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Held at Headquarters, New York,  
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Vice-President:

Mr. SALLAH

(Gambia)

- Achievements of the International Year of Peace [21]
  - (a) Report of the Secretary-General
  - (b) Draft resolutions
- Operation Lifeline Sudan: draft resolution [154]
  - (a) Report of the Secretary-General
  - (b) Draft resolution

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In the absence of the President, Mr. Sallah (Gambia), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 21

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PEACE

- (a) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/44/615)
- (b) DRAFT RESOLUTIONS (A/44/L.15, A/44/L.16)

The PRESIDENT: May I draw to the attention of members that the text of the Declaration of Human Responsibilities for Peace and Sustainable Development is contained in the annex to document A/44/626.

I call on the representative of Costa Rica to introduce the draft resolutions.

Mrs. CASTRO de BARISH (Costa Rica) (interpretation from Spanish): At this time when the United Nations is marking its forty-fourth anniversary, it is particularly gratifying to my delegation and to me personally to begin our consideration of agenda item 21, entitled "Achievements of the International Year of Peace". This is also the date on which the solemn proclamation of the Year took place, on 24 October 1985, during the commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations when the year 1986 was proclaimed International Year of Peace in General Assembly resolution 40/13; hence today we are marking the fourth anniversary of that proclamation.

That important event lent added lustre to the commemoration of the United Nations fortieth anniversary and provided a unique opportunity to reaffirm our support for and dedication to the principles and purposes of the Charter. It was a milestone in the international community's endeavours to attain one of the primary objectives of the United Nations. The maintenance and promotion of international peace and security is a universal ideal, and the Year gave Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, groups and individuals the

(Mrs. Castro de Barish,  
Costa Rica)

opportunity to express the common aspiration of mankind that is the *raison d'être* of the Organization.

The Secretary-General's report, submitted pursuant to resolution 42/13 of 28 October 1987, reveals the enthusiasm and highlights the many activities inspired by the International Year of Peace that had been carried out by States Members of the United Nations and by the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that also played a decisive and valuable role in these efforts. But national, official and private organizations and groups, scientific facilities and educational institutions at all levels have also reported on their participation. These activities have included scientific, cultural, artistic and sporting events which have captured the imagination of local communities and involved all sectors of the population as participants, from professional persons to children in primary schools.

I should like to refer to Costa Rica's participation in the proposal at the forty-third session to proclaim the International Week of Science and Peace, which would take place every year during the week in which 11 November falls. It did so at the request of the Association of Scientists for Peace which, since the proclamation of the International Year in 1986, had begun the practice of observing this Week at that time of year. The fact that the Association of Scientists had determined that its initiative needed a United Nations resolution in order to acquire world-wide legitimacy highlights the role that the Organization as an international body for the establishment and maintenance of peace should play in promoting science and its contribution to peace. To consider the relationship between science and peace is a logical consequence of the proclamation of the International Year of Peace.

(Mrs. Castro de Barish,  
Costa Rica)

The Year has shown that there is awareness of the need to contribute, with determination and creativity, to the achievement of true peace - a peace that is not simply the absence of war, as has often been said, but one that is based on the idea of permanent coexistence which needs to germinate in the individual in order to have a multiplier effect throughout all levels of society, ultimately reaching to Governments whose leaders can and should promote it with their counterparts in neighbouring States and beyond their regions.

The proclamation of the Year indicates that peoples must live together in peace and practice tolerance and that it has been recognized that education, information, science and culture can contribute to achieving this goal. In this respect I should like to recall that Costa Rica had the honour to introduce the proposal to the General Assembly in 1979, at the request of the International Association of University Rectors, with more than 600 members, who met at the University for Peace, with headquarters in my country, to hold one of its triennial meetings. That Association asked my Government to introduce the proposal that there should be proclaimed an International Day of Peace and an International Year of Peace. My Government welcomed the idea and acceded to the Association's request.

(Mrs. Castro de Barish,  
Costa Rica)

On behalf of Costa Rica, I should like to express gratitude to the many delegations from all regions for the welcome they gave this idea and for their support and co-operation, which made it possible for it to be translated into reality, despite certain difficulties. It was not easy to convince those who considered the issue to be unnecessary and utopian. Now we see that it is sometimes worth supporting utopian ideas because they can become genuine sources of hope and a goal towards which mankind can work, taking the path of co-operation and dialogue, in order to achieve stable and lasting peace. If peace is to be real and prosper, certain elements are vital to it: freedom and justice, social and economic development, disarmament, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, preparation for life in peace, ecological balance, protection of the environment and improvement of the quality of life.

It is heartening to note how education from the primary level to the highest, university level has played a dominant role in the development of activities envisaged in the programme of the International Year of Peace and subsequent years. It was those activities that in 1987 prompted my delegation, together with a large group of other delegations, to propose that the Secretary-General be requested to present a report on the achievements of the Year. We all have this report before us and can appreciate its content, which confirms our conviction that the International Year of Peace was not simply a celebration but an opportunity to think and act creatively and systematically to strengthen the United Nations in fulfilling its purposes.

I should like now to refer to one of the other achievements of the Year. As representatives will have noted, my delegation has circulated an information paper on the fact that Costa Rica was the headquarters for a conference organized by the University for Peace, with the co-operation of my Government, as one of the

(Mrs. Castro de Barish,  
Costa Rica)

activities inspired by the Year. That Conference, the Conference in Search of the True Meaning of Peace, adopted the Declaration on Human Responsibilities for Peace and Sustainable Development was adopted.

As mentioned in the explanatory part of the paper presented by my delegation and distributed as an annex to document A/44/626, dated 11 October 1989, persons of different creeds, political orientation and professional training took part in the Conference and decided to take action that would have a cumulative impact. Thus they drafted the agreement entitled "Declaration of Human Responsibilities for Peace and Sustainable Development", which was adopted enthusiastically by the participants in the Conference.

The President of Costa Rica accepted the Conference's request that he introduce that Declaration in the General Assembly of the United Nations during its forty-fourth session. He acceded to that request and has done so under item 21, "Achievements of the International Year of Peace".

My delegation wishes to stress that the Declaration contains principles and statements which have already been included in many resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its various sessions. These resolutions are indicated in a footnote in each case.

We wish to stress that the principle that inspired the Declaration involves an ethical approach applicable to every philosophy, religion or belief, or ideology. It highlights one great truth, namely, the responsibility of the human individual for life, for the society, in the framework of his community and, beyond that, in the sphere of the world community; the principle of interdependence from the individual point of view, among human beings, and of the international interdependence of States.

(Mrs. Castro de Barish,  
Costa Rica)

My delegation would like to take this opportunity to introduce the draft resolutions on this item.

I begin with the one entitled "Achievements of the International Year of Peace" (A/44/L.15).

In its preambular part the General Assembly recalls the resolutions adopted solemnly proclaiming 1986 the International Year of Peace, approving the programme for its commemoration and requesting the report that we now have before us. It recognizes that the efforts of Member States and non-governmental organizations have inspired a dialogue among nations, peoples and persons, and, in particular, the strengthening of the United Nations as an instrument of peace. It welcomes the positive change in the international political climate from confrontation to co-operation, understanding among States, the pursuit of dialogue and the peaceful settlement of disputes or conflicts both of long standing and of recent date.

In operative paragraph 1 the General Assembly notes with appreciation the report submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with resolution 42/13, and in operative paragraph 2 it expresses its satisfaction at the activities which have taken place since the proclamation of the International Year of Peace. In operative paragraph 3 the General Assembly recognizes the important contribution of the International Year of Peace and supports the efforts made by the international community in carrying out activities designed to strengthen the United Nations as an instrument of peace and to focus on the basic elements of peace.

In operative paragraph 4 the General Assembly commends the Secretary-General's initiative in placing greater emphasis each year on the observance, on the third Tuesday of September, of the International Day of Peace, established by General Assembly resolution 36/67, as a reminder that the Assembly meets every year at that time to work for peace.

(Mrs. Castro de Barish,  
Costa Rica)

With regard to this paragraph, I should like to recall that the emphasis placed on the holding of the International Day of Peace has increased with the passing of time. When it was commemorated at the beginning of the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly the celebration began on the morning of 19 September in the General Assembly Hall with a programme broadcast by satellite in which, alongside such eminent personalities as President Oscar Arias of Costa Rica; the Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Toshiki Kaifu and Mrs. Gro Harlem Brundtland of Norway, students from the Soviet Union, the United States, Costa Rica and other countries took part. The Heads of State or Government began the programme with statements related to the Day and the students expressed their interest in the initiatives concerning the promotion of peace and protection of the environment and ecology. These students ranged in age from 8 to 19 years. They also demonstrated their artistic talents with dancing and beautiful singing. One song that was particularly noted said "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me". A tribute was also paid to many specialized agencies of the United Nations for their efforts in carrying out the activities scheduled in connection with the Year.

In operative paragraph 5 the General Assembly emphasizes the importance of education for peace, especially at the primary and secondary levels, and expresses satisfaction at its inclusion in many education and teacher-training programmes that have been launched and have received favourable evaluations. In operative paragraph 6 the Assembly urges all those interested in the promotion of the goals of the International Year of Peace to support the programmes of the United Nations Peace Study Unit by making voluntary - I stress, voluntary - contributions to the Trust Fund for the Promotion of Peace. Obviously this has no financial implications for the regular budget of the Organization.



(Mrs. Castro de Barish,  
Costa Rica)

In operative paragraph 7 Member States, non-governmental organizations and the world community are urged to persevere in these efforts, developing initiatives conducive to the objectives of the Year.

Lastly, in operative paragraph 8, the General Assembly requests the Secretary-General to invite Member States and interested organizations to inform the Secretariat of their activities and initiatives in pursuit of those ends, and to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session a report on the development of programmes and activities to promote peace in the world, under an item entitled "Programmes and activities to promote peace in the world".

