

FINAL RECORD OF THE FORTY-EIGHTH MEETING
held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Tuesday, 7 August 1979, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman:

U SAW HLAING

(Burma)

PRESENT AT THE TABLE

Algeria:

Argentina:

Mr. A. DUMONT
Miss N. FREYRE PENABAD

Australia:

Sir James PLIMSOLL
Mr. A. BEHM
Ms. J. WICKES

Belgium:

Mr. P. BERG

Brazil:

Mr. S. DUARTE

Bulgaria:

Mr. I. SOTIROV
Mr. H. HALACHEV

Burma:

U SAW HLAING
U THEIN AUNG
U NGWE WIN

Canada:

Mr. R. HARRY JAY
Mr. J.T. SIMARD

Cuba:

Mr. L. SOLA VILA
Mrs. V.B. JACKIEWICH

Czechoslovakia:

Mr. V. TYLNER

Egypt:

Mr. O. EL-SHAFEI
Mr. H. EL-BARADEI
Mr. N. FAHMY

Ethiopia:

Mr. T. TERREFE

France:

Mr. F. DE LA GORCE
Mr. M. COUTHURES

German Democratic Republic:

Mr. G. HERDER
Mr. W. KOETTER
Mr. M. GRACZYNSKI

<u>Germany, Federal Republic of:</u>	Mr. J. PÖHLMANN
<u>Hungary:</u>	Mr. A. LAKATOS
<u>India:</u>	Mr. S.T. DEVARE
<u>Indonesia:</u>	Mr. D.B. SULEMAN
<u>Iran:</u>	Mr. D. AMERI
<u>Italy:</u>	Mr. V. CORDERO DI MONTEZEMOLO Mr. M. MORENO Mr. FOLCO DE LUCA
<u>Japan:</u>	Mr. M. OGISO Mr. T. NONCYMA Mr. R. ISHII Mr. TSUNOO
<u>Kenya:</u>	Mr. S. SHITEMI Mr. A. JET ODENDO
<u>Mexico:</u>	Mr. M.A. CÁCERES
<u>Mongolia:</u>	Mr. L. BAYART
<u>Morocco:</u>	Mr. S.M. RAHHALI Mr. M. CHRAIBI
<u>Netherlands:</u>	Mr. R.H. FEIN Mr. A.J. MEERBURG
<u>Nigeria:</u>	Mr. T.O. OLUMOKO
<u>Pakistan:</u>	Mr. J.K.A. MARKER Mr. M. AKRAM
<u>Peru:</u>	
<u>Poland:</u>	Mr. B. SUJKA Mr. H. PAĆ Mr. M. KRUCZYK

Romania:

Mr. C. ENE
Mr. V. TUDOR

Sri Lanka:

Mr. I.O. FONSEKA

Sweden:

Mr. L. NORBERG
Mr. S. STRÖMBÄCK

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics:

Mr. V.L. ISSRAELYAN
Mr. A.M. VAVILOV
Mr. N.V. PESTEREV
Mr. A.I. TIOURENKOV
Mr. M.G. ANTIUKHIN
Mr. N.P. SMIDOVICH

United Kingdom:

Mr. D. SUMMERHAYES
Mr. P.M.W. FRANCIS

United States of America:

Mr. A.S. FISHER
Mr. A. AKALOVSKY
Mr. R. MIKULAK
Mr. M. SANCHES
Mr. J. CALVERT
Mr. W. DUNLOP
Mr. M. DALEY

Venezuela:

Mrs. R. LISBOA DE NEGER

Yugoslavia:

Mr. D. DJOKIĆ

Zaire:

Mr. MULONGADUSU ESUK

Secretary:

Mr. R. JAIPAL

Mr. EL-SHAFETI (Egypt): I should like to extend to you my most sincere welcome on your assumption of the chair of this Committee. We are approaching the end of our annual session, and it is time for the consideration and adoption of our report. This challenging task, with all the reflection, candour and skill it requires from all of us, will -- I am confident -- be facilitated and successfully performed under your able leadership.

