

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/PV.462
29 April 1988

FINAL RECORD OF THE FOUR HUNDRED AND SIXTY-SECOND PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Friday, 29 April 1988, at 5 p.m.

President:

Mr. Dávid Meiszter

(Hungary)

The PRESIDENT: I declare open the 462nd plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

In accordance with its programme of work, the Conference is to consider and adopt today the reports of subsidiary bodies, as well as the special report to the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. In conformity with rule 30 of the rules of procedure, however, any member wishing to do so may raise any other subject relevant to the work of the Conference.

As announced at our plenary meeting yesterday, the Conference will take up first for adoption the reports of the ad hoc committees on chemical weapons, the Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament and the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

I now turn to document CD/831, containing the report of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons. In that connection, I should like to note that on page 104, in the section entitled "Principles and order of the destruction of chemical weapons", in paragraph 1, penultimate line, the words "or size" have been omitted between the words "composition" and "of the stockpiles". The last two lines should read as follows:

"... and applicability irrespective of the actual composition or size of the stockpiles and the methods chosen for the destruction of the chemical weapons."

The secretariat will issue an appropriate corrigendum in the various languages in which this omission occurred. On this understanding and with the addition that I have just read, I suggest that the Conference adopt the report of the Ad hoc Committee, as contained in CD/831.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: I now turn to document CD/832, containing the report of the Ad hoc Committee on the Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament. If there is no objection, I shall take it that the Conference adopts the report of the Ad hoc Committee.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: The next document is CD/833, containing the report of the Ad hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space. If there is no objection, I shall consider that the Conference adopts the report of the Ad hoc Committee.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: May I extend to the chairmen of the ad hoc committees, Ambassadors Bogumil Sujka of Poland, Alfonso García Robles of Mexico and Adolfo Taylhardat of Venezuela, our congratulations on the successful conclusion of the reports of their subsidiary bodies, which will become,

(The President)

together with the reports of the other ad hoc committees, an integral part of the special report to the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

Before we proceed further, I should like to ask whether any member wishes to make a statement in connection with the reports of the ad hoc committees which we have just adopted. I see none.

I should like now to turn to the draft special report of the Conference to the third special session, as contained in document CD/WP.336/Rev.1. The document circulated by the secretariat contains the technical parts of the special report, as well as the substantive paragraphs under those agenda items on which no subsidiary bodies were established. The reports of the ad hoc committees will be included in the text once it is adopted by the Conference and issued as an official document.

Before we proceed to the adoption of document CD/WP.336/Rev.1, I should like to ask whether any member wishes to make a statement. If there are no speakers, I shall now put before the Conference for adoption the special report of the Conference to the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, as appearing in document CD/WP.336/Rev.1. If there is no objection, I shall consider that the Conference adopts the special report.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: I should like now to offer the floor to any member wishing to speak after the adoption of the special report. I see none.

As there is no other business for this plenary meeting, may I now make my concluding statement as President of the Conference?

The first part of the 1988 session of the Conference on Disarmament is drawing to its close. This may be the moment for me to take stock. The month of April 1988 - in terms of the Conference on Disarmament - happens to be a special one in the series of Aprils due to the forthcoming third special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament. I happened to assume the presidency in this very month due to the established rule of rotation of this office, but I found myself in the privileged position of presiding over the proceedings of this body when the work of the years which have elapsed since the second special session was to be summed up. On this occasion I feel it appropriate to express the gratitude of the Conference to all those who have contributed in good faith to the work of this body either in their capacity as presiding officers or as government representatives.

As I look back on my own term, I take satisfaction in reflecting that it has been eventful, indeed interesting and instructive for me. I have tried my best to facilitate progress on priority items of our agenda such as the nuclear test ban, cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament, and prevention of nuclear war including all related matters. Much to my

(The President)

regret, differences of position still prevailing on these issues have again made it impossible to set up the appropriate subsidiary bodies and start laying the foundation for substantive work in the future.

The Conference on Disarmament, however, has successfully accomplished its task of preparing and adopting its special report to the third special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament. In the course of this plenary meeting we have just concluded that process.

The special report carries our assessment of the work done since 1982, the results achieved, the tasks yet to be carried out as well as the differences still prevailing. This applies in various degrees to all subjects appearing in the report: to the substantive paragraphs on the nuclear items and the reports of the subsidiary bodies alike. The long and occasionally constructive debate on the improved and effective functioning of the Conference on Disarmament has brought to the surface forward-looking ideas and suggestions concerning several aspects of its functioning.

The third special session will look into the special report and analyse our achievements and failures, most probably with a measure of criticism on several points. I do hope, however, that the special session will make use of the practical experience gained in a decade of functioning of the Conference on Disarmament during the past years, in both substantive and also procedural aspects. That may be instrumental when drawing the necessary conclusions and establishing appropriate guidelines for our future, hopefully more fruitful work.

Before I come to the end of my remarks, I wish to assure all the participants around the table that I am carrying with me pleasant memories of my term as President for the month. The genuine good will and earnest co-operation displayed by every one of you made my task easier. This has been a month the memory of which I will long cherish. Permit me to conclude my closing remarks with the expression of my sincere gratitude to all of you for the help and advice, the spirit of assistance and co-operation that you all have shown towards me.

I would like, also on behalf of all the participants of the Conference, to express our gratitude to the Secretary-General of the Conference, Ambassador Komatina, to the Deputy Secretary-General, Ambassador Berasategui, to all members of the secretariat, to the team of interpreters, translators and other conference services staff for their dedicated help, patience and understanding that we greatly needed on several occasions. Finally, I would like to wish bon voyage to those who will soon leave Geneva for New York or for their respective capitals, and hope to see all of you when we resume our work in July.

That concludes my statement. I shall now adjourn this plenary meeting and the first part of the 1988 session of the Conference.

The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.