

# CONFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT

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ENGLISH

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FINAL RECORD OF THE SEVEN HUNDRED AND FORTY-NINTH MEETING  
held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on Friday, 29 April 1977

Chairman:

Mr. Omran El-Shafei

(Egypt)

PRESENT AT THE TABLE

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| <u>Bulgaria:</u>                     | Mr. R. NIKOLOV  |
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| <u>Canada:</u>                       | Mr. J. HARRY JAY<br>Mr. J.T. SIMARD<br>Mr. P. BASHAM  |
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| <u>Egypt:</u>                        | Mr. O. EL-SHAFEI<br>Mr. F. EL IBRASHI<br>Mr. A. ABOUL KHEIR                                 |
| <u>Ethiopia:</u>                     | Mr. G. ALULA<br>Mr. G. DEMISSE  |
| <u>German Democratic Republic:</u>   | Mr. G. HERDER<br>Mr. M. GRACZYNSKI<br>Mr. H. THIELICKE<br>Mr. F. SAYATZ<br>Mr. M. SCHNEIDER |
| <u>Germany, Federal Republic of:</u> | Mr. G.J. SCHLAICH<br>Mr. J. POHLMANN<br>Mr. K. HANNESSCHLÄGER                               |
| <u>Hungary:</u>                      | Mr. M. DOMOKOS<br>Mr. I. KÖRMENDY   |
| <u>India:</u>                        | Mr. C.R. GHAREKHAN<br>Mr. S.T. DEVARE   |

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Sweden:

Mr. L. NORBERG

Mr. U. REINIUS

Mr. U. ERICSSON

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Union of Soviet Socialist  
Republics:

Mr. V.I. LIKHATCHEV  
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United Kingdom:

Mr. D. ASHE  
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United States of America:

Mr. H. MEYERS  
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Yugoslavia:

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Zaire:

Mr. B. TSHIABOLA  
Mr. S. KABAMBI

Special Representative of the  
Secretary-General:

Mr. Risto HYVÄRINEN

Alternate Representative of the  
Secretary-General:

Mr. A. CORRADINI

Communiqué of the meeting

The Conference of the Committee on Disarmament today held its 749th plenary meeting in the Palais des Nations, Geneva, under the Chairmanship of H.E. Ambassador Omran El-Shafei, representative of Egypt.

The representative of India (H.E. Ambassador C.R. Gharekhan) made a general statement on the proceedings of the spring session of the CCD in which he expressed the view that the discussions held during this session on a number of disarmament issues had not been without significance. He expressed appreciation for the work being carried out by the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Co-operative Measures to Detect and to Identify Seismic Events. Touching upon the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones, he reiterated India's position on this matter. India had a positive approach to the concept of nuclear-weapon-free zones and was of the firm view that a nuclear-weapon-free zone could only be developed and matured from within the region concerned. Ambassador Gharekhan reaffirmed India's commitment to the goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control and quoted Prime Minister Morarji Desai's words expressing India's abhorrence for nuclear weapons.

The representative of Sweden (Mr. Lars Norberg) introduced the third progress report of the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Co-operative Measures to Detect and to Identify Seismic Events (CCD/534). The Committee took note of the report, including the date for the next session of the Ad Hoc Group.

On the proposal of the Co-Chairmen, the CCD decided in principle to hold at its summer session in 1977 a series of informal meetings on new types and new systems of weapons of mass destruction with the participation of experts. These meetings could be held during the week beginning 8 August. The date is subject to confirmation within the general schedule of the CCD summer session.

The CCD made the following decision: the CCD should consider and decide at the outset of its summer session whether, in the light of prevailing circumstances, it is advisable to establish working groups (in accordance with the decision of 21 April, CCD/532) as already specifically proposed by the delegation of Sweden and

by the delegation of Mexico in connexion with a working group regarding the complete cessation of nuclear weapon tests, and by the delegation of Italy in connexion with a working group regarding the elimination of chemical weapons, as well as for any other item which the CCD may deem opportune.

