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CENTRE FOR DISARMAMENT
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POLITICAL AND SECURITY COUNCIL AFFAIRS



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COMMITTEE OF TWELVE

(ESTABLISHED BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 496 (V))

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIFTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 31 July 1951, at 3 p.m.

CONTENTS: Adoption of the agenda

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<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. GEORGE	Canada
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. LUNS	Netherlands
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. TEIXEIRA SOARES	Brazil
	Mr. WEI	China
	Mr. ALBORNOZ	Ecuador
	Mr. TINE	France

<u>Members (continued):</u>	Mr. DAYAL	India
	Mr. DERINSU	Turkey
	Mr. TSARAPKIN	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
	Mr. COULSON	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	Mr. NASH	United States of America
	Mr. NINCIC	Yugoslavia
<u>Secretariat:</u>		
	Mr. FROTTICH	Acting Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Security Council Affairs
	Mr. FREY	Secretary of the Committee

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Mr. LUNS (Netherlands), Rapporteur, referring to a previous decision of the Committee, presented a working paper, "Historical Survey of the Activities of the League of Nations regarding the Question of Disarmament, 1920-1937" (A/AC.50/2), and warmly praised the Secretariat for the excellence of its work. The Survey was the first of its kind, a complete and concise review of a very complex question. The Secretariat was also preparing three papers dealing respectively with the organization and scheme of work of the League of Nations in the matter of disarmament, the treatment of the question of chemical and bacteriological warfare in the League of Nations, and the exchange of information on armaments under the League of Nations, which would shortly be made available in a single volume.

The CHAIRMAN also thanked the Secretariat for its work.

The agenda was adopted.

/CONSIDERATION

CONSIDERATION OF THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE 323RD PLENARY MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 13 DECEMBER 1950 (496 (V)) (continued): GENERAL PRELIMINARY PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (A/AC.50/1)

Mr. TEIXEIRA SOARES (Brazil) expressed his delegation's general agreement with the underlying principles and objectives of the United States proposal (A/AC.50/1), and termed it a constructive effort to overcome the difficulties which had beset the two Commissions dealing with the problem in the past.

The new commission would in fact have two distinct tasks, that of planning international control of all armaments and armed forces and that of providing for the regulation, limitation and balanced reduction of those armaments and armed forces. Reasonable time-limits must be established for carrying out both these operations if the new body's work was to be effective. The plan for the regulation of international traffic in arms, while it was important, should not be worked out until the final stage of the commission's programme. It should be applied concomitantly with the progressive limitation of armaments.

Reviewing the provisions of the Brazilian Constitution concerning the declaration of war, Mr. Teixeira Soares pointed out that any effective disarmament system implied a voluntary surrender by every State of some part of its sovereignty, to the extent required for the maintenance of world peace. Brazil welcomed the United States initiative for strengthening international peace and security and favoured its proposals in their broad lines.

The CHAIRMAN, speaking as the representative of Canada, also gave his Government's approval in principle to the United States proposal regarding the establishment of a new commission. Among its functions, Canada would favour a reference to the development of peaceful uses of atomic energy; that part of the original resolution setting up the Atomic Energy Commission should not be overlooked. He would comment at a later stage on the details of the United States proposals.

/Mr. COULSON

Mr. COULSON (United Kingdom) reaffirmed his Government's desire that the United Nations should continue its work on the control of atomic energy and the regulation and reduction of conventional armaments and that adequate machinery should be established to that end.

Before a decision was reached on the important questions of the functions of the new commission, it should be carefully considered whether they would be appropriate for the kind of disarmament scheme which was likely to have any prospect of success. The United Kingdom delegation was in general agreement with Part A of the United States paper, but reserved its position on Part B until a later meeting since its Government had not concluded its examination of that Part.

Mr. TINE (France) expressed his delegation's approval in principle of the general ideas upon which the "considerations" presented by the United States representative were based.

However different might be the solutions evolved for the several branches of the vast problem of general disarmament, it remained, in point of fact, a single problem. Now that the two existing commissions had explored the ground as thoroughly as the circumstances permitted, the time had come to co-ordinate their activities more closely through the creation of a single commission.

