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Chairman: Mr. Francisco CUEVAS CANCINO
(Mexico).

AGENDA ITEM 66

Draft Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples (A/5738 and Add.1 and 2, A/5789 and Add.1, A/5930 and Add.1; A/C.3/L.1232 to L.1235, L.1240)

1. The CHAIRMAN recalled that the General Assembly had had the draft Declaration prepared by twenty-six Powers^{1/} before it since its eighteenth session but, owing to lack of time, had been unable to complete the definitive version. The Secretary-General had submitted to the Assembly at its nineteenth session a report (A/5738 and Add.1 and 2) on the draft Declaration, including the text prepared by the twenty-six Powers. He had also submitted a report (A/5789 and Add.1) on his study of the desirability of establishing regional documentation and study institutions. Since the Assembly had been unable to consider the item at its nineteenth session, the Secretary-General had resubmitted the item (A/5930 and Add.1) and it had been included in the agenda of the twentieth session.

PREAMBLE

2. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to begin its consideration of the draft Declaration submitted by the twenty-six Powers with the preamble, to which amendments had been submitted by the United States (A/C.3/L.1233, first amendment) and the United Kingdom (A/C.3/L.1234, first amendment).

3. Miss TABBARA (Lebanon) said that the meaning of the first amendment of the United Kingdom was not quite clear to the co-sponsors of the draft Declaration; for their part, they considered the word "Reaffirming" preferable to the word "Recalling" because it was stronger, but they would be glad to hear any explanations which the United Kingdom representative could give them on that point.

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Eighteenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 47, document A/5669, para. 5.

4. With respect to the first United States amendment, she acknowledged that it was important and necessary to mention the principles and the role of UNESCO, but felt that the new paragraph would carry more weight if it was shorter.

5. The sponsors of the draft Declaration had some suggestions to make concerning that text and would be glad to inform the United States delegation of them.

6. Mr. HOVEYDA (Iran) said that his delegation fully appreciated the spirit of the first United States amendment but could not take a definitive stand on a text, the French version of which was manifestly defective.

7. Miss ADDISON (Ghana) endorsed the comments made by the representative of Lebanon concerning the amendments which had been submitted and on which she would speak, if necessary, at a later stage.

8. Her delegation considered it appropriate to draw attention to the role played by UNESCO, but it would warn the Committee against the danger of introducing new ideas that might detract from the aims of the United Nations. However, she noted with satisfaction the recommendation adopted by the International Conference on Youth, held at Grenoble in 1964, recognizing the importance of the role of UNESCO.

9. Miss GROZA (Romania) said that she was gratified at the international interest which the proposed Declaration had aroused, as evidenced by the replies from Member States, from National Commissions for UNESCO and from other organizations.

10. The draft Declaration under consideration, the purpose of which was to set forth basic principles concerning the promotion among youth of the ideals of peace, mutual respect and understanding between peoples, had been prepared by twenty-six delegations which had joined forces in order to ensure unanimous support for the draft and, with the same end in view, had studied the various amendments submitted.

11. Her delegation agreed on the necessity of referring to some of the principles enunciated in the Constitution of UNESCO, and it therefore welcomed the first United States amendment, which explicitly recognized the role of UNESCO in the upbringing of young people, but it also agreed with the Lebanese delegation that the text could be improved in such a way as to be generally acceptable.

12. Her delegation would have no difficulty in accepting the first United Kingdom amendment if it met with the approval of the other sponsors of the draft Declaration and of the Committee as a whole.

13. Miss WILLIS (United States of America) explained that the wording of the first amendment submitted

by her delegation was based very closely on the Constitution of UNESCO but said that she was quite willing to draw up, with other delegations, a text which would meet the wishes of all.

14. Lady GAITSKELL (United Kingdom) said that her delegation was proposing the term "Recalling" because it did not consider it necessary to reaffirm the principles embodied in the various instruments mentioned in the third preambular paragraph; in its view, it was sufficient merely to recall them.

15. That purely drafting amendment, like the second amendment relating to principle I, reflected her delegation's general concern at all costs to avoid, in United Nations declarations, platitudes and lofty slogans which in many cases simply obscured the real problems; in principle I, for instance, it would be wrong to insult the intelligence of the younger generation by over-simplifying the question of establishing peace and by ignoring the difficulties to be overcome; for it was idle to speak of general and complete disarmament without mentioning the problems it raised. In a declaration of the kind which the Third Committee was to adopt, words were not enough, and constructive goals must be stated.

16. Mr. BARODY (Saudi Arabia) observed that the question of the draft Declaration had been before the Committee for quite a long period and that the time had come for it to draw up a text which, it was to be hoped, would help the youth of today to avoid the mistakes of their elders.

17. Although his delegation did not wish to propose any amendments to the preamble at the present stage, it would point out that, if the principles of the draft Declaration were modified, it might be necessary to make some consequential amendments to the preamble. For instance, the amendment proposed by the Greek delegation (A/C.3/L.1232) contained a fundamental idea which he would like to see expressed in the preamble, namely, the major importance of parental guidance.

