

FINAL RECORD OF THE TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY-EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Tuesday, 26 July 1983, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman:

Mr. M. Ahmad

(Pakistan)

PRESENT AT THE TABLE

Algeria: Mrs. F.Z. KSENTINI

Argentina: Mr. J.C. CARSALES
Mr. R. VILLAMBROSA

Australia: Mr. R. STEELE

Belgium: Mr. A. ONKELINX

Brazil: Mr. C.A. DE SOUZA E SILVA
Mr. S. DE QUEIROZ DUARTE

Bulgaria: Mr. B. KONSTANTINOV
Mr. P. POPTCHEV
Mr. R. DEYANOV

Burma: U. MAUNG MAUNG GYI
U TIN KYAW HLAING
U THAN TUN

Canada: Mr. TANGUAY
Mr. G.R. SKINNER

China: Mr. TIAN JIN
Mr. PAN ZHENQIANG

Cuba:

Czechoslovakia: Mr. M. VEJVODA
Mr. L. DOLEJS

Egypt: Mr. I. ALI HASSAN

Ethiopia: Mr. F. YOHANNES

France: Mr. J. DE BEAUSSE
Mr. M. COUTHURES

German Democratic Republic:

Mr. H. ROSE
Mr. H. HOPPE
Mr. SCHNEIDER

Germany, Federal Republic of:

Mr. H. WEGENER
Mr. F. ELBE
Mr. M. GERDTS

Hungary:

Mr. F. GAJDAL

India:

Mr. SHARMA

Indonesia:

Mr. I. DAMANIK
Ms. P. RAMADHAN
Mr. M. JALALUDDIN

Iran:

Mr. N. KOSEMI KAMYAB

Italy:

Mr. M. ALESSI
Mr. E. DI GIOVANNI

Japan:

Mr. M. KONISHI

Kenya:

Mr. P. NGUGI MWAURA

Mexico:

Ms. Z. GONZALEZ Y REYNERO
Mr. P. MACEDO RIBA

Mongolia:

Mr. D. ERDEMBILEG
Mr. S.-O. BOLD

Morocco:

Mr. M. CHRAIBI
Mr. O. HILALE

Netherlands:

Mr. J. RAMAKER

Nigeria:

Mr. I.E. AYEWAH
Mr. A.N.C. NWAZOMUDOH

Pakistan:

Mr. M. AHMAD

Peru:

Mr. J. MORELLI PANDO

Mr. C. CASTILLO

Poland:

Mr. S. TURBANSKI

Mr. T. STROJWAS

Mr. G. CZEMPINSKI

Romania:

Mr. I. DATCU

Mr. MELESCANU

Sri Lanka:

Mr. H.M.G.S. PALIHAKKARA

Sweden:

Mr. R. EKEUS

Mr. H. BERGLUND

Mr. LUNDIN

Mr. O. DAHLMAN

Union of Soviet Socialist
Republics:

Mr. V. ISSRAELIAN

Mr. L.P. MALEV

Mr. V.F. PRIAKHIN

Mr. N. VASHADZE

United Kingdom:

Mr. R.I.T. CROMARTIE

United States of America:

Mr. J. McATEER

Mr. R. HORNE

Mr. J. TIERNEY

Mr. SCOTT

Mr. R. NORMAN

Venezuela:

Mr. O. GARCIA GARCIA

Yugoslavia:

Mr. M. MIHAJLOVIC

Zaire:

Mr. G. OSIL

Secretary of the Committee on
Disarmament and Personal
Representative of the
Secretary-General:

Mr. R. JAIPAL

Deputy Secretary of the
Committee on Disarmament:

Mr. V. BERASATEGUI

The CHAIRMAN: I declare open the 228th plenary meeting of the Committee on Disarmament.

The Committee starts today its consideration of item 5 of its agenda entitled, "New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons." In accordance with rule 30 of the rules of procedure, any member wishing to do so may raise any subject relevant to the work of the Committee.

May I draw the attention of the Committee to document CD/399 entitled, "Progress report to the Committee on Disarmament on the Sixteenth Session of the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Co-operative Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events", which has been placed on your table in the Committee today. You will recall that, at our last plenary meeting, I informed the Committee that we would consider the progress report today. I suggest that, in accordance with the practice followed by the Committee, we listen to the speakers inscribed to take the floor and afterwards I will invite the Chairman of the Group of Scientific Experts to make any additional comments and reply to questions seeking clarifications concerning the progress report. As I noted at our last plenary meeting, further consideration of the progress report will be continued at another plenary meeting, when the Committee may decide what action to take on it.

I have on my list of speakers for today the representative of Bulgaria.

Mr. KONSTANTINOV (Bulgaria): Mr. Chairman, in my statement today I should like to dwell on one of the important issues on our agenda, namely, the problem of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons.

