



VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 49TH MEETING

Chairman: Mr. NAIK (Pakistan)

CONTENTS

DISARMAMENT ITEMS

AGENDA ITEM 34 (concluded)

AGENDA ITEM 50: REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

- (a) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
- (b) NON-INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF STATES

Statements were made by:

Mr. Hepburn (Bahamas)
Mr. Racz (Hungary)
Mr. Albornoz (Ecuador)
Mr. Silovic (Yugoslavia)

PROGRAMME OF WORK

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ENGLISH

The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 34 (concluded)

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will resume the hearing of statements by those delegations that wish to explain their votes on draft resolution A/C.1/35/L.43/Rev.2, as amended.

Mr. FLOWEREE (United States of America): I shall begin by saying that draft resolution A/C.1/35/L.43/Rev.2, as amended, is not ideal in the view of the United States Government. As is well known, and as we said in our general debate statement, the United States has long been concerned over the reported instances of the use of chemical weapons in Afghanistan, Laos and Kampuchea. Those reports have been the most recent and the most persistent regarding the use of chemical weapons and we would have preferred that the focus of a draft resolution dealing with chemical weapons use be on them. Moreover, the amendments to draft resolution A/C.1/35/L.43/Rev.2 adopted from document A/C.1/35/L.61, have injected into the preamble elements which have to do with particular weapons when the issue is the use of chemical weapons, not the military capability of any State. A comprehensive, verifiable ban on chemical weapons remains our highest priority, but it is not germane to this draft resolution.

The United States has forsworn first use of chemical weapons, and that remains our policy. It is reinforced by the United States accession to the Geneva Protocol. However, until a comprehensive, verifiable ban is achieved, the United States, recognizing that chemical weapons exist in the arsenals of others, also continues to uphold another element of our policy in this area, that is, to maintain our capability to deter chemical attack.

I should like to say a few words about the reports that I have cited. We have attempted to approach the problem in a responsible way and not, as some speakers have suggested, merely based our concerns on sensational media reports. We proceeded quietly and in a non-confrontational manner when reports about the use of chemical weapons in South-East Asia began coming to our attention

(Mr. Floweree, United States)

some years ago. We sent qualified people to South-East Asia to attempt to sift and assess the information emanating from refugees in that part of the world. We also made approaches through appropriate diplomatic channels regarding the alleged use of chemical weapons. None of those efforts, unfortunately, succeeded in alleviating our concerns.

My Government has made a compilation of reports from many sources - and not, may I point out, primarily press reports - in recent years about the use of chemical weapons in military operations in Laos, Kampuchea and, more recently, in Afghanistan. That compilation has been in the public domain since last August and has been available for Governments to examine carefully.

My Government is not the only one that has been concerned with those reported developments, as indicated by the many statements that have been made in interventions in this Committee, in the Committee on Disarmament and by the resolution adopted at the recent meeting in East Berlin of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, to cite but a few.

In addition to the concern raised by the specific reports of the use of chemical weapons, there has been an even larger question at stake here, that of trust among nations and of confidence in agreements in the field of arms control and disarmament. The reports I have cited are not proof of guilt beyond doubt. The rule of law in my country is that a person is innocent until proven guilty. That general principle applies here also.

My Government, as I have said before in this forum and elsewhere, is ready to co-operate in an impartial United Nations inquiry into the reports, including allegations involving the United States. It would seem to us that all countries would have had an interest in seeing that those reports are dealt with fairly. Those considerations weighed more heavily with my Government than did our misgivings about the particular draft resolution before us, and that is why the United States voted for the draft resolution A/C.1/35/L.43/Rev.2, as amended. The question before us was too important for us to do otherwise.

(Mr. Floweree, United States)

This issue, despite the efforts of some to make it appear differently, is not one involving the interests of a particular group of States against another or of narrow regional interests. It is of vital concern to the entire world community. It is also an important responsibility for the United Nations as an Organization. The implementation of this draft resolution will strengthen the prestige of the United Nations in the field of arms control by showing that it can effectively act on reports that cast doubt on solemn international agreements. It will demonstrate not only that the United Nations can respond fairly and impartially in such matters, seeking above all the truth, but that our aim here is to make certain that no accusations are made without solid foundation in fact and to clarify ambiguous situations, thus dissipating any unwarranted suspicions while, at the same time, helping to deter those who would be tempted to take action in this instance in contravention of the Geneva Protocol.

If the actions proposed by the draft resolution which we have just adopted achieve those objectives - and the United States believes they can - the adoption of this draft resolution alone would make this session of the General Assembly especially significant for its positive and constructive handling of an arms control problem.

(Mr. Floweree, United States)

It would clearly demonstrate that the international community is actively committed to striving for the genuine strengthening of international peace and security through co-operation in arms control and disarmament.

Mr. BLOMBERG (Finland): The delegation of Finland has followed the action by this Committee on draft resolution A/C.1/35/L.43 and its subsequent revisions with particularly keen interest. That is so because we attach great importance to the Geneva Protocol, which has been an undeniable success as compliance with it has rarely been questioned. Secondly, our interest in draft resolution A/C.1/35/L.43 stems from our commitment to contribute to the solution of verification problems related to chemical weapons.

As members of this Committee will recall, Finland has for a number of years been engaged in a chemical weapons verification project. The progress of that project has been conveyed regularly to the Committee on Disarmament and to the Members of the United Nations. The goal of the project is the creation of a national chemical weapons verification capacity which could eventually be put to international use. Substantively the planned control capacity could be used in different verification activities. Finland considers that such an instrumental, factual project is most appropriate for a neutral country deeply concerned about the arms race and anxious to be of service to the international community if needed.

Against this background, we have followed the debate on the draft resolution just voted upon, and the sharp political overtones it assumed, with growing concern. The voting procedure has produced a draft resolution which suffers from obvious internal contradictions.

These circumstances have given us no alternative but to abstain in the vote on the amendments proposed in document A/C.1/35/L.61 and likewise to abstain in the vote on the subsequently amended draft resolution A/C.1/35/L.43/Rev.2.

Mr. W. RAHMAN (Bangladesh): My delegation abstained in the vote on the draft resolution just adopted by the Committee. Our abstention, however, does not indicate a lack of concern with the banning or elimination of chemical and bacteriological weapons. We are fully committed to general and complete disarmament. We also believe that the Geneva Protocol of 1925 needs to be further extended. However, we believe also that more time should be allowed so as to enable all the concerned parties, particularly the militarily significant States, to concert their efforts to elaborate the issue further, with a view to arriving at a broader consensus.

