



VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 35th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ROCHE (Canada)

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The meeting was called to order at 11.05 a.m.

AGENDA ITEMS 51 TO 69, 139, 141 AND 145 (continued)

CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION ON DRAFT RESOLUTIONS ON DISARMAMENT ITEMS

The CHAIRMAN: I call upon the Secretary of the Committee to make an announcement.

Mr. KHERADI (Secretary of the Committee): I should like to inform the Committee that the following countries have become sponsors of the following draft resolutions:

A/C.1/43/L.44: Samoa

A/C.1/43/L.45: Democratic Yemen, Ghana, Sri Lanka and Yemen

A/C.1/43/L.64: Mauritania and Sri Lanka

A/C.1/43/L.67: Samoa

A.C.1/43/L.48: Mozambique

The CHAIRMAN: This morning the Committee will take action as follows: in cluster 9, it will take action on draft resolutions A/C.1/43/L.9 and L.25; in cluster 14, it will take action on all the draft resolutions, namely, A/C.1/43/L.33, L.41, L.48, L.64, L.68 and L.71.

With regard to the draft resolutions that have been deferred, I urge delegations concerned to try to complete their consultations as early as possible, because, as I have indicated, I should like by tomorrow night to have dealt with all the draft resolutions in the clusters that will have been taken up by then.

I shall now call on representatives who wish to introduce draft resolutions. I call first upon the representative of Czechoslovakia.

Mr. ZAPOTOCKY (Czechoslovakia): In my statement today I should like to introduce two proposals submitted to the First Committee, namely draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.16, concerning international co-operation for disarmament, and draft decision A/C.1/43/L.17 relating to item 64 (a) entitled "Contribution of the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to the cause of arms limitation and disarmament".

Czechoslovakia has always regarded international co-operation as an indispensable prerequisite for finding effective and meaningful solutions to the whole range of issues on the international agenda. The principle of international co-operation is particularly important in the field of disarmament, which concerns the vital security and other interests of every State. Our conviction that the world community must improve co-operation in this important sphere, which many member States shared with us, led to the adoption by the General Assembly in 1979 of the Declaration on International Co-operation for Disarmament.

The present draft resolution, A/C.1/43/L.16, proposed by my delegation is designed primarily to serve as a reminder of the importance of the principle of co-operation for the whole process of disarmament. Accordingly, the draft resolution differs significantly from those submitted in previous years. Considering that co-operation should apply to each and every item on the disarmament agenda, we avoided making references to any particular subject. Consequently, the draft resolution has become much shorter and, as we believe, more sharply focused.

The draft resolution takes into account the fact that since the forty-second session there have been important and encouraging developments in the areas of arms limitation and disarmament. It proceeds on the assumption that it is allly important to adopt further disarmament measures, in accordance with established priorities, for the preservation of peace and the strengthening of international

(Mr. Zapotocky, Czechoslovakia)

security. Arms limitation and disarmament is, of course, an extremely important means to maintain international peace and security, indeed, the means without which the efforts to fulfil the main purpose of our Organization would not be complete.

Draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.16 proceeds further to stress the necessity of securing a balance between bilateral and multilateral approaches to disarmament through the significantly increased role of the United Nations and of its respective bodies.

Operative paragraph 1 invites all States to increase co-operation for achieving effective disarmament agreements on the basis of the well-established principles of reciprocity, equality, undiminished security and the non-use of force. A general reference to the rule of law in international relations has been added to underline the increased role of legal instruments in maintaining peace and security with less reliance on weapons.

Operative paragraph 2 aims at strengthening the effectiveness of the United Nations in fulfilling its central role and primary responsibility in the sphere of disarmament. It contains a reference to the widely recognized relationship between disarmament and security, as well as that between disarmament and development and the environment.

The idea of operative paragraph 3 is to base disarmament efforts on as wide a participation of States as possible, in other words further to internationalize these efforts with a view to facilitating both bilateral and multilateral solutions to disarmament problems.

May I express the hope of my delegation that the present draft resolution, which is non-confrontational in nature, will be considered favourably by the delegations of member States in this Committee. We continue our consultations with interested delegations. We are open to suggestions that might lead to a generally acceptable text.

(Mr. Zapotocky, Czechoslovakia)

In introducing draft decision A/C.1/43/L.17, which has been sponsored by Cuba, the USSR and Czechoslovakia, I should like to stress, first of all, that the co-sponsors gave very serious thought to the manner in which the issue of the contribution of United Nations specialized agencies and programmes to disarmament could be dealt with most expeditiously at this session.