The next plenary meeting of the Conference will be held on Tuesday, 5 July 1977, at 3 p.m.

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The CHAIRMAN: Distinguished colleagues, I declare open the 749th plenary meeting of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament. We have on our agenda the following items:

- Item 1. Statements by the distinguished representatives of India and Sweden, the latter introducing the report of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts to Detect and to Identify Seismic Events.
- Item 2. Consideration of a proposal by the Co-Chairmen concerning informal meetings on new weapons of mass destruction to be held during the summer session. The proposal is contained in the communiqué of the 748th meeting.
- Item 3. Consideration of a proposal by the distinguished representative of Italy concerning working groups on CW. The proposal is also contained in the communiqué of the 748th meeting.
- Item 4. Consideration of a proposal by the distinguished representative of Mexico on behalf of the Group of 15 concerning other working groups. I understand that this proposal has been distributed and I will read it to you. It is headed, "Draft decision proposed by the Group of 15", and reads as follows: "The CCD should consider and decide at the outset of its summer session whether, in the light of prevailing circumstances, it is advisable to establish working groups (in accordance with the decision of 21 April, CCD/532) as already specifically proposed in connexion with the complete cessation of nuclear weapon tests and the elimination of chemical weapons, as well as for any other item which the CCD may deem opportune".
- Item 5. Taking note of the third progress report of the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Co-operative Measures to Detect and to Identify Seismic Events (CCD/534). This document was circulated on 28 April.
- Item 6. Adoption of the communiqué of the 749th meeting.

I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of India.

Mr. GHAREKHAN (India): On this, the last day of the spring session of our Conference, I would like to thank once again all the distinguished delegates who have said warm words of welcome to me. I look forward to the opportunity of working closely with the distinguished representatives of the member countries of the CCD in our common endeavour for disarmament and peace. Who knows, perhaps at the summer session, I myself might have the privilege of welcoming newcomers among us.

We are about to conclude the spring session of the CCD. While my delegation certainly shared the hopes and expectations of other delegations for a concrete progress at least in some field-- hopes which, alas, have not been adequately fulfilled -- we believe nevertheless that the discussions held during this session on a number of issues have not been without significance. My delegation has already made detailed statements on various agenda items such as a comprehensive nuclear-weapon-test ban, the preparation of a comprehensive programme of disarmament, prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and of new systems of such weapons, etc. We also participated actively, both during the plenary meetings as also in other more informal forums, in devising and elaborating new, improved procedures for the work of the CCD. Therefore, I shall not go into any of these subjects at the present time. On the subject of a convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons, my delegation feels that the discussions held in the plenary and in the informal meetings with the participation of experts have contributed in a large measure to our further understanding of the complex issues involved. We have noted the bilateral consultations held between the United States of America and the USSR on this subject and hope that concrete and meaningful results would follow soon.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the work that has been and will continue to be carried out by the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Co-operative Measures to Detect and to Identify Seismic Events. We have been impressed with the sincerity and the business-like manner in which the experts have approached their task. My Government was happy to depute an expert for the meetings of this Group, and would continue to extend our full co-operation in its subsequent meetings. The work of the Group, I am sure, will be valuable in clarifying technical issues central to a comprehensive nuclear-weapon-test ban.

One of the issues which my delegation had not felt the need to touch upon during this session so far was the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones. This was not because we do not attach importance to that subject, but because the CCD had and continues to have many other items on its agenda which are of much greater, indeed of overriding

(Mr. Gharekhan, India)

importance. However, since one of the members in the CCD has referred to a proposal for a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia, my delegation, representing one of the States members in the CCD from the region concerned, would like to explain, or rather reiterate its position on this matter.

