equal footing between States with different social systems. Year by year the Charter acquired greater importance as an instrument for strengthening the foundations of peace and security and promoting the social and economic progress of peoples.

41. L. I. Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and President of the Praesidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, had rightly described the Charter as an international document which "helped to open the way for human civilization to make the transition to a new and higher level of international relations". Over the years the Charter had proved its relevance, and it continued to show itself equal to the challenges confronting the United Nations. For that reason, the attempt to refashion the Charter and to review its provisions was incompatible with the aim of strengthening the guarantees of peace under international law and of enhancing the contribution of the United Nations to the solution of the crucial issues facing mankind.

42. The Soviet Union and other socialist countries had consistently maintained that the Charter should not be changed. Such a position of principle did not arise from ephemeral considerations or from a desire to gain advantages for the Soviet Union or its allies, but rather from the concern of all peace-loving peoples, and all States both great and small, to strengthen world peace.

43. The Special Committee could undoubtedly achieve successful results in the three main areas entrusted to it - the maintenance of international peace and security, peaceful settlement of disputes and the rationalization of United Nations procedures - if it based its work on the principle that consensus should be achieved through compromise. The work so far carried out by the Special Committee confirmed the view that a spirit of co-operation and mutual understanding, and strict adherence to the principles of the Charter on the part of all the Committee's members would ensure progress.

44. The international situation made it necessary to use to the full the Charter's potential for restraining dangerous trends in world politics, for reducing tension and ensuring normal peaceful coexistence between States with different social systems. With that aim in view, his country had proposed the convening of a special session of the Security Council, with representation at the highest level of the Council's members and on the understanding that other States could also participate if they so wished. Taking the Charter as its point of departure, such a session could do much to ensure that the Council's decisions were translated into effective action.

45. The deliberations of the Special Committee had also shown that attempts to change the grounds on which the United Nations engaged in its activities relating to the maintenance of international peace and security and, in particular, to question the rule that the Security Council should be unanimous in its decisions, were unproductive. Some delegations had represented the rule almost as a "privilege" of the permanent members of the Council and as an obstacle to the work of the Special Committee. Such an approach was at variance with contemporary political, economic and strategic realities. For a world

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organization whose membership comprised States with different social systems and whose principal task was to maintain international peace and security, the unanimity rule was a crucial factor without which the very existence of the United Nations was unthinkable. Without that rule the Organization would serve as an instrument of disunity between States, deepening disagreements and crises in inter-State relations. The rule guaranteed equality of rights between States with different socio-economic systems and provided the only reliable basis for the work of both the Security Council and the United Nations as a whole. Some delegations had expressed the view that the unanimity rule hindered the efforts to solve problems: on the contrary, the rule excluded the possibility that decisions advantageous to one party would be adopted, and stimulated the search for generally acceptable compromise solutions to such problems.

46. The proposals to restrict the unanimity rule did not take into account the crucial fact that, under the Charter, the Security Council bore the major responsibility in maintaining peace and security. It also acted on behalf of all States Members of the United Nations. The rule guaranteed that the Security Council was fulfilling collective goals, that it would not become the tool of a particular group of States and that it would not be used to damage the fundamental interests of other countries.

47. At its most recent session the Special Committee had also considered the question of the deployment of armed forces on behalf of the United Nations, and a number of proposals on that issue had been introduced. In the effort to enhance the effectiveness of such activities it should not be forgotten that what was involved was a particularly powerful resource available to the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security. It was entirely appropriate that the Security Council should be the only body empowered to take decisions on the deployment of armed forces on behalf of the United Nations, and that a unanimous vote by the permanent members of the Security Council was required for decisions on all matters relating to the setting up and functioning of United Nations forces. Such an approach guaranteed that armed forces would only be used in the interests of all Member States, as required by the Charter.