In the light of what I have just said, my delegation abstained in the voting on the draft resolution A/C.1/35/L.43/Rev.2, as amended.

Mr. GERMA (Togo) (interpretation from French): We voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.1/35/L.43/Rev.2, as amended. In fact, we could not have opposed a draft resolution whose objective appears to us to be quite obviously the safeguarding of the security of all, since we are convinced that such an instrument can only benefit peace. Indeed, without verification, all international instruments are pointless. Verification makes it possible to establish the confidence between States that is so necessary at present. In our view this instrument is not aimed at anyone in particular and could serve everyone. However, in giving our support to the draft resolution we hope that account will be taken of the various objections that were raised against it so that in future we may reach a broader agreement and even to a consensus.

Mr. MULLOY (Ireland): Ireland has voted for draft resolution A/C.1/35/L.43/Rev.2 as amended by the preambular provisions in document A/C.1/35/L.61 on chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons because Ireland supports the decision it contains to carry out an impartial investigation into reports of the alleged use of chemical weapons and to assess the extent of the damage caused by the use of such weapons.

That is entirely in line with the policy followed for many years past by the delegation of Ireland in joining in sponsoring successive resolutions calling for the negotiation of a prohibition on the use of chemical weapons.

(Mr. Mulloy, Ireland)

In our opinion, the 1925 Geneva Protocol prohibiting the use in war of asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases and of bacteriological methods of warfare did not envisage any procedure of investigating alleged breaches of that Protocol. We feel it important, therefore, that the investigation of reports of alleged breaches should adequately take into account proposals advanced by States on whose territories the use of chemical weapons has been reported with the assistance of qualified medical and technical personnel.

Ireland abstained in the vote on the amendments proposed to the preambular part of draft resolution A/C.1/35/L.43/Rev.2 because in our opinion they did not contribute directly to the aims of the draft resolution as a whole. But their inclusion did not in our view constitute such a negative constituent as to justify withholding our support from the draft resolution in its totality.

Mr. SHITEMI (Kenya): My delegation voted for draft resolution A/C.1/35/L.43/Rev.2, as amended, because we believed that there were sufficient justifiable grounds to call for an impartial investigation into allegations that the Geneva Protocol of 1925 may have been violated. As a matter of principle, we were therefore left with no alternative but to vote for the draft resolution.

Earlier we had hoped for more time for consultations in search of a broader and more amicable accommodation of several positions. But that was not to be, and, as a consequence, we have been able to experience, I think, one of the liveliest debates in this Committee, even though at times with unavoidable recriminations.

The CHAIRMAN: The voting procedure in respect of the draft resolution in document A/C.1/35/L.43/Rev.2 is now concluded. This also concludes the consideration of all disarmament items on the agenda of the First Committee.

AGENDA ITEM 50

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

- (a) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
(A/35/505 and Add.1-2; A/35/542, A/35/654, A/35/661, A/C.1/35/L.48)
- (b) NON-INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF STATES

The CHAIRMAN: This year the debate on this important subject has a particular significance. Members may recall that last year the General Assembly in its resolution 34/100 requested the Secretary-General to prepare, with the help of a group of governmental experts, a report on the implementation of the provisions of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security and on actions which should be undertaken by the Assembly in order to secure full compliance by all States with the provisions of that important document.

The report, which was prepared and approved unanimously by a Group of Governmental Experts under the chairmanship of Ambassador Hepburn of the Bahamas, my predecessor as Chairman of the First Committee, has been circulated as document A/35/505. This is the first such analytical report on the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security since its adoption 10 years ago. Documents A/35/505/Add.1 and 2 contain suggestions which were received by the Secretary-General from Governments and which were taken into consideration by the Experts in the performance of their task.

(The Chairman)

In the consideration of this report the Committee has before it draft resolution A/C.1/35/L.48, submitted by Bahamas, Bangladesh, Egypt, Peru, Senegal, Sri Lanka and Yugoslavia.

During this debate the First Committee will also consider the question of the draft declaration on the inadmissibility of intervention and interference in the internal affairs of States. As members are all aware, at the beginning of this month the ad hoc working group established in accordance with General Assembly resolution 34/101 held two meetings on this subject. Since then, active consultations have been going on among delegations on various aspects of the draft declaration.

I now have pleasure in calling on the Chairman of the Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security, Ambassador Hepburn of the Bahamas.

Mr. HEPBURN (Bahamas): It is a great privilege for me to have this opportunity to open the debate this year on an extremely important item on our Committee's agenda, the review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security.

The deterioration of the international climate, the continuing arms race and the disquieting trend towards armed confrontations clearly show that the already unsatisfactory state of international peace and security is being dangerously further eroded. The extensive consideration, just completed, of the situation in the field of armaments and disarmament negotiations has also revealed how unsafe the world has become these days for every nation, large and small, rich and poor. As was stressed in the Final Document adopted by the General Assembly at its special session devoted to disarmament:

(Mr. Hepburn, Bahamas)

"Mankind today is confronted with an unprecedented threat of self-extinction arising from the massive and competitive accumulation of the most destructive weapons ever produced....The increase in weapons, especially nuclear weapons, far from helping to strengthen international security, on the contrary weakens it." (resolution S-10/2, para. 11)

The situation since then has not, unfortunately, improved in any significant respect. On the contrary, the dangers signalled then have become even more serious, the insecurity of nations has increased and the spirit of mutual trust which is essential for secure, stable and peaceful international relations has been further shaken and weakened.

Under these circumstances, the serious consideration of concrete ways of strengthening international security could not be more timely. The debate we are embarking upon today on this vital question should be considerably facilitated, as everyone will agree, by the agreed basis which we have at our disposal for this discussion. The Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security, which was adopted by the General Assembly 10 years ago following comprehensive consultations and negotiations among delegations, reaffirms in a more detailed and explicit manner the basic principles and means provided by the United Nations for the preservation and consolidation of international peace and security.