In our view, the United Nations specialized agencies can and indeed do play an important and useful part in overall efforts in the field of arms limitation and disarmament. The co-sponsors welcome the report of the Secretary-General in document A/43/650, which contains interesting and encouraging information in this regard. That information shows that a number of tasks of the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system are closely linked with peace and disarmament. There is a growing awareness of the interrelationship among developments in the different spheres of international relations, and today no single issue can be considered in isolation from the others.

That is why the co-sponsors believe that the specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations system should continue to keep in mind the broad issues of peace and security in exercising their specific mandates. The potential of these agencies to contribute in their own way to arms limitation and disarmament strictly within their respective areas of competence should remain a factor in discharging the central role and primary responsibility of the United Nations in the sphere of disarmament.

At the same time we think that for the effective consideration of this issue a broader consensus is necessary in both the United Nations and the specialized agencies.

The co-sponsors of draft decision A/C.1/43/L.17 therefore propose that further consideration of the item in question be deferred to a later stage to be determined

(Mr. Zapotocky, Czechoslovakia)

in consultations among member States. It is of course our understanding that such a decision will not infringe upon programmes within the World Disarmament Campaign. The co-sponsors believe that by making this proposal they address the concerns expressed to them by some other delegations. It is our hope that the proposed decision will be adopted without a vote.

Mr. FLOREAN (Romania): I should like to inform members of the Committee that draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.58, under agenda item 62, entitled "Reduction of military budgets" has undergone the following revisions, as reflected in document A/C.1/43/L.58/Rev.1, in response to suggestions received from other parties.

(Mr. Florean, Romania)

First, in the second preambular paragraph, instead of "paragraph 59 of the Final Document" the text now reads "paragraph 89 of the Final Document"; it was a printing error.

Secondly, the ninth preambular paragraph was amended to read "Noting that the Disarmament Commission, at its 1986 session". Thereafter the text is unchanged.

Thirdly, operative paragraph 4 has been revised to read as follows

"Requests the Disarmament Commission to continue consideration of the item 'Reduction of military budgets' and, in this context, to conclude, at its 1989 substantive session, its work on the last outstanding paragraph of the principles that should govern further actions of States in the field of freezing and reduction of military budgets, and to submit its report and recommendations to the General Assembly not later than at its forty-fourth session".

Clearly, these revisions do not involve substantive issues. They are based on resolution 42/36 - "Reduction of military budgets" - which the General Assembly adopted by consensus at its forty-second session. By acting in the spirit of goodwill and compromise that you have recommended, Mr. Chairman, my delegation has accepted readily suggestions offered by other delegations, in the hope that draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.58/Rev.1 will be adopted by consensus. Similarly, the Romanian delegation would like to express its hope that the Disarmament Commission, at its 1989 substantive session, working in consonance with the current favourable trends in the international situation and with the general desire of Member States reflected during the debates in this Committee, will finalize its work on the principles that should govern further actions of States in the field of freezing and reducing military budgets and will report its conclusions to the General Assembly its forty-fourth session.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Romania for the great progress that has been made on draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.58.

We shall now move on to cluster 9, on which I invite statements.

Mr. REYES (Philippines): I wish to express the support of the Philippines for draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.62/Rev.1, entitled "Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes for hostile purposes", and for draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.72, entitled "Dumping of nuclear and industrial wastes in Africa".

In expressing our support we wish to give credit not only to the sponsors of those draft resolutions but also to the Organization of African Unity, which, at its forty-eighth session held in Addis Ababa from 19 to 23 May 1988, adopted a resolution numbered 1153 concerning the dumping of radioactive and industrial wastes in Africa. The Group of African States should be commended for seizing the initiative on this issue. Indeed, the problem is no longer confined to one region or area of the world; it has become a global problem.

To illustrate this, let me cite a very recent case with which the Philippines has been forced to deal as a matter of extreme and urgent importance. The waste-trading ship Felicia, with a load of 11,000 tons of toxic waste, was reported last week by the Filipino-American newspaper the Philippine News to be headed towards the Philippines. That ship, originally named Chian Sea, left its point of origin two years ago and has been attempting since then to dump its toxic cargo in developing countries. According to Greenpeace, the international environmental organization, this toxic cargo has been rejected by countries on four continents, including the Bahamas, Bermuda, Cape Verde, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Senegal, Yugoslavia and Sri Lanka.

