



REPORT
OF THE *AD HOC* COMMITTEE
ON THE REVIEW OF THE ROLE
OF THE UNITED NATIONS
IN THE FIELD OF DISARMAMENT

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: THIRTY - FIRST SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 36 (A/31/36)

UNITED NATIONS



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New York, 1976

NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. By resolution 3484 (XXX) of 12 December 1975, the General Assembly decided to establish an Ad Hoc Committee on the Review of the Role of the United Nations in the Field of Disarmament, which would be a committee of the General Assembly, open to the participation of all Member States, to carry out a basic review of the role of the United Nations in that field.

2. The General Assembly also decided that the review should, inter alia, focus on the following objectives:

(a) Possible new approaches for achieving more effective procedures and organization of work in the field of disarmament, thereby enabling the United Nations to exercise its full role in multilateral disarmament efforts;

(b) Ways and means of improving existing United Nations facilities for the collection, compilation and dissemination of information on disarmament issues, in order to keep all Governments, as well as world public opinion, properly informed on progress achieved in the field of disarmament;

(c) Ways and means to enable the Secretariat to assist, on request, States parties to multilateral disarmament agreements in their duty to ensure the effective functioning of such agreements, including appropriate periodic reviews.

3. The General Assembly invited all States to communicate to the Secretary-General, not later than 1 May 1976, their views and suggestions on the strengthening of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament.

4. The General Assembly requested the Ad Hoc Committee to meet for a short organizational session of not longer than one week in January 1976 and for substantive sessions of two weeks in June/July 1976 and of one week in September 1976 and to submit its report, including findings and proposals, to the General Assembly at its thirty-first session.

II. WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

5. Pursuant to paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 3484 B (XXX), the Committee met at United Nations Headquarters for an organizational session from 26 to 29 January 1976, and for substantive sessions from 14 to 24 June and from 7 to 10 September 1976. During these three sessions it held 19 meetings (A/AC.181/SR.1-19). The first meeting of the Committee was opened by the Secretary-General, who made a statement.

6. The Committee elected the following officers:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mme. Inga Thorsson	(Sweden)
<u>Vice-Chairmen:</u>	M. Mohamed Bachrouch	(Tunisia)
	M. Darioush Bayandor	(Iran)
	Sra. Emilia Castro de Barish	(Costa Rica)
	H.E. Dr. Simón Alberto Consalvi	(Venezuela)
	H.E. Mr. Imre Hollai	(Hungary)
	H.E. M. Edouard Longerstaeey	(Belgium)
	H.E. Mr. Jaksa Petrić	(Yugoslavia)
	H.E. Mr. Alejandro D. Yango	(Philippines)
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. Saad Ahmed Alfarargi	(Egypt)

7. At its 6th meeting, on 29 January 1976, the Committee adopted the following decision-making procedure contained in a statement by the Chairman:

"In view of the importance of the matters that have been entrusted to this Committee, it is most desirable that we achieve the widest measure of agreement on the issues before us. At the same time, it is also important that all points of view and recommendations presented in the Committee are adequately reflected in the report so that Members of the General Assembly can give them due consideration. It is my understanding that delegations accordingly wish to make every effort to achieve the broadest agreement on as many of the issues before them as possible, with the provision that delegations may have their own comments and proposals recorded in the report in addition to those findings and proposals that are adopted without objection by the Committee."

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the provisional agenda for the second session and invited the Secretary-General to:

(a) Present in a systematized manner the communications of Governments submitted to him in accordance with paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 3484 B (XXX);

(b) Give his views as he deemed appropriate on the subject-matter dealt with in General Assembly resolution 3484 B (XXX) on the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament.

9. At its second session, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Strengthening of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament: report of the Secretary-General (A/AC.181/1 and Add.1-6);

(b) Strengthening of the role of the United Nations: report of the Secretary-General (A/AC.181/2 and Add.1);

(c) Strengthening of the role of the United Nations: report of the Secretary-General (A/AC.181/3).

