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VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 35th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. VRAALSEN (Norway)

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ORGANIZATION OF WORK

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ENGLISH

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

AGENDA ITEMS 43 TO 63, 139, 141 143 AND 144 (continued)

The CHAIRMAN: This afternoon the Committee will take decisions on draft resolutions A/C.1/38/L.52 and A/C.1/38/L.66 which are listed under cluster 2 of the document which was distributed to members last Thursday, after which we shall take action also on draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.31 and on the Brazilian amendment in document A/C.1/38/L.71.

I shall now call on those delegations wishing to make statements before the voting.

Mr. STRUCKA (Czechoslovakia) (interpretation from Russian): Before delegations begin discussing the draft resolutions now under consideration, I should like to thank those members who made statements on draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.66, which I had the honour to introduce on behalf of Cuba and Czechoslovakia. A number of delegations have said that they support it; but some wanted to make certain modifications or additions to the text, and in order to meet their wishes I should like to introduce certain amendments.

In the preambular part, we should like to add a new paragraph after the second preambular paragraph, as follows:

(spoke in English)

"Reaffirming also the role of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral negotiating body,".

(continued in Russian)

In the third paragraph on page 2 of the English text, delete the words "and the International Atomic Energy Agency". The entire paragraph would then read:

(spoke in English):

"Reaffirming its invitation to the relevant specialized agencies to intensify activities, within their areas of competence, to disseminate information on the consequences of the arms race."

(continued in Russian)

The next changes are in operative paragraph 4. The first adds the words "the agenda of" after the word "in" in the first line, which would then read as follows:

(spoke in English)

"Recommends to the Secretary-General that, in the agenda of his periodic meetings with ...".

(Mr. Strucka, Czechoslovakia)

(continued in Russian)

The second corrects the error "Under-Secretary-Secretary", in the third line to read "Under-Secretary-General".

Those changes are intended to make the text of the draft resolution acceptable to all delegations, and the delegation of Czechoslovakia hopes that it will be adopted without a vote.

Mr. MEISZTER (Hungary): On behalf of the Hungarian delegation, I should like to comment briefly on draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.66.

Hungary attaches very great importance to co-operation between the various agencies and institutions. We commend the excellent co-operation and co-ordination manifested between the various units of the Secretariat dealing with the relevant and vital issues of disarmament and international security and, more specifically, the close relationship between the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs and the Department for Disarmament Affairs which jointly provide the Secretariat teams servicing the First Committee.

My delegation supports this draft resolution and hopes it will be adopted by consensus.

Mr. AHMAD (Pakistan): Since the adoption of the Final Document by the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament in 1978, the First Committee has been considering various aspects of institutional arrangements relating to the process of disarmament. Over the years, this Committee has recommended several resolutions on the subject which have been adopted by the General Assembly.

While the decisive factor for achieving real progress in disarmament is the political will of States, especially of those possessing nuclear weapons, institutional arrangements and their effective utilization can also play an important supportive role. One of the major decisions taken in 1978 in connection with institutional arrangements was that the First Committee should deal only with questions of disarmament and related issues of international security. Additionally, a number of other resolutions were adopted during the past five years, each designed to help the United Nations to fulfil its role in the field of disarmament in both the deliberative and the negotiating areas.

My delegation would like to refer to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 37/99 K, adopted on 13 December 1982. That resolution, in five

(Mr. Ahmad, Pakistan)

sections, embodies recommendations and decisions dealing with the review of membership of the Committee on Disarmament, including the consideration of designating itself as a conference, the functions of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies, the activities of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and, finally, the transformation of the then Centre for Disarmament into the Department for Disarmament Affairs. During the year progress has been made in the implementation of nearly all the provisions of resolution 37/99 K.

My delegation has carefully read the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/38/401, relating to the transformation of the Centre for Disarmament of the Secretariat into the Department for Disarmament Affairs. As this is the First Committee's first session since the establishment of the Department, my delegation would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Jan Martenson, on his appointment as the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs and to convey to him the sincere appreciation of the Pakistan delegation for his dedication and the very efficient arrangements made for the First Committee's work.

Pakistan would like to place on record also its appreciation of the excellent job done by the Secretary and Assistant Secretary of the Committee, as well as their staff, in servicing the First Committee. Their presence here has provided continuity and their experience has been put to good use.

Mr. FIELDS (United States of America): My delegation has asked to be allowed to speak on draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.66 on institutional arrangements relating to the process of disarmament. The Government of the United States will oppose this draft resolution because its negative effects would be twofold: first, it would hamper progress on important work being undertaken in specialized agencies and other institutions and programmes within the United Nations system by diluting and detracting the focus of those bodies; and, secondly, it would impede progress towards the adoption of concrete, effective and verifiable measures of arms control and disarmament in those agencies and institutions which have competence in this field.

The specialized agencies and other institutions and programmes within the United Nations system carry on important work in their respective fields. To over-politicize these agencies would do a disservice to their noble work - work which could well be held in abeyance should non-germane disarmament matters be introduced for their consideration.