The toxic ash that Felicia is carrying is believed to have high levels of cadmium and lead, as well as the toxic chemical dioxin. As a matter of fact, the environment protection agency of its country of origin has declared that the ash

(Mr. Reyes, Philippines)

"poses a significant risk to human health and environment". Moreover, the ship is reputedly the mother ship of a flotilla of vessels that have carried wastes from developed to less-developed countries.

Thus the Philippines has been impelled very recently to deal directly with this problem. Accordingly, the Philippine military and Coast Guard have been directed by the Government - at the instance of the Department that deals with the environment and natural resources - to tighten its surveillance of the country's waters and to be on the look-out for the waste-trading ship.

While the toxic wastes in the specific case we have just cited are apparently not in the radioactive category, nevertheless we believe that in the nuclear age we will have to deal increasingly with the problem of radioactive and nuclear wastes in an industrial context. This is why we believe that nuclear, radioactive and industrial wastes may be linked together and may properly be discussed in this Committee.

It is also our belief that if radioactive or toxic wastes are dumped in the territory of other States in complete contravention of their national and regional laws and regulations, such action is hostile in its intent and purpose.

(Mr. Reyes, Philippines)

The Philippines is in basic agreement with the proposals of both draft resolutions A/C.1/43/L.62/Rev.1 and A/C.1/43/L.72, including those calling upon Member States, enterprises and transnational corporations to respect national, regional and sub-regional laws and regulations on nuclear and industrial wastes and those requesting the Conference on Disarmament to take into account, in the ongoing negotiations for a convention on the prohibition of radiological weapons, the dumping of nuclear and radiological wastes in the territory of other States.

It welcomes the decision of the International Atomic Energy Agency to establish a representative technical working group of experts with the objective of establishing an internationally agreed code of practice for international transactions involving nuclear wastes. Together with other countries, it would request the Secretary-General to transmit to the Conference on Disarmament all documents relating to the consideration of this item by the General Assembly at its forty-third session.

Since the issue is no longer confined to one continent, the Philippines - while signalling its support for both draft resolutions - would urge the sponsors of A/C.1/43/L.62/Rev.1 and A/C.1/43/L.72 to find a way to speak with one voice on this important issue. We feel that it is of vital importance to do so at this point.

The Philippines stands ready to help in whatever way it can towards that end.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call upon the representative of Zaire, who has asked to make a statement prior to our taking up the draft resolutions in cluster 9.

Mr. KIBIDI (Zaire) (interpretation from French): The Group of African States, which had the honour of discussing draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.62/Rev.1 with you, Mr. Chairman, has the pleasure of asking you once again to defer any decision on the draft resolution just referred to by the Philippines.

(Mr. Kibidi, Zaire)

The Group of African States, which presented the draft resolution on the dumping of nuclear and industrial wastes (A/C.1/43/L.72), is at present holding negotiations with the sponsors of that draft resolution in an attempt to co-ordinate efforts with a view to producing a single draft resolution. Under the circumstances, the Group of African States would ask you, Sir, to be good enough once again to defer any decision on the draft resolution submitted by Nigeria. We shall keep you informed of the results of our negotiations with Nigeria in due course.

The CHAIRMAN: I can confirm that action on draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.62/Rev.1 has been deferred for the moment, and I am hopeful that the consultations taking place on draft resolutions concerned with that subject will be successful.

If there are no statements in explanation of vote before decisions are taken on the draft resolutions in cluster 9, the Committee will now take action on draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.9. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland at the twenty-seventh meeting of the First Committee on 4 November and has the following sponsors: Hungary, Indonesia, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

The sponsors of the draft resolution have expressed the wish that the draft resolution be adopted by the Committee without a vote.

May I take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly?

Draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.9 was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall now take action on draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.25. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Iraq at the twenty-seventh meeting of the First Committee on 4 November and has the following sponsors: Iraq and Jordan.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Israeli, United States of America

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Liberia, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Samoa, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Venezuela

Draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.25 was adopted by 99 votes to 2, with 30 abstentions.

The CHAIRMAN: I shall now call upon those delegations wishing to make statements in explanation of vote after the voting.

Mr. ZIFORI (Israel): Israel voted against draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.25 because of the completely unjustified reference to Israel in the penultimate preambular paragraph. The repetition of that old charge is especially out of place in view of the serious attacks launched by Israeli forces against the Iranian nuclear installations at Bushehr.

However, our vote against that draft resolution does not in any way change our long-held and often-expressed position that all States should refrain from attacking or threatening to attack nuclear facilities devoted to peaceful purposes.