It may be recalled that during 1975, the CCD had submitted to the General Assembly a comprehensive study on the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all its aspects, prepared by an Ad Hoc Group of Qualified Governmental Experts. Indeed, an expert from India had effectively participated in these discussions. We welcome the report prepared by the Ad Hoc Group. India has a positive approach to the concept of nuclear-weapon-free zones. We support the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in those parts of the world where suitable conditions exist and where it is proposed that a zone be established at the initiative of and by agreement among the countries in that zone. The Ad Hoc Group had also unanimously adopted the same principle. I quote from the report: "the initiative for the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone should come from States within the region concerned, and participation must be voluntary (CCD/476)". We are of the firm view that a nuclear-weapon-free zone can only be developed and matured from within the region concerned. For this purpose, South Asia cannot be treated in isolation. It is a sub-region and an integral part of the region of Asia and the Pacific. It is, therefore, essential to take into account the security environment of that region as a whole. A genuine nuclear-weapon-free zone in that region can only follow the total absence of nuclear weapons.

Peace and disarmament are two sides of the same coin. They are inseparable. A world without fear and want can only be based on the achievement of general and complete disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament under effective international control. We have reaffirmed our commitment to this goal time and again. Recently, my Prime Minister, Mr. Morarji Desai, expressed our abhorrence for nuclear weapons and said: "I would not have them, (i.e. nuclear weapons). I do not believe in them. We have no intention of having atomic weapons in India."

Mr. Chairman, my delegation would urge that the CCD, during its summer session, should continue to vigorously pursue the priority tasks entrusted to it by the General Assembly of the United Nations. My delegation is ready to work with other delegations to achieve our common goal which, essentially, is to create a nuclear-weapon-free zone for the whole world.

Mr. NORBERG (Sweden): The Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Co-operative Measures to Detect and to Identify Seismic Events terminated its third session yesterday. The progress report of the Group was made available to members of the Committee yesterday in the afternoon. May I say that in the view of the Swedish delegation the Ad Hoc Group has at its third session made further considerable progress in its work on the various subjects under consideration.

As to the composition of the Ad Hoc Group, we warmly welcome the fact that it has at this session been enlarged with experts from two additional countries -- namely, from Czechoslovakia and from New Zealand. The picture could, however, be completed in one important aspect. I wish to draw the attention to paragraph 7 of the third progress report, where it is pointed out that important geographical areas are still not sufficiently covered, particularly in the Southern hemisphere. Of the 25 countries which have to date taken part in the work of the Ad Hoc Group, 19 are CCD members. It would be very helpful if also the remaining CCD States would participate. In order to obtain efficient global coverage, it is of special importance to obtain such co-operation by experts from CCD member States in Central and South America and in Africa.

To conclude, Mr. Chairman, may I formally propose that the Committee takes note of the third progress report of the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Co-operative Measures to Detect and to Identify Seismic Events. I also propose that the Committee takes a decision to the effect that the Ad Hoc Group shall hold its next meeting from 25 July to 5 August 1977.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished representative of Sweden who has already introduced the third progress report to the Conference (document CCD/534). He proposes that the Conference take note of the report and the fact that the Ad Hoc Group envisages holding its next session from 25 July to 5 August 1977. May I take it that the Conference takes note of the report and the schedule of the next meeting of the Ad Hoc Group?

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: We move now to item 2 on our agenda which is the consideration of the proposal by the Co-Chairmen concerning informal meetings on new types and new systems of weapons of mass destruction to be held during the summer session. The proposal reads as follows:

"The Co-Chairmen propose that the CCD decide in principle to hold at its summer session in 1977 a series of informal meetings on new types and new systems of weapons of mass destruction with the participation of experts. These discussions could be held during the week beginning 8 August. The date is subject to confirmation within the general schedule of the CCD summer session."

Are there any comments on the proposal by the Co-Chairmen?

Mr. ENE (Romania) (translated from French): Mr. Chairman, I see that the proposal refers to "these discussions". I presume that these are meetings? If we were to say "these meetings", this would be better for the drafting of the text.

The CHAIRMAN: You have listened to a proposal by the distinguished representative of Romania that the phrase "these discussions" be changed to "these meetings". Can I take it that this is accepted?

