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MEETING**

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Chairman: Mr. Miguel Rafael URQUIA (El Salvador).

Tribute to the memory of His Holiness Pope Pius XII

1. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to observe one minute of silence as a tribute to the memory of His Holiness Pope Pius XII.

The representatives stood in silence.

**Order of discussion of agenda items (A/C.1/806)
(continued)**

2. Mr. KISELEV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) urged the Committee to support the USSR proposal for separate consideration of the disarmament items on the agenda, beginning with the question of the discontinuance of atomic and hydrogen weapons tests [item 70*]. The United States proposal to deal with the items under a single heading was contrary to the decision taken by the General Assembly when it had adopted the agenda, and the Committee was not competent to reverse that decision. Moreover, the procedure suggested by the United States representative would delay the achievement of positive results and increase the complexity of a most intricate problem.

3. The question of a ban on nuclear tests should be given priority as a matter of urgency: atomic and hydrogen weapons tests were continuing, and the resulting atomic radiation was causing untold damage to human health and life. A unanimous decision by the Assembly at its thirteenth session calling for a discontinuance of tests for all time would have great impact on the three-Power negotiations to be held shortly in Geneva. It would reflect the feelings of peoples throughout the world; it would be a decision of historic significance.

4. Mr. FORSYTH (Australia) supported the United States procedural proposal regarding the disarmament items. It could not be said to reverse the General Assembly's decision regarding the agenda items allocated to the First Committee, since it did not have the effect, as some speakers had argued, of creating a new item or of converting individual items into sub-items. The Committee was certainly required to deal with all the items referred to it by the General Assembly, but it was free to decide how it could most efficiently deal with those items.

* / Indicates the item number on the agenda of the General Assembly.

5. Mr. SHTYLLA (Albania) favoured the procedure suggested by the Soviet Union for the consideration of the disarmament items. It was in conformity with the Assembly's decision and it was the only sound and practical approach to the disarmament problem if the Committee wished to achieve concrete results. Those delegations which thought it better to combine the disarmament items had had ample opportunity to say so in the General Assembly. In reality, the procedure suggested by the United States would lead to a fruitless general debate which would make the consideration of the real issues more difficult. It was a procedure which would serve the interests only of those who did not want a solution of the disarmament question.

6. Absolute priority should be given to the question of the discontinuance of nuclear tests because it was the most urgent problem requiring solution and it was of the greatest concern to all peoples. Furthermore, the ground for a solution had been carefully prepared, and it was entirely possible to obtain a specific agreement independently of other disarmament issues. Lastly, the question had to be considered before 31 October 1958, the date on which the Geneva conference was to begin.

7. Mr. ILLUECA (Panama) noted that the Committee was approaching its discussion of the disarmament question in an atmosphere of renewed hope, a hope generated by the success of the technical talks recently concluded in Geneva and the prospect of a further meeting of experts to discuss practical means of preventing surprise attacks. It was now clear that the smaller nations could make a contribution to the solution of the disarmament problem and that such a solution could only be brought about through negotiation and compromise, and not by a vote recording differences of opinion. In the circumstances, it was essential to agree on a generally acceptable order of discussion.

8. The Committee should accept the United States proposal for a simultaneous discussion of the three disarmament items at the general debate stage. At the second stage of the debate, it would discuss separately and in turn all draft resolutions and proposals on item 4 of its agenda (Question of disarmament) [item 64*], all draft resolutions and proposals on item 7 (The discontinuance of atomic and hydrogen weapons tests) [item 70*], and finally, all draft resolutions and proposals on item 8, concerning the reduction of military budgets [item 72*]. Thus, at the second stage, the three disarmament items would in fact be taken as separate items.

9. Mr. PADILLA NERVO (Mexico) supported the Panamanian proposal in principle. Indeed, simultaneous discussion of the three interrelated disarmament items in the general debate was inevitable in practice, and no decision need be taken on that point. What required clarification was whether the United States

proposal implied simultaneous discussion of the draft resolutions, once the general debate had been completed. If it did not, the Committee should decide which of the three items should be given priority at that second stage of the discussion.

10. Mr. VITETTI (Italy) pointed out that the gap between the positions of the USSR and the United States on the procedural question was less wide than it had been made to appear. Nobody had denied that the three disarmament items were independent but interrelated; nobody had suggested that the items on discontinuance of tests and reduction of military budgets should be absorbed into the general disarmament item as sub-items; nor had anyone suggested that the three items should be amalgamated. The sole intention of the United States appeared to be to avoid three general debates; it was a laudable intention in respect of a question where positive results rather than eloquence were required.

11. Mr. PAZHWAĀK (Afghanistan), speaking on a point of order, moved the adjournment of the meeting to allow time for the Chairman to consult the various parties and work out an agreed order of discussion for the disarmament items. The motion was prompted by a desire to avoid a vote on the order of the agenda, to save time and to permit the Committee to begin its work. Any additional procedural proposals might be submitted to the Chairman. It was to be hoped that the Chairman's compromise suggestion would be accepted by the majority without further discussion.

12. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the motion for adjournment.

The motion was adopted by 26 votes to 11, with 27 abstentions.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.