This was precisely the meaning and obviously the intention of the General Assembly last year when, in its resolution 34/100, it requested the Secretary-General to prepare a special report on the extent of the implementation of the various provisions of that Declaration and on actions which should be undertaken by the Assembly in order to secure full compliance with the provisions of the Declaration. I say "special report" because it was the first time in 10 years that the Assembly had requested an objective assessment of the way in which the Declaration had been implemented so far, as well as specific suggestions and recommendations aimed at ensuring full compliance with the provisions of the Declaration.

(Mr. Hepburn, Bahamas)

As is well known, in accordance with resolution 34/100, the report was to be prepared by the Secretary-General with the help of a group of governmental experts. In the pursuance of that request, the Secretary-General, after extensive consultations with Member States, appointed the following governmental experts as members of the Group: Mr. Ahmed Esmat Abdel Meguid, Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations, Mr. Dzevad Mujezinovic, Minister Plenipotentiary, Federal Secretariat for Foreign Affairs of Yugoslavia, Mr. Hugo Palma, Ambassador of Peru to Yugoslavia, Mr. Waliur Rahman, Deputy Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations, Mr. Nihal Rodrigo, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nations, Mr. Harald Rose, Head of Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic, Mr. Ibrahim Sy, First Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Senegal to the United Nations and myself. I had the privilege of serving as Chairman of the Group, and Mr. Rodrigo, was Rapporteur.

In preparation for the report, the Secretary-General also addressed a note to the Governments of States Members of the United Nations or specialized agencies asking for information and suggestions which would be helpful in the fulfilment of the task assigned by the General Assembly.

The Group of Governmental Experts held seven meetings during the period from 25 March to 1 July 1980 and 10 meetings from 8 to 15 September. The report of the Group, which was approved by consensus, is contained in document A/35/505. The comments and suggestions, which were made by Governments in response to the Secretary-General's request and which were duly taken into account in the formulation of the report, have been circulated as documents A/35/505/Add. 1 and 2.

(Mr. Hepburn, Bahamas)

As members may have noticed, the Group, in establishing the structure of the report, was strictly guided by the mandate given in General Assembly resolution 34/100. Under the terms of paragraph 14 of that resolution, the report was on the one hand to provide an assessment of the implementation of the various provisions of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security and on the other to suggest action which could be taken by the General Assembly to secure full compliance by all States with the provisions of that Declaration. It was only logical, then, for the group to deal, both in its assessment and in its recommendation, with all the provisions of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security.

(Mr. Hepburn, Bahamas)

In undertaking the task assigned to it, the Group was obviously very much aware that in fact all Member States were committed to the provisions of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security, since, as I pointed out, this important document had been the result of comprehensive discussions and negotiations in this very Committee. The Group sought, therefore - despite the absence, very much regretted, of experts from one region - to maintain in its assessment and conclusions the spirit of unanimity which had prevailed in the formulation and the adoption 10 years ago of that Declaration.

The Group, when performing its task, was also fully aware that the provisions of the Declaration were directly connected with a main goal of the United Nations - that of maintaining international peace and security - and that any step towards ensuring full compliance by all States with those provisions would be of particular importance - for our joint efforts to bring about a more secure, a more stable and a more equitable world. Indeed, the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security:

"Solemnly reaffirms the universal and unconditional validity of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations as the basis of relations among States irrespective of their size, geographical location, level of development or political, economic and social systems, and declares that the breach of these principles cannot be justified in any circumstances whatsoever."

resolution 2734 (XXV), para. 1)

Today, it is widely acknowledged that this Declaration has played an important role in consolidating peace and security and promoting co-operation among States on the basis of the purposes and principles of the United Nations. The positive developments which have taken place along the lines of the Declaration's provisions include the completion of the work on the definition of aggression; the successful evolution of action by the international community to implement resolution 1514 (XV) on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples, the continued efforts to establish the New International Economic Order and the convening of the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament and of the Conference on Security and

(Mr. Hepburn, Bahamas)

Co-operation in Europe; and the continuation of efforts to establish guidelines for peace-keeping operations. Viewed in this light, the Declaration continues to provide an important basis for the conduct of international actions aimed at strengthening and consolidating peace and security in the world, as well as promoting co-operation on terms of equality among all countries on the basis of the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter.

At the same time, the General Assembly in many of its resolutions on the subject has noted with profound concern that basic provisions of the Declaration have been ignored or violated. It has been particularly disturbed by the escalation of acts in violation of fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter, the existence of crises and the emergence of new conflicts between States endangering international peace and security, the continuation and escalation of the arms race, particularly the nuclear arms race, the manifestations of the tendency to divide the world into spheres of influence and domination and the continuing existence of colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism and apartheid, which remain the main obstacles to the strengthening of international peace and security.

In its report the Group recalls the recommendation of the General Assembly, contained in the Declaration,

"that all States contribute to the efforts to ensure peace and security for all nations and to establish, in accordance with the Charter, an effective system of universal collective security without military alliances." (Ibid, para. 11)

While a world war has been averted, struggle for spheres of influence, the use of force and military intervention and attempts against the territorial integrity and political independence of States have continuously endangered peace and security in various regions of the world. Despite the dissolution of the Central Treaty Organization (CENTO) and the South-East Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO), the establishment of an effective system of universal collective security without military alliances has yet to be achieved.

(Mr. Hepburn, Bahamas)

The process of détente has been welcomed by the international community as a positive and hopeful alternative to the policy of confrontation, and it has made some positive contributions to international security through the easing of tensions. The Helsinki Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, agreed upon following patient negotiations, has been an important factor in the strengthening of international security and provides a political and legal basis for the promotion of the process of détente and for the creation of more stable security conditions in Europe. However, détente, which has remained limited in scope as well as in its geographical application, has recently encountered setbacks.

Other noteworthy regional measures suggested with a view to promoting peace and security include proposals relating to the establishment of zones of peace in various parts of the world, including South-East Asia, the Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean. The United Nations stands at a crucial stage in its progress towards the establishment of a zone of peace and co-operation in the Indian Ocean region, a major strategic area which is witnessing a sharp military escalation. In this regard, the Committee will certainly agree that in recent years the world has witnessed an increase of disputes and conflicts in the seas and oceans of the world. A more active pursuance and implementation of the concept of zones of peace and its extension to other land, ocean and sea areas would be an important way to prevent conflicts and to strengthen international peace and security throughout the world.

