



## CONTENTS

	Page
Agenda item 123: Launching of global negotiations on international economic co-operation for development ( <i>continued</i> ).	1247

**President: Mr. Rüdiger von WECHMAR**  
(Federal Republic of Germany).

## AGENDA ITEM 123

**Launching of global negotiations on international  
economic co-operation for development (*continued*)\***

1. The PRESIDENT: Before calling on the first speaker, I should like to give a progress report to the Assembly.

2. In the last month I am pleased to say that a positive atmosphere has emerged for the launching of the global negotiations. As you are aware, I have initiated an extensive exchange of views on all aspects of this item in an informal "group of friends of the President". My purpose in so doing was to try to achieve a meeting of minds and a thorough exchange of views on the questions before the Assembly. I should stress the *ad referendum* informal nature of these discussions, in which all groups have been represented.

3. At the outset, there was a consensus that at least four subjects should be addressed: first, the objectives of the global negotiations; secondly, the question of competence; thirdly, the relationships between the central body and the specialized agencies; and fourthly, the approach to be adopted for the negotiations.

4. There was a general wish to begin discussion with the objectives of the global negotiations. General Assembly resolution 34/138 was the keystone of this review of the objectives. I was encouraged that there was a reaffirmation of the consensus in resolution 34/138 on the purpose of the global round, and of the objectives for the negotiations. The global nature both of participation in the negotiations and of the issues for discussion was stressed.

5. I am convinced that the gravity and urgency of the commitment needed for the implementation of resolution 34/138 is felt by all. This commitment can be characterized as a collective input: it is an experiment, even an odyssey. In my view, we face an historic task, one which impinges on all aspects of international relations.

6. In the light of the confirmation of the consensus and recommitment to the objectives of resolution 34/138, the "group of friends" next related these objectives to the five subject areas of the agenda: raw materials, energy, trade, development, and money and finance. A synopsis of alternative agenda formulations by all groups was undertaken, on which we have conducted a first reading to exchange views and to identify the areas on which there is a convergence of ideas. A substantial meeting of minds has taken place, in my view, in this attempt to achieve what I would characterize as a reasonable agenda. I say "reasonable" in the sense of an agenda in which all points of view converge, so that the strength of the whole agenda is greater than that of its parts.

7. We have devoted many hours to this first reading of the agenda, and with qualified optimism I can report to the Assembly that progress has been made. The majority of items have benefited from a positive will on all sides to accommodate the views of others. I do not pretend that on all issues there is total agreement. However, I am optimistic that this will not preclude the launching of the global negotiations.

8. In the areas of trade and raw materials, a useful exchange of views has been accomplished. The views of various groups have been explored thoroughly and I do not think it will be difficult to reach an accommodation on these areas. Concerning food questions, there appears to be a substantial basis for agreement on the formulation of an agenda. Similarly, on development issues we have achieved a close understanding of the nature of the problems and the measures required to address them. As had been anticipated, a great deal of time has been devoted to discussion of the complex issues in the areas of energy and money and finance. I am pleased that in these cases also there has been a frank and direct exchange of views which has enabled us to concentrate on the specific aspects where there are differences. In the area of energy, I am convinced that it is possible to resolve the remaining divergences of view and to complete that section of the agenda. Money and finance is a complicated area; our discussions have pointed, however, to several possibilities for resolution of the differences of views.

9. I am confident, therefore, that we are close to the formulation of an agenda in which all parties will feel that their points of view are reflected. Obviously, such a formulation requires a spirit of accommodation and a degree of political will to persevere with the launching of the global round.

10. The examination of the agenda has led us naturally into a discussion of procedure. The crucial questions of the role of the central body and that of the specialized forums have been explored. We have also achieved a useful exchange of views on the nature and the purpose of the negotiations. The specification of the

\* Resumed from the 44th meeting.

objectives and the guidance to be given by the central body on the various agenda items is recognized as a critical element in the global negotiations. No less important is the way in which the final package agreement will be achieved. In perspective, I do not think that the problems of procedure are insurmountable; we have a renewed opportunity to alleviate the concerns which some participants have expressed in this regard.

11. I wished to apprise the Assembly fully of the progress made and to emphasize that all sides have expressed their willingness to achieve a meeting of minds in order to launch the global negotiations. My qualified optimism leads me to believe that we can cover the remaining ground and achieve an agreement on the agenda, procedure and time-frame which will provide a first step towards the implementation of resolution 34/138.

12. I have before me a list of those who wish to make a statement on agenda item 123. We have allotted three meetings for the consideration of this item at this stage. In order to organize our work, I should like to propose the closure of the list of speakers at 6 p.m. today.

13. There appears to be no objection, and I take it that the Assembly agrees to my proposal.

*It was so decided.*

14. Mr. ROMULO (Philippines): Mr. President, the United Nations is fortunate to have you and the Secretary-General to lead this thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly because the Secretary-General has his finger always on the pulse of world public opinion. He has emphasized time and again the importance and significance of this item on our agenda. Permit me, Mr. President, to congratulate you and to thank you for your efforts—together with the group you call the "friends of the President"—relative to the consultations which brought us to where we are today.

15. It is good, Sir, that you emphasized that this was a discussion among your friends in your capacity as President, because on a question of the vital importance of this item we needed preliminary discussions not so much among the representatives of Governments, as among the friends of the President. How aptly you have named the group which undertook these preliminary discussions. You have led us to where we are today on this important item, the launching of global negotiations on international economic co-operation for development.

16. We are aware, Mr. President, of the difficulties of those consultations and of the fact that you have succeeded in great measure in narrowing the differences between the various groups. This attests to your great diplomatic skill and to your competence. Again I thank you, Sir, on behalf of the Philippine delegation.

17. We meet today to continue our task of negotiating a new framework for international economic relations. When I say new, I do so deliberately, for I was one of those who signed the Bretton Woods agreement after the Second World War. We have come to need a new international economic order since the time of the drafting and approval of the Bretton Woods agreement which laid down the framework of our present international economic order.

18. The fact that we are meeting again soon after the arduous eleventh special session on international economic co-operation for development stresses the urgent importance that the international community attaches to achieving a global consensus on solutions to common problems in the fields of energy, money and finance, trade, raw materials and development. These subjects were mentioned by the President in his introductory speech, and have been mentioned time and again by the Secretary-General.