(Mrs. Castro de Barish,  
Costa Rica)

The reason we are not using the same title for the draft resolution we are now introducing is that the International Year of Peace has fulfilled its purpose and its achievements have been abundantly demonstrated. It has generated activities and programmes which cannot be ignored. Now that we have the programmes, initiatives and activities for the promotion of peace throughout the world, we are convinced that this subject will give guidance and meaning to what the United Nations, in its role as focal point, will be doing in co-operation of Member States, non-governmental organizations and the world community. For this reason my delegation and those who have honoured us by becoming co-sponsors in this endeavour would greatly appreciate it if the Assembly in its wisdom decided to adopt this draft resolution without a vote.

With respect to the draft resolution entitled "Declaration of Human Responsibilities for Peace and Sustainable Development", which appears in document A/44/L.16 and which my delegation is introducing for the consideration of the Assembly, we hope that it will also be favourably received by delegations. The draft consists of two preambular paragraphs, which take note of the Secretary-General's report and recognize that one of the important achievements of the Year was that activities to promote peace took place at scientific institutions and centres of learning. We are thinking here of the University for Peace, established by resolution 35/55 of 5 December 1980, which determined that its headquarters would be in Costa Rica. The first operative paragraph expresses satisfaction at the holding of the Conference in search of the true meaning of peace; the second takes note with appreciation of the "Declaration of Human Responsibility for Peace and Sustainable Development", indicating that it is included as an annex to the draft.

(Mrs. Castro de Barish,  
Costa Rica)

My delegation trusts that this draft resolution too will be favourably received by the General Assembly and be adopted without a vote.

However, we have been requested to ask for a postponement of the voting on draft resolution A/44/L.16 in order to give delegations that have not yet seen the background document (A/44/626), which my delegation distributed on 11 October 1989, time to consider it.

I turn now to draft resolution A/44/L.15, "Achievements of the International Year of Peace". In order to meet the requirements for the submission of draft resolutions, my delegation deposited the text of that draft with the Secretariat on 19 October, at 6 p.m. It was dated 16 October and bore the signatures of 38 co-sponsors: Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Cameroon, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Chile, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Fiji, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Togo, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Uruguay and Yugoslavia. I am pleased to announce that the German Democratic Republic, Guyana, Poland and Suriname have since become sponsors too. The text had been widely circulated before being deposited with the Secretariat, and delegations had an opportunity to transmit suggestions or comments.

It was not until 4.30 p.m. Friday, 20 October, that one group of delegations suggested that we should make a change in operative paragraph 8, which

"Requests the Secretary-General ... to submit a report ... on the development of programmes and activities to promote peace in the world, under an item entitled 'Programmes and activities to promote peace in the world'"

(A/44/L.15).

(Mrs. Castro de Barish,  
Costa Rica)

It has been suggested that that title should be replaced by "Achievements of the International Year of Peace". We, of course, have no objection.

For all of the reasons that I adduced in submitting this draft resolution, and regardless of the title decided upon - that of the item or the formulation I am now proposing - which I deem more suitable - we ought to reflect the impetus, the fresh activities and the programmes that have been generated by the International Year of Peace. It would be illogical not to promote the activities of the international community, whether through the United Nations itself, through the Peace Studies Unit, or through the 400 non-governmental organizations and academic institutions throughout the world. In paragraphs 3 to 7 of his report (A/44/615) the Secretary-General presents a full picture of the activities and events that have taken place since 1986 and those that are scheduled to take place.

The international community, at all levels, has responded enthusiastically and promoted the goals of the International Year of Peace. How can we now hold back international enthusiasm for that Year and say: "That's enough, the Year is behind us, there is nothing left to be said"?

After consulting with all of the co-sponsors that we could reach yesterday - we had no other opportunity to do so because of the short time available to us - my delegation concluded that such an attitude would not be in keeping with the purposes of the United Nations, notably that of promoting and maintaining peace.

Therefore, I cordially urge those delegations that have requested us to have paragraph 8 read "Achievements of the International Year of Peace" - which would be a retrogression - instead of "Programmes and activities to promote peace in the world" - which is synonymous with progress, and with mobilizing the efforts of States, institutions of learning, non-governmental organizations and individuals -

(Mrs. Castro de Barish,  
Costa Rica)

to take a constructive and conciliatory approach to the adoption of draft resolution A/44/L.15 without amendment and without a vote.

The PRESIDENT: I would like to inform Members that, as suggested by the representative of Costa Rica, in the light of the request of some delegations, action on draft resolution A/44/L.16 will be taken at a later date, to be announced.

Mr. ADJOYI (Togo) (interpretation from French): In deciding to speak on agenda item 21, entitled "Achievements of the International Year of Peace", my delegation wished to express once again Togo's devotion to peace, the constant search for which is indeed the Ariadne thread of my Government's domestic and foreign policy.

(Mr. Adjoyi, Togo)

Since taking power, His Excellency General Gnassingbé Eyadéma, President-Founder of the Rally of the Togolese People and President of the Republic - whom everybody calls the apostle of peace - has spared no effort to make Togo a haven of peace, in the belief that economic and social development is not possible unless there is peace at home and abroad. The President-Founder's application of the principles of good-neighbourliness, dialogue and the peaceful settlement of disputes illustrates very clearly his acute awareness of the interdependence of States, of the common fate of all mankind, and of the need for all peoples to live in peace. The activities by our Head of State in the areas of mediation and reconciliation in order to settle conflicts in our region and elsewhere in the world, and the Togolese Government's attempts to strengthen subregional, regional and international co-operation also attest to my country's belief in peace.

Also important are the many seminars, meetings and conferences on peace, disarmament and development that are held in Lomé, which has the honour of hosting the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa. Two years ago the Peace Messenger award was given to the capital of Togo. That is eloquent proof of United Nations recognition of the role played by Togo in promoting peace. Giving the award to Lomé will encourage greater efforts towards peace in the world.

The General Assembly, in declaring 1986 the International Year of Peace, wanted to encourage peoples and States to build a society of peace, freedom and justice. The declaration was also an effort to stimulate greater action in support of peace, security, international co-operation, the settlement of disputes by peaceful means, and the strengthening of the role of the Organization as an instrument for peace.

(Mr. Adjoyi, Togo)

When one hears peace mentioned in a country or a region, one usually concludes - hastily - that there is no conflict or war in that zone. But peace is not simply the absence of war. Can one really talk of peace when the sword of Damocles of nuclear bombs is still hanging over us? Can one really speak of peace in a country or a region where men, women and children do not have enough to eat and cannot clothe themselves or find shelter? Can one really speak of peace where there is no respect for human rights? Peace implies a world without nuclear weapons, a world without domination, a world without discrimination, a world without injustice, a world without overwhelming economic and social problems, a world with a healthy environment.

The Yamoussoukro Declaration, which was adopted in Côte d'Ivoire, at the International Congress on Peace in the Minds of Men, convened on the initiative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and held from 26 June to 1 July 1989, states:

"Peace is basically respect for life. Peace is mankind's most valuable asset. Peace is more than the end of armed conflicts. Peace is a way of behaving. Peace is a deep belief by the human being in the principles of freedom, justice, equality and solidarity between all human beings. Peace is also harmony between mankind and the environment."

The Yamoussoukro Declaration contains also a programme for peace. With a view to having this programme carried out, the Congress called on all States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, scientific, educational and cultural communities throughout the world and individuals to help construct a new vision of peace by developing a culture of peace based on universal values, respect for life, freedom, justice, solidarity, tolerance, human rights and equality between women and men and to become more aware of the common future of mankind so

(Kr. Adjoyi, Togo)

as to encourage common policies that will ensure justice in relationships between human beings and harmony between mankind and nature.

The Yamoussoukro meeting was one of the very impressive achievements of the International Year of Peace. There were many other activities and conferences, organized by Governments, international, governmental and non-governmental organizations, private associations, trade unions and individuals - often under the auspices of the United Nations - to reflect about peace, to increase awareness of its true significance and to advocate action to secure peace on Earth soon. The delegation of Togo commends all those who organized these meetings. We welcome their resolve to continue their work.

I want to mention also the Conference in Search of the True Meaning of Peace held in San Jose, Costa Rica, from 25 to 30 June 1989.



(Mr. Adjoyi, Togo)

The Conference adopted a very important Declaration of Human Responsibilities for Peace and Sustainable Development. The content of the preamble to the Declaration, chapter I, on the unity of the world, chapter II, on the unity of the human family, chapter III, on the alternatives facing mankind and universal responsibility, and chapter IV, on reorientation towards peace and sustainable development, deserve consideration and action by all those who truly aspire to peace.

I should like to share with delegations my feelings on article 7 of the Declaration, which reads as follows:

"Of all living creatures, human beings have the unique capacity to decide consciously whether they are protecting or harming the quality and conditions of life on Earth. In reflecting on the fact that they belong to the natural world and occupy a special position as participants in the evolution of natural processes, people can develop, on the basis of selflessness, compassion and love, a sense of universal responsibility towards the world as an integral whole, towards the protection of nature and the promotion of the highest potential for change, with a view to creating those conditions which will enable them to achieve the highest level of spiritual and material well-being." (A/44/626, p. 7)

If, just as we are - big or small, white or black, rich or poor - we could meditate on article 7 and become more aware of the fact that the world is a whole based primarily on love, mankind would have taken a giant step towards peace. The believers, those with a religion, know the virtues of love. If every man's heart could beat to the rhythm of love, the world would be rid of most of the evils that prevent us from living in peace.

Once we have understood why we are on this earth, once we have given sufficient thought to the meaning of selflessness, compassion and love - in other

(Mr. Adjoyi, Togo)

words, once we have managed to rid ourselves of selfishness and have become tolerant - all the conditions will have been met for a world of peace to come, in which everyone will be guaranteed material and spiritual well-being.

Another important event that occurred during the International Year of Peace was the meeting held on the summit of Mount Abu at the international headquarters of the Brahma-Kumaris in Rajasthan, India, from 8 to 11 February 1989. At that meeting a programme of action and a declaration were adopted. Unfortunately, that document, which my delegation deems very constructive, is not available in French. It would be a good idea for the United Nations Secretariat to distribute the text of the declaration in French and all the other official languages of the United Nations.