Together with other socialist countries, this delegation has on several occasions submitted concrete proposals directed at achieving the prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types and systems of weapons of mass destruction. These proposals pertain both to the issue as a whole and to separate concrete agreements on the prohibition of the possible manufacture of such weapons.

To contest the urgency of this problem would be at least unfounded. We all bear witness to the ceaseless emergence of new theories, of new types and systems of weapons for mass destruction. Some of these types have long advanced beyond the stage of design and to deny their possible existence, with all the secrecy surrounding them, would be no longer workable.

Some of the delegations amongst us have denied and are denying the necessity of negotiating this question in our Committee. However, there is now a profusion of confirmed data contained in scientific, military and political publications which, beyond any doubt, testify that such weapons would not be only a more sophisticated type of weapon but that they could also be completely new types of weapons from the point of view of their technology and their military and political implications.

The prohibition of the new weapons of mass destruction and of the new systems of such weapons has a long history. Furthermore, after the submission by the Soviet Union at the thirty-third regular session of the United Nations General Assembly of a concrete proposal on the conclusion of an international agreement on this matter, the discussions took on a more intensive character. Since 1976 this problem has, too, remained steadily on the agenda of the Committee on Disarmament.

(Mr. Konstantinov, Bulgaria)

The exchange of views during the years since 1976 has helped to clarify differences in approach to the solution of this problem. Nevertheless, this delegation is convinced that the greatest efficiency in this regard lies in a comprehensive approach to its solution, which would provide us with the widest range of possibilities to accomplish the task successfully. Such an accomplishment would be identified by the conclusion of an international agreement on a comprehensive prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types and systems of weapons of mass destruction, supplemented with an annex containing a list of those types which have to be prohibited. Such a kind of an agreement could envisage also the conclusion of separate agreements on specific types of weapons of mass destruction.

United Nations General Assembly resolutions on the issue of the prohibition of new types of weapons of mass destruction adopted within the past few years have expanded the general approach and increased our possibilities with a view to finding a solution to this problem. To single out resolution 37/77 A, adopted at the last session of the General Assembly, we are requested, in the light of our existing priorities, "to intensify negotiations, with the assistance of qualified governmental experts, with a view to preparing a draft comprehensive agreement on the prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons, and to draft possible agreements on particular types of such weapons".

The same resolution further calls upon States permanent members of the Security Council, as well as upon other militarily significant States, "to make declarations, identical in substance, concerning the refusal to create new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons, as a first step towards the conclusion of a comprehensive agreement on this subject, bearing in mind that such declarations would be approved thereafter by a decision of the Security Council".

The provisions just referred to in resolution 37/77 A provide us with the possibility and the obligation to intensify our efforts here, in this Committee, with a view to rapidly reaching the concrete goal.

At this juncture, I should like also to touch briefly upon the activities of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Radiological Weapons.

The situation in that Group since the beginning of this year is giving rise to mixed feelings as far as my delegation is concerned.

On the one hand, there is a positive development in the Working Group. The setting up of two subgroups under the chairmanship of the representatives of the USSR and the United States to examine, respectively, the problems of the prevention of attacks against civilian nuclear facilities and the main problems of the prohibition of radiological weapons, certainly introduced an element of activity on the clarification of some of the main problems.

However, given the current rate of performance, we can hardly hope for the opportunity to see a draft of an agreement on the prohibition of radiological weapons, either with annexes or without them, at this current session.

The efforts and constructivism exerted by the chairmen and most of the delegations should lead to a display of a higher degree of political will and flexibility in the Working Group so as to achieve an early result.

To conclude, allow me to express my hope that the Ad Hoc Working Group on Radiological Weapons will prove capable of overcoming existing internal problems

(Mr. Konstantinov, Bulgaria)

and that in the near future it will raise our spirits with real and concrete results.

The CHAIRMAN: That concludes my list of speakers for today. Does any other delegation wish to take the floor?

I would like now to give the floor to the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General and Secretary of the Committee, Ambassador Jaipal, who would like to make a statement.

Mr. JAIPAL (Secretary of the Committee on Disarmament and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General): A compilation under the item on "Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters", prepared by the secretariat, has been circulated today under the symbol CD/398. I should like to mention that earlier documentation relevant to the same question may be found in two tabulations of proposals prepared by the secretariat and circulated in 1981 and 1982 under the symbols CD/171 and CD/293. Document CD/293 covers the period 1946-1978, between the establishment of the United Nations and the first special session devoted to disarmament. It includes proposals submitted to the General Assembly, the Atomic Energy Commission, the Disarmament Commission, the Conference of the Ten-Nation Committee on Disarmament, the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament, the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament and various other bodies. In addition, document CD/293 includes all relevant General Assembly resolutions adopted during the same period. Document CD/171 covers the period from 1978, the first special session devoted to disarmament, to the spring of 1981 and includes proposals and resolutions adopted during that period. The document circulated this morning covers proposals made subsequently.