The report takes note of the fact that the obligation of States to comply in their international relations with the fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter has not always been honoured. The independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, particularly smaller nations, have been and continue to be threatened by interference and intervention in their internal affairs. The commitment by States under the Charter to refrain from the use or threat of force against other countries has also been in many instances grossly violated. Though some potentially dangerous disputes have been defused by the wise and timely application of political means

(Mr. Hepburn, Bahamas)

provided by the Charter, States have not always taken heed of the urgings in the Declaration to make full use and seek improved implementation of the means and methods offered by the United Nations for the peaceful settlement of international disputes.

Since the adoption of the Declaration in 1970, over 20 countries have won their freedom and joined the United Nations, and the process of decolonization is drawing to an end. And yet the total implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and other resolutions of the United Nations on colonialism, racism, apartheid, alien domination and foreign occupation remains to be achieved, notably in South Africa and Namibia.

As was amply stressed during the debate we have just completed in this Committee, there is a close interrelationship between disarmament, economic development and the strengthening of international security. Despite continuous focus on all aspects of disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, only modest progress has been possible so far. The arms race, particularly the nuclear arms race, continues unabated, with disastrous consequences for international security. The escalating build-up of arms and the resultant massive waste of human and material resources are in direct contradiction of the efforts to eliminate the danger of nuclear war and establish the New International Economic Order. The commitments undertaken in the Final Document of the tenth special session of the General Assembly, devoted to disarmament, have yet to be implemented, as they must be if a genuine process of disarmament is to be initiated.

(Mr. Hepburn, Bahamas)

In the field of development and international economic co-operation, the sixth and seventh special sessions of the General Assembly and the adoption of the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of the New International Economic Order and the Charter on Economic Rights and Duties of States fulfilled a historic task in laying down the essentials for the establishment of a just and equitable new international economic order. While the urgency of the need for the restructuring of economic relations and the establishment of the new international economic order has been accepted, little real progress has been made so far to advance the dialogue between the developed and developing countries for such restructuring of international economic relations. The adoption a few days ago of the new international development strategy and the eventual arrangements to launch the global negotiations on international economic co-operation for development at the beginning of next year offer some encouragement that we will be able at last to move forward in this area, which is of vital importance for world stability and security.

With regard to the efforts to ensure the universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms which is essential for the strengthening of international security, the Group recalls in its report that two binding international covenants on economic, social and cultural rights and on civil and political rights entered into force in 1976. While increasing international attention is being focused on some aspects of the human rights issue, violations of basic human rights and fundamental freedoms, including various forms of occupation, oppression, tyranny and discrimination, continue to be manifested, particularly in association with the forces of racism and apartheid. The report notes that selective approaches to human rights for political ends tend to deflect from the real crux of the issue.

In the endeavour to build a world of peace, security and wide co-operation among equal and sovereign nations, the United Nations plays a unique role. In recent years, the General Assembly and the Security Council, as well as other principal organs of the United Nations, have been increasingly involved in

(Mr. Hepburn, Bahamas)

efforts to find political solutions to critical international problems which affect or threaten international peace and security. Much remains to be done, however, to make the United Nations a truly effective instrument in the prevention of conflicts between nations, in the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means only and in finding just and equitable solutions to all other major problems on which international security is so much dependent.

In its consideration of steps which could be taken by the General Assembly to ensure full implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security, the Group of Governmental Experts proceeded from the understanding that this important document of the United Nations is a carefully balanced document which enjoys the support of all States. Being firmly anchored in the basic principles of the Charter, this Declaration remains as valid today as it was a decade ago.

As I pointed out a while ago, the consolidation of international security today requires not only the elimination of the use or threat of force, intervention, interference and coercion in relations between States; it also requires the elimination of points of tension and crisis and wider and deeper co-operation between States and peoples, progress in arms limitations and disarmament, the elimination of colonialism and all other forms of foreign domination and exploitation, the peaceful settlement of political international issues and disputes, the realization of a new international economic order, the ensuring of human rights and the eradication of all forms of oppression and discrimination, particularly racism and racial discrimination. In short, the Declaration envisages the gradual establishment of a more stable and equitable world order in which peace and security will fully prevail.

In the context of the critically deteriorating climate of international relations, the lack of progress in the solution of existing international problems and the emergence of new crises, there is an imperative need to increase collective efforts of Member States and to take specific steps for the full implementation of the Declaration. To this end, the Group believes that the

(Mr. Hepburn, Bahamas)

General Assembly should solemnly reaffirm on this thirty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations the universal and unconditional validity of the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter as the basis of relations among States, irrespective of their size, geographic location, level of development or political, economic and social systems as a basic way to ensure peace. All Member States should again be urged to abide strictly by their commitments under the Charter in their international relations and, therefore, to implement consistently all the provisions of the Declaration.

The Group further believes that increased efforts should be made to expedite the work of the Special Committee on Enhancing the Effectiveness of the Principle of Non-Use of Force in International Relations. The report expresses the conviction that the adoption of a declaration on the inadmissibility of intervention and interference in the internal affairs of States would serve to guarantee the free, sovereign and independent existence of all States without exception, would contribute to the strengthening of peace and security in the world and would promote mutually beneficial co-operation and friendly relations among nations. This major goal of the United Nations would also be served by the adoption of a declaration on the peaceful settlement of disputes between States, which would enhance the United Nations system for the peaceful settlement of disputes and prevention of armed conflicts.

In the opinion of the Group, increased efforts on the part of the United Nations as well as a new manifestation of political will on the part of Member States are imperative in order to bring about just and lasting solutions to all existing conflicts in conformity with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter. This would make it possible to give a new impetus to the relaxation of international tension and its extension to all regions of the globe.

Obviously, the preservation and strengthening of world peace and security depend decisively on the cessation of the arms race and on the implementation of substantive steps to limit and reduce armaments. The Group believes that it

(Mr. Hepburn, Bahamas)

is imperative for all States, the nuclear-weapon Powers in particular, to make every effort to implement the programme of action adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session. The adoption of specific and practical measures of disarmament, such as the ratification of the SALT II Treaty, the complete prohibition of nuclear tests and of chemical weapons and the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in various areas of the world, significantly contribute to the creation of favourable conditions for taking new steps to bring the arms race to a halt and achieve genuine disarmament.

The Group stresses in its report that today, more than ever before, the achievement of real progress towards the establishment of the New International Economic Order and towards a more sustained economic development of the developing countries has become a central ingredient of a peaceful and secure world. It expresses strong hope that the global negotiations on international economic co-operation for development will start early next year and that they will lead to a significant improvement in the present state of international economic order.