It is not possible for us to describe all the events that occurred as part of the International Year of Peace; they were many and varied and took place in every continent. All this means that the international community now has a clearer understanding of the need to live in a world of peace.

The détente currently prevailing in international political relations confirms everybody's resolve to overcome the obstacles preventing mankind from attaining peace. We pay a tribute to the paramount role of the United Nations, whose basic vocation is the maintenance of international peace and security.

On behalf of the Government of Togo, I wish to reaffirm that we encourage and support the Secretary-General, Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, in his tireless efforts, whether in Africa, Asia, Latin America or Europe, to bring about a settlement of the problems that interfere or could interfere with peace in those regions.

Can the achievements of the International Year of Peace lead us to conclude that the world is on the threshold of peace? Perhaps not yet for, even if there are grounds for hope, there is still much to be done. We must continue to struggle

(Mr. Adjoyi, Togo)

to establish all the appropriate conditions for the advent of peace throughout the world. In that spirit, Togo is a sponsor of the draft resolution introduced by Costa Rica on the achievements of the International Year of Peace, which, inter alia, urges all of us to continue our work within the context of the International Year of Peace.

All efforts to attain our goal must be encouraged, in the hope that the time will come when, because of the commitment of each and every one of us, nobody will any longer speak of war, racism and poverty, but only of peace. Let us continue to believe that on the threshold of the twenty-first century peace is within our grasp.

Mrs. MENZHERES (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) (interpretation from Russian): It is very symbolic that the International Year of Peace was proclaimed on the day of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations. Today we can say that the enthusiasm and expectations of the international community were fully justified. The proclamation of the Year reflected primarily the community's growing concern over the fate of civilization on earth.

(Mrs. Menzheres, Ukrainian SSR)

The desire to find a solution to ensure the survival of the human race, to lay solid foundations to achieve that goal and to reverse the process of material preparations for nuclear annihilation - all that is contained in the Proclamation of the International Year of Peace. The Proclamation established the basis for the International Year of Peace as a global programme designed to ensure support and participation by all Governments, academic institutions, governmental and non-governmental organizations, public associations and individuals.

The response to the Programme of the Year reflected the growing aspiration of peoples for peace. Strengthening peace, halting the arms race, practical measures of disarmament - those are tasks that cannot be settled in a single year. That is why the General Assembly decided to mobilize a broad range of the world community for continuing support for activities that were started in the Year, in order to achieve its lofty goals.

One of the main points of the Programme of the International Year of Peace, which was adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 40/10 of 11 November 1985, was an appeal to think about peace and to take action. Now, thanks to all people working together who are concerned about the survival and progress of mankind, and thanks to large- and small-scale actions, the icebergs of hostility are beginning to melt and non-military methods of settling international disputes and achieving international security are being strengthened.

We intend to do our bit to support this trend. As was noted by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Ukrainian SSR, Mr. Masol, in his address to participants in the United Nations seminar on multilateral aspects of strengthening trust and preventing war, which was held in Kiev last month:

(Mrs. Menzheres, Ukrainian SSR)

"The Government and the people of Soviet Ukraine welcome and support changes in the international political arena leading to the disappearance of hostility and distrust and to the elimination of nuclear, chemical and other arsenals of warfare."

Measures within the International Year of Peace that have gone beyond the chronological limits of that Year help to step up States' activities, and those of international and national organizations, in the interests of strengthening peace and co-operation; that is why we support such actions. There are new forums for peace and education for peace, and advocates of peace in the Ukraine regularly participate in international seminars and round tables, walks and relay races for peace, at home and abroad. Recently, there was a Soviet-American walk for peace. Participants adopted a joint appeal to Mikhail Gorbachev and George Bush, calling for disarmament and for a just and non-violent world. The Soviet and American walkers said:

"We appeal to you to curb the nuclear-arms race, halt nuclear testing and ban chemical weapons. We wish you every success in your forthcoming meeting which will open up prospects for a safer world where peoples and individuals can live in harmony with nature."

The voice of peoples' diplomacy is today being heard more clearly and the International Year of Peace deserves some credit for this.

Ensuring peace and security on a comprehensive basis involving all States and all aspects of their interrelationships will be all the more successful if the international community acts together. An important contribution could be made by international forums, primarily such a universal body of multilateral co-operation as the United Nations. Achievements of the Year have shown that the United Nations has enormous potential to stimulate and co-ordinate actions by States and Governments and international organizations and institutions.

(Mrs. Menzheres, Ukrainian SSR)

An important role in ensuring that the ideals and goals of the International Year of Peace will be pursued world wide was played by the United Nations Secretary-General, who made a major contribution to the Programme of the Year, with the help of the secretariat of the International Year of Peace.

We can only welcome the closer co-operation between the United Nations and scientific centres and non-governmental organizations with a view to attaining the goals of the International Year of Peace.

In summing up the achievements of the International Year of Peace at its forty-second session, the General Assembly expressed the hope that the ideals and objectives of the Year would stimulate concerted action during the closing years of this century and called for continued efforts to that end. Our delegation fully shares the view that the goals and tasks of the International Year of Peace are of paramount significance, and we advocate the continuation of activities and projects begun during the Year. We also call for new steps to attain the ideals of the Year. We thus support the draft resolution now before the General Assembly; indeed, we are one of its sponsors.

It is necessary to preserve and continue activities begun during the Year and to focus on practical actions. The noble slogan of the Year, "To preserve peace and the future of mankind", must serve as a guide for United Nations activities over coming years. We believe in what is said in operative paragraph 7 of draft resolution A/44/L.15, namely, that we urge:

"Member States ... to persevere in these efforts ... and to join the United Nations in its noble purpose of ensuring that humanity reaches the threshold of the twenty-first century in the full enjoyment of a stable and lasting peace".

Mr. PAWLAK (Poland): This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War. Poland was the first victim of that war. While war brought great suffering to millions of people, in the words of the Secretary-General in his report on the work of the Organization:

"The havoc it wrought moved all the then sovereign States to join and make a radical new departure in international relations. At the conclusion of the war, they founded the United Nations to give peace a more secure foundation."

(A/44/1, p. 2)

On 1 and 2 September this year the Conference of the World Union of Cities of Peace and the "Peace Messenger" cities was held in Warsaw. The participants of the Conference rededicated themselves to the idea of a future without wars, a peaceful future.

The fiftieth anniversary of the Second World War was also evoked in the Declaration of the Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries held at The Hague from 26 to 29 June 1989 on the topic "Peace and the rule of law in international relations". The participants in the Meeting:

"solemnly pledge to use the next decade to realize the hope for a peaceful world with justice for all". (A/44/191, p. 3)

Two years ago when the International Year of Peace was discussed at the General Assembly my delegation expressed the hope that the Year of Peace could be transformed into an everlasting era of peace.

(Mr. Pawlak, Poland)

We are happy to note that our discussion today is taking place in a more relaxed atmosphere, influenced by positive changes in international relations. Détente, the development of international contacts and improved relations between the global Powers are conducive to activating various forces in the interest of peace, irrespective of their convictions and world outlook. An important place in those efforts falls to the United Nations. That is why Poland attaches great significance to the strengthening of the United Nations efforts in the promotion of peace. In this regard we support the notion that the role of the Organization should be expanded from peace-keeping to peace-making and peace-building.

The International Year of Peace provided an important stimulus for a wide variety of activities in favour of peace. Moreover, the observance of the Year demonstrated that people in many countries around the world are deeply interested in working together with the United Nations for the promotion of peace. The report of the Secretary-General (A/44/615) on the achievements of the International Year of Peace underlines the fact that in the period from 1987 to 1989 not only were these efforts continued but many new peace-oriented initiatives and projects were undertaken.

Special recognition should be given to the many non-governmental organizations and academic and other institutions which, through various activities involving people at the grass-roots level, contributed greatly to fostering international understanding, mutual trust and co-operation.

There has been growing awareness in the world that persistent and systematic efforts are needed to build global peace and that real progress in this regard can be achieved only through the common endeavours of Governments, non-governmental organizations and concerned groups or individuals.



(Mr. Pawlak, Poland)

In our view this positive development clearly indicates that the promotion of peace must be continued and should be regarded as a long-term effort of the United Nations. Our world Organization provides a unique forum for harmonizing the different interests and actions of Member States for the common purpose of securing peace for all of them. Further efforts are also needed to strengthen co-operation and exchange of information between the United Nations and the non-governmental community on peace-related issues.

The attainment of stable and lasting peace is the paramount objective of Poland's foreign policy. It has been reflected in numerous Polish initiatives aimed at the strengthening of peace and international security. The most recent manifestation of this policy is the Jaruzelski Plan for decreasing armaments and increasing confidence in Central Europe.

As stated in the general debate at this session of the General Assembly by the Polish Foreign Minister, Prof. Krzysztof Skubiszewski:

"Poland will do its best to maintain peace, freedom and good-neighbourly co-operation in Europe." (A/44/PV.4, p. 78)

The traditional support of the Polish people for the cause of peace is also reflected in a wide range of activities by non-governmental organizations, in particular in the field of peace education and peace research. For their contribution to the promotion of peace several Polish organizations have been designated by the Secretary-General Peace Messengers. During his visit to Warsaw in April of this year the Secretary-General attended the final session of an international seminar on decreasing the risk of war organized by one of those organizations, the Polish Peace Research Council.

Important changes now taking place in Poland were also reflected in the creation of the Polish Peace Coalition. The Coalition provides a very broad

(Mr. Pawlak, Poland)

platform of communication and co-operation among various peace movements, groups, churches and individuals concerned with the issues of peace, security, disarmament, environment and human rights.

In this spirit we are pleased to join the sponsors of draft resolution A/44/L.15, which has been introduced by the delegation of Costa Rica.

Mr. BELONGOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): First of all, I must say how pleased I am by the decision to discuss at this session of the General Assembly the question of the achievements of the International Year of Peace, and that this is being done on United Nations Day. This is a striking, excellent and very symbolic coincidence.