19. Such a sense of urgency reflects the clear perception that the world economy is dangerously close to breaching the inner economic limits beyond which strain threatens to sunder the very fabric of the economic, social and political order in the 1980s.

20. May I outline the urgent task of the present session in the light of the deepening economic crisis. My delegation is firmly convinced that the holding of a round of global economic negotiations is a historic task whose time has come; that its agenda must meet foursquare the present crisis; that the evolving role of the United Nations, specifically the General Assembly or an equivalent high-level body to provide a central forum, meets the need for harmonizing the action of nations for the attainment of common ends; and that new forms of international co-operation, such as the development of new norms and principles of international economic law relating to the establishment of the new international economic order, need to be forged.

21. The historical record and present reality suggest that the global negotiations aimed at establishing a new international economic order are clearly overdue. Results of conferences held over a period of nearly 20 years, although not particularly encouraging to many of us, show that it is possible to come together, to identify issues and to work out common solutions. To our mind, this is what the global negotiations are all about, as you explained in your introductory speech this afternoon, Sir.

22. Let us consider the efforts to stabilize the market for commodities. The emergence of the Common Fund was a difficult and tortuous process. Yet we have arrived at a compromise instrument that gives hope of improving market structures for 18 commodities of vital interest to developing countries. The Philippines has always been confident of the eventual triumph of political will in the forging of new institutions such as the Common Fund. That is why at an early stage we pledged our modest resources to an institution which at the time lacked form and structure but to whose purposes we were committed in the larger interest of the international community. Today we are ready, as we made known earlier here and in Geneva, to offer facilities in Manila for the permanent headquarters of the Common Fund, so as to bring it into operation.

23. At this session we are called upon to adopt by resolution a set of equitable rules on restrictive business practices.<sup>1</sup> The negotiation of that instrument was by no means easy, nor are the results totally satisfactory. But we have a compromise text that resolves

<sup>1</sup> Subsequently adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 35/63.

common problems and allows five years within which to apply the rules and to review performance.

24. It would be tedious to review past and ongoing work on the economic agenda in various international forums. Of utmost interest to us here is the compelling fact that the international community recognizes the need for global approaches to interdependent problems. It is in this sense that, in the present phase of our work on the global negotiations, we must agree on a manageable agenda.

25. Let me outline in brief the critical issues that warrant priority attention in the agenda for sustained and action-oriented negotiations.

26. In the field of energy, measures should be taken by the international community adequately to meet the growing requirements of developing countries in all forms of energy on a priority basis. The Brandt Commission considers that step as part of the Emergency Programme for 1980-1985, which is meant to avert the most serious dangers.<sup>2</sup> An essential component of the programme is a special arrangement, including financial assistance, to ensure supplies to the poorer developing countries. The mounting debt burdens and account deficits of non-oil-producing developing countries, standing at \$61 billion, are crippling burdens on those countries' economies.

27. Of immense significance in this context is the decision of the Presidents of Mexico and Venezuela to extend a special and favourable arrangement for assured supplies of oil to the Caribbean region. We welcome those enlightened efforts of developing countries in the authentic spirit of economic co-operation. In our region of the Association of South East Asian Nations [ASEAN] we have worked out an emergency sharing of supplies in case of serious shortfalls in oil supply. But we need to expand the scope of those efforts on a global scale. We urge that this be a priority item on the agenda of the global negotiations as well as in the forthcoming High-level Meeting on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries to be held in 1981.

28. Beyond assisting developing countries to tide themselves over their short-term difficulties, we must look to the long-term objective of ensuring adequate supplies at prices those countries can afford. The international community must extend assistance for exploration and development of energy resources in energy-deficient developing countries. In that connexion, the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Resources of Energy, to be held in August 1981, is of critical importance. We hope that this Conference will yield results that will ensure for developing countries a fair share of the new technologies needed in the search for alternative sources of energy.

29. The difficulties faced by non-oil producing developing countries in paying for imports of energy, food and capital goods relate directly to their already worsened trading position. The purchasing power of export earnings from commodities of importance to developing countries has continued to decline despite

a scarcity of supplies. This is due to the lopsided market power of developed countries. The global negotiations therefore need to tackle seriously the twin issues of increased processing of raw materials produced by developing countries and greater participation by those countries in marketing and distribution.

30. Resolution 127 (V) adopted during the fifth session of UNCTAD,<sup>3</sup> which was held at Manila, calls for a new international framework for commodity processing and marketing. We believe that the global negotiations will provide an excellent opportunity to build upon that framework.

31. Protectionism in trade inflicts a heavy toll on producers and consumers alike. That is reflected in terms of reduced export earnings for producers and higher prices for consumers. Many industrial countries, beset by high unemployment and inflation, have chosen the narrow path of restricting imports from low-cost producing countries. Thus, they impede the natural process of structural adjustment and industrial redeployment to developing countries. The defensive strategy of key developed countries aimed at cushioning the consequences of failure to adjust and to move to higher-productivity industries penalizes developing countries unduly. It frustrates efforts to transform their production structures within a reasonable time-frame.

32. It would be unreasonable, of course, to ask industrial countries to institute Draconian measures aimed at structural adjustment. Their social systems in some cases still show widening social inequalities that can have serious political consequences, and we must not forget this. What should be made clear in the global negotiations is that the ills of a defensive strategy of protectionism and the resulting social disruptions due to rapid adjustments can be avoided only through strengthened international co-operation and cohesion. The forum for global negotiations provides this opportunity to build on the modest results of the fifth session of UNCTAD, over which I had the honour of presiding.

33. In our view, the global negotiations must address themselves to industrialization in developing countries in conjunction with the revitalizing of industries in key developed countries. Efforts at structural change for higher productivity and lower inflation involve reducing trade barriers on imports of textiles, clothing, leather goods, electronics and the agricultural products of developing countries. There is ample reason to believe that higher imports of manufactures from developing countries serve as an effective means of combating inflation, which has become a political nemesis in key countries.

34. Increased foreign exchange earnings for developing countries are not, however, ends in themselves. There should be a little more food and energy and the wherewithal to satisfy the most basic necessities for the survival of our peoples. This should also mean salvation from the impending financial disaster due to the failure to service massive foreign debts. Thus a de-

<sup>2</sup> See *North-South: A program for survival*; report of the Independent Commission on International Development Issues under the Chairmanship of Willy Brandt (Cambridge, Massachusetts, The MIT Press, 1980), p. 276.