At the same time, however, the various fields which disarmament should cover -- atomic energy, scientific warfare, and conventional armaments -- called for different solutions and different methods. Section A, paragraph 3, of the United States proposal recognized an essential fact: the control of atomic energy and of conventional armaments presented requirements sufficiently different to call for separate control bodies. It was explicitly stated in the text that the new Commission should be authorized to establish separate committees.

Thus, while the new Commission which was to be substituted for the two existing Commissions should take into account from the outset the

principles common to all aspects of disarmament, and should profit by the work already done, it should also take care to distinguish, as had been done in the past, between the several fields of activity which it was called upon to study.

The French delegation reserved its right to make any comments it considered appropriate, at a later moment, concerning the wording of the text.

Mr. NINIC (Yugoslavia) observed that the problem of the control and reduction of armaments was an integral part of the general question of international peace and security and must be considered in that context. Any progress towards its solution would favourably affect the larger question and tend to create a better international climate. Moreover, the control of atomic energy and the limitation of conventional armaments were part of the same problem and should be dealt with as such. The Yugoslav delegation therefore agreed with the Committee's general approach to its work.

It further agreed with the general terms of section A of the United States proposal, reserving its position on the name of the future new commission and on the possibility that States which were not members of the Security Council might be asked to submit their views to it either orally or in writing.

The functions of the new body should be broad and flexible; it should not be fettered by rigid terms of reference. While it should make the most extensive use of the results achieved by the two bodies which had dealt with the problem in the past, it should not be tied to any specific plan already accepted by a majority. Its mandate should consist of a statement of general principles, clearly indicating that it would deal with all types of armaments of all countries, that it would work out effective controls and safeguards adapted to those armaments and that their reduction would be a balanced reduction, no advantage accruing to any one Power or group of Powers at the expense of any other.

Especially important was the timing of the implementation of control systems. It should therefore be made clearer that ^{to} each phase in the implementation of the control system would correspond a phase in the implementation of the plan for the reduction of armaments and forces, and vice versa.

Mr. DERINSU (Turkey), recognized that the problem of disarmament was a complex one and emphasized that it could best be solved through a system of collective security, the revolutionary concept which the League of Nations had attempted to propagate and which the United Nations was determined to put into practice. In the current transitional period in international relations, it was encouraging to note that although they were rearming, nations were at the same time seriously discussing the reduction and regulation of armaments and armed forces. As the principle of collective security became more firmly rooted, they would acquire the confidence necessary for progressive disarmament.

The delegation of Turkey was in general agreement with the United States proposals for merging the two earlier Commissions which had dealt with the subject into a single new commission to co-ordinate plans for the international control of all armaments and armed forces and their regulation and reduction.

Mr. LUNS (Netherlands) said that his Government endorsed in principle the views of the United States delegation as set forth in document A/AC.50/1. † It would fully support all the ideas outlined in section A; as regards section B, which proposed certain specific functions for the new commission, his delegation reserved its position for the moment, hoping to be able to state its views more fully in the near future.

Mr. DAYAL (India) thought that the Committee should first consider whether it was advisable to merge the functions of the two Commissions; if that question was decided in the affirmative, the other problem laid before the Committee by the Assembly, namely, the question of how to co-ordinate the work of the two Commissions, would become redundant. His Government would support any scheme for the regulation and control of armaments which received the support of the Great Powers, since without that support no progress would be

/possible.

possible. His delegation hoped that the Great Powers would find it possible to agree on a merging of the functions of the two Commissions, which would make possible better co-ordination, greater unity of purpose, and less duplication of work. As regards the details of the United States proposal, his delegation reserved its position for the time being.

Mr. ALBORNOZ (Ecuador) also agreed in principle with the general lines of the United States proposal. His delegation would support any positive step designed to foster the preservation of world peace, which was a necessary prerequisite to world progress. The delegation of Ecuador reserved its position as regards the details of the proposal.

Mr. NASH (United States of America) was gratified by the Committee's general approval of the purpose and tenor of his proposal. His delegation would now proceed to prepare a draft resolution in more precise terms, endeavouring to incorporate in the text such concrete suggestions as had already been made. He reminded the Committee that it had very little time in which to prepare a resolution for recommendation to the General Assembly, and suggested that the next meeting should be held on Friday morning, 10 August.

It was so decided.

Mr. WEI (China) asked that the United States draft resolution should be circulated to the members of the Committee for study as far as possible in advance of the next meeting.

The meeting rose at 4 p.m.