10. At its 9th meeting, on 15 June 1976, the Committee agreed to accept the working paper submitted at the 7th meeting, on 14 June 1976, by the representative of Sweden (A/AC.181/L.5) as the basis for the Committee's discussions. At the 14th meeting, on 23 June 1976, the representative of Sweden submitted a revised version of the working paper (A/AC.181/L.5/Rev.1 and Add.1).

11. Also at the 9th meeting, the Committee agreed that at future meetings, when the speakers' list was exhausted, the Committee should constitute itself into a working group of the whole to study carefully the questions before it.

12. The Working Group of the Whole held 11 meetings between 16 and 24 June 1976, during which the working paper submitted by the representative of Sweden (see para. 10 above) was discussed. The Working Group was also seized with informal working papers by several members of the Working Group, covering a variety of topics. Subsequently, the representative of Mexico submitted a working paper (A/AC.181/L.7).

13. At its 15th meeting, on 24 June 1976, the Committee decided:

(a) To invite the Secretary-General to submit, at his earliest convenience, information on the administrative and financial implications of the working paper submitted by Sweden and of the other proposals which had been made at the second session;

(b) To request the Rapporteur to formulate the draft final report of the Committee for consideration by the Committee at its third session; and

(c) That the summary records of the second session should serve as a preliminary report until the final one was prepared.

14. It was understood that as soon as the information on financial implications of proposals was available, delegations would have to take a final position on the various proposals.

15. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the provisional agenda for the third session (A/AC.181/L.9).

16. At its third session the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) A note by the Secretary-General containing the administrative and financial implications of document A/AC.181/L.5/Rev.1 and Add.1 and of all other working papers submitted at the second session of the Ad Hoc Committee (A/AC.181/4);

(b) Document A/AC.181/L.5/Rev.1 and Add.1, mentioned above, which was later revised by the delegation of Sweden (A/AC.181/L.5/Rev.2).

17. At the 16th meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee, on 7 September 1976, the Director of the Disarmament Affairs Division of the United Nations Secretariat introduced document A/AC.181/4.

18. At its 18th meeting, on 9 September 1976, the Ad Hoc Committee, having completed its review of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament decided to submit to the General Assembly the following proposals for its consideration:

"AGREED PROPOSALS

"I. Possible new approaches for achieving more effective procedures and organization of work in the field of disarmament, thereby enabling the United Nations to exercise its full role in multilateral disarmament efforts

"A. Improved methods of work of the First Committee of the General Assembly in disarmament matters

"1. The Ad Hoc Committee underlines that delegations are free to address themselves in the First Committee of the General Assembly to any disarmament issue on its agenda and to submit, when they deem it necessary, draft resolutions on each agenda item. At the same time, the Ad Hoc Committee makes the following suggestions in order to make the work of the First Committee more constructive and efficient:

"(a) At the beginning of the First Committee's consideration of disarmament items, the Chairman should consider the carrying out of consultations with the members of the Committee in order to examine the advisability of submitting for consideration by the First Committee a schedule setting out a specific duration for the general debate and the debate on the draft resolutions presented under each agenda item, together with tentative dates for the voting on those draft resolutions. To the extent possible, this schedule should provide for the grouping together of matters that are closely related, provided that the State or States which brought the items in question to the attention of the General Assembly do not oppose such grouping;

"(b) It would be useful for the work of the First Committee if delegations made all efforts to arrange for informal circulation of draft resolutions by the time the Committee starts its work during each session of the General Assembly. This could also help to promote the amalgamation, whenever possible, of draft resolutions with similar aims and content;

"(c) The members of the First Committee could hold informal consultations to determine whether any delegation intended to request the adoption of any measure with regard to a given item. If those consultations showed clearly that no delegation would request any action by the General Assembly, the Committee could decide to include the item concerned in the provisional agenda for a subsequent session of the General Assembly;

"(d) The First Committee should keep in mind the possibility of taking decisions instead of adopting formal resolutions on procedural questions with a view to reducing the number of draft resolutions presented to the General Assembly;

"(e) The Chairman of the First Committee should consult with the members of the Committee at the beginning of each session of the General Assembly on further measures that would make the Committee's deliberations more efficient and simplified;

"(f) The Chairman of the First Committee should consult with members of the Committee in order to explore the possibility of amalgamating draft resolutions on the same item, with the consent of their respective sponsors, whether they had been circulated informally or submitted formally to the Committee.