I also wish to express our appreciation to the outgoing Chairman, Ambassador Voutov of Bulgaria, who steered the work of the Committee during the month of July with knowledge, dedication and impartiality.

I want to address myself today to the last item on our programme of work, namely, the nuclear test ban. My remarks, however, will be necessarily short. This is neither due to any marginal importance nor to any low priority accorded to this subject; it is unfortunately the inevitable result of the lack of any progress in its consideration and negotiation by this Committee, a lack of progress which will make any remarks by my delegation in this connexion at best familiar if not repetitious.

Needless for me to re-emphasize the importance of a comprehensive nuclear test ban in the process of curbing the qualitative improvement of the nuclear arms race and nuclear non-proliferation.

It is sufficient to recall that two General Assembly resolutions were adopted in that regard during the thirty-third regular session. They inter alia requested the Committee on Disarmament to undertake, on a priority basis, at its first session negotiations concerning a treaty on the complete prohibition of nuclear weapon tests. The three negotiating nuclear-weapon Powers were urged to expedite their negotiations with a view to bringing them to a positive conclusion as a matter of urgency, and to use their utmost endeavours to transmit the results to the Committee on Disarmament before the beginning of its 1979 session. The Committee was then requested to take up immediately the agreed text with a view to the submission, as soon as possible, of a draft treaty to the resumed thirty-third session of the General Assembly.

It was with a marked degree of optimism that we took note of the assurances given by the leaders of delegations of two of the negotiating Powers in January this year to the effect that good progress had been made, that tripartite agreement in principle had been reached on most of the major issues, and that it was the hope quickly to resolve the outstanding ones.

(Mr. El-Shafei, Egypt)

It was therefore on that basis that the Committee decided in its programme of work for the second part of the session to consider the nuclear test ban both at the beginning and at the end of the second part of the session. Its consideration as the first item was to reflect and symbolize the highest priority attached to it by the international community and by this Committee; its consideration as the last item was designed to provide the three negotiating Powers all the time they needed to complete their negotiations.

It was therefore our expectation that we would receive the agreed text of the draft treaty, or at the very least a comprehensive and detailed report on the stage reached in negotiations, which would include a clear description of all areas and elements of agreement and disagreement.

We did receive the report on the progress of the trilateral negotiations on 31 July, presented by the leader of the United Kingdom delegation on behalf of the delegations of the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States. And I regret to say that it fell short of our expectations. It is a terse and general report which continues to leave the Committee totally in the dark as to the exact stage reached in the trilateral negotiations. And it is no different from the report we received a year ago on these negotiations; in other words, what it says was already said in almost the exact language a year ago.

In this present state of affairs where nuclear tests continue unabated, where no conclusive results of the trilateral negotiations seem in the offing, and where this Committee is unable to start negotiations on the subject and thus to discharge its responsibilities, an expression of deep concern and disappointment could be the only logical conclusion and inevitable result.

I would like, however, to end my remarks on a different tone, and to express our appreciation to the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Co-operative Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events for its valuable work, as set out in document CD/45, which is worthy of our praise. We are fully aware of the relationship between the exchange of scientific data and the central question of the verification of a CTB treaty. We would therefore like to record our concurrence with the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Group that its mandate should be extended. It has made a useful start, and should be permitted to conclude its work.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished Ambassador of Egypt for his statement and for the kind words he addressed to my predecessor and to me. If there is no other speaker, I should like to draw the attention of the Committee to the following questions which should be considered this morning, in accordance with our organization of work for the week of 6-10 August, as adopted by the Committee and circulated to all members on Friday, 3 August 1979.

Item 1 is the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons (document CD/47).

Item 2 is the second report of the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Co-operative Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events (documents CD/43 and CD/46, as well as the proposal submitted by Japan).

The first question under discussion is the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

In this connexion, I give the floor to the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Working Group, the representative of Egypt.