In 1985 the General Assembly adopted the Proclamation of the International Year of Peace, which was intended to give a new impetus to thinking and actions in the interest of peace. The adoption of the Proclamation demonstrated the general feeling of the international community about the need to take wide-ranging, practical steps to ensure a positive breakthrough towards peace.

The fact that we are discussing once again the question of the achievements of the International Year of Peace shows clearly how significant and timely this was and how it has affected the ethical and political atmosphere in favour of peace, the strengthening of trust, and the establishment of comprehensive co-operation among peoples. The various activities have encouraged States and international and national social organizations to take steps to strengthen international peace and security, to develop co-operation and to settle conflicts by political means, as well as to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations as an instrument of peace.

This is particularly significant because the world is today at a critical juncture. It is our common task to preserve and strengthen this new atmosphere, in

(Mr. Belonogov, USSR)

which, after many years of disenchantment and futile confrontation, we can now see the clear outline of a new era of international relations in a time of peace, and a new trust has been established in inter-State relations. There is a growing awareness of the priority that must be given to common human values as an important factor in ensuring peaceful development and bringing us closer to the time when the dogma of confrontation will cease to exist.

It is a question of building a new world that is demilitarized, non-violent and free from the heritage of the cold war, and in which openness, a balance of interests and freedom of choice will become a real alternative to mutual distrust and fear. There is a growing awareness throughout the world of the need to shift to a basically new concept of ensuring security, based primarily on political means. In this connection, we cannot fail to express our agreement with the statement by Mr. Arias, the President of Costa Rica - the country that initiated this item - that the threat of war in many areas is being replaced by the possibility of peace.

(Mr. Belomogov, USSR)

It would be in the interests of all States to ensure fuller and more comprehensive exploration of the peace-making potential of the United Nations, a unique international forum where the threads of the responsibilities of States for the future of mankind all come together and are interwoven as we struggle to ensure the survival of our civilization. We believe this goal would be supported by a broader political dialogue in the United Nations on a comprehensive approach to ensuring international peace and security.

Recently there has been an unblocking of many regional conflicts through the use of the potential of the United Nations. Here in the forefront we can see more clearly the task of shifting from crisis diplomacy to preventive diplomacy. Guided by the desire to achieve quickly practical application of the preventive functions of the United Nations, the delegation of the USSR has submitted a memorandum on this item for consideration in the international community. We are willing to discuss any proposals to enhance the role of the United Nations as a neutralizer of the challenges to peace, international security and stability. As was emphasized yesterday in the statement made on 23 October by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the USSR, Mr. Shevardnadze, at a meeting of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR,

"In our proposal for this future peace organization, we attach great importance to the main role of the United Nations and other international institutions. We have made a breakthrough in thinking, and priority for common human values is now assumed, as is priority for world-wide institutions."

He also said that

"... common human values are not just an abstraction; they exist and cannot be interpreted in an arbitrary or selective manner."

Here the guidance for us all should be the universally recognized instruments, primarily the United Nations Charter and declarations, treaties, conventions and

resolutions adopted by the United Nations. The promotion of the dissemination of these documents is one of the tasks on the programme for the International Year of Peace.

Real concern over the future of the world imbues the message of the First Congress of the Peoples' Deputies of the USSR to the peoples of the planet. This message to the peoples of the planet contains an appeal to the world community to do everything possible to achieve a greater exchange of ideas and people and of cultural and spiritual values, as well as contacts and dialogue at all levels and in all areas, so that together we can seek and find compromise solutions that will preserve peace on Earth.

Developments in this field are accelerating in a number of States in the world. A major contribution to the attainment of the ideals of the International Year of Peace has been made by Soviet parliamentarians and social organizations, young people, women and religious and artists' organizations. On their initiative, and with the participation of people from other countries, a number of activities relating to the theme of the International Year of Peace have been carried out in many cities in the Soviet Union.

A major annual event in the education of Soviet young people is the peace lessons - promoted by the International Year of Peace - which are given in educational establishments in the USSR. The draft resolution emphasizing the task of educating the coming generations in the spirit of peace is very important, in our view.

In the Soviet Union we are interested in ensuring that the accumulated experience of the International Year of Peace will make a positive contribution to the strengthening of peace and mutual understanding between peoples and to increasing the activities of States and international and national public organizations, aimed at consolidating security in all areas and developing co-operation.

(Mr. Belonogov, USSR)

We also believe that it would be worth while to establish closer relations between the United Nations and authoritative scientific and social centres and organizations. We believe that the noble goals and ideals of the Year have not become irrelevant. Accordingly, the Soviet Union supports the idea of having the item considered in the General Assembly regularly, every two years. We believe that one aim of that consideration would be to strengthen and develop everything of positive significance that had been done in previous years and to unite the political will of the participants in the international community and, as we enter the twenty-first century, to strengthen efforts to implement the lofty goals of the United Nations and the International Year of Peace.

Mr. REESE (Australia): The International Year of Peace in 1986, based on an initiative by Costa Rica, was strongly supported by the Government and people of Australia.

The programme for the International Year of Peace had the following objectives: to stimulate action in the promotion of peace, international security and co-operation, and the resolution of conflict by peaceful means; to strengthen the United Nations as an instrument for peace; and to focus attention on the basic requirements of peace, in particular problems of development, disarmament, human rights, human needs and the preparation for life in peace.

Australia strongly supported all of those objectives. This support was in keeping with the high priority accorded - and which continues to be accorded - by the Australian Government to peace and disarmament issues. The International Year of Peace was seen as an occasion to reaffirm Australia's support for the United Nations and its work for world peace.

(Mr. Reese, Australia)

In conformity with this commitment, the Australian Government allocated in excess of \$3 million to the International Year of Peace (IYP) programme in Australia. An IYP secretariat was established in the Department of Foreign Affairs and a prominent community representative on peace issues, Ms. Stella Cornelius, was appointed Director of the Programme. The Foreign Minister of Australia at that time, Mr. Hayden, also appointed a National Consultative Committee on Peace and Disarmament, which included representatives of a wide range of community organizations.

The focus in Australia of the IYP was directed in three different ways: an information and advertising campaign; a programme of special government projects; and a system of grants on IYP projects to the community. The information and advertising campaign emphasized the need for steps in the right direction towards the achievement of general and complete disarmament. It circulated some 20,000 peace kits to members of the community and relevant organizations.

The Government projects for the IYP were broad ranging, covering projects on: a South Pacific nuclear-free zone; training for aboriginal unemployed; a workshop on seismic verification of nuclear testing; tree-planting programmes in developing countries; nuclear winter research; and an Australian peace coin and peace awards.

The community participation in the IYP in Australia was remarkably enthusiastic. Eleven hundred requests for grants from individuals and organizations planning projects for the IYP were submitted. The Federal Government and State Governments of Australia funded many of these while many other projects were successfully mounted without financial assistance from the Government.

(Mr. Reese, Australia)

All that is evidence of Australia's active interest in the pursuit of peace and disarmament, both nationally and in the international arena.

During the International Year of Peace and since, Australia has continued to push for progress in this area. Australia is actively involved in many forums, and in bilateral and multilateral discussions, in promoting progress in the following areas: a comprehensive test-ban treaty; elimination of nuclear weapons; nuclear non-proliferation; chemical weapons; conventional weapons; arms transfers; and the South Pacific nuclear-free zone, now known as the Treaty of Rarotonga.



(Mr. Reese, Australia)

Although three years have passed since the conclusion of the International Year of Peace - and indeed one might say three remarkable years - we are still some way from the achievement of the objectives I referred to at the opening of my statement.

However, we all welcome the positive development that we have seen in the intervening period. When Stella Cornelius, the Director of our International Year of Peace programme drew her conclusions at the end of 1986 she said:

"The International Year of Peace may well go down in history as the moment when the peace process was claimed by 'us the people'. We have shown that we have the power. We have shown that we know the way. Together we can make it happen."

Looking now, three years down the track, at disarmament and arms limitation negotiations in train on certain vital issues and at the renaissance of the United Nations with respect to peace-making and peace-keeping activities, it is perhaps possible to say that the people power of the International Year of Peace was clearly heard.

We spoke in 1986 of the International Year of Peace constituting "steps in the right direction" towards disarmament because we understood, as most do here, the difficulty of trying to move too fast towards our ultimate goal. What we do not disagree about, however, is that our common goal is peace and that our efforts to achieve it should not falter. There is movement now in the world, in the United Nations and in regional situations and this must be supported.

Mr. GURINOVICH (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) (interpretation from Russian): People have always been interested in questions of war and peace, and we have always advocated peace between peoples. There have always been forces for peace and co-operation between individuals and peoples. There is the family,

(Mr. Gurinovich, Byelorussian SSR)

and there are local communities and public organizations bringing together the forward-looking sectors of societies in their country's regions and the world as a whole. There are also States and intergovernmental organizations, including the United Nations.

Since the Soviet State was formed it has based its inter-State relations on the ideals of peace, social justice and equal international co-operation and that policy still holds good.

The General Assembly's proclamation of 1986 as the International Year of Peace was an important milestone in the efforts of the world community to strengthen peace on earth. The achievements of the International Year of Peace were determined to a significant extent by the new political thinking and real initiatives taken by a number of States. A major contribution was the proposal by the Soviet Union of a comprehensive approach, based on the rule of law, to the problems of international security and peace in all areas of inter-State relations - military, political, economic, ecological, social, humanitarian and others.

It is also important that these lofty political ideas be backed up by specific actions. In a number of cases they have indeed been backed up by agreements promoting the construction of a nuclear-free and non-violent world, a world without war and without weapons, a world of mutual understanding and co-operation. Among these I could mention the process for eliminating United States and Soviet intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles and the unilateral measures by the USSR and other socialist countries to reduce arms and armed forces; the Stockholm and Vienna agreements as part of the all-European process; documents by the Non-Aligned Movement; many consensus declarations and resolutions of the United Nations; a stepping-up of and progress made in bilateral talks; and efforts to

(Mr. Gurinovich, Byelorussian SSR)

settle regional conflicts and to restore the United Nations as the multilateral centre for agreeing on principles and practical activities by States in the international arena.

The Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic regards it as very proper that the goals of the International Year of Peace have not simply been filed away since the end of the Year but, rather, live on and have been enriched by new activities by governmental and public organizations. We are very glad that this item is being discussed on United Nations Day and as we begin the Week of Action for Disarmament.

Today it is very appropriate once again to demonstrate our devotion to the ideals of peace and disarmament and to express our resolve to attain the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. I should like to take this opportunity, on United Nations Day, to congratulate the founders of the United Nations and those that have become Members of it.

It is extremely important today that we should intensify our efforts and take real measures in the name of peace. We can never sit back and do nothing, even when all international processes seem to be proceeding smoothly, for we all know that the old stereotypes do not just walk off the political stage by themselves. It is our common task in the Organization to create conditions that will ensure that without exception all States and all common organizations are geared towards common human priorities, to build comprehensive and equal security for all so that any attempts to base security on a narrow, selfish basis, detrimental to the security of others, will be done away with once and for all.

The Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic has submitted to the United Nations detailed information on activities in our Republic in connection with the International Year of Peace. These are described in the report of the

(Mr. Gurinovich, Byelorussian SSR)

Secretary-General but we feel that this information should be made more widely available.

The Byelorussian Peace Defence Committee, which has units in all regions and cities of our country and in some major enterprises, has been co-ordinating mass movements and activities of peace advocates. The Committee works closely with the Byelorussian unit of the Soviet Peace Fund, the Byelorussian Society of Friendship and Cultural Ties with Foreign Countries and the Byelorussian Cultural Fund, as well as trade union and other public organizations. We are still developing our activities in this field within the Republic and our contacts with foreign partners. The United Nations Association which has been established in our Republic is becoming involved in this work. We are grateful to the United Nations for making the hero city of Minsk a Peace Messenger and for giving the Peace Messenger award to some of our citizens. We think it is very desirable for the activities of the United Nations Associations, contacts between twin cities, and economic, trade, scientific, cultural and sports ties between States to be directed towards strengthening international peace and security, helping to solve current problems of security and co-operation, and ensuring a decent life for people.

(Mr. Gurinovich, Byelorussian SSR)

The Department of Public Information could, we feel, devote more attention to publicizing measures under programmes for the International Year of Peace. The Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic supports the draft resolutions before us, and we believe that they can be adopted by consensus.

Mrs. KODIKARA (Philippines): As in 1985 and 1987, at this time we are again gathered in the name of peace so that peace and justice may shine eternal in the hearts of men, not only in 1986, proclaimed the International Year of Peace, but every year.

I have personally listened intently to the many statements made in the general debate by Foreign Ministers, Kings and other Heads of State and Prime Ministers. The words and expressions of stability and less conflict from all these leaders are still resounding eloquently in my ears. I still hear them say:

"The political climate has become invigorating; let us grab this chance for peace; dialogue has regained its strength; ideologies are losing their emotional content; confrontation is now out of fashion, and ideological confrontation is showing clear signs of abating."

Their voices resounded hopes for peace:

"There is new understanding; East and West are now listening carefully; irreconcilable opposition is being replaced by understanding; there is now less gloom."

Further still, these leaders reverberated optimism for the maintenance of peace and less strife:

"There is now humanization and democratization; there are new approaches to negotiation; there is now humanistic and mutual relations; there is now more openness; the world wants something, not political ideologies" among other similar positive declarations.

(Mrs. Kodikara, Philippines)

As for me, I look forward to more Wyomings; more meetings in Washington, in Geneva or elsewhere; more handshakes; more smiles at one another; more sitting side by side; more talks between the two super-Powers.

The President of the Assembly himself said:

"Where hitherto there existed a climate of fear and mutual suspicion, there is now emerging an atmosphere of trust; where hitherto there existed unilateral action in pursuit of narrow national interests, there now seem to be real possibilities for a concerted approach in the interest of global and regional peace." (A/44/PV.1, p. 7)

Yes, the thaw in the super-Powers' relations had an impact on certain regional conflicts. Tensions have relaxed in certain areas which enabled the Secretary-General to serve the cause of peace and stability with encouraging success.

The Security Council and the Secretary-General have in many instances joined hands in the discharge of the mandate of the Charter and that of the Security Council, which is saddled with the responsibility of seeking mutually accepted means of peace. We look forward to more collaboration between the Security Council and the Secretary-General and the taking advantage of opportunities provided by the existing invigorating climate. Indeed, the United Nations is steadily developing or asserting its ability and capacity as a peacemaking and peace-keeping international Organization.

Even in South Africa there have been reassuring indications lately. Given appropriate impetus, the global era of peace is nearing. In Lebanon the Security Council and the Secretary-General have been working closely with the Governments concerned towards a resolution of the civil war. The situation in Central America has "considerably improved", it is reported.

Behind the clouds the sun is shining.

(Mrs. Kodikara, Philippines)

It has been said again and again that never, never was there a good war. Everything may be lost by war; nothing is lost by peace.

Today we are reminded of the preamble to the United Nations Charter, which emphasizes our determination - the determination of all Member States - to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war. It reaffirms our belief in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small. For these ends, therefore, the Charter emphasizes the practice of justice, tolerance and living together in peace as neighbours.

We gather every year to give meaning to efforts to give all nations unity, peace and concord - not rancour. Therefore, on the agenda of this forty-fourth session, as in other sessions before it, a number of items bearing the word "peace" in their titles are considered. These are the items on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security; on a zone of peace and co-operation in the South Atlantic; on the situation in Central America; threats to international peace and security and peace initiatives; on the question of peace, stability and co-operation in South-East Asia; on armed Israeli aggression against Iraqi installations and its grave consequences for the established international system concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and international peace and security.

On the agenda of the First Committee are items on regional centres for peace and disarmament in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. There are also items on the implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, and on a comprehensive approach to strengthening international peace and security.

The items on international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space and on a comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects were also allocated to the Special Political Committee.

(Mrs. Kodikara, Philippines)

Likewise, the Third Committee has its share: the item on the participation of women in promoting international peace and co-operation. The Sixth Committee has been entrusted with items on the peaceful settlement of disputes between States and the draft code of crimes against the peace and security of mankind.

The United Nations is not found wanting in efforts for peace. Peace is our work.

Still, there are other issues which are directly or indirectly related to peace: human rights, the implementation of programmes to combat racism and racial discrimination, the elimination of all forms of discrimination, the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination and the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples for the effective guarantee of human rights. There is the item on social progress and many more parameters of the human person.

The purposes of the Charter include promoting respect for human rights without distinction of any kind. Yet, we again emphasize that no individual is inferior or superior to any other individual. It is said of man: "Dust thou art and to dust thou shalt return". This is not said of the soul: for men are not superior by reason of accident of race or colour; they are superior who have the best heart - thus the best brain. After all, there is no purity of race; there is but one, loftier race, a new race: the human race.



(Mrs. Kodikara, Philippines)

Human rights - men and women's rights - are meaningless compared to the greatest issue of all - nuclear war and survival. The right of people - the whole creation - is imperilled by nuclear war. Therefore, other items of this session's agenda are also being considered: general and complete disarmament, establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, prohibition of new weapons of mass destruction, a nuclear-arms freeze, arms limitation, prevention of an arms race, reduction of military budgets, and test bans. These issues are premised on the belief that the arms race is a curse on the human race, that disarmament is the shortest way to global peace.

On disarmament, the conclusion and implementation of the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles (INF) by the two superpowers has already provided the impetus for further negotiations involving nuclear and conventional weapons. We look forward to the reduction and elimination of lethal weapons.

It is also gratifying to observe that already there are proposals on the reduction of conventional arms, especially in Europe. Just recently a proposal for the elimination of chemical weapons from the Earth was announced.

In November 1989, the Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs will have a workshop in New Delhi, India, on non-military dimensions of global security in which the Department of Disarmament Affairs will participate.

We believe that development and justice are strong foundations of peace and stability; in other words, peace and security are threatened by the lack of progress in the economic field, and by the lack of economic justice. Today, there is more tonnage of explosives in the world than tonnage of food; there is starvation where there is plenty. There is also the belief that science and technology should be considered in terms of their peaceful uses. Economic

(Mrs. Kodikara, Philippines)

development and progress have therefore been, year in and year out, the preoccupation of the Second Committee.

Also in the search for the true meaning of peace, a Declaration of Human Responsibilities for Peace and Sustainable Development was adopted in June 1989 in Costa Rica. One of its preambular paragraphs reads:

"Recognizes the full participation of women and men in the decision-making processes relating to the promotion of peace and development".

Similarly, men and women do have a stake in the decision-making processes in the waging of war and conflicts, particularly as regards armaments, military budgets and the like. We pray that, when that time comes, they will influence concerned leaders to decide in favour of peace and security.

Only yesterday in the General Assembly public lobby, a Japanese exhibition on the theme of "War and Peace" was held under the sponsorship of the Department of Disarmament Affairs in support of the objectives of the World Disarmament Campaign. It reflected the notion that efforts to promote disarmament and peace cannot be pursued in isolation from hunger, poverty and environmental crisis.

On another front, it is in the context of our search for peace and against the backdrop of the proclamation of 1986 as the International Year of Peace, together with the achievements of that Year, that draft resolution A/44/L.15, "Achievements of the International Year of Peace", is now before us.

The draft resolution calls for efforts to promote an awareness of the goodness and advantages of peace; inversely, on the badness and disadvantages of war and armament. Information inputs of activities at the national level will be collated. Attention is focused on the basic elements of peace and on new opportunities and responsibilities for peace. Activities may include, at all levels of education, teaching and learning about peace; and through all forms of

(Mrs. Kodikara, Philippines)

communications, campaigns for peace and understanding. The use of the smallest unit of the society, the family, may also be emphasized.

The draft resolution urges all those interested in the promotion and attainment of the goals of the International Year of Peace to support the programmes of the United Nations Peace Study Unit by making voluntary contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for the promotion of peace. In this connection, it might be wise to consider integrating the functions of that Unit into already existing offices to minimize financial implications, if indeed voluntary funding is not possible.