"B. The relationship between the General Assembly and other United Nations bodies in the field of disarmament

"2. The Ad Hoc Committee recommends that:

"Before the annual report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is dealt with by the General Assembly in plenary, it be made available to the First Committee. Sections of the report concerning the activities of IAEA that are of particular relevance to the prevention of proliferation of nuclear weapons and related matters should, in the course of the First Committee's disarmament debate, be drawn to the attention of the Committee in connexion with the relevant items on its agenda.

"C. Role of the United Nations Disarmament Commission

"3. The Ad Hoc Committee recommends that:

"The General Assembly, at an appropriate time, consider the future role of the United Nations Disarmament Commission.

"D. Role of the United Nations in providing assistance on request in multilateral and regional disarmament negotiations

"4. The Ad Hoc Committee recommends that:

"States participating in multilateral and regional disarmament negotiations give serious consideration to the possibility of requesting conference servicing and other technical assistance from the United Nations.

"E. The relationship between the General Assembly and the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament

"5. The Ad Hoc Committee recommends that:

"(a) The report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, being an indispensable document of the General Assembly, as a rule be made available to delegations in New York not later than

15 September each year. The report should reproduce any decisions and conclusions reached and present in summary form the main substance of the discussions in the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament with a view to increasing its usefulness to delegations;

"(b) All official documents of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament be made available to all Members of the United Nations through their delegations in New York on a regular and continuing basis;

"(c) The General Assembly, in entrusting tasks to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, take into account the existing workload of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament as well as the progress achieved on the issues before it.

"F. Studies

"6. The Ad Hoc Committee recommends that:

"(a) The General Assembly consider making increased use of in-depth studies of the arms race, disarmament and related matters on an ad hoc basis conducted by the Secretary-General with the assistance of qualified experts nominated by Governments and with the assistance, whenever appropriate, from other sources;

"(b) The capacity of the United Nations Secretariat be such as to ensure that it can effectively carry out the responsibilities given to it in connexion with such studies.

"II. Ways and means of improving existing United Nations facilities for collection, compilation and dissemination of information on disarmament issues, in order to keep all Governments, as well as world public opinion, properly informed on progress achieved in the field of disarmament

"7. The Ad Hoc Committee recommends that:

"(a) The United Nations publish annually before the regular session of the General Assembly in all the working languages of the Assembly a United Nations Disarmament Yearbook. This Yearbook should contain a descriptive review of the main developments and ongoing negotiations in the field of disarmament, including a summary of the Assembly resolutions adopted and of the proposals made in this connexion. It should further contain, inter alia:

"(i) Texts of new treaties and agreements in the field of disarmament as well as drafts of such texts submitted to the United Nations or the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament;

"(ii) A report on the status of the existing disarmament agreements;

"(iii) Decisions and conclusions on these matters reached by, inter alia, the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, IAEA and possible review conferences;

"(iv) Factual information, as communicated by Governments or appearing in their official publications, on such topics as military expenditures, armed forces and armaments, military production, arms trade and foreign aid in the military field, with full citation of the sources. Such information should be contained in the Yearbook in a useful and standardized format once appropriate and generally applicable criteria for the measurement, reporting and evaluation of relevant internationally comparable data are developed and agreed upon by the United Nations.

"(b) The Secretary-General report to the General Assembly on the publication of the Yearbook and, on the basis of that report, the United Nations consider publishing a disarmament periodical in all the working languages of the General Assembly. The periodical would present in highly readable form current facts and developments in the field of disarmament, such as summaries of new proposals and of important relevant statements and communiqués. It would also contain, inter alia, summaries of in-depth studies undertaken by the United Nations of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament. It should further provide annotated bibliographies and brief summaries of important books and articles on disarmament questions and related matters;

"(c) To the extent that these tasks are entrusted to the United Nations with regard to the compilation and dissemination of information on disarmament for the benefit of Member States and public opinion, appropriate steps be taken to ensure that the Disarmament Affairs Division of the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs can effectively carry out these responsibilities;

"(d) The United Nations Secretariat, through the appropriate channels, continue to disseminate to the general public information on disarmament questions and related matters, including information contained in the periodical and the Yearbook.