Mr. EL-BARADEI (Egypt): Mr. Chairman, it is my honour to present the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group to Consider, and Negotiate on, Effective International Arrangements to Assure Non-Nuclear-Weapon States against the Use or Threat of Use of Nuclear Weapons. This report was prepared in compliance with the decision of the Committee on Disarmament adopted at its 39th meeting on 5 July, which inter alia requested the Ad Hoc Group to present a report to the Committee on Disarmament before the conclusion of the 1979 session. The report is contained in document CD/47.

In carrying out its mandate, the Ad Hoc Group took into account the relevant provisions of the Final Document of the tenth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, as well as General Assembly resolution on the subject adopted at its thirty-third session. In the conduct of its work the Group had before it four working papers. Further, the Secretariat, at the request of the Ad Hoc Group, prepared a compilation of material suggested by members of the Group as background material.

(Mr. El-Baradci, Egypt)

As indicated in the report, extensive discussion took place on the elements to be considered and negotiated, and their relationship to the mandate of the Group. Extensive discussion also took place on the rationale, scope and nature of the arrangements, as well as their form, number and binding character. A transcript of the meetings of the Ad Hoc Group was requested by its members and will be available in due course.

It was the conclusion of the Ad Hoc Group that there was wide recognition of the urgent need to reach agreement on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. The Group was able, in the short time available to it, to begin meaningful consideration of, and negotiation on, some of the elements which fell within its mandate. Preliminary exploration of areas of agreement and disagreement clarified issues and at the same time underlined the complexity of the elements which have to be further considered and negotiated on. It was therefore the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Group that the Committee on Disarmament should, at the beginning of its 1980 session, continue negotiations on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

Finally, I would like on behalf of the Ad Hoc Working Group to note with appreciation the assistance which the Secretariat of the Ad Hoc Group provided to it.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished representative of Egypt for his statement and for his excellent work as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Working Group. May I now suggest that the Committee should approve the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group.

Mr. DEVARE (India): My delegation has no objection to the adoption of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group as contained in document CD/47, although it would like to state here that our approval of this report is without prejudice to any position the Indian delegation may take on the subject at the forthcoming session of the General Assembly.

Mr. MARKER (Pakistan): Mr. Chairman, in the first place my delegation would like to associate itself with the congratulations which have already been extended to you and with the thanks expressed to your distinguished predecessor for his work during the last month on this Committee. You, Sir, will be steering our deliberations at a particularly important time in the work of this Committee,

(Mr. Marker, Pakistan)

and I should like to take this opportunity to extend to you the fullest co-operation of the Pakistan delegation in the important work that lies ahead of you.

My delegation would recommend the adoption of the report which is under consideration by this Committee at the moment. My delegation participated in the negotiations conducted by the Ad Hoc Working Group, and therefore we would naturally recommend its adoption. This was the first group established by the Committee on Disarmament to conduct concrete negotiations on an item of its agenda. The report of the Ad Hoc Group conveys only an outline of the in-depth discussions that were held on the various issues involved under the item of security assurances to non-nuclear States. I should like at this stage in particular to pay a warm tribute to the distinguished Chairman of the Ad Hoc Group, Mr. El-Baradei of Egypt, for his able stewardship and for his skilful negotiations during the work of the group.

The Ad Hoc Group has unanimously recommended that negotiations on the question of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons should be continued during the next session of the Committee. The search for a common approach is indispensable to arrive at a binding international instrument on negative security assurances. My delegation regards this report as a most significant continuation of the progress of the work of our Committee, and one which will greatly assist us in the further consideration of this important item. At the same time, this report demonstrates both the importance as well as the utility of the procedure of the adoption of an ad hoc working group when the circumstances and the conditions of our work so indicate. It is therefore obvious that the best modality for the negotiations which are to be continued on this subject is the Ad Hoc Working Group, and it is the view of my delegation -- and one which I think is shared by a large number of the members of the Group of 21 -- that the mandate of the Ad Hoc Group should be renewed when the Committee opens its second session in January 1980.