The draft resolution requests the Secretary-General to invite Member States and interested organizations to inform the Secretariat of their activities and initiatives in the pursuit of peace and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the item entitled "Programmes and Activities for the Promotion of Peace in the World". In its own little way, this draft resolution is but another resolve towards reduction of misunderstanding between nations and peoples.

May I conclude by quoting Winston Churchill:

"We must remould the relationship of all men of all nations in such a way that these men do not wish, or dare, to fall upon each other for the sake of vulgar, outdated ambition or for passionate differences in ideologies, and that international bodies by supreme authority may give peace on earth and justice among men."

It is in the same spirit of idealism that inspired the 1985 resolution declaring 1986 the International Year of Peace that my delegation has co-sponsored the draft resolution before us. It is hoped that it will be adopted unanimously.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution

A/44/L.15.

(The President)

I wish to announce that the following countries have become sponsors of draft resolution A/44/L.15: Argentina, Jamaica and Senegal.

I should like also to inform members that the Secretary-General does not foresee programme budget implications in the implementation of the draft resolution.

May I take that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/44/L.15?

Draft resolution A/44/L.15 was adopted (resolution 44/11).

The PRESIDENT: I shall now call on those members who wish to explain their votes on the resolution just adopted.

Mr. AMIGUES (France) (interpretation from French): On the behalf of the 12 States members of the European Community I wish to make a few comments on the resolution, just adopted by the General Assembly, on the Achievements of the International Year of Peace.

Allow me first of all to recall and reaffirm the unreserved commitment of the 12 States members of the European Community to the objectives of the International Year of Peace. It was this spirit which prompted the 12 successively to approve the adoption of resolutions 39/19, 40/10, 41/9 and 42/13.

(Mr. Amigues, France)

However, as in 1987 when resolution 42/13 was adopted, the Twelve believe it necessary once again to call the General Assembly's attention to the guidelines for international years established in 1980, which resolution 42/13 and the resolution that we have just adopted both fail to respect.

The Twelve take the view that the inclusion on the agenda of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly of an item entitled "Programmes and activities to promote peace in the world" perpetuates an exercise which at the outset everyone clearly understood would come to an end at the end of the year in question, 1986. The programmes and activities referred to in paragraph 8 of the resolution were undertaken within the framework and at the time of the International Year of Peace.

Furthermore, the Twelve note that the resolution refers in paragraph 6 to the United Nations Peace Study Unit, which is entrusted with what appears to be the follow-up to the International Year of Peace. The Twelve question the usefulness of such a structure, in that the promotion of peace in the world is a *raison d'être* of the United Nations.

We wish to voice these reservations once again so that they may be taken into account when the Secretary-General's report called for in paragraph 8 is being prepared.

However, the Twelve, being committed to peace, the strengthening of international security, and the settlement of conflicts by peaceful means, have joined in the consensus on the resolution, notwithstanding their serious reservations.

Mr. KAWAKAMI (Japan): Japan is continuing its efforts to secure and strengthen world peace. During the International Year of Peace Japan organized, and participated actively in, various activities, as mentioned in the Secretary-General's report in document A/42/487/Add.1. Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu sent a special message on the occasion of the programme

(Mr. Kawakami, Japan)

organized at the United Nations last month on the International Day of Peace, as mentioned in the Secretary-General's report (A/44/615).

My delegation joined in the consensus on draft resolution A/44/L.15 as an expression of Japan's firm determination to seek world peace. Nevertheless, my delegation wishes to put on record its position with regard to operative paragraph 8. Our understanding is that the International Year of Peace ended officially in 1986. In addition, we have already had two rounds of discussions on the Secretary-General's reports in 1987 and this year. We therefore question the value of having a substantially similar item included on the agenda of the forty-sixth session.

Mr. NOREEN (Sweden): On behalf of the five Nordic countries - Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden - I should like to make some remarks on draft resolution A/44/L.15, which the General Assembly has just adopted.

The International Year of Peace was widely observed in all Nordic countries, where it contributed to increased public awareness of the importance of international peace and disarmament. The five Nordic countries joined in the consensus on the resolution. However, we have some reservations in respect of certain elements in operative paragraph 8.

Mr. REESE (Australia): Australia joined in the consensus in favour of draft resolution A/44/L.15 because, as I outlined in my statement, my country supported the objectives of the International Year of Peace in 1986 and carried out many activities in that regard. We are giving an explanation of vote because we are concerned that operative paragraph 6, as drafted, may carry the implication that those who do not make new financial contributions do not support the promotion and attainment of the goals of the International Year of Peace.

(Mr. Reese, Australia)

We note that the same item, albeit under a different title, is included on the agenda of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly. We note also the Secretary-General's advice that the resolution does not have cost implications.

Mrs. CASTRO de BARISH (Costa Rica) (interpretation from Spanish): I feel I must express my thanks to the General Assembly for adopting draft resolution A/44/L.15 without a vote.

We are very pleased to announce that the following States have joined the original sponsors: Argentina, the German Democratic Republic, Jamaica, Poland, Senegal, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. In this connection, I note that Bolivia does not appear in the list of sponsors above the draft resolution although it was one of the original sponsors. Furthermore, the delegation of Romania is incorrectly listed as an original sponsor.

As I have said, the International Year of Peace helped to strengthen the efforts of the United Nations to promote and maintain peace, which was one of its objectives. We believe that operative paragraph 8 is a step forward in the process of strengthening the efforts of the United Nations.

The PRESIDENT: The Secretariat will take note of the errors to which the representative of Costa Rica has just referred.

#### AGENDA ITEM 154

#### OPERATION LIFELINE SUDAN

- (a) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
- (b) DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/44/L.11/Rev.1)

The PRESIDENT: I draw the attention of representatives to the fact that the report of the Secretary-General on agenda item 153, "Emergency assistance to the Sudan", which contains information relevant to agenda item 154 also, has been distributed as document A/44/571.

AE/bg

A/44/PV. 37  
59-60

(The President)

I call on the representative of Sudan to introduce draft resolution

A/44/L.11/Rev.1.



Mr. ABDOUN (Sudan): I should like at the outset to thank all delegations and the United Nations Secretariat for their sincere co-operation, in making it possible for this new item to be included on the agenda of the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly, at the request of my delegation. It gives me and my delegation pleasure to speak on Operation Lifeline Sudan, a matter to which we attach great importance.

Operation Lifeline Sudan was launched after the Khartoum high-level meeting of 8 to 9 March 1989, which was convened jointly by the Government of the Sudan, the United Nations and the donor community. The Plan of Action endorsed by that meeting was successfully implemented. More than 106 metric tons of food supplies, plus some non-food items, were pre-positioned and delivered to the affected areas. Thousands of Sudanese were enabled to avoid the potential threat of starvation. The total cost of Operation Lifeline Sudan, which will wind up on 31 October, has been around \$140 million. The target achieved in the first phase of the Operation will be sustained and complemented by a second phase, which will concentrate on relief and rehabilitation.

The Government of the Sudan exerted every possible effort to bring Operation Lifeline Sudan to a successful conclusion. A ministerial committee and a high-level technical committee that were established to facilitate the implementation of Operation Lifeline Sudan accomplished their responsibilities satisfactorily. The mobilization of the whole Government apparatus was of crucial importance to the success of Operation Lifeline Sudan. The cease-fire and the corridors of tranquillity were also conducive to that success.

(Mr. Abdoun, Sudan)

Having said that, I should like to express my Government's deep appreciation of and profound gratitude for the generous humanitarian assistance extended by the donor community. In that regard, we pay a special tribute to the United States of America, the European Economic Community, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Italy, Japan, France, Finland and Canada. Their timely and significant contribution was a key factor in averting an imminent disaster situation.

My Government also acknowledges with satisfaction the important role of the sister neighbouring countries - Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda - in Operation Lifeline Sudan. Their Governments and peoples have demonstrated a fraternal co-operation that deserves our sincere thanks. We should also like to thank the various co-sponsors of the draft resolution, particularly the Group of Arab States, which have contributed generously, on a bilateral basis, in support of my Government's relief operations.

My delegation wishes to place on record my Government's appreciation to the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, for his outstanding leadership role, tireless efforts and personal concern. My Government further appreciates the invaluable contribution of the Secretary-General's Personal Representative to Operation Lifeline Sudan, Mr. James Grant, the architect of the Operation. With his vision, dedication and timely endeavours, Operation Lifeline Sudan achieved remarkable success. My delegation also acknowledges the commendable contribution of Mr. Bryan Wannop to Operation Lifeline Sudan. His successor, Mr. Priestley, was warmly welcomed and received in my country and we assure him of all our co-operation during the second phase of Operation Lifeline Sudan.

The momentous contributions of the World Food Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, and the United Nations Development Programme deserve our appreciation. We acknowledge with gratitude the excellent performance of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Its generous contribution had been

(Mr. Abdoun, Sudan)

recognized even before Operation Lifeline Sudan began. We count on the ICRC in the future activities of Operation Lifeline Sudan.

It gives my delegation pleasure to pay a special tribute to the non-governmental organizations that participated generously in Operation Lifeline Sudan. Their dedication was manifested at the grass-roots level, and their exceptional capacity to respond to the needs of the people was demonstrated in the affected areas. In that regard, my delegation reaffirms my Government's commitment to facilitate the work of the non-governmental organizations in the second phase of Operation Lifeline Sudan.

Mindful of the urgency of Operation Lifeline Sudan, and well aware of its humanitarian dimensions, my Government has undertaken Operation Lifeline Sudan with the utmost neutrality and impartiality, transcending all other political considerations. With that understanding my delegation would like to reiterate the commitment of my Government's commitment to sustain its continuing efforts to achieve the targets of the second phase of the Operation.