Further steps by the international community are necessary to accelerate the process of decolonization and to achieve early elimination of the policy of apartheid of South Africa.

The Group recommends that renewed efforts should be made to promote respect for basic human rights and fundamental freedoms and believes that United Nations action should be directed mainly at ensuring the adherence of all States to the international instruments concluded under the auspices of the United Nations and strict observance of their provisions. Efforts should also be encouraged for the elaboration of new international conventions which would further promote respect for those rights.

(Mr. Hepburn, Bahamas)

The Group paid special attention to the question of enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations as an inseparable element of any efforts to build a more peaceful and secure world. It is the considered opinion of the Group that the key to an increase in the effectiveness of the United Nations and in the confidence of States in the Organization lies in more resolute steps aimed at ensuring the implementation of the decisions and resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council. The setting of time-frames for the implementation of resolutions relating to the maintenance of international peace and security is one of the ideas which could be explored in this regard.

The Group also considers as particularly important an appeal by the General Assembly to all States to support the implementation of those provisions of the Declaration relating to the activation of the Security Council. Given the state of the current international situation, the need of a strong Security Council is more evident than ever before. It is therefore a matter of the highest urgency that Member States individually and within the United Nations examine in particular how the authority and enforcement capacity of the Security Council can be strengthened. Within this context, existing and new proposals for the purpose of enhancing the capacity of the United Nations for preventing conflicts and for the strengthening of its peace-building capacities should be explored.

The report suggests that wider co-operation between the United Nations and regional organizations could be useful in the effort to promote the consolidation of international security. Efforts by governments to find meaningful solutions to major world problems can succeed only to the extent that such efforts have the active support of people. Therefore the Group is of the view that successful implementation of all provisions of the Declaration would require greater awareness on the part of world public opinion of the activities of the United Nations relating to the strengthening of international security. To this end, it may be useful for the United Nations, through its information system and with the co-operation of non-governmental organizations, to publicize more widely major United Nations resolutions and decisions relating to the strengthening of world peace and security.

(Mr. Hepburn, Bahamas)

Before concluding this rather lengthy introduction, I wish to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to all the members of the Group of Governmental Experts for their efforts and for the important contribution that each of them made to the preparation of the report.

I should also like to express the hope that the debate which we are starting today will be constructive and that it will encourage wider efforts and joint steps towards the maintenance and consolidation of international security.

Mr. RACZ (Hungary): Ten years ago the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session adopted the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security. The time that has elapsed since then has proved that that historic document has had a positive impact on international life and has contributed, in the spirit of the purposes and principles of the United Nations, to the preservation of world peace.

The Declaration was adopted at a time when efforts to maintain peace, strengthen security, ease tension and enhance co-operation among countries with different social systems were predominant in international politics. The positive development of relations among the great Powers bearing special responsibility for international security, and particularly of co-operation between the Soviet Union and the United States, resulted in the extension of the process of détente and numerous positive results were achieved in various spheres of life in almost all regions of the world.

However, the situation has changed considerably in recent years: international life has become more complicated and elements of tension have also surfaced. The endeavours of certain imperialist circles to tilt in their favour the balance of forces, to obtain military superiority, to step up the arms race, to block the positive tendencies in international politics and to halt positive changes in the world have provoked a return to some elements of the cold war. In such an atmosphere no considerable progress has been made in either the settlement of long outstanding problems or in the

(Mr. Racz, Hungary)

elimination of hotbeds of tension in several parts of the world; rather, new conflicts have emerged making international relations even more controversial.

The Hungarian delegation believes that the existing situation makes it particularly timely to review the implementation of the Declaration under discussion and to determine the course of action to be taken for the strengthening of international security.

The main objective of the activities carried out by the Hungarian People's Republic in the international arena is to ensure favourable external conditions for its building of a socialist society. Consequently, promoting the cause of social progress and strengthening international peace and security are in our fundamental national interest. We were guided by this spirit a decade ago in welcoming the adoption of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security and in pursuing a policy of principle - which we have upheld ever since - in full conformity with the principles set forth in the Declaration. This basic posture of ours accounts also for our redoubled efforts being exerted in the present-day situation, together with the countries of the socialist community and other progressive and peace-loving forces of the world, towards preserving the results so far achieved, as well as maintaining and strengthening the positive tendencies at work.

By reducing tension and increasing confidence among States the process of détente which characterized the 1970s has had a beneficial effect on the consolidation of international security. It has been proved that the interests of mankind are best served by détente and that there is no acceptable and reasonable alternative - indeed there can be none - to the course of détente. Precisely for this reason, all States of the international community must strive for ensuring, by joint efforts, conditions for the furtherance of the process of détente.

Hungary, being a European country, devotes increased attention to the prevalence of détente in that continent and, as in the past, stands ready to co-operate actively in enhancing the cause of security and co-operation in

(Mr. Racz, Hungary)

Europe. We are firmly convinced that such efforts should be guided by the provisions and the spirit of the Final Act of Helsinki, as that historic document still provides the political basis for détente in Europe. This is why we regard it of particular importance for the international forums concerned with this issue to view the Final Act as an integral whole, to work for a balanced implementation of all its provisions, and to focus attention on constructive, forward-oriented measures that can be taken on the basis of mutual respect for various interests.

(Mr. Racz, Hungary)

We are of the view that the positive effect of détente on the consolidation of international security would be still greater if, in parallel with efforts to maintain and further strengthen existing achievements, the process of détente could be extended to other areas of the world, as well as to the military field. Indeed, the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty put forward concrete initiatives in this direction when, among other things, it proposed an all-European political conference on reducing military confrontation, increasing confidence and promoting disarmament.

Cessation of the arms race and promotion of the cause of disarmament are closely related to the strengthening of international security. Accordingly, we think that it is in harmony with the efforts to implement the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security that we follow a course of taking a stand at every forum for making further progress on strategic arms limitation and supporting any steps aimed at an early and successful conclusion of the negotiations on the general and complete prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests, the prohibition of radiological weapons, the prohibition of chemical weapons and the destruction of their stockpiles, the non-use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear States having no such weapons on their territories, and the non-stationing of nuclear weapons on the territories of States where there are no such weapons at present.

