

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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ENGLISH

FINAL RECORD OF THE FIVE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Tuesday, 19 June 1990, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. Oswaldo de Rivero (Peru)

The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): I call to order the 557th plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

The Conference begins today consideration of agenda items 1 and 2, entitled "Nuclear test ban" and "Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament". In accordance with rule 30 of the rules of procedure, however, any member wishing to do so may make a statement on any other subject relevant to the work of the Conference. I should also like to remind you that immediately after this plenary meeting, the Conference will hold an informal meeting on item 2 of the agenda I have just mentioned. On the list of speakers for today I have the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Mr. Batsanov, to whom I give the floor.

Mr. BATSANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (translated from Russian): First of all, Mr. President, allow me to express the satisfaction of the Soviet delegation at seeing you occupying the post of President of the Conference at this time. I look forward to fruitful co-operation with you, which would be a reflection of the warm relations that exist between our delegations and our countries, and of course we feel that the work of the Conference is now in good hands. At the same time, I would like to express our gratitude to your predecessor, Ambassador Kamal, who worthily bore the heavy burden of serving as President of the Conference during the previous two months.

As I am speaking for the first time at the summer session of the Conference on Disarmament, I would like to welcome the newly arrived heads of delegation, our new colleagues Ambassador Adolf Ritter von Wagner of the Federal Republic of Germany, Ambassador I. Chadha of India and Ambassador Joaquín Pérez-Villanueva of Spain. At the same time, we note with great regret that Ambassadors Kamallesh Sharma and Ibáñez have left us recently, and that Ambassadors Dimitar Kostov, István Varqa and Luvsandorjiin Bayart, and also Ambassador Tran Hoan, have been appointed to new posts and will shortly be leaving the Conference. We wish them happiness, good health and success in their future work.

The Soviet delegation has distributed within the Conference on Disarmament the text of a declaration of States parties to the Warsaw Treaty adopted at a meeting of the Political Consultative Committee in Moscow on 7 June 1990, and also a communiqué about that meeting. We took this step in our capacity as organizers of the meeting and in accordance with established practice. As far as I am aware, these documents will be issued by the secretariat tomorrow.

I would like to say a few words on the declaration by way of introduction.

Its adoption was dictated by the rapidly changing situation in Europe and the world as a whole. Thanks to the joint and convergent efforts made by States of East and West the threat of war has been banished to the past, and the security system which took shape during the years of the "cold war", founded on military antagonism and power confrontation, has begun to be dismantled. For the first time in the post-war period a unique opportunity has arisen to build a qualitatively new world based not on blocs but on joint structures of European and universal security.

(Mr. Batsanov, USSR)

In these circumstances, we believe, the elements of confrontation contained in documents of the Warsaw Treaty and the North Atlantic alliance in past years no longer correspond to the spirit of the times. The nature and functions of these alliances should be transformed so that, in the period of transition, they can perform new, urgent tasks related to disarmament and the creation of a pan-European security system. The military/political alliances should be transformed step by step into political/military alliances, and then into purely political organizations.

In this context, the meeting of the Political Consultative Committee in Moscow also decided that the nature, functions and activities of the Warsaw Treaty should be reviewed, as well as its transformation into a treaty among sovereign States with equal rights, built upon democratic foundations. The States parties to the Warsaw Treaty created a temporary commission of government plenipotentiaries which will submit appropriate concrete proposals to the Political Consultative Committee by the end of October this year. These proposals will be considered by the Political Consultative Committee before the end of November this year.

The declaration takes a positive view of the trend towards changes in NATO and a number of concrete steps recently taken by that alliance. We expect that these changes will become more rapid and more thorough-going, and also that they will be reflected in appropriate substantive changes in the Alliance's activities. The States parties to the Warsaw Treaty are also ready to co-operate constructively with neutral and non-aligned countries.

I would also like to highlight the part of the declaration in which the States parties to the Warsaw Treaty expressed their wish for a successful conclusion to the Vienna talks on conventional armed forces and on confidence-building and security-building measures in Europe, in order that agreements on these subjects can be adopted at a meeting of leaders of CSCE participating States at the end of this year.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): I thank the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for his statement, and for his kind words addressed to the Chair. I would like to ask whether any other delegation wishes to take the floor. None does, and as I have no other matters to be considered at present, I shall adjourn this plenary meeting, which will be followed by the informal meeting on agenda item 2. The next plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament will be held on Thursday 21 June at 10 a.m.

The meeting rose at 10.25 a.m.