Mr. FRIEDERSDORF (United States of America): The United States delegation has joined in the adoption without a vote of draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.9, which deals with two subjects. One is the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of radiological weapons. The other is the question of whether or not additional legal protection should be afforded against military attack on nuclear facilities.

The United States participates in the work on both of these subjects in the Conference on Disarmament. However, the United States has not concluded that, with respect to the latter subject, additional legal measures are appropriate. Accordingly, our delegation has voted against draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.25. In our view, that draft resolution prejudices the outcome of the discussions in the Conference on Disarmament.

(Mr. Friedersdorf, United States)

Moreover, the text in operative paragraph 1 of the resolution is technically inaccurate in its argument that an armed attack against a nuclear facility would necessarily lead to the release of dangerous radioactive forces.

Mr. TAYLHARDAT (Venezuela) (interpretation from Spanish): As in the case of the similar draft resolution last year, the delegation of Venezuela has abstained in the vote on draft resolution L.25 as we have substantive difficulties with the text.

While we do not fail to recognize the danger inherent in a military attack on a nuclear facility, it is somewhat excessive to assert that an attack against a nuclear facility must be considered as tantamount to the utilization of radiological weapons. In some cases the effects may be comparable; in others it cannot be asserted that they are equivalent. Moreover, we note a discrepancy between the preambular and operative parts of the resolution. The third preambular paragraph states that those attacks "could be" tantamount to a radiological attack, whereas the operative part states that they "are" tantamount to the use of radiological weapons. In the preambular part it is seen as a probability, whereas in operative paragraph 1, it becomes a categorical assertion.

Furthermore, with reference to operative paragraph 2, my delegation considers that the question of preparing an international agreement to establish a prohibition on military attacks against nuclear facilities is not a disarmament problem as such but rather one related to the conduct of warring States. It is a problem of the laws of war. In keeping with that point of view, and as we have stated on previous occasions, that problem should be the subject of a diplomatic conference, rather than a matter for the Conference on Disarmament. My delegation therefore abstained in the vote on the draft resolution.

Mr. MASHHADI (Islamic Republic of Iran): My delegation voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.25. We have to remind members of the Committee that the peaceful nuclear facility in the Iranian southern city of Bushehr was subjected to military attacks during the course of the war and that, on each occasion, that fact was brought to the attention of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

We firmly believe that attacks on nuclear facilities have dangerous consequences for the whole international community and that therefore all States must commit themselves to refrain from resorting to such acts.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will now take up cluster 14 and I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

The SECRETARY: I should like to make the following statement on behalf of the Secretary-General with regard to the draft resolutions contained in document A/C.1/43/L.41 entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa", document A/C.1/43/L.68 entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia" and document A/C.1/43/L.71 entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America".

The Secretary-General would like to recall that, as decided by the General Assembly in its resolutions 40/151 G on the Regional Centre in Africa, 41/61 J on the Regional Central in Latin America and 42/39 D on the Regional Centre, in Asia, the Regional Centres were established on the basis of voluntary contributions which Member States and interested organizations may make to that end.

Activities carried out by the Regional Centres are therefore funded by voluntary contributions and not from the regular budget of the United Nations. Thus, should the said draft resolutions be adopted, any activities proposed therein

(The Secretary)

would be implemented to the extent that the necessary voluntary contributions were made to that end. Consequently, the adoption of the draft resolutions would not entail any financial implications for the regular budget of the United Nations.

Mr. SCHIALER (Peru) (interpretation from Spanish): My delegation would like to refer to draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.71 entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America".

As a result of informal consultations among the sponsors of the draft, the following amendment is being put forward. Operative paragraph 3, line 3 of the draft resolution, currently reads:

(spoke in English)

"... dissemination, as a forum for the implementation of peace, disarmament and ..."

(continued in Spanish)

We have considered it appropriate to delete the word "implementation" and replace it with the word "promotion". The line would thus read:

(spoke in English)

"... dissemination, as a forum for the promotion of peace, disarmament and ..."

(continued in Spanish)

and the text that follows would be retained as currently drafted. This minor change is intended to reflect as well as possible the capabilities of the Regional Centre under the mandate given it by the General Assembly in resolution 41/60 J. The sponsors of the draft consider that it contains no controversial elements whatsoever and it is designed to strengthen the World Disarmament campaign which is being so well implemented by the Department for Disarmament Affairs. We therefore consider that draft resolution L.71 should be adopted by the Committee without a vote.