48. Experience with United Nations peace-keeping operations showed clearly that attempts to bypass the Security Council or to transfer its authority to use force to the General Assembly or the Secretary-General could only have the effect of turning the armed forces of the United Nations into an instrument for the suppression of the struggle of peoples for their national liberation and a means of interfering in the internal affairs of States, particularly in the case of newly independent developing countries.

49. In his delegation's view the Special Committee must not duplicate the work of the Special Committee of 33, which was called upon to reach agreement on the guidelines for the conduct of United Nations peace-keeping operations in strict conformity with the Charter.

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(Mr. Petrovsky, USSR)

50. His country was prepared to continue constructive co-operation with all Member States in the effort to enhance the Organization's effectiveness in its major task of maintaining peace. In his delegation's view, any revision of the Charter would not be conducive to that end, and could only cause irreparable damage to the Organization's authority in world affairs.

51. In the work of the Special Committee, particular importance attached to the question of the peaceful settlement of disputes between States. In his delegation's view, that should be considered as one of the long-term aspects of the Special Committee's work. Given goodwill and a rational approach, any international dispute, and any global or regional problem, could be settled peacefully. All that was required was renunciation of the use of force, strict and unswerving adherence to the Charter and fuller use of the facilities and reservations contained in its provisions.

52. That was precisely the approach that had guided his delegation in the process of drafting a declaration on the peaceful settlement of international disputes. The basis for such a declaration must be a carefully structured system of provisions for the peaceful settlement of disputes, as provided for in Chapter VI of the Charter, and stipulating that States might freely and without coercion choose those peaceful means which, in their opinion, were most applicable and appropriate to settle any disputes which had arisen.

53. Proposals which were aimed essentially at depriving States of the right to choose a particular means for settling their disputes were incompatible with that provision of the Charter. His delegation would not countenance any attempt to impose upon States means for compulsory settlement of disputes, in particular through so-called "third parties".

54. During the session of the Special Committee, proposals on the establishment of new bodies or United Nations machinery for the peaceful settlement of disputes had been introduced. Those proposals, however, ignored the fact that the Security Council, in conformity with the Charter, was the body primarily responsible for settling conflicts and disputes between States. The positive aspect of the Council's work in that area derived from the fact that it did not operate in a vacuum, but examined disputes in a wider political context. No other United Nations body was entitled under the Charter to carry out such functions and, accordingly, no other body could delegate those functions to its subsidiary organs. His country was firmly opposed to attempts to broaden the competence of the General Assembly, the International Court of Justice or the Secretary-General in that respect.

55. At its 1981 session the Special Committee had considered the question of rationalization of the existing procedures of the United Nations. That was undoubtedly an important problem which was directly linked to the question of enhancing the effectiveness of United Nations bodies, and his delegation welcomed the useful proposals introduced. At the same time, the deliberations of the Special Committee showed that continuing efforts were required in that connexion.

(Mr. Petrovsky, USSR)

56. In general, his delegation opposed any endeavour to impose upon the Special Committee methods of work which would lead to disagreement and confrontation. Such endeavours had been particularly evident at the most recent session of the Special Committee, when an attempt had been made to draft recommendations which were not provided for in its mandate. It was in the general interest of Member States to enhance the Organization's authority and to refrain from an approach which had already seriously impaired the Special Committee's work. That Committee could only function properly if its efforts were based on strict and unswerving adherence to the provisions of the Charter; its mandate was quite specific in that regard.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

57. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to agenda item 121 concerning the report of the International Law Commission on the work of its thirty-third session and said it was hoped that the report would be introduced on Friday, 30 October. He suggested that, for the purposes of the debate, the report should be divided into three sections, the first consisting of chapters II and III, the second of chapters IV and V and the third of chapters VI, VII and VIII. Each section would be allocated four meetings; two further meetings would be held in reserve for the discussion of other related matters and to give the Chairman of the Commission the opportunity to comment on the Committee's debate. Delegations would be free to speak on the sections in any order or, if they so preferred, to address the report as a whole.

58. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.