I wish also to inform the members of the Committee that the following communications from non-governmental organizations and other persons have been received during the current session of the Committee and they are available in the secretariat for perusal by members of the Committee:

1. 40 letters from members of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom of the United States of America;
2. Letter from the Quaker Office in Geneva;
3. Appeal from the Special NGO Committee supported by 30 organizations for urgent action to halt the arms race;
4. Petition from Dr. Carl Sagan of Cornell University, in the United States, signed by 34 scientists and others, to ban space weaponry;
5. Letter from Dr. Jeffrey Segall of the Medical Association for Prevention of War, London, advocating a comprehensive ban on disease-inducing methods of warfare;
6. A proposal from Mr. Robert Delson of the United States for an international conference against the threat of nuclear war.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General and Secretary of the Committee for his statement.

As announced at the opening of this plenary meeting, I now give the floor to the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Co-operative Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events, Dr. Ola Dahlman.

Mr. DAHLMAN (Chairman of the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Co-operative Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events):
Mr. Chairman, I appreciate this opportunity to address this distinguished Committee and to introduce to you the progress report of the recent meeting of the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Co-operative Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events contained in document CD/399 which is being circulated today.

The Ad Hoc Group met from 11 to 22 July and experts from 20 countries and a representative from the World Meteorological Organization took part in the session.

Throughout its two weeks' session the Group enjoyed a co-operative and constructive spirit and reached agreement on a number of issues. The Group made an in-depth review of a draft of its third report and in the course of the session made significant progress towards achieving consensus on the main body of this report. The Group further agreed -- and this is an important step -- that it should seek to achieve consensus also on the detailed technical instructions contained in the appendices to be annexed to its third report. These detailed instructions contain, inter alia, specifications for the processing and handling of data at International Data Centres and procedures to be followed in future experimental tests. An agreement on these instructions would be of great importance for the further work of the Group and for the development of international co-operative measures.

However, in view of the large volume and the complexity of this material, the Group was not able to complete its review during this session. The Group envisages, though, to finalize its third report during the next session and to submit the report to the Committee on Disarmament following that session.

The Ad Hoc Group took note of the letter addressed to the Chairman of the Committee on Disarmament from the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) (Committee on Disarmament Working Paper No. 99 of 20 June 1983), in which he informed the Committee of the decision by the WMO Executive Council to approve the inclusion of seismic bulletins in the global exchange programme. Thus the formal approval now exists to regularly exchange Level I seismic data through the Global Telecommunication System (GTS) of the WMO, starting 1 December 1983.

The Ad Hoc Group noted with great satisfaction these new formal arrangements provided by WMO for the regular use of its Global Telecommunication System for seismic data exchange, and the Group discussed a proposal for a new experiment concerning the exchange and analysis of Level I data using the WMO/GTS on this new regular use basis.

The experiment discussed by the Ad Hoc Group should result in the further elaboration of operational procedures for Level I seismic data exchange and of operational procedures at the envisaged International Data Centres. This experiment would also make it possible, for the first time, to test a more extensive flow of Level I data over the Global Telecommunication System of WMO.

The experiment as envisaged will be held in 1984 and would last for about two months, including preparatory operation for about two weeks.

(Mr. Dahlman, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Group
of Scientific Experts to Consider
International Co-operative Measures to
Detect and Identify Seismic Events)

The Ad Hoc Group has over the years enjoyed an excellent co-operation with WMO and also in connection with this new experiment a close co-operation with WMO is of the greatest importance. It was noted that WMO needs a period of notice of at least three months before the experiment and its preparatory phase can start. The Group therefore recommends that final instructions for such an experiment should be discussed and completed at its next session.

To obtain a comprehensive test of the capability of the WMO/GTS system to exchange seismological data globally, a broad participation with globally distributed seismological stations will be essential. The Group has on earlier occasions stressed the importance of a wider participation in its work, especially from countries and stations in the southern hemisphere; and I will take this opportunity also to encourage countries not at present represented in the Ad Hoc Group to participate in this new experiment. Information on participating stations will be compiled and presented at the Group's next meeting.

The Ad Hoc Group also discussed the schedule for its further work, and suggests that its next session, subject to approval by the Committee on Disarmament, should be convened from 27 February to 9 March 1984, in Geneva.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you for this opportunity to present the progress report of the recent meeting of the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Co-operative Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events, and I am prepared to try to answer any questions that distinguished members of the Committee may have.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Group for his statement. I offer the floor to any member wishing to address questions to the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Group or comment on the contents of the progress report contained in document CD/399.

