

FINAL RECORD OF THE SIX HUNDRED AND SIXTY-NINTH MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
on Thursday, 3 July 1975, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Nicolo Di Bernardo (Italy)

PRESENT AT THE TABLE

<u>Argentina:</u>	Mr. V.E. BERASATEGUI
<u>Brazil:</u>	Mr. M. TORRES DA SILVA
<u>Bulgaria:</u>	Mr. B. GRINBERG Mr. P. STEFANOV
<u>Burma:</u>	U NYUNT MAUNG SHEIN
<u>Canada:</u>	Mr. A.D. ROWE
<u>Czechoslovakia:</u>	Mr. V. SOJÁK
<u>Egypt:</u>	Mr. MAHMOUD ABOUL NASR Mr. N. ELARABY
<u>Ethiopia:</u>	Mr. W. BERHANU Mr. G. DEMISSIE
<u>German Democratic Republic:</u>	Mr. G. HERDER Mr. M. GRACZYNSKI Mr. H. THIELICKE
<u>Germany, Federal Republic of:</u>	Mr. G.J. SCHLAICH Mr. J. BAUCH Mr. K. HANNESSCHLÄGER
<u>Hungary:</u>	Mr. M. DOMOKOS Mr. I. KORMENDY
<u>India</u>	Mr. P.R. SOOD
<u>Iran:</u>	Mr. H. AMERI Miss S. TAHMASSEB Mr. D. CHILATY

Italy:

Mr. N. DI BERNARDO
 Mr. G. VALDEVIT
 Mr. A. BIZZARINI
 Mr. G. SCHIAVONI

Japan:

Mr. M. NISIBORI
 Mr. M. MOMOI
 Mr. A. YATABE
 Mr. H. OKA
 Mr. J. YAMADA
 Mr. N. EGUCHI

Mexico:

Mr. M. MARIN
 Mr. M.A. CACERES

Mongolia:

Mr. M. DUGERSUREN

Morocco:

Mr. A. SKALLI

Netherlands:

Mr. A.J. MEERBURG

Nigeria:

Mr. M.G.S. SAMAKI

Pakistan:

Mr. K. SALEEM

Peru:

Mr. C. ALZAMORA
 Mr. G. CHAUNY

Poland:

Mr. S. TOPA
 Mr. A. CZERKAWSKI

Romania:

Mr. C. ENE
 Mr. V. TUDOR
 Mr. G. TINCA
 Mr. C. IVASCU
 Mr. M. ROSIANU

Sweden:

Mr. G. HAMILTON

Union of Soviet Socialist
Republics:

Mr. A.A. ROSHCIN

Mr. N.V. PESTEREV

United Kingdom:

Mr. A. WHITE

Mr. C. McCOLL

United States of America:

Mr. J. MARTIN

Mr. W. GIVAN

Mr. D. THOMPSON

Mr. D. WESTERVELT

Mr. C.L. WILMOT

Yugoslavia:

Mr. M. MIHAJLOVIĆ

Zaire:

Acting Representative of the
Secretary-General:

Mr. R. BJÖRNERSTEDT

Communiqué of the meeting

The Conference of the Committee on Disarmament today held its 669th plenary meeting in the Palais des Nations, Geneva, under the chairmanship of H.E. Ambassador Nicolo Di Bernardo, representative of Italy.

A statement was made by the representative of Romania.

The next meeting of the Conference will be held on Tuesday, 8 July 1975, at 10.30 a.m.

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Mr. ENE (Romania) (translated from French): The Committee on Disarmament has resumed its work after an interval of about two months, during which time important events have taken place on the world scene.

I am thinking in particular of the victory won by the Vietnamese and Cambodian peoples, who have gained their independence after prolonged struggles, of the solid progress made towards the final phase of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, and of the intensified efforts on the part of the international community to establish a new international economic and political order. All those events have a direct bearing on the work of our Committee, which reflects the peoples' determination to develop freely and independently in an atmosphere of peace and security, sheltered from all uses of or threats to use force, and from the armaments which are its instruments.

It was against this background that the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons met in May this year.

That Conference was an event of great political importance: it represented a renewed effort by the small and medium-sized countries to decide on urgent action to remove the danger of a devastating nuclear war and put a stop to the proliferation of atomic weapons. They entertained the hope that, after a searching examination of the extent to which the obligations assumed by the Parties to the Treaty were being fulfilled, the Conference would adopt effective measures to reinforce the Treaty on Non-Proliferation as an instrument for maintaining international peace and security.

Unfortunately, the results of the efforts made by numerous States do not offer any better prospects for the future than before. I do not wish to belittle the importance of the Conference, which made clear the actual state of affairs as regards the Treaty and will, let us hope, contribute to a broad mobilization of the forces favouring definite steps towards disarmament; but it must be said that the Conference did not yield practical results which met the interests of the peoples. Both the final document which was adopted and the discussions which took place highlight the fact that there are dissensions among the Parties to the Treaty as regards both the real aims of the Treaty and the methods of achieving them.

It must be recognized in all seriousness that the future of the Treaty, and consequently the prospects for the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, depend to a decisive degree on finding a means of overcoming these differences without delay.