<sup>3</sup> See *Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Fifth Session*, vol. I, *Report and Annexes* (United Nations Publication, Sales No. E.79.II.D.14), part one, sect. A.

terminated thrust in the reform of the international finance and monetary system must constitute a key item in the agenda of the global negotiations. In this context the proposal of our efficient Secretary-General for an immediate action programme in this field [see A/35/608] is certainly most welcome.

35. Our brief outline of the most urgent agenda items for the global negotiations clearly demonstrates two important facts.

36. First, the interdependence of the problems of energy, raw materials, trade, money and finance and development calls for a coherent integrated approach. Our near consensus on the key role as a central negotiating body of the General Assembly or an equivalent high-level United Nations conference confirms the validity of this approach.

37. Secondly, there is a need for understanding so as to generate popular support for the basic aims of the global negotiations in developed market-economy countries. Policy-makers and ruling elites in developed countries tend to underestimate the benefits accruing to them from an appropriate restructuring of the world economy,

38. Therefore there is a need for international understanding on the part of both developed and developing countries.

39. We believe that the global negotiations and, in this context, the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade<sup>4</sup> provide the moral and intellectual basis for international understanding through the eradication of the prejudice and the narrow particularist interests that stand in the way of world unity. Let us all strive to achieve that unity whatever the cost.

40. Once again I wish to thank and congratulate you, Mr. President, for the time you have devoted at this session to the preliminary discussions which you said you held with your friends—and I emphasize “friends”.

41. The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of Venezuela, who will speak on behalf of the Group of 77.

42. Mr. PÉREZ GUERRERO (Venezuela) (*interpretation from Spanish*): I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the Group of 77, because my country, Venezuela, is the current Chairman of that Group.

43. Today we are officially recommencing the already lengthy preparatory process for global negotiations which was to have been concluded at the eleventh special session of the General Assembly, which preceded the current session. This session has been called upon to deal with what was left pending at the time, primarily the agenda, which the Committee of the Whole had worked on but which could not be considered at the eleventh special session because of the arduous and protracted negotiations on the procedural framework of the global negotiations. That latter effort was not unfruitful, since a compromise text was arrived at and supported by all countries,

with the exception of three, which at that time were not able to support it.<sup>5</sup>

44. In the general debate at the current session various speakers representing all sectors of the international community emphasized the importance of the global negotiations and the need to launch them early next year, as anticipated. In fact, that initiative of the Group of 77 found expression in General Assembly resolution 34/138 and has acquired greater validity as a result of the inexorable deterioration of international economic relations. The developing countries are today more than ever convinced that the present difficulties can be overcome only by undertaking long-term overall international co-operative action aimed at solving the substantive problems of the international economic crisis, in particular those problems confronting the developing countries, which are also the problems of the international community as a whole.

45. It can never be sufficiently emphasized that, if the negotiations are to be global and effective, they must be coherent, integrated, action-oriented, and proceed in a simultaneous manner, as laid down in resolution 34/138. With regard to the purpose and the spirit underlying the global negotiations, I shall confine myself to quoting two passages from that resolution. The first refers to

“achieving, through international negotiations and other concerted action, the restructuring of international economic relations on the basis of the principles of justice and equality in order to provide for steady economic development, with due regard to the development potential of developing countries”.

The second states that

“the establishment of such a new system calls for bold initiatives and demands new, concrete, comprehensive and global solutions going beyond limited efforts and measures intended to resolve only the present economic difficulties”.

46. It therefore follows from the foregoing that the negotiations must encompass both urgent short-term measures and long-term structural measures and that, of course, there must be coherence among all such measures in all the areas mentioned in the resolution: raw materials, energy, trade, development, money and finance. On the other hand, the conference that is to carry out the negotiations should ensure the necessary co-ordination among the various contributions it may receive from its working groups or the bodies of the United Nations system in order to conclude the negotiations with a package agreement adopted by consensus in accordance with the rule it was considered necessary to establish for questions of major importance.

47. In our view it is important to obtain the active collaboration of those United Nations bodies on matters within their competence.

48. It is also clear, without any doubt, that the central axis of the global negotiations is the development of the third-world countries, although it is indicated that

<sup>4</sup> Subsequently adopted by the General Assembly as resolution 35/56.

<sup>5</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Eleventh Special Session, Annexes*, agenda item 7, document A/S-11/25, paras. 16 and 18.

this whole endeavour should redound to the benefit of all and should promote the interests of all countries.

49. In short, a global agreement such as the one proposed is indispensable if we are to avoid confrontation that could degenerate into a chaotic situation that could destroy international peace and security.

50. That is why all members of the international community, developed and developing alike, regardless of their economic or social system, bear an unavoidable responsibility, although of course the responsibility of the richer countries is greater. It is not a question of generosity; it is a question of common sense. In the light of the looming dangers it would indeed be folly to pass up the present opportunity to come to an agreement on the fate of mankind. Mutual confidence and good faith are required. We in the Group of 77 are ready to make our positive contribution to this common endeavour. However, it is necessary to overcome the resistance that still holds sway in some of the powerful countries, as if the lessons of history and the situation in which we find ourselves were not sufficiently enlightening. I say this in the light of the informal talks that you, Mr. President, promoted and concerning which you have just given us your optimistic views. We thank you for the interest you have shown in this matter.

51. Nor can we disregard the fact that in many sectors of the developed world there is a growing acceptance of the need to restructure the system of international economic relations, which is anachronistic and unjust, that is to say a growing acceptance of the new international economic order. That is brought about not only by a greater willingness to understand our problems but also by the effect the disruption of the world economy is having on those countries.

52. Among our concerns priority attention should be given to the least developed among the developing countries as well as to countries in other special categories that are faced with especially acute problems. That endeavour falls squarely within the framework of the general attention to be given to the various proposals of the developing countries as a whole.

53. The General Assembly is about to adopt an important document, namely the International Development Strategy, whose effective implementation also requires the necessary political will that is being put to the test with the launching of the global negotiations. As indicated in resolution 34/138 and spelt out in the text of the Strategy itself, the global negotiations are called upon to contribute to the effective implementation of the Strategy.