Mr. COVARRUBIAS (Chile) (interpretation from Spanish): I wish to speak to draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.71, on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America.

As Chile has stated in all international forums, we are convinced that disarmament activities at the regional level are useful in promoting security and contributing to the détente required for world disarmament. We have stated also that it is necessary for us increasingly to strengthen United Nations disarmament machinery, as it constitutes the only just and impartial means at the disposal of the international community. We therefore support past and planned work by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and enthusiastically support Peru's timely initiative to rename the Centre the "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean".

However, my delegation has difficulties with the third and sixth preambular paragraphs, which cite documents in whose formulation my delegation did not participate and which make broad reference to economic, political and social concepts with which we do not fully agree.

If this draft resolution is adopted without a vote, my delegation will join in the consensus. If it is put to the vote, we shall vote in favour of it, wishing to support the Regional Centre. In either event, I wish to place on record my delegation's reservations with respect to the two paragraphs I have mentioned.

The CHAIRMAN: I call now in the representative of the United States, who wishes to speak in explanation of vote before the voting.

Mr. FRIEDERSDORF (United States of America): The United States delegation has asked to speak in order to explain its vote on draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.33, concerning the World Disarmament Campaign.

(Mr. Friedersdorf, United States)

We would first note that, with the exception of paragraph 4, which is inaccurate and inappropriate in our opinion, the tone of the draft resolution is more temperate and businesslike than its predecessors, and we commend the drafters for this improvement. Paragraph 4 is inaccurate because most of the States which have the largest military expenditures do indeed make financial contributions to the World Disarmament Campaign through their United Nations assessed contributions. That paragraph is inappropriate because by definition voluntary contributions cannot be contributions made under duress, and language applying such pressure should not appear in a United Nations resolution.

Regrettably, we must abstain in the vote on this draft resolution because of its financial implications, as well as because of the paragraph previously mentioned.

Under the decision taken by the General Assembly at its second special session devoted to disarmament, the Campaign was to be financed solely from voluntary contributions. It is not. A substantial part of the funding of the Campaign now comes from United Nations assessed contributions.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall now take action on draft resolutions in cluster 14.

The Committee will take a decision first on draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.33. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Mexico at the 29th meeting of the First Committee, held on 7 November, and is sponsored by the delegations of Bangladesh, Bulgaria, the Byelorussian SSR, Egypt, the German Democratic Republic, Indonesia, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Romania, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Venezuela and Yugoslavia.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: None

Abstaining: Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.33 was adopted by 128 votes to none, with 10 abstentions.

The CHAIRMAN: We turn next to draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.41. A statement with respect to the programme budget implications of that draft resolution was read out earlier by the Secretary of the Committee. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Zaire, on behalf of the members of the Group of African States, at the 28th meeting of the First Committee, held on 7 November. The sponsors of the draft resolution have expressed the wish that it be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If there is no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.41 was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will now take action on draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.48. That draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Mongolia at the 30th meeting of the First Committee, held on 8 November. It is sponsored by the delegations of Afghanistan, Angola, Bulgaria, the Byelorussian SSR, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Japan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Mozambique, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Samoa, the Ukrainian SSR and Viet Nam. The sponsors of the draft resolution have expressed the wish that it be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If there is no objection I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.48 was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.64. This draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Nigeria at the thirty-first meeting of the First Committee on 9 November. It has the following sponsors: Algeria, Argentina, Djibouti, Ethiopia, the German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Hungary, Indonesia, Kenya, Liberia, Mauritania, Morocco, New Zealand, Nigeria, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Venezuela, Viet Nam and Zaire.

The sponsors of the draft resolution have expressed the wish that it be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.64 was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will now consider draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.68. The programme-budget statement for the draft resolution was read out by the Secretary of the Committee. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Nepal at the thirtieth meeting of the First Committee on 8 November. The sponsor of the draft resolution has expressed the wish that it be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.68 was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will now take up draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.71. The programme-budget statement for this draft resolution was read by the Secretary of the Committee. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Peru at the thirtieth meeting of the First Committee on 8 November, and has the following sponsors: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nepal, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Togo, Uruguay and Venezuela.

(The Chairman)

The sponsors of the draft resolution have expressed the wish that the draft resolution be adopted by the Committee without a vote, and if I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.71 was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee has thus concluded the voting on the draft resolutions in cluster 14. I shall now call on delegations that wish to make statements in explanation of vote after the voting.