(Mr. Fields, United States)

The shared objective of general and complete disarmament under effective international control is paramount and necessitates serious consideration in the bodies most appropriately designed and competent to undertake such work. We in the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly are seized of such matters, as is the United Nations Disarmament Commission. In addition, the multilateral negotiating body, the Committee on Disarmament - soon to be the Conference on Disarmament - is entrusted with important responsibilities as well. Those arrangements were developed during the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament and set forth in its Final Document. The draft resolution before us is contrary to the understandings enshrined in the Final Document.

For those reasons my delegation will vote "no" on draft resolution  
A/C.1/38/L.66

Mr. MORRISON (Canada): My delegation intends to vote against the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/38/L.66 which, inter alia:

"Invites the specialized agencies and other institutions and programmes within the United Nations system to broaden further their contribution ... to the cause of arms limitation and disarmament."

Our negative vote should not be interpreted in any way as a downgrading of the importance Canada attaches to arms control and disarmament affairs. Quite the contrary, my delegation is strongly of the opinion that the issue of arms control is of such importance that its direction and thrust should not be weakened by introducing considerations germane to matters dealt with in other bodies. Accordingly, arms control and disarmament should continue to be discussed in United Nations bodies such as the First Committee of the General Assembly, the United Nations Disarmament Commission, the Committee on Disarmament and the International Atomic Energy Agency, which are specifically mandated to deal with disarmament and where properly accredited experts can bring the necessary knowledge to the consideration of these matters.

From another standpoint, my delegation feels strongly that the introduction of political issues into United Nations functional bodies, such as the World Health Organization, is ill-advised, because it diverts scarce time and resources away from the responsibilities for which those bodies are mandated. Each United Nations body and Member should respect the division of labour on which the United Nations system is predicated, otherwise confusion and duplication will dominate our important work.

(Mr. Morrison, Canada)

In conclusion, there is no justification for injecting disarmament questions into other functional bodies of the United Nations system when those items are so thoroughly covered in the existing arms-control and disarmament bodies.

The CHAIRMAN: Since no other delegation wishes to speak at this stage, the Committee will now take action on the two draft resolutions.

Draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.52 was introduced by the representative of Mexico at the 33rd meeting of the First Committee on 17 November and is sponsored by the following delegations: Algeria, Argentina, Cuba, the Federal Republic of Germany, the German Democratic Republic, India, Mali, Mexico, Pakistan, Romania, Sri Lanka, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Yugoslavia.

The sponsors of this 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 adopts the draft resolution without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.52 was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will now take action on draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.66, as orally amended. It was introduced by the representative of Czechoslovakia at the 32nd meeting of the First Committee on 15 November and is sponsored by the following countries: Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Mongolia and the German Democratic Republic.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Chad, Chile, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia

Against: Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Austria, Bahamas, China, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Finland, Greece, Ireland, Japan, Lebanon, Paraguay, Somalia, Spain, Sweden, Uruguay

Draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.66, as orally amended, was adopted by 80 votes to 16, with 15 abstentions.\*

The CHAIRMAN: I shall now call upon those delegations who wish to speak in explanation of vote after the voting.

Mr. STEPHANOU (Greece): Speaking on behalf of the ten members of the European Community, I should like to address myself to the draft resolution on institutional arrangements related to the process of disarmament, contained in document A/C.1/38/L.66.

It is the view of the Ten, one shared by the vast majority of the members of the Committee and incorporated in many consensus documents of the General Assembly, that the Department for Disarmament Affairs should provide the central guidance in co-ordinating disarmament activities within the United Nations system and in maintaining liaison with the governmental and non-governmental organizations and research institutes.

The Ten equally recognize that the Department should also take fully into account the possibilities offered by specialized agencies and other institutions and programmes within the United Nations system with regard to studies and information on disarmament. This approach is in accordance with the central role and primary responsibility of the United Nations in the sphere of disarmament and, accordingly, its more active role in this field since the drawing up of the Final Document of the first special session devoted to disarmament.

During the general debate the Ten have expressed their view that, while the work of the specialized agencies within the United Nations system involves certain aspects of disarmament problems which fall within their specific areas of responsibility, it is desirable that better use be made of available resources in areas in which the United Nations, and in particular the Committee on Disarmament, is already working.

As draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.66 stands, we are faced with the danger of the central role and primary responsibility of our Organization in the sphere of disarmament being diluted. A careful reading of operative paragraph 1 implies that additional responsibilities with regard to disarmament are devolved through

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\*Subsequently the delegation of Guyana advised the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.

(Mr. Stephanou, Greece)

the specialized agencies and other institutions which are not directly related to their respective fields of competence.

The draft resolution detracts from the primary responsibility of the Secretary-General, assisted by the Under-Secretary-General in charge of the Department for Disarmament Affairs, for ensuring co-ordination of activities undertaken in the field of disarmament by the various bodies in the United Nations system.

For those reasons the Ten could not vote in favour of this draft resolution. They firmly believe it does not facilitate or further effective co-ordination to the benefit of our Organization.