The remarkable success of the Operation has clearly demonstrated the outstanding ability of the United Nations to respond urgently and effectively to the needs of the affected people in a complex disaster situation. As described by many, Operation Lifeline Sudan is a unique humanitarian operation that could be replicated in similar emergency situations. My delegation considers that, in addition to the Operation's humanitarian vitality, it is an important political umbrella and a vehicle conducive to the peace-building operation. From that standpoint we attach great importance to the preservation of the corridors of tranquillity during the second phase of Operation Lifeline Sudan.

In letters exchanged between my Head of State and the Secretary-General, it was agreed that Operation Lifeline Sudan should continue, with emphasis on rehabilitation, to enable the displaced persons to become self-reliant. To that

(Mr. Abdoun, Sudan)

effect the Government of the Sudan, in close co-operation with Mr. Priestley, is formulating a programme of assistance for the second phase of Operation Lifeline Sudan. The proposed programme of assistance is expected to be presented to a high-level donor meeting to be held in late November this year in New York, under the auspices of the Secretary-General. My delegation would appeal to the donor community and other multilateral institutions to participate in that forthcoming meeting.

Finally, I should like to introduce draft resolution A/44/L.11/Rev.1, entitled "Operation Lifeline Sudan", on behalf of Algeria, Bahrain, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Egypt, France, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, the Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sri Lanka, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

(Mr. Abdoun, Sudan)

In the draft resolution the General Assembly notes with deep concern that the Sudan continues to face a complex emergency situation, and that the magnitude of the disaster requires the continuance of international solidarity. It notes with appreciation the invaluable assistance extended by the donor countries during the first phase of Operation Lifeline Sudan. The General Assembly reaffirms the need for the international community to continue to respond fully and effectively to requests for relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction during the forthcoming phase of Operation Lifeline Sudan. It requests the Secretary-General to continue to mobilize support and co-ordinate efforts, and to keep activities under Operation Lifeline Sudan under constant review. Finally, it requests the Secretary-General to report, through the Economic and Social Council, to the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the implementation of the resolution.

Mr. AMIGUES (France) (interpretation from French): The humanitarian needs of southern Sudan are considerable and fully justify the mobilization of the international community that has been taking place under the auspices of the United Nations since the Khartoum Conference, on 12 March last. France is grateful to the Secretary-General and his Personal Representative, Mr. Grant, for having done their utmost to implement the programme decided on in Khartoum within the scheduled period.

In the past few months the efforts made by my country to help the population of southern Sudan have in the main taken the following form. We made available to the United Nations and International Committee of the Red Cross two TRANSAL aircraft and their crew for 10 weeks. This represented an expenditure of 18.5 million francs. That decision was taken in recognition of the serious nature of the transport problem emphasized by Mr. Grant. We also made available to the World Food Programme four French experts in the logistics of food assistance for a

(Mr. Amiques, France)

period of four months and the secondment of three of them was extended by two months.

The aid provided by French non-governmental organizations, in particular in the form of medical and hospital assistance since September 1988 has risen to 21 million francs. My country is also participating in the assistance provided by the European Community, of which it finances 25 per cent.

With regard to the second phase of Operation Lifeline Sudan, we have noted that Mr. Priestley will be presenting the needs of Sudan to the donor countries in November. That information should enable the donor countries to look into ways and means of continuing their assistance to Sudan in 1990.

Ms. FRANKLIN (United States of America): The United States Government shares the concern expressed in resolution 43/52 regarding the continuing situation in Sudan. Our Government has been actively involved in efforts seeking to aid the thousands of innocent civilians in need in that country.

Since February 1988 the United States Government has provided over 155,000 metric tons of food and has supported the efforts of many non-governmental and international organizations working to meet the nutritional, health and water needs of the people in Sudan. The total value of the United States Government's assistance to Sudan over the last 20 months exceeds \$115 million.

We commend the efforts of the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission of the Government of Sudan to meet the needs of the people of Sudan. We also note the important leadership role played by the Secretary-General and his Personal Representative Mr. James Grant in mobilizing the donor community and the United Nations family to respond to the situation in Sudan. We are very proud also to have worked with the many dedicated non-governmental organizations which have been striving to meet the needs of innocent Sudanese whose lives have been disrupted by the ongoing problems in their country.

(Ms. Franklin, United States)

In anticipation of continuing needs in Sudan, the United States Government is fully prepared to continue its assistance to that country. We welcome the recent appointment of Michael Priestley as Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Emergency Operations in Sudan and look forward to working with him as he assumes his new duties in Khartoum.

Finally, we should like to express our conviction that the problems of Sudan cannot be fully addressed until there is a peaceful and permanent resolution of the conflict in that country. We urge all parties in Sudan to come together to work towards that goal and ensure a hopeful future for all the people of Sudan.

Mr. TREIKI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) (interpretation from Arabic): I wish, at the outset, on behalf of the Arab Group and of my country's delegation, to extend condolences to the People's Republic of China and the people of China in connection with the recent earthquake in that country.

We extend our sympathy to the people and the delegation of the United States of America in connection with the earthquake in the San Francisco area.

Our condolences and sympathy go also to Viet Nam and the Philippines, in connection with the loss of life incurred through the typhoons that have afflicted those countries, as well as to the Republic of Honduras and its delegation on the aircraft accident last week.

It is an honour to me to express, on behalf of the Arab Group, our full support for draft resolution A/44/L.11/Rev.1, of 20 October 1989, on Operation Lifeline Sudan. In recent years, the sister country of Sudan has suffered successive natural disasters: floods, drought, famine and invasions of locusts. There have also been inflows of refugees from neighbouring countries and internal problems resulting from secessionist moves. All this together has caused widespread disruption of the basic socio-economic structures of the country. The

(Mr. Treiki, Libyan Arab  
Jamahiriya)

Government of Sudan is exerting considerable efforts, in co-operation with the Secretary-General, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to deal with this complex situation.

We express our gratitude for and full appreciation of those efforts and that assistance and urge the international community to continue its internationalist solidarity and humanitarian assistance and respond favourably to requests related to the emergency needs in the area of rehabilitation and reconstruction.



(Mr. Treiki, Libyan Arab  
Jamahiriya)

In the Arab world we have already demonstrated our solidarity with and our support for the Government and people of sisterly Sudan in their ordeal. We have provided all possible assistance to them, and the Arab countries would like to reconfirm that they will continue to demonstrate their solidarity with and lend appropriate support to Sudan, as well as support for its territorial integrity.

Mr. SEZAKI (Japan): First of all I should like on behalf of my delegation to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to Mr. James Grant, Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and former Personal Representative of the Secretary-General for Operation Lifeline Sudan. It was thanks in no small part to Mr. Grant's untiring efforts and dedication that this formidable undertaking is being successfully implemented.

Since Operation Lifeline Sudan was launched at the high-level meeting convened in Khartoum last March, international support, both bilateral and multilateral, has been mobilized to save from starvation those who have been displaced or otherwise affected by the conflict. The Operation is a complicated and extremely difficult one and is being carried out under unfavourable circumstances, to say the least. Crucial to its success are co-operation and co-ordination among the agencies and bilateral donors. We note with appreciation that this has been realized thanks to Mr. Grant's able leadership.

It should also be noted that the restraint demonstrated by the parties concerned in Sudan made it possible for the necessary supplies to reach the needy people in the affected areas. The "corridors of tranquillity" have been more or less maintained throughout the duration of the Operation.

We should also not forget the co-operation of neighbouring countries, namely, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda, which provided indispensable bases for the transportation of relief supplies.

(Mr. Sezaki, Japan)

Although the Operation has encountered various difficulties in the course of its implementation, we are relieved to learn that a repetition of the tragedy experienced last year has been avoided. We commend the work of the organizations concerned, in particular, UNICEF, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and the World Food Programme (WFP).

As a least developed country, Sudan faces many serious problems: huge imbalance in the balance of payments, drought, flooding and a large refugee population, to name a few. In response to the pressing needs arising from those problems, Japan has been extending development assistance to Sudan, exclusively in the form of grants in such basic areas as food and agriculture, health and water supply. Japan also extends non-project type grant assistance of 2.5 billion yen, which is approximately \$17.8 million to Sudan to support its structural adjustment efforts.

Parallel to this regular programme of assistance, Japan dispatched a disaster relief team made up of medical experts, immediately after last year's flood, and also provided \$200,000 in emergency disaster aid. Japan made a contribution amounting to \$3 million to UNICEF and the WFP, mainly for their transportation and administrative costs for the delivery of necessary supplies, as well as an additional \$1.1 million in food aid, in support of the international efforts undertaken in conjunction with Operation Lifeline Sudan.

Furthermore, Japan provided \$4.6 million in the malaria control programme and \$3.2 million in the rehabilitation project for schools and medical facilities, in support of early rehabilitation from the flood disaster.

Japan continues to extend assistance to Sudan, as a priority country for Japan's grant assistance, to support the country in its efforts to overcome the pressing hardships, as well as to lay the foundation for long-term development.

(Mr. Sezaki, Japan)

Operation Lifeline Sudan is a quintessential United Nations activity in the sense that it draws upon the expertise, knowledge and experience of various United Nations agencies, and that it is politically neutral, a condition that is essential to the implementation of its plans and programmes.

We hope that the success of the Operation and the lessons learned and experience gained through its implementation will serve as a valuable guide for our future activities of this kind.

Mr. BABINGTON (Australia): Operation Lifeline Sudan came into being earlier this year against the background of an extremely serious situation in that country. The needs were particularly acute in southern Sudan where immediate action was required to avert famine, starvation and disease before the onset of the rainy season, as well as to care for the displaced persons in the transitional zone. The task was complicated further by various administrative, financial and operational restraints in addition to disruptions resulting from civil strife.

The approach of Operation Lifeline Sudan was innovative, and in the circumstances the results have been highly commendable. The so called "corridors of tranquillity" down which unescorted relief convoys have been allowed to pass freely has been especially important in getting supplies to the people in most need. By all accounts, there will be no large-scale starvation in the southern Sudan this year. Operation Lifeline has managed to provide enough food for people in that area to prevent the mass migration in search of food that has occurred in the past. Overall, the health condition of the people also appears to have improved.