Also, we urge the starting of concrete negotiations on such questions as the conclusion of an international convention on the non-use of force, the discontinuance of the manufacture of nuclear weapons, the gradual reduction and subsequent destruction of existing stocks of nuclear weapons and the prohibition of the development of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons, all of which serve to halt the arms race and to remove the danger of war.

We attach increased importance to the negotiations concerning the question of medium-range missiles and forward-based nuclear-weapon delivery systems in Europe. We do so particularly because the deployment in our continent of such American missiles of a strategic nature would pose a direct threat to the security of my country as well.

(Mr. Racz, Hungary)

The proposals contained in the memorandum submitted by the Soviet Union to the present session of the General Assembly also have our full support

If viewed in its real substance, international security is not limited to renouncing the use or threat of force in international relations but, under a positive approach, includes constant expansion and deepening of cooperation among States, consistent respect for the general principles governing inter-State relations, and creation of an economic basis on which to sustain it.

In line with the enhancement of its natural, multilateral co-operation with the socialist countries and of its ever-widening relations with the developing world, Hungary, acting in full harmony with its fundamental national interests, is consistently and consciously striving for the development, on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence, of its relations with the advanced capitalist countries too. However, the smooth development of such relations cannot be conceived except on the basis of equality and mutual respect for one another's interests, in an atmosphere of confidence and amid international détente. We therefore consider the reinvigoration of positive trends in world politics and the taking of concrete measures for the relaxation of tension to be an urgent requirement for meeting this challenge of our time.

One cannot speak of international security so long as certain quarters want to dictate to the world from a position of strength; so long as Israel, in the Middle East, continues its occupation of Arab lands with American support and goes out of its way to prevent the Palestinian Arab people from enjoying its legitimate right to self-determination; so long as the hegemonistic aspirations of China threaten the security of the region of South-East Asia and thereby the world at large; so long as South Africa keeps the people of Namibia in colonial bondage and builds its internal system on the extremist policy of racism; so long as the big imperialist Powers exploit the developing countries by neocolonialist devices and stop at nothing to preserve their political, economic and military positions.

(Mr. Racz, Hungary)

One cannot speak of consolidation of international security unless effective measures are taken along the road to the restructuring of international economic relations, to the establishment of a new just and democratic international economic order based on equality and on mutual respect for the sovereignty and interests of nations.

We therefore maintain that negotiated settlement of disputed political issues, progress in disarmament, the quest for solutions - acceptable to all - to the pressing problems of the world economy, liquidation of colonialism and neocolonialism, and elimination of all forms of oppression and discrimination are a prerequisite for creating genuine international security and bringing about conditions in which mankind will be able to resolve the social and economic tasks that are facing it.

During its more than 30 years of existence the United Nations has given proof of its ability to play a significant and positive role in international politics. This Organization has contributed considerably to the success of efforts made since the end of the Second World War to save mankind from the scourge of a new universal conflagration. It is our conviction that this international forum is in a position to continue to exert a positive influence on steering the course of world politics. A basic condition for this lies in the efforts, collective as well as individual, of the Member States of the United Nations to do their utmost to see that the resolutions of the world Organization, including the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security, are implemented as fully as possible. We think that not a single country, government or people of the world, not a single sober-minded statesman, can remain indifferent when the common vital interests of mankind as a whole are at stake.

Mr. ALBORNOZ (Ecuador) (interpretation from Spanish): The delegation of Ecuador has listened with great interest to the representative of the Bahamas, Ambassador Davidson Hepburn, Chairman of the Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security. I wish to congratulate him as well as those who drafted the report on their work and on the sound concepts of that report (A/35/505), which attest to the great abilities of the eminent members of the Group. Of particular interest to Ecuador is the concern expressed in the report that the principles of the Charter have not always been implemented in relation to the obligation to refrain from the use or threat of force, to the inadmissibility of aggression, or to the right of States to dispose freely of their natural resources, a matter which often leads to measures of economic aggression. The report points out the close relationship between the strengthening of international security, disarmament and economic development, stating that:

"Concerted international co-operation in the economic field on the basis of an agreed strategy to reduce and eliminate the gap between the developed and developing countries is a vital precondition for the strengthening of international peace and security." (A/35/507, annex, para. 20)

It adds that what is required for compliance with the Declaration is:

"not only the elimination of the use or threat of force, ... and coercion in relations between States, but also the elimination of points of tension and crisis, ... and the ensuring of human rights ...",
(Ibid, para. 29)

as well as implementation of the provisions of the corresponding International Covenants. Precisely in article I (2) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights it is stated that:

"All peoples may ... freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources In no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence."

Unfortunately, however, we are faced with situations like the one confronting Ecuador at present, which I feel I should mention by way of example. These situations constitute acts of arbitrary and unilateral coercion which, in the case of my country, have led to economic aggression. They heighten international tensions instead of easing them.

(Mr. Albornoz, Ecuador)

Such is the case as regards the unilateral decision by the Government of the United States to apply internal legislation in an international matter by decreeing an embargo on tuna imports from Ecuador, by way of reprisal for legitimate action taken by my country, in full exercise of its sovereignty, in order to enforce its rights in the 200 miles of Ecuadorian waters which private North American fishing companies have entered to make illegal catches, with the subsequent backing of the Government of the United States.

Such a high-handed policy on the part of a great Power against a developing country which clearly behaves democratically and scrupulously respects human rights, is firmly rejected by Ecuador on all grounds: legal, moral and economic.

Legally, Ecuador has acted according to its laws in seizing North American fishing vessels within its jurisdictional waters which had failed to obtain the permits required by Ecuadorian law within the 200-mile zone. Twenty-eight years ago, in the Declaration of Santiago of 1952, in which Chile and Peru joined, Ecuador proclaimed its sovereignty and exclusive jurisdiction over the sea up to a distance of 200 miles from its coastline, including the soil, subsoil and ichthiological resources. The Ecuadorian Parliament sanctioned that Declaration and has condemned the practice of economic or political coercion by any State whatsoever, and the Executive Power has regulated fishing in our waters in accordance with the law. In the regulations which are being prepared by the law of the sea Conference, as regards both Ecuadorian sovereignty over the 200-mile territorial sea and the thesis of sovereignty over the 200-mile exclusive economic zone adopted by the United States, the obligation to respect the coastal State's sovereignty over the marine resources of the entire zone is emphasized. Legal authorization to fish in our waters can only emanate from Ecuadorian authorities and is subject to our laws on fishing and fisheries development. The seizure of vessels engaged in illegal fishing is therefore lawful and is our only option under the laws of our country. That has been also the understanding of other countries of North America and Central and South America, which have seized North American vessels recently engaged in similar illegal action.