Mr. di BERNARDO (Italy) (translated from French): I have no objection to the proposal of the Co-Chairmen, but my attitude would change should the proposal which we have made about chemical weapons not be presented for approval.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished representative of Italy. Indeed, I have the intention to put his proposal to the Committee.

Therefore, I take it that the proposal of the Co-Chairmen is acceptable to the Committee.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: Agenda item 3 is the proposal by the distinguished representative of Italy concerning working groups on chemical weapons. This is contained in the communiqué of the 748th meeting and I will read this section:

"The representative of Italy (H.E. Ambassador Nicolo di Bernardo) proposed that the CCD take note of the Italian proposal for the establishment of a working group on chemical weapons and that at the beginning of the summer session the CCD consider whether the conditions exist for the setting up of the working group."

Are there any comments on this proposal?

Mr. LIKHATCHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (translated from Russian): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I understood it, on our agenda we still have two points, that is, the proposal of Ambassador di Bernardo, and the proposal made by Ambassador García Robles. If you consider these two proposals, you will see that in both of them, mention is made of the same matter, namely a CW working group. Do we therefore need to have two decisions made on the same question, or could we perhaps not merge these two matters and adopt a single decision? I suggest we adopt these two proposals together.

Mr. di BERNARDO (Italy) (translated from French): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not object to a merger of these two texts as long as it is made clear that Italy made the proposal for an Ad Hoc working group on chemical weapons, and that position should be brought out clearly in whatever merged text is thus produced.

I would like to see how the new, merged text reads.

Mr. van der KLAUW (Netherlands): I understand, Mr. Chairman, the preoccupation of our Italian colleague, and I think the proposal of Ambassador Likhatchev to merge the two texts is a very wise one. Quite apart from the wording of the proposal of Mexico on behalf of the Group of 15, we would have to say in the text, "as already specifically proposed in connexion with the complete cessation of nuclear weapon tests by Sweden and the elimination of chemical weapons by Italy". I would have no objection if the other two countries involved were mentioned.

Mr. di BERNARDO (Italy) (translated from French): Mr. Chairman, I think we are engaging in pointless work which will not alter the state of affairs. It seems to me that the question on chemical weapons has its own individuality and, while I have nothing against making an effort to merge the two texts, I do not see why we should spend our time in the procedural matter involved, since we know that these discussions are not going to alter anything of substance.

Mr. SIMARD (Canada): I think that in order to resolve this problem, we should simply adopt the proposal of Italy as it now stands in the communiqué, and the proposal of the Group of 15 should also be adopted as it stands -- except that in the latter text we should refer to the Italian proposal adopted previously, otherwise the two proposals would appear not to take account of each other.

Mr. NIKOLOV (Bulgaria) (translated from French): Mr. Chairman, in order to avoid repetition in the two texts, I think that in the text submitted by the Group of 15, after the words "with the complete cessation of nuclear weapon tests", we could delete the words "elimination of chemical weapons" and then continue "as well as for any other item which the CCD may deem opportune". Then we could accept the Italian proposal, thus avoiding repetition of the matter of the chemical weapons. I say this on condition that Ambassador García Robles accepts this amendment on behalf of the Group of 15.

Mr. GARCIA ROBLES (Mexico) (translated from Spanish): I believe that our records and documents certainly do not constitute a literary model; and so I do not mind repetition. As the proverb says: "Better too much than too little". But if there is a desire to avoid repetition and if, at the same time, the distinguished representative of Italy wishes it to be mentioned that his delegation, as we know, made this proposal at the very first meeting of the spring session, I would have no objection and I would not mind if, in the text of the decision submitted by the Group of 15, reference was made to the sponsorship of the suggestions. This should not be regarded as an expression of the views of the Group of 15, which I have not had the opportunity of consulting.