Mr. MORRIS (Australia): Australia was pleased to join in the adoption by consensus of draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.68, sponsored by Nepal, on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia. We welcome the possible contribution of such a Centre towards a serious examination of disarmament issues in Asia. Nonetheless, my delegation would continue to register a concern that the proliferation of such regional centres could duplicate the work of other organizations and create pressure on the United Nations regular budget at a time of stringency as well as a drain on the capacity of the World Disarmament Campaign.

In that latter respect, we are pleased to endorse, in particular, paragraph 4 of the draft resolution, which invites Member States and interested organizations to make voluntary contributions to ensure the effective functioning of the Centre.

Miss SOLESBY (United Kingdom): I wish to explain the United Kingdom's vote on draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.33 concerning the World Disarmament Campaign.

The United Kingdom is, of course, a supporter of the World Disarmament Campaign. My delegation, however, decided to abstain in the voting on this draft resolution because, inter alia, of the view expressed in paragraph 4, which voices regret that some States have not contributed financially to the World Disarmament Campaign. That Campaign is funded from the regular United Nations budget, of which the United Kingdom pays just under 5 per cent. Part of that contribution is used

(Miss Solesby, United Kingdom)

to fund United Nations services in support of the World Disarmament Campaign. In financial years 1988 and 1989 the United Kingdom is contributing approximately \$76,000 to the total World Disarmament Campaign budget. My Government also devotes a substantial sum of money to disarmament information activities of its own, which are consistent with the aims of the Campaign.

Miss VIALARD (France) (interpretation from French): As in the case of similar draft resolutions in previous years, my delegation has abstained in the voting on draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.33. Indeed, we can only deplore the drafting of paragraph 4, inter alia, which states that the General Assembly reiterates its regret that most of the States which have the largest military expenditures have not so far made any financial contribution to the World Disarmament Campaign.

My delegation would like to state that France has been contributing substantially to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) to the amount of more than \$2 million. We are thereby participating in the efforts of the international community with regard to scientific research, which is one of the fundamental aspects of the World Disarmament Campaign.

In voting for draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.41, the French delegation is associating itself with the consensus on that item, to which we attach special importance. My delegation would like to state that France has decided to make a voluntary contribution of 20,000 francs to the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa in 1989. In so doing, France wishes its contribution to be used to carry out a study, in collaboration with UNIDIR, on information sources concerning confidence-building measures and disarmament, security and, in particular, military expenditures in Africa.

Mr. NIÑE MOSQUERA (Cuba) (interpretation from Spanish): My delegation takes note of the oral amendment introduced into draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.71 today and of the fact that the draft resolution was adopted without a vote. I should like note to be taken of my delegation's opinion that in keeping with their mandate, in the context of the World Disarmament Campaign, regional centres are mandated to disseminate information on disarmament in order to promote public awareness of the subject. In the priorities established with regard to disarmament particular emphasis should be placed on the achievement of nuclear disarmament and on the adoption of practical measures to prevent the outbreak of a world war, which would be a nuclear war.

Mr. ASSOULAYE MOUMOUNI (Niger) (interpretation from French): For reasons beyond our control my delegation was unable to express its position on the draft resolutions on which the First Committee took action at its 33rd and 34th meetings. I am referring to draft resolutions A/C.1/43/L.18 and A/C.1/43/L.21, regarding which the Committee took action on 10 November at its 33rd meeting, and draft resolutions A/C.1/43/L.4, A/C.1/43/L.32, A/C.1/43/L.43, A/C.1/43/L.42 and A/C.1/43/L.55.

I wish to state that Niger, which is a peace-loving and justice-loving country working to promote international peace and security, would like to do as it did last year and in all previous years and state that it supports all these draft resolutions. Similarly, we wish to join in the consensus on all the draft resolutions adopted in accordance with that formula. For that reason, my delegation would like this statement to appear in the records of our Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: Note will be taken of the statement by the representative of Niger.

Mrs. URIBE de LOZANO (Colombia) (interpretation from Spanish): Like the previous speaker I should like to say that had we been present at the 33rd meeting on Thursday, 10 November, my delegation would have voted as follows on the draft resolutions that were put to the vote on that day: on draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.34, in favour; on draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.18, in favour; and on draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.21, abstention.

The CHAIRMAN: The statement by the representative of Colombia has also been noted.

We have now concluded our action on cluster 14. At our meeting this afternoon it is my intention to deal with the draft resolutions that are ready to be voted upon in clusters that we have already dealt with, including draft resolutions A/C.1/43/L.57 and A/C.1/43/L.58/Rev.1.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.