The Pakistan delegation is gratified by the wide support evoked by our proposal to adopt an international convention to assure the non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. We believe that the desire to conclude such an international convention is shared by almost all States Members of the United Nations. It is also our hope that the nuclear-weapon States will in the meantime review their positions on this question and give serious consideration

(Mr. Marker, Pakistan)

to devising a common and uniform formula for negative security assurances which could be included in an international convention. The Pakistan delegation continues to believe that the formula suggested in the draft convention that we have submitted is a good basis on which agreement can be reached among both the nuclear-weapon Powers and the non-nuclear-weapon States.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished representative of Pakistan for his statement and for his kind words.

Mr. NORBERG (Sweden): Since this is the first time the Swedish delegation is taking the floor in a plenary meeting during the current month I wish to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your assumption of the chairmanship. I am confident that under your leadership the Committee will work effectively.

My delegation welcomes the fact that the question of negative security guarantees is now on the agenda of the Committee. The discussion in the Ad Hoc Working Group under the able guidance of its Chairman, Mr. El-Baradei of Egypt, has been most useful and contributed to our understanding of the extremely complex political and legal problems involved. The report of the Ad Hoc Group reflects in a balanced way the discussion in the Group; the text is acceptable to my delegation and we recommend its adoption.

I will, however, take this opportunity to touch upon one point contained in the report, namely, in paragraph 11. In order to make the position of my delegation clear in this regard I merely want to state that the Swedish Government, in principle, favours so-called negative security guarantees, by which we understand co-ordinated and binding pledges from nuclear-weapon States not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against States and groups of States which have explicitly abstained from such weapons. As to the form of an international arrangement, my Government thinks it is too early to take a definite decision. Further negotiations will prove how much substance a co-ordinated guarantee by the nuclear-weapon Powers will offer. Only then will there be an adequate basis for taking a final position as to the form of negative security guarantees.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate of Sweden for his statement and for his kind words to me.

Mr. SOLA VILA (Cuba) (translated from Spanish): Mr. Chairman, firstly we would like to associate ourselves with the congratulations extended to you and assure you that you will be able to count on the full support and assistance of our delegation at this session.

Our delegation considers that the issue under consideration is extremely important, and would emphasize that it is closely related to that of nuclear disarmament and the non-use of force in international relations, as well as the general question of the strengthening of peace and international security. Furthermore, we consider that an international treaty that gives full guarantees to the non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of these arms is also closely related to the suggestion made by the non-aligned countries to prohibit the use of nuclear weapons. As regards the report presented by the Ad Hoc Group and the work done by the Chairman of that Group, our delegation has no objections to the acceptance of the report and, for its part, is in favour of renewing the mandate of this group for the new session of our Committee that will start in 1980.

The CHAIRMAN: Does any delegation wish to take the floor at this stage? If there is none, may I suggest that the Committee approve the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group contained in document CD/47.

If there is no objection, it is so decided.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: We should now turn to the second point, which deals with the second report of the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Co-operative Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events (document CD/43). In that connexion, you will recall that a draft CD decision was submitted by Sweden and circulated to members in document CD/46. During our informal meeting devoted to the consideration of the report of the Ad Hoc Group, the representative of Japan also submitted an additional paragraph which found general support and which would be added at the end of the proposal submitted by Sweden, as an additional paragraph 4. It reads as follows: "The Committee on Disarmament invites WMO to continue its co-operation with the Ad Hoc Group". The proposal of Japan was accepted at our informal meeting on Friday. I take it that we may now formalize our approval.

I see no objection.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates, I would like now to put before the Committee the draft decision submitted by Sweden, set out in document CD/46.

If there are no objections the Committee will adopt document CD/46. I see none.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: As decided in our programme of work for the week, I now intend to adjourn the plenary meeting and convene, in five minutes' time, an informal meeting to continue our consideration of the draft annual report to the General Assembly of the United Nations.

The next plenary meeting of the Committee will be held on Thursday, 9 August, at 10.30 a.m.

The meeting rose at 11.25 a.m.