With regard to the complete cessation of nuclear-weapon tests, the original proposal was made by Sweden; but in that proposal no date was indicated and it was the Mexican delegation which yesterday proposed that the working group should be established at the beginning of the summer session. The delegation of Italy, for its part, proposed the establishment of a working group on the question of the elimination of chemical weapons. The text might therefore read as follows:

[speaking in English]

"... as already specifically proposed by the delegations of Sweden and Mexico in connexion with the complete cessation of nuclear-weapon tests and by the delegation of Italy in connexion with the elimination of chemical weapons ..."

[resuming in Spanish]

or an attempt could be made to find some other appropriate wording.

The other possibility -- although from the literary standpoint it would not constitute a model -- would be to maintain the two decisions.

Mr. di BERNARDO (Italy) (translated from French): Our distinguished colleague from Mexico has recalled the principle that "repetita juvant", i.e. to repeat things can after all be useful. If this principle applies in the case of Mexico, it should also apply in the case of Italy. Yet, I see some difficulty which we could perhaps resolve by leaving things as they are. As the distinguished representative of Mexico has pointed out, there is some difference between what we have proposed and what Mexico, on behalf of the Group of 15, has proposed. If therefore you consider these matters closely, these are two distinct proposals. I think this zeal for synthesis is after all not necessary. We have voted in favour

(Mr. di Bernardo, Italy)

of documents which are endless, and now we are trying to engage in an exercise in precision in texts which are already quite short. I would prefer to insist, provided that the nature of my proposal remains intact, that things be left as they stand -- unless, of course, it is desired to have a merger at all costs, but the difficulty raised by our distinguished friend from Mexico would remain.

Mr. van der KLAUW (Netherlands): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we have started a drafting exercise and, in my opinion and experience, it is not possible in this way. Could we not have a break for fifteen minutes so that you could consult with Ambassador Garcia Robles, Ambassador di Bernardo and the two Co-Chairmen to arrive at a compromise?

I propose that we adjourn for consultations between the principal parties concerned in this matter.

The CHAIRMAN: I am grateful to the distinguished representative of the Netherlands. I really think that his decision is wise.

Mr. GARCIA ROBLES (Mexico) (translated from Spanish): Mr. Chairman, I wonder whether this is a question of sufficient importance to warrant our spending so much time on it. I would ask the distinguished representative of the Soviet Union whether he could not agree that there should be the two decisions -- the one submitted by Italy and the other by the Group of 15. I have not heard any objection of substance.

Mr. LIKHATCHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (translated from Russian): Mr. Chairman, we fully support the proposal of Ambassador van der Klaauw concerning the adjournment of the meeting, during which time we could formulate a draft decision for the Committee. This would save time to a far greater extent than if we were to continue our exchange of views here. What is the reason for our agreeing with Mr. van der Klaauw? The point is that, apart from the purely technical aspect of the matter as to whether we should or should not merge two repetitive documents, we see also the need for a more precise text. I should like to draw your attention to the fact that in the proposal of the Italian representative there is the following expression "whether the conditions exist for the setting up of the working group". Now I shall read out the sentence from our decision on procedure when working groups are to be established. There it is said that:

"When it appears that there is a basis to negotiate a draft treaty or other draft texts, the CCD should establish an ad hoc working group for this purpose open to all members of the CCD".

(Mr. Likhatchev, USSR)

Here there is a difference, and we would wish the formulation to be such as would correspond to the one we have adopted in the rules of procedure. In this respect, the draft proposed by the Group of 15 is more precise because it does refer to the rules of procedure, whereas in this case there is a substantial departure in the wording. We therefore feel that it is necessary to adopt the proposal of Ambassador van der Klaauw. This matter could be straightened out in the next fifteen minutes.