54. Within the United Nations the international community has the opportunity to demonstrate its capacity and determination to rise to show itself equal to the disquieting circumstances besetting mankind. What is at stake is the fate of all peoples; failure would perhaps be a deadly blow to international co-operation and solidarity. On the other hand, if we succeed in this common endeavour, which should have the genuine support of every one of us, if it does not already have it, we would be ushering in a new era of justice and peace for the peoples of the world which are clamouring for that and whom we cannot disappoint.

55. Mr. DUPUY (Canada): On the theme posed by the agenda item before us today, I cannot but reflect upon the months of work which led to the recently concluded eleventh special session of the General Assembly, the movement and progress towards our objective which those months represented and how close we were to success during the session itself. With some of those thoughts in mind, I should like to share with you some Canadian perceptions as to how we might work for the remainder of the time allotted to us at this session.

56. Our attempts to launch the global economic negotiations can perhaps best be measured by noting that this marks the first time that the universal international community has joined together in a serious and comprehensive manner to improve the management of the world economy.

57. As everyone here will be aware, our round of discussions at the recent special session ostensibly centred on the procedural framework within which the global negotiations might proceed. However, those discussions were in reality discussions of the character and purpose of the negotiations and of the perceptions toward them held by different delegations. The Canadian perception of this North-South process was summarized a few days ago by the Honourable Allan MacEachen, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, at the closing session of the North-South Round Table Conference of the Society for International Development. Mr. MacEachen said:

“Whatever interpretation may be made of the past, the rise of the South not only in numbers but in terms of power, influence, knowledge and responsibility is shaping the process into a bold attempt to achieve a new kind of partnership between North and South in the management of growing interdependence. Because the challenge is so great, the diversity of interests so complex and the quantum of problems that can be resolved limited at any given time, we are bound to experience some frustrations and disappointments. But let us make no mistake; the process of North-South, the means through which it will progress and its ultimate objectives, will have a profound bearing on world economic management in the years to come. It is important to understand this as we work to launch the global negotiations and begin to implement the International Development Strategy. We shall have to define the relationship between the global negotiations and the institutions which have served us in the management of the world economy in a way that will enhance our collective ability to further the legitimate interests of both North and South.”

58. This process of education and clarification has been continued and enhanced by your efforts, Mr. President, in the course of the intensive round of informal consultations you have held over the past few weeks, and for that we are very much indebted to you. By concentrating largely on a possible agenda for the negotiations and refocusing our latest procedural paper, we have been able to achieve a high level of conceptual understanding and to restore a climate of confidence that had been previously seriously strained. We now have a new opportunity to resolve the remaining issues. What, then, needs to be done?

59. It is already clear that the issues we choose to discuss and the means by which we discuss them—that is to say, the procedural framework—can only proceed hand in hand. Those are the two central elements of any agreement which will permit the launching of the global negotiations, and they cannot, in the final analysis, be considered in isolation, one from the other.

60. In our proposed agenda, which covers subject areas central to each and every one of our economic concerns, we have achieved a large measure of agreement. The same can be said of the procedural framework we are seeking.

61. On the agenda there are three major problem areas outstanding. The first relates to the terms of trade. The second is the degree of completeness with which we shall treat the various aspects of the energy question, which has so grown in importance during the 1970s and by many—both developed and developing countries—is regarded as the major issue of the 1980s. The third is the evolution of the international financial and monetary system to enable it to respond to the world's changing needs over the next 10 to 20 years. Our exercise has proceeded to the point where we have on the table most of the helpful drafting suggestions we need in order to come to an agreement. We must bear in mind that we want to give our negotiators all the latitude they need to cover the issues in depth from all viewpoints and to reach workable agreements during the negotiations.

62. To look at the other side of the coin, an agreement on the procedural framework also seems to be achievable. We came very close during the eleventh special session and our task now is to make possible a full consensus. To do so, I think we must cut away a number of misunderstandings between us. I think we must recognize that the concern of many to safeguard some of the institutions on which the global economic system in the post-Second World War era has been built is not an obstinate refusal to change or to evolve. When we get away from the rhetoric which comes all too easily, we can see that the process of change is under way in those institutions. At the same time, we must also recognize the complementary and mutually reinforcing roles that can be played by the specialized institutions and the global negotiations, and that the involvement of the specialized institutions in the process of global negotiations need not constitute a threat to the autonomy and mandates of those institutions.

63. With all those factors taken into account, my delegation's judgement would be that we have within our grasp the elements of agreement at this session. The question is: have we the determination to take that extra step which will produce that agreement? I think we should be ready to take that step and to take it now.

64. What we now require is a real negotiation and resolution of the few issues which still divide us. I do not minimize the task. Give-and-take on all sides will be required if we are to succeed. But we want to succeed.

65. When the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. MacGuigan, addressed the concluding meeting of the special session, he expressed concern that

“sealed in negotiating forums, we run the risk of becoming overwhelmed by artificialities and of forgetting that huge global problems remain unsolved.”<sup>6</sup> With that in mind, I would pledge that the Canadian delegation is ready to join with others here today in a constructive discussion in the days ahead which we believe—with flexibility and understanding on all sides—can lead us to success at the current session.

66. The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of Luxembourg, who will address the General Assembly on behalf of the nine States members of the European Communities.

67. Mr. WEYLAND (Luxembourg) (*interpretation from French*): At a time when we are preparing to continue our discussions on the global negotiations, I should like to set forth to the Assembly the position of the European Community.

68. The failure of the eleventh special session to reach the desired result in this sphere was not caused by any lack of sustained efforts by the principal negotiators. Indeed, in our opinion that session was an important step in the North-South dialogue; it enabled us to make clear the principal problems arising in connexion with the global negotiations.

69. By participating in the adoption of resolution 34/138, the Community was expressing its unreserved determination to see the General Assembly launch these negotiations. On several occasions, the Council of Ministers has emphasized the importance of its political commitment to that.

70. It was in that spirit that, during the preparatory sessions of the Committee of the Whole, the Community presented successive proposals bearing both on the substance and on the procedures of the future negotiations. The large amount of preparatory work done throughout the year should lead now to a positive outcome of our mutual efforts. The consensus achieved in September on the text of the International Development Strategy is an encouraging sign.