(Mr. Albornoz, Ecuador)

Morally it is inconceivable that fishing companies from the other end of the Pacific Ocean should move all the way into Ecuadorian waters for their plundering operations, in violation of the principles of the declaration on the permanent sovereignty of developing countries over their natural resources and of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. In addition, in the Riobamba Charter of Conduct, signed on 11 September, the right signatory countries agreed "To reaffirm the sovereign right of States to dispose freely of their natural resources as a substantive rule of international coexistence". An equally serious violation of international norms of conduct is the official protection accorded by the United States Government as regards such predatory actions in the economic field and the embargo on tuna imports, when there are Ecuadorian enterprises that fish and export their products lawfully within a so-called equitable system of international trade.

Economically we fulfil an elementary duty of conservation in preserving for our people the fishing resources of our seas. Fish seek in Ecuadorian waters the food constituted by animal and vegetable plankton which comes down with the erosion material from our mountains, valleys and jungles and which is carried by our rivers into the sea. That material is also a part of our territory; it is an inheritance of our people and an element of our sovereignty, since it is a nutrient of our natural resources.

In view of the foregoing, our country will firmly defend in this and in all international forums its right to such resources and will maintain its sovereignty with similar determination in the face of any action of reprisal or economic coercion such as that described earlier. This has been stated by Ecuador within the Organization of American States (OAS). The Latin American conscience there recognized our position in approving by 21 votes in favour and one against, at its present Assembly, and supporting in the plenary meeting a resolution rejecting the economic measures in question, which unfavourably affect Ecuador and other Latin American countries. In its report the Interamerican Economic and Social Council said that such measures violated article 19 of the charter of the OAS, which states that "No State may use or encourage the use of coercive measures of an economic or political character in order to force the sovereign will of another State and obtain from it advantages of any kind."

(Mr. Albornoz, Ecuador)

In conclusion, my delegation requests that our country be included among the sponsors of the draft resolution proposed in document A/C.1/35/L.48, which condemns any act in violation of the United Nations Charter or its principle of sovereignty and any other form of economic or financial pressure, which can only exacerbate international tension, whereas the positive endeavours of the world community should be exerted to reduce tensions in a climate of mutual respect and in accordance with the principles of peaceful coexistence, in order to ensure good relations among peoples, such as Ecuador wishes to maintain with the United States and all other countries of the world.

Mr. SILOVIC (Yugoslavia): Wishing to observe the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security in an appropriate manner, the General Assembly last year requested the Secretary-General to prepare, with the help of a group of governmental experts, a report to be submitted to the thirty-fifth session on the extent of the implementation of the provisions of the Declaration and on actions which should be undertaken by the Assembly in order to secure full compliance with the provisions of the Declaration. The report of the Group of Governmental Experts is now before us. I should like to thank its Chairman, the Permanent Representative of the Bahamas to the United Nations, Mr. Davidson Hepburn, for his comprehensive and valuable presentation of the report.

(Mr. Silovic, Yugoslavia)

The report deals with problems that are at the heart of international relations, since nothing is more important to every Member State or the United Nations as a whole than the maintenance and strengthening of peace and security in the world. That is so today as it was at the time of the adoption of the Charter of the United Nations or 10 years ago, when the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security was adopted. It is a prerequisite for progress in all other areas and a point of departure in the consideration of all other problems.

The content of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security has become a powerful instrument in the struggle for the elimination of causes of tension and of dangers and threats to peace. In that respect the Declaration has supplemented the Charter and brought it up to date by stressing those aspects of the rights and duties of States in international relations which arise out of the Charter and it deals most directly with the conduct of States which endangers the security of other States and poses a threat to stability and peace in the world at large.

Over the last 10 years the Declaration has provided the General Assembly with a basis for reviewing the situation in the world and assessing the degree of progress achieved by the international community towards a just and lasting peace, security and a better life for all.

In the past period certain steps have been taken in that direction. The aspirations of countries and peoples to emancipation, equality, freedom and independence have been further affirmed. The irrepressible will of peoples to determine their own form of government and their own way of life is making itself felt ever more strongly in the world. That will is at the centre of all efforts to put an end to colonialism, to combat any form of domination and occupation, to establish the New International Economic Order and to ensure the participation of all States in the solution of international problems on a footing of equality.

The policy of non-alignment has arisen precisely out of such aspirations and out of the need of a large number of peoples on all continents to root out inequality, to change international relations and their position and role in the world. Non-alignment is the common denominator of such endeavours and their political expression.

(Mr. Silovic, Yugoslavia)

The principles and objectives of the policy of non-alignment embodied in documents of conferences of Heads of State or Government and other gatherings of non-aligned countries represent at the same time an action-oriented political programme of international co-operation for strengthening world peace, for independence and the equal rights of States, economic development and over-all progress. We feel that the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the implementation of the provisions of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security, which we are now considering, expresses the common interests of all Member States and points to the causes of danger and tensions in the world as well as to the need for joint efforts to eliminate them.

There is a disquieting discrepancy between the fact, mentioned in the report of the group of experts, that the majority of Member States have complied with the provisions and principles of the Charter and with the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security, on the one hand, and, on the other, the finding of the group of experts, which is no less true, that there has been an increase in acts in violation of the Charter, particularly of the principles of respect for national independence and non-interference, for the free social development of countries and the prohibition of the use or threat of force.

The international community must stand up against such developments and their proponents. The present efforts should be maintained and strengthened.

It is imperative, above all, to strengthen the role and effectiveness of the Security Council and to ensure the implementation of its decisions. The report of the group of experts mentions some of the possibilities to achieve that end. Concerted efforts are bound to bring solutions that can enable the Security Council to discharge its primary responsibility under the Charter. In instances in which it is not possible for the Security Council to act, one of the effective ways for Member States to react to a breach of peace consists in enhancing the importance and role of the General Assembly of the United Nations. The Uniting for Peace resolution provides one such possibility as well as an opportunity for the international community to rise up in defence of peace and security.