Mr. di BERNARDO (Italy) (translated from French): Mr. Chairman, I do not wish to complicate matters but to point out simply that there are certain differences between the language in the proposal made about the establishment of working groups by the delegation of Mexico and the specific proposal which the delegation of Italy has made about the working group on chemical weapons. I would put this text before you, and then we can decide whether we hold a recess or make a common effort to arrive at a decision:

"Taking note of the proposal submitted on 15 February 1977 by the Italian delegation, calling for the setting up of an ad hoc working group with the assistance of experts, to consider the question of the prohibition of chemical weapons as a matter for consideration at the beginning of the summer session, in the light of the conditions for progress then prevailing and in accordance with the procedural decisions embodied in document CCD/532, and taking account of the high priority which the United Nations General Assembly has considered should be given to the subject in its resolutions adopted at its thirty-first session."

That is exactly the sense and the limit of the Italian proposal.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished representative of Italy for the clarification of his proposal; but we still have before us the proposal of the distinguished representative of the Netherlands, supported by the representative of the USSR, to adjourn for fifteen minutes. It is worth trying. I see no objections. The meeting is adjourned for fifteen minutes.

The meeting was adjourned for fifteen minutes.

The CHAIRMAN: I declare the meeting re-convened.

Distinguished colleagues, we have before us a new draft decision proposed by the Group of 15 which is the original draft of the Group introduced by the representative of Mexico, as subsequently amended by other delegations. It reads as follows:

"The CCD should consider and decide at the outset of its summer session whether, in the light of prevailing circumstances, it is advisable to establish working groups (in accordance with the decision of 21 April, CCD/532) as already specifically proposed by the delegation of Sweden and by the delegation of Mexico in connexion with a working group regarding the complete cessation of nuclear weapon tests and by the delegation of Italy in connexion with a working group regarding the elimination of chemical weapons, as well as for any other item which the CCD may deem opportune."

I submit the draft decision for your approval. If I hear no objections, I will take it as adopted.

Mr. OGISO (Japan): My delegation has no objection to the paper which has now been circulated under the title "Draft decision proposed by the Group of 15". I would like to confirm the understanding of the decision. Document CCD/532 says that:

"When it appears that there is a basis to negotiate a draft treaty or other draft texts, the CCD should establish an ad hoc working group for this purpose open to all members of the CCD."

My delegation interprets this decision, taken on 21 April, as meaning that the CCD should be able to establish an ad hoc working group whenever it deems appropriate, and that decision need not be made always at the beginning of a particular session. Therefore, I would simply like to report my understanding that the decision which we are going to take on the basis of this paper does not prevent the CCD from taking a decision for the establishment of working groups on any item when the prevailing circumstances are appropriate, even during the session. I have no intention of asking for a re-wording of the proposal but simply would like to record my interpretation.

The CHAIRMAN: I am grateful to the distinguished representative of Japan and, with the recorded understanding of the delegation of Japan, I now submit the draft as circulated to you for your approval. If I hear no further comments, I take it that it is the wish of the Committee to adopt this decision.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: Distinguished colleagues, this covers items 3 and 4 on our agenda. As to item 5, we have already taken note of the report of the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Co-operative Measures to Detect and to Identify Seismic Events.

We now have to adopt the draft communiqué of this meeting which I will read to you.  
(The Chairman read the draft communiqué.)

The CHAIRMAN: If I hear no comments, I will take it that the draft communiqué of this meeting is adopted.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: Before adjourning this meeting, the last of the spring session, I would like to take this opportunity to express to you all my warm thanks for the co-operation which has marked our work. A number of my colleagues have already noted the healthy atmosphere which has prevailed in our work. I would like to express the hope that the same atmosphere will prevail during our summer session, so we can hopefully see what is required from us, particularly by the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its last session. We now adjourn to re-convene on 5 July, and I am sure all of us will take stock of the situation. I am sure you will all agree with me in formulating the hope that, during the recess, the basis will be formed for our future work. I also want to seize this opportunity to express, on behalf of the Committee, our appreciation to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ambassador Hyvärinen and to the Alternate Representative, Dr. Corradini and all the staff of the Secretariat for their co-operation and fruitful work. I would also express our appreciation to the tireless interpreters who so ably assisted us in our deliberations. If I hear no further comments, I declare this meeting adjourned.

The meeting rose at 1.45 p.m.