71. As for the modalities for global negotiations, it is certainly not possible in advance to work out all the details. However, we have always thought that the procedural outline was a problem of major importance and that its essential characteristics should be defined prior to the opening of the negotiations if we want those negotiations to be conducted in sufficiently clear conditions. In accepting the idea that these negotiations are going to be global, we have from the beginning advocated the establishment of a central body. At the same time, it has always seemed to us essential to ensure that there is a proper balance between this body, the conference and the specialized bodies, which, we believe, should participate fully in the negotiation process so as not to upset the existing system, to which resolution 34/138 refers. What we hope for is a fruitful dialogue with the existing institutions, with respect for the competence of each.

72. Hence, it is a question now of achieving a true consensus on a balanced and realistic procedural framework encompassing negotiations that take account of the common interest of the parties concerned.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, Eleventh Special Session, Plenary Meetings, 21st meeting, para. 11.

73. I should like now to say a word about the agenda for the global negotiations. From the outset, the Community, concerned about the deteriorating world economic situation and aware of the need to put international economic relations on more balanced and stable foundations, has presented proposals concerning the major problems arising in the areas enumerated in resolution 34/138. We agree, for our part, indeed, we hope, that these problems will be dealt with in a coherent and integrated way. On the basis of the discussions in the Committee of the Whole, at the last session of the Committee we reformulated our initial proposals in an 18-point list.<sup>7</sup>

74. We are prepared to continue those discussions in a totally undogmatic spirit and to seek formulas which meet the interests of all sides. That is why, Mr. President, we supported unreservedly the initiative you took in gathering a certain number of persons around you in order to prepare the ground for the deliberations in the plenary meetings. We want to thank you very warmly for this initiative. We appreciated not only the talent, but also the perseverance and cordiality with which you conducted the debates in your group. These efforts had the great merit of having clarified the positions of the respective parties and having indicated areas of convergence on a certain number of important points.

75. Here I will just mention some of these areas which seem to me the most significant. There exists a convergence of views on the importance of the food problem in general, and on the necessity, in particular, of dealing with the promotion of agricultural production in the developing countries, the transfer of resources, agricultural strategies and the question of an assured food supply.

76. As far as raw materials are concerned, the positions have become closer, in particular as regards activities other than those relating to production—activities which are of particular interest to the developing countries. The same is true of the development of natural resources. In this context, the recent results of negotiations on an International Cocoa Agreement<sup>8</sup> are a good sign.

77. A convergence of views also seems to us possible with respect to market access. We hope that this question will be dealt with in the global negotiations and our attitude to protectionism as an obstacle to international co-operation has always been unequivocal. The efforts that we have made in the multilateral negotiations are evidence of this.

78. In the same way, we are ready to talk about restructuring by means of positive strategies.

79. As far as energy is concerned, we have not yet reached agreement on the over-all list of problems although there has been some agreement on a certain number of important aspects. Energy, which is the driving force of the world's economy, is of interest to the international community as a whole. Thus our views seem to be more or less the same on the necessity for the international community to take steps to meet the growing needs, especially in the developing coun-

tries, and to promote the development of some specific sectors, such as new and renewable sources of energy and technology. The need for measures of conservation and economy is equally recognized.

80. It is on the question of the predictability of supplies, of demand and of prices that there remains a series of points on which positions are not yet sufficiently close. We know that reasonableness and a sense of responsibility must, even more than in the past, inspire conduct and policy.

81. Our proposal on the notion of predictability in fact proceeds from this logical proposition: the world economy needs such security, to which each should make his contribution on the basis of his means and his responsibilities.

82. We believe that the problem of the purchasing power of the developing countries is not linked simply to exports or imports of one or an other product or type of goods, whether raw materials, capital goods, agricultural products or energy, but is rather a matter of the outcome of multiple actions aimed in particular at promoting the exports of the developing countries. As we see it, this problem should be treated separately in such a way as to make it possible to consider it in a comprehensive and integrated manner rather than in a dispersed fashion under several agenda items.

83. On the subject of monetary and financial matters, we feel that our former proposals would make it possible to cover very generally the problems to be dealt with in the global negotiations. While public assistance to development is a central element of this, we must also attribute great significance to recycling, which seems to us to be a problem of mutual interest, both as an element in the stabilization of balances of payments and as a factor in development. As regards monetary questions as such in the context of development, the financial institutions have a major role to play. We have shown that we are ready to discuss this. But at the same time, we cannot ignore the fact that several of the subjects proposed by the Group of 77 are already being dealt with in those institutions, and we are participating in that work in a constructive spirit. The financial institutions have already taken a certain number of specific steps which show that they are not unaware of the concerns of the developing countries but are, on the contrary, prepared to adapt themselves to the changing situation.

84. Having said that, I repeat that we have made progress in our preparatory deliberations. May I just be permitted in conclusion to emphasize our willingness to continue to seek a solution. The programming and initiation of the global negotiations is an ambitious and difficult task. It is in the interest of the international community and it is within its competence.

85. Mr. HULINSKÝ (Czechoslovakia) (*interpretation from Russian*): I am speaking today on behalf of the socialist countries, that is to say, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Hungarian People's Republic, the German Democratic Republic, the Mongolian People's Republic, the Polish People's Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic. Their attitude to the idea of the global negotiations has been set forth on several occasions in

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, Eleventh Special Session, Supplement No. 1, part four, annex II.

<sup>8</sup> See TD/COCOA.6/7.

their joint statements at the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly, at the meetings of the Committee of the Whole and at the eleventh special session of the General Assembly, on economic issues.

86. The socialist countries proceed from the assumption that the political goal of the global negotiations is to promote the restructuring of international economic relations on a basis of equal rights, justice, democracy and mutual benefit. A genuine restructuring of international economic relations can be achieved only if all States Members of the United Nations embark on the implementation of the progressive provisions of the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order [*resolution 3201 (S-VI)*] and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States [*resolution 3281 (XXIX)*] as, by the way, the socialist States have long been doing in their relations with the developing countries.

87. The absence of real progress in establishing the new international economic order is to be explained mainly by a reluctance of certain Western countries and their imperialist monopolies to abandon their privileged position in the world capitalist economic system and by their desire to maintain the developing countries in a state of dependence. If this attitude continues, it is scarcely likely that there will be any basis for optimism about the prospects of certain initiatives proposed recently by the developing countries, and in particular as concerns the idea of the global negotiations.