(Mr. Ene, Romania)

The essence of the Non-Proliferation Treaty consists of the obligations undertaken by the States Parties. Under the Treaty, the non-nuclear-weapon States have agreed not to acquire or produce nuclear weapons or other explosive devices, in return for an undertaking by the Powers possessing atomic weapons to put an end to the nuclear arms race, to take effective measures for nuclear disarmament and to provide assistance to the Parties in the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in the interests of their economic development. We find it hard to imagine how the Treaty can be viable unless this balance of responsibilities is strictly observed.

This situation must be a source of disquiet for our Committee. My delegation is particularly concerned, because during the Review Conference of the Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty we detected a certain ambiguity of approach on the part of the nuclear Powers with regard to the legal obligation which they, together with the other Parties, have assumed under Article VI of the Treaty, according to which they undertake to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control. If new conditions, not provided for by the Treaty, were to be set for compliance with this obligation, it would be tantamount in fact to a request for revision of the Treaty, and we should all have to draw the necessary conclusions.

The work of the Review Conference and its results have increased our awareness of the Committee's heavy responsibilities to the entire international community as a specialized body concerned with disarmament negotiations.

Intensification of the arms race, stockpiling of new weapons of destruction, and increasing military expenditure are creating a grave threat to the security of all the peoples of the world.

The continuous wastage of enormous resources poured into armaments, in particular those of the nuclear type, largely explains the critical situation of the world economy. At a recent meeting organized by the Club of Rome at Alpbach in Austria, it was stated that the quantity per capita of explosive material existing on our planet today is three times greater than the quantity of grain available for each inhabitant of the earth.

(Mr. Ene, Romania)

Apart from the danger which the existence of armaments, especially nuclear armaments, creates by stimulating existing or nascent conflicts, the arms race directly effects the possibilities of remedying the deep injustices, suffering and disequilibria inherited from the past. The arms race is incompatible with the imperative need for a new international economic and political order.

Nor is it of any use to talk of any genuine détente as long as there exist large quantities of arms capable of annihilating the earth's population several times over, and so long as the production of ever more murderous weapons is constantly increasing.

As a European country, Romania cannot overlook the fact that Europe still contains an enormous concentration of weapons, especially nuclear weapons, and that foreign armed forces and military bases still exist on the territories of other States. The division of the continent into hostile military and political blocs maintains the general state of insecurity. The existence face to face in Europe of very large forces and military equipment with a destructive capacity unprecedented in history represents a grave and continuing threat to world peace.

In view of the present situation, the Romanian Government is firmly convinced that today more than ever steps must be taken to enable our Committee to fulfil its obligations in the field of negotiations and the adoption of genuine measures of disarmament.

At the present stage, sustained efforts are necessary, within the framework of a concrete programme, to halt the armaments race, limit and end the production of nuclear weapons and proceed to the destruction of existing stocks. Only in this way can the proliferation of atomic weapons be prevented and the threat of a new thermonuclear war be eliminated.

At the time of the Review Conference of the Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Romanian delegation also gave high priority to the question of granting guarantees of security to non-nuclear States which, under the Treaty, have assumed the legal obligation to renounce atomic weapons. The proposal submitted by Romania concerning the negotiation of an Additional Protocol to the Treaty whereby the nuclear Powers would solemnly undertake never in any circumstances to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against States which do not possess them is still very much to the point.

(Mr. Ene, Romania)

Important for the same reason is the establishment of denuclearized zones, with an undertaking by the nuclear States to grant them guarantees of security. The establishment of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones testifies to the support which exists for such zones. The concept of a denuclearized zone offers all countries of small or medium size a vast field for action and initiative, while fulfilling the conditions of a concrete form of co-operation between the nuclear Powers and the non-nuclear countries and providing the appropriate framework for an effective contribution by those States to the strengthening of international security.

The conclusions of the Review Conference of the Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty certainly call for a realistic evaluation of the present situation in the matter of disarmament and of the existing instruments of negotiation on the subject. Such an evaluation is in our view the more necessary since at its next session the United Nations General Assembly, in this the 30th year of the Organization's existence, will have to consider and adopt decisions in matters of paramount importance, among which disarmament will certainly take high priority.

The central point should be consideration of the very concept and principles of multilateral negotiations in the disarmament field. The ineffectiveness of the multilateral bodies is clearly to a large extent due to the refusal to establish an authentic dialogue within those bodies and to consider the views of all States.

The whole activity of the Committee needs to be set on a new course: a change of attitude towards the role of this body in the system of disarmament negotiations is becoming imperative.

While recognizing the importance of the part played by the big countries in world affairs, the Romanian Government believes that at the present stage, if viable solutions are to be found for the problems of international life, it is essential to ensure the participation of all the States concerned, since that is the only way that can offer any guarantee that the solutions will satisfy the interests of all nations. A multilateral negotiating body like the Committee on Disarmament can function effectively only if all its members participate on an equal footing in all phases of the negotiations.

The time has also come to reconsider the question of the United Nations presence in the Committee's deliberations. In our view, the representation of the United Nations can no longer be regarded as purely symbolic and confined to technical functions not on a level with the Organization's major responsibilities.

Before concluding, I should like to join in the greetings extended by previous speakers to Ambassador Dr. Ahmed Osman and Ambassador Wakwaya Berhanu as representatives in our Committee of Egypt and Ethiopia, countries with which Romania maintains cordial relations of friendship and co-operation.

The meeting rose at 10.55 a.m.