Mr. STEELE (Australia): My delegation welcomes the progress report to the Committee of the sixteenth session of the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Co-operative Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events, introduced today by the Chairman of the Group, Dr. Dahlman.

Australia saw little in the last progress report of the Group of Scientific Experts that could be described as progress. This time, thanks to the greater spirit of co-operation evident within the Group, there is much that we can welcome.

We are impressed particularly by the decision of the Group to conduct a new experimental exercise concerning the exchange and analysis of Level I data using the WMO/GTS on a "regular use" basis. This will be the first experiment conducted under the new formal arrangements with the World Meteorological Organization, agreed to by the WMO Executive Council earlier this year. It is anticipated that the new experiment will result in the further elaboration of operational procedures for Level I seismic data exchange and of operational procedures for the proposed international data centres.

(Mr. Steele, Australia)

The Australian delegation was honoured by the invitation to its representative, Mr. Peter McGregor, to act as co-ordinator for the Planning/Management Committee for the new experimental exercise. We are currently examining the possibility of his accepting this position.

The current report of the Group of Scientific Experts also notes that "significant progress" was made towards completion of the third report to the Committee on Disarmament. We look forward to the presentation of the finished product following the next session of the Group early next year. We also note with pleasure that the draft agenda for the next session includes the submission of a further progress report to the Committee on Disarmament. The implication of this is that the Group of Scientific Experts sees a future for itself beyond the presentation of its third report. This would be a development that my delegation would welcome. In our view, work remains to be done, most immediately in pursuing the role that the automatic exchange of Level II data can play in the verification of a comprehensive test-ban treaty.

There is much the Group can do in the way of further refining operating procedures and techniques in anticipation of the day when negotiations on a comprehensive test ban commence. Even after that day, it can contribute in scientific and technical terms to enabling a verification system to be in place and ready to go, upon the entry into force of a comprehensive test-ban treaty. Australia is preparing for that day itself: the Foreign Minister, Mr. Hayden, stated on 7 July that Australia would be seeking to improve its independent capacity to monitor nuclear explosions by developing its seismic monitoring capability.

There is evidently a busy future for the Group of Scientific Experts. We commend Dr. Dahlman and his team for their work thus far and offer them our continuing support and encouragement. Document CD/399 and the Chairman's report, introduced today, deserve close study. In particular, my delegation supports the appeal by Dr. Dahlman for the broadest possible participation in a proposed experiment involving the WMO/GTS.

Mr. NORMAN (United States of America): My delegation welcomes the progress report from the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts and we are pleased to note that substantive progress is being made toward completion of the third report of the Group. The United States looks forward to the receipt of the third report and understands it will contain new useful information necessary for the specification and testing of a global system to exchange seismic data.

Let me refer to only one point relevant to the Group's current work. The Group has received from WMO approval to use the Global Telecommunication System on a regular basis. We applaud this, and wholeheartedly support the recommendation of the Group of Scientific Experts that an experiment be conducted under this new arrangement to exchange seismic data on a global basis. Such an experiment by the Group is needed and will be a useful contribution to its work. We would encourage as many States as possible to participate in this experimental exercise. Many countries, some represented here in the Committee on Disarmament and some not, have the necessary seismological equipment, access to WMO communications channels and technical expertise to contribute to this experiment. The Group of Scientific Experts is actively seeking additional participants for this test, whether or not they are currently sending experts to the Group, and this is extremely useful. The objectives of the proposed test cannot be fully met unless arrangements are made for the contribution of seismic data from

(Mr. Norman, United States)

stations which are located in various geographical areas of the world, and seismological data from stations located both in countries represented here in the Committee on Disarmament and in other countries could make a critical difference in the outcome of the experiment.

I encourage those countries which have the capability for participating in this exercise to do so.

The CHAIRMAN: If there is no other speaker, I suggest that we take up the progress report of the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts again at our plenary meeting on Tuesday, 2 August. On that occasion, I will also put to the Committee for decision the recommendations contained in paragraph 10 of document CD/399.

The Committee agreed last week to hold this afternoon an informal meeting to consider the question of the prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters, as well as other outstanding questions. I have conducted consultations with the co-ordinators and other delegations and we reached the conclusion that it would be advisable to postpone that informal meeting to Thursday, 28 July, at 3.30 p.m.

If there is no objection, I shall take it that this is acceptable.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: I would also like to inform members that the contact group on how to deal with item 7 of the agenda, "Prevention of an arms race in outer space", will meet in Conference Room C.108 immediately after the plenary meeting.

The next plenary meeting of the Committee on Disarmament will be held on Thursday, 28 July, at 10.30 a.m.

The meeting stands ajourned.

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.