88. The socialist countries, taking into consideration the view of the developing countries concerning the usefulness of holding global negotiations in the United Nations and the fact that their goal is to promote the restructuring of international economic relations, have supported the proposal to hold such negotiations. On this basis the delegations of the socialist countries, during the sessions of the Committee of the Whole and also during the eleventh special session of the current session of the General Assembly, have sought to promote the adoption of positive decisions on the major problems of significance for the restructuring of international economic relations on a just and democratic basis. They have in principle supported the proposal of the developing countries on the agenda for the global negotiations. As concerns the procedures for those negotiations our delegations, as is known, were prepared to participate in a consensus if there had been any consensus on the basis of the revised proposal submitted by the Chairman of Working Group II, Mr. Crnobrnja,<sup>9</sup> and supported by the Group of 77.

89. A final decision on the nature of the socialist countries' participation in these negotiations will be adopted with due regard for any measures of concrete agreement that may be achieved with respect to the agenda and procedure and also taking into consideration how consistently the principle of the participation of all States and the consideration of their interests in the examination of all issues to be discussed during the global negotiations is applied.

90. The socialist countries are ready in the future to participate constructively in the search for mutually

acceptable decisions on the agenda and the procedure of the global negotiations.

91. Mr. HUSLID (Norway): Probably the first question one should ask oneself during this debate is the following: How can my delegation contribute to the global negotiations being started as intended?

92. We know that this is no easy task. For more than half a year we have wrestled with the preparations for these negotiations in the Committee of the Whole. Not having succeeded there, we hope to finalize the work at the eleventh special session of the Assembly. Regrettably, we did not succeed there either. No consensus was reached, although, as we know, a compromise proposal, arrived at after lengthy negotiations, commanded the support of the large majority of countries.

93. Since then the President of the Assembly—whom my delegation compliments and thanks most sincerely for his unsparing efforts—has tried through informal consultations to arrive at the desired consensus, both as regards the procedures and the agenda for the negotiations.

94. We have to recognize, however, that this goal has not been reached as yet and that the work consequently has to be continued. We know that there are substantial differences of opinion or attitude behind the inability to arrive at a common view on the procedures and the agenda for the global negotiations. These differences should be faced squarely and openly.

95. Important as these differences may be, however, on the Norwegian side we nevertheless find it regrettable and maybe somewhat unnecessary that they should completely block the start of the global negotiations.

96. When all is said, we should probably recognize as a fact that the results of the global negotiations will not, in the final instance, be decided either by the exact wording of the procedures, or of the agenda, but by the political will shown by the participants at the time of negotiation. The procedures will not by themselves bring about either the success or the failure of the global negotiations.

97. However, we are actually faced with a situation where about 150 countries are prepared to start the global negotiations on the basis of a text which, although not crystal clear in all respects, is still considered to provide an acceptable framework for practical negotiations. Three countries do not feel that this text is clear enough, particularly with regard to the integrity and competence of the specialized forums within the United Nations system.

98. It ought to be possible to get out of this deadlock. In view of the very wide support given to the Crnobrnja text, it is perhaps not realistic to start from the assumption that this text could or should now be changed. Rather we feel that a more hopeful approach ought to be taken of considering the possibility of the three countries which have not accepted the text making some kind of explanatory or interpretative statement to make their position clear. If such a statement could be noted without any more comment, negotiations could then possibly start on the basis of the Crnobrnja text as it stands. As I have said before, we should all realize that in the practical negotiations the exact

<sup>9</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Eleventh Special Session, Annexes*, agenda item 7, document A/S-11/25, para. 16.



wording of the procedure will probably not have the decisive importance which it seems to have when we discuss it as a matter of principle in advance of the negotiations. The proof of this assumption seems to have been clearly demonstrated during the negotiations at the conference on International Economic Co-operation.

99. With regard to the agenda, I would hope that we could now settle for a more practical approach to this issue, leaving aside the more dogmatic discussions we had in the Committee of the Whole.

100. We all agree that the agenda should comprise all five chapters mentioned in resolution 34/138. On the other hand, we should bear in mind the political character of the global negotiations as well as the time-frame envisaged for them. On that basis, we should aim at a meaningful but selective agenda which could reasonably be dealt with within the envisaged time-frame. We should avoid encumbering the agenda with highly technical, time-consuming items which are best dealt with in their present context in specialized forums.

101. On the whole, we feel that compromise formulas put forward in the light of the informal consultations by the President constitute a good basis for a final solution, although we would see merit in a still less comprehensive and a more selective list of items.

102. I do not think that we should spend more time in a near-theological discussion as to whether the agenda should be "biased", as it were, or neutral. We all recognize, I presume, that the new round of global negotiations will be biased in the sense that in addition to mutual benefit it will aim at providing particular advantages to developing countries, especially to the poorest and the less advantaged. This aim should be clearly brought out in a "*chapeau*", or introduction, to the agenda, thus indicating the thrust and direction of the venture we are undertaking. The Nordic countries prepared a text for such a "*chapeau*" at the eleventh special session, and we are prepared eventually to put it forward in the continued negotiations or consultations.

103. If such a "biased *chapeau*" could be accepted as a signpost of direction for the global negotiations, we would think that the individual agenda items then could and should be worded in a neutral and general manner.

104. The last aspect I should like to say a few words about is the further procedure for the preparations of the global negotiations. In the Norwegian view, we should proceed with the objective in mind of starting the new round of global negotiations not too late in 1981. In spite of the difficulties inherent in the situation, difficulties of which we are all fully aware, we consider it of importance that we try to keep up the momentum and to pursue the progress which after all has been made. Negotiations should therefore continue in the most effective manner with a view to finalizing the preparations at this session. With the difficulties still remaining, however, this attitude does not preclude, and would even imply, support for a possible continuation of the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly in the new year, if this is necessary for arriving at a solution. Such a continued session, concentrated, it is to be hoped, only on the global

negotiations, would then take on the form of a new and decisive special session.

105. We have no strong views on the manner in which the preparatory work on the global negotiations should be continued during this session. A certain continuity is often valuable and we would therefore see merit in continuing the consultations and negotiations in an informal, limited "group of friends" under your leadership, Mr. President, with active support, as hitherto, from the Secretariat. The case for a somewhat smaller group is probably even stronger when one approaches, as now, the difficult task of drafting.