18. In his view, it was essential to bear in mind that a person's training began in his infancy, and that, in fact, the first seven or eight years determined his entire life. The reason why the young people of today had so many problems was that they had not received all the attention they should have had during childhood because, owing to a regrettable economic trend, mothers had to work in order to add to inadequate family incomes. That trend, which had appeared in Europe from about 1914 onwards, was now spreading to the countries of Africa and the Middle East, and he deeply deplored it.

19. A child who was left all day in the care of a female relative or, more often, a housekeeper, and who later, when he was older, was left to his own devices and deprived of his mother's presence, guidance and affection, became an unbalanced adolescent, exposed to the threat of juvenile delinquency, narcotics addiction, homosexuality and narcissism, that urge to glorify himself to compensate for the lack of affection in his early years. That was why he stressed the importance of giving parental guidance the predominant place it deserved in the preamble.

20. While the United States amendment was praiseworthy in its intent, its sponsor had tried to include too much into one paragraph and that had created some confusion. Moreover, the ideas in that amendment were merely juxtaposed, not related.

21. In his view, the reference to the Constitution of UNESCO should be omitted. That document stated that it was in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed, but it was not on the minds of men but rather the much more impressionable minds of children that the United Nations should try to work.

22. In the age of chivalry, men fought each other in single combat. In the twentieth century, demagogues sent young men to war and remained behind, seated comfortably in their armchairs. But it was not only the soldiers who perished in armed conflicts, for the civilian population too could be decimated, especially during bombings. It was therefore the safety of all mankind that was at stake and it was by influencing the minds of the young that mankind might be saved. That was what the Declaration sought to do. The ideals that it proclaimed should be engraved on the hearts of the young so that they would avoid the mistakes of their forebears and contribute to the building of a lasting peace.

23. Mrs. MANTZOULINOS (Greece) said that the Saudi Arabian representative had very correctly understood the meaning of her delegation's amendment. Since the third preambular paragraph referred to the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, a reference might also be made in it to the importance of training children.

24. The CHAIRMAN observed that the text proposed appeared to have fairly wide support. He proposed that the vote on the preamble should be deferred until the following meeting, to enable the twenty-six Powers and the United States delegation to draw up a joint text.

It was so decided.

PRINCIPLE I

25. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to take up principle I. Two amendments had been submitted, one by the United States delegation (A/C.3/L.1233, second amendment) and the other by the United Kingdom delegation (A/C.3/L.1234, second amendment).

26. Miss WILLIS (United States of America) said that her delegation proposed the insertion of the words "under effective international controls" because it thought that the reference to "general and complete disarmament" would be incomplete without them.

27. Miss GROZA (Romania) said that the twenty-six Powers were continuing their negotiations concerning the amendments not only to the preamble but also to principle I.

28. Mr. ZULOAGA (Venezuela) regretted that delaying tactics had substantially retarded the work on the draft Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples and that it had not been

possible to consider that draft in previous years because of the obstacles raised by some small Powers.

29. The Committee now had before it new proposals which would slow down the pace of its work. He could support the second United Kingdom amendment but was somewhat disturbed by the pessimistic tone of that representative's statement. He himself felt that young people were fully aware of the mistakes of the preceding generations and that they would tear down everything imperfect in order to build a better world.

30. With reference to the third United Kingdom amendment to the second paragraph of principle II, he thought that the word "humanism" had a very specific meaning and endorsed the idea of replacing it by the words "respect for personal beliefs". The third United States amendment to the second paragraph of principle II very aptly sought to develop a better understanding of the function of the United Nations, but, instead of replacing the present text of the second paragraph, which was already well drafted, it should be added to that paragraph.

31. His delegation fully supported the Greek amendment and commended the Greek delegation for its initiative. Parents played a paramount role in the education of children and they should be discouraged from instilling racial prejudice in their children.

32. Lady GAITSKELL (United Kingdom) said that her remarks had been in no way pessimistic. In her opinion, however, it was pointless to speak at length about peace without at the same time providing for practical measures which would show the young how to achieve disarmament and peace. She was thinking, for example, of an expansion of the Peace Corps or the adoption of a system which would

replace military service by one or two years of civilian service in the developing countries.

33. Mr. HOVEYDA (Iran) said that he would not discuss the preamble until a joint text had been produced. Principle I had been clearly drafted and he feared that any amendments would destroy its balance.

34. He was not opposed to the amendments proposed by the United Kingdom and the United States and approved their intent. However, principle I, which began the Declaration, should be kept fairly general in character. One disadvantage of the insertion of the words "under conditions which ensure" after "disarmament", proposed by the United Kingdom, was that it gave the impression that general and complete disarmament could lead to unfriendly relations among countries. His delegation therefore preferred the original wording.

35. He appreciated the concern underlying the United States amendment, but considered it undesirable to prejudge the result of the work of the specialized Commission which was at present studying the problem.

36. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had in principle to act at its next meeting on article IV of the draft International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (agenda item 58) and would have to resume its consideration of the preamble of the draft Declaration. He hoped that the sponsors of the draft Declaration on the Promotion Among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples would be able to consult with the sponsors of the amendments with a view to the submission to the Committee of consolidated texts as soon as possible.

The meeting rose at 12.10 p.m.