Mr. EKEUS (Sweden): The Swedish Government is of the view that the cause of disarmament should be taken into consideration in international co-operation. Sweden has very positive views in favour of concrete, case-by-case initiatives in the specialized agencies, while bearing in mind paragraph 120 of the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, which states that the Committee on Disarmament is the single multilateral disarmament negotiating body. Examples of important initiatives in these respects are the studies of the United Nations Environment Programme on the effects of nuclear war on the environment and the report of the World Health Organization on the effects of nuclear war on health and health services.

The present draft resolution comprises a general recommendation to the specialized agencies to broaden further their contribution, within their areas of competence, to the cause of arms limitation and disarmament. Sweden has reservations with regard to a recommendation to the specialized agencies of such a general character as that contained in the draft resolution upon which we have just voted. Unqualified recommendations to international organizations to broaden their activities to political issues, no matter how important these issues may be, would open up those organizations, including the specialized agencies, to insecurity and a potential politicization of their normal operations. A development in this direction could seriously disturb and hamper the support for, as well as the work in, those agencies.

The Swedish delegation therefore abstained in the voting on the draft resolution just voted upon.



The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will now return to its consideration of the draft resolution and amendment - held over from this morning's meeting for the purpose of consultations between the parties - the draft resolution is contained in document A/C.1/38/L.31 and the amendment suggested by Brazil to that draft resolution is in document A/C.1/38/L.71.

I invite the representative of Brazil to report to us on the outcome of those consultations.

Mr. SOUZA e SILVA (Brazil): If I am not being indiscreet, Sir, you appealed to avoid putting my amendment to a vote. As usual, I shall abide by the appeals of the Chairman. For that reason, I engaged in consultations with the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.31, and we have prepared a joint text. Hence I am pleased to announce that the amendment in document A/C.1/38/L.71 has been withdrawn. At the same time, I wish to inform the Committee that, pursuant to an invitation from one of the sponsors, my delegation has agreed also to sponsor the draft resolution, as revised.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Brazil for his very kind co-operation and for the manner in which he responded to the appeal I made to him this morning. I hope all delegations will be guided by this very good example in the days to come.

I am confident that in following the efficient and expeditious example of the Brazilian delegation, the Committee will wish to take up the revised draft now.

Mr. GARCIA ROBLES (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): A few moments ago I spoke with the Secretary of the Committee, and I trust that he has transmitted to you, Sir, the information I gave him. With regard to the draft resolution we shall now be considering, I wish to confirm what has just been said by the representative of Brazil and say how very pleased I was to invite him to join the sponsors of the revised draft resolution.

All the sponsors, including myself, would like to see the draft resolution adopted by consensus. Since the first draft resolution was prepared in original English and Spanish, we must now present the revised version in those two languages. I trust this will not inconvenience the Committee and that its adoption by consensus will take place tomorrow rather than today.

The CHAIRMAN: I am of course in the hands of the Committee. I can assure the representative of Mexico that I was told by the Committee Secretary of the message he had conveyed to him. As we shall have a very heavy work-load, in

(The Chairman)

the days to come, I was hoping, with the Committee's co-operation, that we could simply have the amended draft resolution read out - which could be done very slowly - and then act upon it.

However, I understand from the representative of Mexico that that will not be possible and, hence, we shall have to defer action on that draft resolution. I am not certain that we shall be able to consider it tomorrow, because we shall then be considering the draft resolutions on nuclear matters. But I suggest we take up this revised draft resolution at the end of the day tomorrow. In any case, we can remain flexible on this.

Accordingly, the revised draft resolution will be prepared and distributed in proper form in all languages.

#### ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will hold two meetings tomorrow. There will also be two meetings on Wednesday and on Friday. We shall take up all remaining draft resolutions on disarmament items at these meetings and complete our work on them.

Tomorrow, we shall first take up those draft resolutions listed under cluster 3, after which we shall take up the following clusters: 5, 6, 7, 8, and 4. Those are the draft resolutions dealing with nuclear matters.

I suggest we proceed in the following manner: those delegations wishing to speak on any draft resolutions listed under the above clusters should do so tomorrow, at the outset - that is, those listed under clusters 3 to 8.

As to the actual decision-taking process, we shall proceed cluster by cluster and those delegations wishing to explain their votes will do so before or after we take decisions on the draft resolutions listed in each cluster. For example, under cluster 3, we shall take decisions on draft resolutions A/C.1/38/L.3/Rev.2, L.42, L.63 and L.65, and those delegations wishing to explain their votes will do so before or after we have taken decisions on all four draft resolutions.

After we have completed action on draft resolutions concerning the nuclear matters, we shall proceed in accordance with the order in which the draft resolutions have been listed in the document on the various clusters which, I trust, is now available to all delegations and take action on them cluster by cluster.

(The Chairman)

It is difficult to give more accurate information concerning timing, since this depends entirely upon the number of statements delegations may wish to make and of explanations of vote. Hence, I would ask delegations to get the necessary instructions, so that we can use the time available to us and proceed through the list of draft resolutions.

The meeting rose at 3.50 p.m.