106. However, we also fully see the legitimate need for each country not only to be fully informed about the work but also to be able to play its part in influencing it. This is a consideration in favour of an open-ended group.

107. It has been stated and restated from different rostrums over the last few years that the North-South dialogue is in an impasse. Progress has stagnated and a certain frustration and defeatism has been noticeable, not only among negotiators but among the public at large. The lack of results also to a certain extent affects the confidence in the United Nations as a forum for meaningful negotiations, particularly in the economic field.

108. The global negotiations are our chance to reverse this trend of frustration and defeatism. Through a broad co-ordinated attack on the central issues inherent in the North-South negotiations, a big leap forward could be made if the political will is there. And in this connexion the difficult economic situation should not be used as a pretext for inaction. It should, on the contrary, serve as a catalyst for innovative thinking and for strong remedial action.

109. In the present difficult situation, the global negotiations should not be seen as a danger to established patterns and to entrenched positions. They should rather be seen as a unique occasion, an occasion perhaps not soon to present itself again, for providing a basis for common solutions to both the short-term and to the long-term structural economic problems by which we are all affected, irrespective of economic system or development status. The global round should, in short, be seen as an occasion for us better to manage our growing interdependence.

110. These are some of the main reasons why my Government strongly supports the launching of the global negotiations as soon as possible in 1981.

111. Mr. NISIBORI (Japan): My delegation attaches great importance to the global negotiations, since they will deal with serious economic issues which are affecting all countries throughout the world. Indeed, we believe that the present malaise besetting the world economy can only be addressed through a global dialogue. Accordingly, my delegation has participated actively, both in the Committee of the Whole and at the eleventh special session, in the preparations for the global negotiations. It was therefore a source of deep disappointment that at the eleventh special session an agreement could not be reached for launching the global negotiations. However, we sincerely welcome your efforts, Mr. President, in seeking a way out of the present impasse. In particular, we believe

that the "friends of the President" group has helped to create an atmosphere that will be conducive to bridging the gap between the disparate viewpoints that exist, and I feel privileged to be associated with that group.

112. We are all fully aware that the global negotiations will add a dramatically new dimension, in terms of both scope and intensity, to the North-South dialogue. Thus, it is understandable that preparing for them is a long, winding and difficult process which often seems to be marked by more setbacks than advances. But because this is an undertaking of vital importance we must not allow it to fail. I therefore urge that all countries concerned take a more realistic approach. No one, of course, would deny the differences of views among countries on some fundamental problems regarding both the agenda and the procedures. But it is important for us to remember that exaggerating the differences among us will surely do more harm than good.

113. Looking back on our preparatory efforts, I have noticed that we negotiators have sometimes tended to lose sight of our common and original objectives as they are outlined in resolution 34/138. Moreover, there appears to be a reluctance to confront squarely basic questions such as those relating to energy and monetary issues, which, to a considerable extent, are responsible for many of the current world-wide economic difficulties. I believe that we must tackle these questions directly, with renewed vigour and dedication.

114. Thanks largely to your initiative and perceptive guidance, Mr. President, considerable progress has been made on the agenda. I am confident that if we all take a more pragmatic and realistic approach the troublesome issues, including those relating to energy, money and certain aspects of trade, can be settled and the agenda finalized. In this regard, I should like to call attention to the fact that at the eleventh special session the Assembly did succeed in drafting the International Development Strategy, which deals with these difficult issues.

115. While recognizing the importance of the agenda, we should not forget as we engage in drafting the agenda for the negotiations that we are in no way involved in the substantive conclusions from the negotiations. We all realize, certainly, that in the first stage of the global negotiations, when they are finally launched, we shall have to conduct substantive and intensive deliberations in setting out objectives and guidance for each agenda issue which we are now discussing. Therefore I strongly urge that for the time being we sit down and draft an agenda that is as balanced and of as general a nature as possible.

116. As for the procedures, which are of crucial importance in our preparatory work, my Government is of the view that further efforts must be made to come to an agreement on the relationship between the central body of the global negotiations and the specialized forums of the United Nations system. Japan fully understands the apprehension of those Member States that want to specify and protect the competence of the specialized forums vis-à-vis the central body of the global negotiations. Japan too feels that the competence of the specialized forums of the United Nations system must be respected. However,

we believe that this is provided for in the paper on procedures by the Chairman of Working Group II, Mr. Crnobrnja, which was submitted at the eleventh special session. It is our view that on the whole it is a helpful paper. It maintains an adequate balance between the role of the central body and that of the specialized forums, where detailed negotiations will take place according to their respective fields of competence. So, even though certain ambiguities still remain, I am afraid that it would only be counter-productive to try to revise the paper. Rather, we should devote our energies to seeking ways to dispel the destructive distrust that exists on both sides of the difficult but important issue of that relationship.

117. Another point I should like to mention with regard to procedures is the lack of a specialized forum within the United Nations system for energy issues. Without such a forum I do not see how we can conduct substantive negotiations on the profoundly important issue of energy.

118. As we stand at the crossroads in the North-South dialogue, we are confronted with serious issues which require global solutions. If the launching of the global negotiations is delayed, not only will the solutions be delayed but with the passage of time the problems will become even more complex and serious.

119. I sincerely hope that in the remaining month before this session of the General Assembly closes we shall be able to reach an agreement on both the agenda and the procedures. I therefore call upon all participants to take a more realistic approach, accepting our shared responsibility and recognizing our common long-term objectives.

120. In closing, Mr. President, I wish to assure you that my delegation is ready to co-operate in your efforts to launch the global negotiations as scheduled.

121. Mr. THUNBORG (Sweden): This debate takes place against the background of the failure to reach agreement at the eleventh special session on the launching of global negotiations.

122. You, Mr. President, have taken it upon yourself to try to bring the parties closer to each other. We wish to commend you for those efforts and we hope that they will bear fruit during this session of the General Assembly.

123. While points of contention and areas of disagreement, as well as of agreement, have been further clarified and defined, we still have to ask if the political commitment is present to initiate coherent and integrated substantive negotiations in the fields of raw materials, energy, trade, development, and money and finance.