(Mr. Silovic, Yugoslavia)

The process of the relaxation of tensions between the great Powers and blocs, which has recently come into question, should be expanded with regard to both its scope and its contents. The non-aligned countries have insisted from the very outset that there can be no relaxation of tensions on a bloc basis and that détente and security in the world must be based on the participation, on terms of equality, of all countries in the solving of all problems.

It is therefore necessary to overcome the stagnation in the negotiations on disarmament. The most important immediate task consists in ensuring that solid preparations be made for the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament to be held in 1982. The tendency to extend monopoly in nuclear weapons to the field of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy creates great difficulties for the developing countries with regard to this question, an important one to those countries.

A similar situation prevails in the sphere of international economic relations, where the substantive consideration of problems is being thwarted by the resistance of a small number of developed countries. Serious additional efforts should be made in that field, with a view to starting the global negotiations, which should contribute to the stabilization of the world economy and the accelerated development of the developing countries.

The existing focal points of crisis in the world should and can be eliminated on the basis of the provisions of the Charter and the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security.

In southern Africa the Pretoria régime should be prevented from flouting the decisions of the United Nations and preventing the accession to independence of the people of Namibia.

In the Middle East we must help the Palestinian people finally to realize its inalienable right to self-determination and the establishment of its own State.

The situation in Central Asia and the crisis in Afghanistan can be solved only through the exertion of joint efforts and by peaceful means. The resolution adopted by the General Assembly a short while ago provides for a political solution and that is, in our opinion, the reason why it obtained such wide support.

(Mr. Silovic, Yugoslavia)

The most recent conflict in the Gulf must also be resolved by peaceful means so that a just and honourable solution to this conflict between two non-aligned countries may be found.

As regards the situation in South-East Asia, we must contribute towards enabling the martyred people of Kampuchea to realize its right to independent development and peace.

The recent initiative of the Workers' Party of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea concerning the founding of a confederate Republic of Korea constitutes a new attempt to bring about the peaceful unification of the Korean people. We hope that it will meet with the response it deserves in view of its constructive and realistic approach.

Initiatives to establish zones of peace in various regions can, in our view, greatly promote security in those parts of the world. In that respect, the work of the expanded Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean, which is making preparations for the Conference on the Indian Ocean to be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, should be given particular attention. We expect the Conference to contribute towards reducing tensions in the region of the Indian Ocean and promoting co-operation among all coastal and other States. We are ready to contribute to the achievement of that objective.

(Mr. Silovic, Yugoslavia)

Another region of vital importance where the non-aligned countries are striving to establish a zone of peace and co-operation is the Mediterranean. In that region armaments continue to be accumulated and bloc rivalries persist, while the crises in the Middle East and Cyprus have the effect of exacerbating tensions. As a non-aligned and Mediterranean country, Yugoslavia is exerting efforts, together with the other non-aligned countries of the region, to free the Mediterranean from crises and conflicts, and weapons and confrontations and to transform it into a sea of peace, co-operation, good-neighbourliness and progress for all countries, regardless of their social systems, levels of development or size.

Security in the region of the Mediterranean and security in Europe are closely connected and interdependent. For this reason, we have been constantly urging that the Mediterranean region should be included in the ambit of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. We are also convinced that the establishment of a zone of peace and co-operation in the Mediterranean would have a positive impact on the strengthening of security in Europe.

May I say a few words about the work concerned with the adoption of a declaration on the inadmissibility of interference and intervention in internal affairs of States. At their last summit meeting the non-aligned countries noted that interference and intervention had become the most frequent and most dangerous form of aggression, primarily against non-aligned and developing countries. At their meeting held at the beginning of the current session of this Assembly, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of non-aligned countries decided to include work on a declaration on the inadmissibility of interference and intervention among priority issues and tasks in the activity of non-aligned countries

(Mr. Silovic, Yugoslavia)

The draft of such a declaration was circulated at the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly, which adopted a resolution calling for the continuation of efforts to elaborate a declaration. At the beginning of the thirty-fifth session the non-aligned countries endeavoured to improve the original draft, and they submitted a new text to the open-ended Ad Hoc Committee of the First Committee for consideration. Regrettably, this year also, we have noted a lack of readiness to come to grips with the substance of this important subject matter. I merely wish to state on this occasion that the elaboration and adoption of a declaration on the inadmissibility of interference and intervention, aimed at determining and defining all the manifestations of interference in the internal affairs of States, remains a matter to which the non-aligned countries accord a high order of priority. We shall endeavour to ensure that the efforts to adopt such a declaration are continued and concluded. In this regard, we count on a higher degree of understanding and co-operation on the part of those who have not yet shown it. We are convinced that this is in the common interest of all countries of the world.

In conclusion, may I say that draft resolution A/C.1/35/L.48, which was elaborated by a group of non-aligned countries, and of which my delegation has the honour of being one of the sponsors, reflects the preoccupations I have outlined here. It draws attention to some dangerous tendencies in current international developments and makes several important and, in our opinion, constructive proposals aimed at promoting international security and improving the mechanisms and means for strengthening it. We hope that the draft resolution will meet with general support and contribute towards the tenth anniversary of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security, providing us with a fresh incentive in our common effort towards a stable peace in the world.

PROGRAMME OF WORK

The CHAIRMAN: Before we adjourn I would inform members that, although there will be a meeting of the First Committee tomorrow morning to continue consideration of agenda item 50, since we have at least four delegations that are ready to speak then, there are, unfortunately, insufficient speakers for the afternoon meeting, which will have to be cancelled unless that situation changes.

Representatives will remember that we took a decision earlier that the Committee should endeavour to complete its work by Wednesday 3 December. After tomorrow morning that will leave us with two more meetings, on Wednesday, in which to conclude our consideration of item 50 and take action on draft resolution A/C.1/35/L.48.

It is my sincere hope - shared by many members of the Committee - that, barring unforeseen circumstances, the preparatory committee for the second special session of the General Assembly to be devoted to disarmament may hold its first organizational session on 4 and 5 December. I therefore urge all those delegations that intend to participate in the debate on item 50 to inscribe their names without delay, and if possible before leaving this Conference room today. It is my fear that if we keep the list open we may not be able to conclude our work by Wednesday evening, which of course would make it impossible for the preparatory committee to hold its meeting on 4 December.

The meeting rose at 5 p.m.