Although this is no time for complacency, Operation Lifeline Sudan, phase one, owes its success to many organizations: those of the United Nations system, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the non-governmental organization community, and individuals, as well as to the parties in Sudan,

(Mr. Babington, Australia)

neighbouring countries, and the donor community. We wish to take this opportunity to express particular appreciation to Mr. James Grant, the Secretary-General's Personal Representative for Operation Lifeline Sudan, phase one, for his outstanding leadership and commitment to results.

Concerned at the urgent humanitarian plight facing the Sudanese people, the Australian Government contributed a total of \$A 2 million to Operation Lifeline Sudan in 1989. These funds were channelled through UNICEF, the World Food Programme (WFP) and ICRC. Australia also provided a further \$A 200,000 through Care Australia to assist displaced Sudanese in southern Kordofan.

Clearly, much remains to be done in Sudan by way of further emergency relief activities and longer-term rehabilitation with emphasis on non-food items in order to achieve self-sufficiency in basic food production and provide essential social services to displaced persons. We will therefore be awaiting with interest the announcement of proposed activities under phase two of Operation Lifeline.

Mr. FEJIC (Yugoslavia): Extending humanitarian assistance to a people suffering the consequences of the cumulative and negative impact of persistent natural disasters is, no doubt, one of the priorities of the international community in which the United Nations has the central role. This is of vital importance with respect to developing countries, particularly the least developed which, even in normal conditions, owing to their precarious economic situation and development constraints, have enormous difficulties to ensure even the basic human needs to millions of men, women and children.

(Mr. Pejic, Yugoslavia)

The catastrophic consequences of several years of drought, flood and famine have afflicted the friendly non-aligned Republic of the Sudan. The extremely difficult conditions in which this country has been living are further exacerbated by the heavy burden of the external debt, amounting to some \$13 billion. All these factors have caused extensive migratory movements, and more than 400,000 people have died from disease and starvation.

The Government of the Sudan appealed, through the Secretary-General, to the international community for urgent help in order to prevent further widespread starvation and suffering by numerous displaced persons from the affected parts of the country. At its forty-third session the General Assembly adopted two resolutions on assistance to the Sudan, in which it recognized that the magnitude of the disasters and their long-term consequences will require, in addition to the ongoing efforts of the Government and people of the Sudan, international solidarity and emergency humanitarian assistance, as well as longer-term rehabilitation aid.

The specific conditions in which that country finds itself have accentuated the need for a strategy that will ensure that international assistance reaches the people it is meant for as fast as possible. Thanks to the agreement reached in Khartoum last March between the parties involved, Operation Lifeline Sudan was launched. Taking into account the extraordinary complexity of the logistics involved and the serious security problems, this is one of the most difficult relief operations implemented by the United Nations and other parties, as is pointed out in the report of the Secretary-General in document A/44/571. This important, historic, complex relief operation is a success. It has proved that humanitarian assistance can, and should, transcend political and military considerations. The saving of more than 200,000 innocent lives is an invaluable achievement of this important action.

(Mr. Pejic, Yugoslavia)

The complexity of the problem, which continues to weigh heavily, calls for further emergency and rehabilitation assistance on a large scale in order to avoid a repetition of the disasters of 1987 and 1988. However, a long-term solution must be sought to help the Sudan in its efforts to overcome the problems it faces. In this regard, we fully support the conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary-General as set forth in his report.

Finally, I should like to express my country's appreciation to the Secretary-General, Mr. Perez de Cuellar, and to his former Personal Representative, Mr. James Grant, Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), for their untiring efforts in conducting this unprecedented operation. Of course, the Government and people of the Sudan have played the decisive role. We are convinced that continuing assistance by the international community will supplement the efforts the country is making to meet the urgent requirements for reconstruction and rehabilitation. We hope that, as in the past, the international community will respond generously.

Mr. RICHARDSON (United Kingdom): I wish first to associate myself with the thanks expressed by other delegations to the Secretary-General and his Personal Representative Mr. Jim Grant, and through them to all who have been involved in Operation Lifeline Sudan. We believe that in spite of many difficulties the first phase of the operation has been a success. As a result of it and of the efforts of the International Committee of the Red Cross a major crisis on the scale of 1988 has been averted in southern Sudan. We also note the essential contribution that has been made to the operation's success by the cease-fires. It must surely be the fervent hope of all of us that hostilities will not be resumed and that all concerned will now seek national reconciliation. At a time when massive commitments to humanitarian aid are being made a commitment to peace is essential.

(Mr. Richardson, United Kingdom)

I am grateful to the representative of the Sudan for his kind remarks about the assistance provided by my Government. My Government has already made a substantial contribution of over £7 million towards the first phase of Operation Lifeline. We welcome the fact that it has now been agreed that the operation should be extended to a second phase and that the emphasis should now be placed on rehabilitation. We stand ready to contribute to this second phase. We believe it will present an opportunity to help the displaced people of the Sudan find more settled existences. We wish the operation well, under the guidance of Mr. Michael Priestley.

I cannot end this brief intervention without reiterating my Government's call for the fullest respect for human rights in the Sudan, especially those of the displaced persons, prisoners of war - to whom access should be given by the Red Cross - and others who are in detention.

We have before us draft resolution A/44/L.11/Rev.1. We believe that its adoption by consensus will signify the wish of the donor community to continue to assist the Government and people of the Sudan in facing rehabilitation and reconstruction needs.

Mr. BECKER (Federal Republic of Germany): My delegation would like to join previous speakers in expressing sincere appreciation to the Secretary-General and his former Personal Representative, Mr. James Grant and Special Representative Mr. Michael Priestley, for the vigorous efforts undertaken in the successful co-ordination of Operation Lifeline Sudan. We are particularly pleased that the joint international relief efforts of Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations succeeded in averting the most critical disaster situation with which we have again been threatened over the last eight months. My Government has taken an active part in Operation Lifeline Sudan; apart

(Mr. Becker, Federal Republic  
of Germany)

from our share in the contributions of the European Community, by making available this year humanitarian assistance amounting to roughly DM 14.5 million, which corresponds to about \$8 million.

Among our contributions I should like to recall the joint Franco-German airlift operation which was established earlier this year, before the rainy season started, to rush relief supplies to the famine-stricken areas in southern Sudan.

We remain committed to continue to respond adequately and within the limits of our capability to the request for rehabilitation and reconstruction aid during the forthcoming phase of Operation Lifeline Sudan to enable displaced persons to become self-reliant. My delegation welcomes the draft resolution introduced today and we are prepared fully to support its spirit and objectives.

I conclude by asserting our expectation that the difficulties in the internal situation in Sudan - to which various speakers have already referred - will be solved by all the parties involved in Sudan without further delay. We should like to emphasize that every effort must be exerted to overcome the existing political obstacles in the Sudan and to improve the present crucial famine situation in southern Sudan.

Mr. KRAMER (Canada): Canada is gratified by the successes registered in the first phase of Operation Lifeline Sudan. Against tremendous odds the operation has succeeded in ensuring that there is enough food pre-positioned in southern Sudan to prevent the massive starvation and loss of life witnessed a year and a half ago.



(Mr. Kramer, Canada)

Canada would like to congratulate the Secretary-General, his Personal Representative for Operation Lifeline Sudan, Mr. James Grant, head of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) - who has just left that office of Personal Representative - the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and many governmental and non-governmental organizations which helped to make this exercise the success it has been. The personal courage and sacrifice of the many people directly involved in the programme are testimony to the humanitarian spirit brought forward in Operation Lifeline Sudan.

Canada recognizes that the co-operation of the Government of the Sudan and of combatant groups with the relief effort were important elements in the successes achieved. In looking ahead to the second phase of Operation Lifeline Sudan we recognize that sustained effort will be needed to assist displaced southerners and indeed the south itself to rebuild. The task will be daunting but can be accomplished if all involved show the same spirit of co-operation evident in phase one.

Canada welcomes the appointment by the Secretary-General of Mr. Michael Priestley as his Personal Representative in the Sudan for phase two of Operation Lifeline Sudan. We are pleased that he will carry with him the mandate of continuing the dialogue on humanitarian assistance with both parties to the civil conflict.

We wish also to pay tribute to the effective and indeed courageous contribution to emergency assistance requirements made in the course of the past three years by Mr. Bryan Wannop, who was the resident co-ordinator of the United Nations system.

(Mr. Kramer, Canada)

While phase one has concluded, it is disturbing that lasting peace has not been achieved. Without a durable solution to the conflict, reconstruction, rehabilitation and reconciliation cannot occur. We therefore urge all parties to the conflict to renew and pursue relentlessly efforts for lasting peace.

Earlier this year Canada disbursed some \$6.2 million on Operation Lifeline Sudan for food aid and logistical support. Other sums were provided for non-food needs. We recognize that substantial resources will be needed to rehabilitate the south and to assist the hundreds of thousands of people displaced by famine and conflict. To this end Canada has committed a further \$6 million in food aid for distribution through non-governmental organizations in southern Sudan which will complement the objectives of the forthcoming phase two of Operation Lifeline.

The PRESIDENT: The General Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/44/L.11/Rev.1. The following countries have become sponsors: Costa Rica and Ethiopia.

The Secretary-General does not foresee programme budget implications in the implementation of the draft resolution.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

Draft resolution A/44/L.11/Rev.1 was adopted (resolution 44/12).

Mr. ABDOUN (Sudan) (interpretation from Arabic): I have failed to mention that the sister Republic of Comoros is also a sponsor of the draft resolution.

In connection with the comments made by some speakers on the need to establish lasting peace, I should like to say that we do indeed appreciate these wise observations. May I add, in this important international forum, that the Government of the Sudan is doing everything possible to achieve a just and lasting peace through national comprehensive dialogue and that we had indeed gone a long way in that direction. The Government of the Sudan believes that without peace our

(Mr. Abâoun, Sudan)

country, government and people, both the north and the south, cannot make any progress or achieve any development, prosperity or justice. The Government of the Sudan is doing its utmost to observe the human rights of all citizens despite the difficult economic circumstances and security situation in some parts of our country.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 154.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.