124. Let me add a few words relating to the needs involved in preparing for the global negotiations. Far be it from me to intend to downgrade the preparatory phase which has now been going on for close to a year. Both the agenda and the procedures are crucial elements for successful negotiations. Only if the agenda contains the right balance of topics can we feel reasonably sure that all those whose participation is necessary to ensure a result will take part. That result should, in the words of resolution 34/138:

"Contribute to the solution of international economic problems, within the framework of the

restructuring of international economic relations, and to steady global economic development, in particular the development of developing countries, and, to this end, reflect the mutual benefit, the common interest and the responsibilities of the parties concerned, taking into account the general economic capability of each country.”

125. We are faced with two elements of the greatest importance: one is the need to have a prior indication of the substance to be dealt with, which also should ensure global participation, and the other is the recognition that only on the basis of concrete proposals can substantive results be achieved.

126. Those two elements seem to set the framework for the agenda without prejudging the final outcome of the negotiations on substance, an outcome which should meet the objectives laid down in resolution 34/138.

127. The final negotiations to reach a package agreement cannot be a technical exercise. They should represent a political assessment to make it clear that the objectives have been met, that the interests of participants are safeguarded and taken into account and that the results are so comprehensive and integrated that they reflect negotiations that have been global both in the sense of participation and in the sense of subject matter.

128. On 26 August last, the Foreign Minister of Sweden stated as follows in the general debate of the eleventh special session of the General Assembly:

“The global round of negotiations that we are to launch at this session offers an opportunity to respond to many of our concerns with concrete decisions. This opportunity must be fully utilized. The General Assembly’s decision [*resolution 34/138*] on a round of global negotiations has our complete support. We believe that such negotiations will be in the interest not only of the international community as a whole, but equally of each of the nations represented.

“It is obvious that, when formulating the goals and objectives for the negotiations, we must pay special attention to the grievances of the developing countries. Although the problems are in many cases of a long-term character, we must not hesitate to agree on quick and efficient action to assist those of the developing countries that have great, acute needs.

“At this special session devoted to world economic problems, the dangers and difficulties facing us in the new decade seem almost overwhelming. But we would betray the confidence placed in us if we indulged in passivity or defeatism. The challenge is there. The responsibility is there.

“Let us not make the global round a last-ditch effort in a series of failures. Let us make it the first endeavour in a fresh approach that truly builds on our interdependence. To this I pledge the full support of my Government.”<sup>10</sup>

129. Let me confirm that that is still my Government’s view. Events in the intervening time have confirmed our view that a political decision is required to launch

the global negotiations foreseen in the resolution adopted by the Assembly at the thirty-fourth session.

130. Mr. KLESTIL (Austria): The General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session decided to launch a round of global and sustained negotiations on international economic co-operation for development. Since then the agenda, procedures and time-frame for such negotiations have been the subject of intensive debate. We had hoped that at the eleventh special session the General Assembly could reach agreement on the convening of the global round. We did not expect agreement on each and every aspect, but it was our hope that a broad consensus on the essential features of the negotiations would finally emerge. That, to our regret, could not be accomplished.

131. In the meantime renewed efforts have been made in order to achieve, before the end of this session of the General Assembly, the agreement which eluded us at the eleventh special session. We are encouraged by the fact that this hope is increasingly shared by all countries and we will, along with others, continue to work towards that objective.

132. Mr. President, I wish to pay a special tribute to you for your personal efforts to bring about a meeting of minds. You have not only been able to create a climate of confidence and mutual trust, but you have also succeeded in narrowing considerably the differences which exist with regard to the agenda as well as the procedures of the global negotiations. We sincerely hope that the momentum and good will created by our endeavours will enable us to overcome the remaining problems so that the global negotiations can start on time early next year.

133. As far as procedures are concerned, my delegation has already expressed its support for the revised text submitted by Mr. Crnobrnja at the end of the eleventh special session.<sup>9</sup> We are aware that his text has not found the approval of all delegations. We understand the concern of those who insist that in the process of negotiations the autonomy of the specialized forums should be duly respected. We also understand the preoccupation of those who believe that this should not preclude change. In fact, changes are already taking place and will have to take place if we want to respond effectively to the world economic crisis and, as we agreed in resolution 34/138, “to establish a new system of international economic relations”.

134. We are fully aware that such an endeavour will—and I quote again from last year’s resolution—“require the full commitment of all participants” and “calls for bold initiatives and demands new, concrete, comprehensive and global solutions”.

135. We sincerely hope that the efforts made over the past weeks will lead us to a consensus on the procedures for the global negotiations. If we recognize our mutual concerns and responsibilities and display the necessary amount of flexibility, we should be in a position to arrive at a common basis.

136. Regarding the agenda for the global round, it appears that agreement already exists on many of the items. There is, however, still a divergence of views on at least two of the major items in the field of energy and money and finance to be included in the agenda.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, *Eleventh Special Session, Plenary Meetings*, 4th meeting, paras. 417-420.

We hope that the positions relating to these questions can be further clarified and that generally acceptable formulations can be found. We believe that in searching for such formulations we should not seek to pre-empt the negotiations by prescribing specific solutions to general problems. We should, rather, attempt to relate the objectives to the major issues in a manner which will allow the participants in the negotiations, after having fully explored all aspects of these questions, to draw their own conclusions and to arrive at proper solutions. In pursuing such a course of action we should, however, always keep in mind that the primary objective of the negotiations is the promotion of the development of the developing countries. We therefore agree that the basic orientation of the agenda should reflect this view. At the same time, we feel that the scope of the global negotiations has to be broad enough to take into account also the interests of the developed countries and the international community as a whole.

137. As far as Austria is concerned, I wish to reiterate our firm commitment to the global negotiations. We are ready to contribute as actively and constructively as possible to a successful outcome. We are deeply convinced that there is no valid alternative to international co-operation. Recent develop-

ments in international economic relations have clearly brought out the growing interdependence of developed as well as developing countries. The energy crisis in particular has sharpened the perception of our mutual responsibilities. We hope that the international community will be able to live up to this challenge and effectively mobilize the potential for common action to the benefit of all countries and especially the developing countries. We must not fail in this endeavour.

138. The PRESIDENT: Having heard encouraging statements here this afternoon, I should like to inform the General Assembly that I intend to hold further private consultations over this week-end with a view to resolving the outstanding questions.

139. Following these week-end meetings, I would propose, after consultations with all Groups, to convene an open-ended informal meeting of the Committee of the Whole early next week, in order to consolidate the progress made to date and to expedite the conclusion of an agreement in the light of the constraints of time which we now face.

*The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.*