"III. Ways and means to enable the United Nations Secretariat to assist, on request, States parties to multilateral disarmament agreements in their duty to ensure the effective functioning of such agreements, including appropriate reviews

"8. The Ad Hoc Committee recommends that:

"(a) States participating in multilateral disarmament negotiations consider the possibilities of entrusting appropriate functions to the United Nations, its specialized agencies or the IAEA with respect to the implementation of multilateral disarmament agreements. The capacity of these organizations to assist States, on request, to meet their obligations arising out of agreements concluded in such negotiations should be commensurate with the tasks which might be entrusted to them;

"(b) As a general rule such States may request the Secretary-General to assume the depositary role for multilateral disarmament conventions and treaties;

"(c) States participating in multilateral and regional negotiations of disarmament agreements give serious consideration to the inclusion of a Review Conference provision. In making the necessary preparations for Review Conferences the States parties should consider requesting the United Nations to provide facilities, conference services and other assistance in connexion with such conferences. The United Nations should have the capacity necessary to meet such requests.

"IV. Strengthening of the resources of the United Nations Secretariat

"9. In view of these important new tasks to be entrusted to the United Nations in the field of disarmament comprising functions of committee and conference services, studies on disarmament matters, compilation and dissemination of information, and the follow-up of disarmament resolutions and agreements, the Ad Hoc Committee recommends that:

"(a) The Disarmament Affairs Division be transformed into a United Nations Centre for Disarmament within the framework of the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs;

"(b) The Centre be headed by an official with the rank of Assistant Secretary-General;

"(c) The Centre be staffed accordingly."

III. COMMENTS ON THE AGREED PROPOSALS

19. At its 19th meeting, on 10 September 1976, the Ad Hoc Committee decided to attach the summary records of its 18th and 19th meetings, containing the delegations' interpretations of, and view and comments on, the agreed proposals of the Committee, as an annex to this report.

ANNEX

Comments on the agreed proposals a/

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 18TH MEETING

...

REVIEW OF THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE FIELD OF DISARMAMENT:

- (a) PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS AND PROPOSALS OF THE SECOND SESSION AS WELL AS ALL OTHER PROPOSALS SUBMITTED AT THE SECOND SESSION
- (b) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF DOCUMENTS A/AC.181/L.5/Rev.1 and Add.1 AND OF ALL OTHER WORKING PAPERS SUBMITTED AT THE SECOND SESSION (A/AC.181/4)
- (c) OTHER WORKING PAPERS SUBMITTED TO THE AD HOC COMMITTEE (A/AC.181/L.5/Rev.2)

3. Mr. CORRADINI (Secretary of the Committee) said that a correction should be made in the text of document A/AC.181/L.5/Rev.2; in the penultimate line of paragraph 8 (a), the words "on the above topics" should be deleted.

4. Mr. HAMILTON (Sweden) pointed out that the working paper submitted by his delegation for the Committee's consideration (A/AC.181/L.5/Rev.2) was the outcome of the informal negotiations which had recently been concluded. He therefore hoped that the recommendations contained in it would be acceptable to the members of the Committee.

5. Mr. PASTINEN (Finland), supported by Mr. CORREA (Mexico) and Mr. OXLEY (Australia), proposed that, instead of considering working paper A/AC.181/L.5/Rev.2 section by section, the Committee should allow delegations to make general comments on the text or on the particular sections and paragraphs which they considered to be of special importance. He believed that that procedure would be much more practical, and it seemed reasonable in view of the fact that the working paper was the result of informal negotiations in which all delegations had participated.

6. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, she would take it that the Committee agreed to the proposal of the representative of Finland.

7. It was so decided.

8. Mr. CORREA (Mexico) said that the positions stated by his delegation on a number of occasions were reflected in the text of working paper A/AC.181/L.5/Rev.2. However, he proposed that in the second line of paragraph 2 (d) the word "appropriate" in the English text should be replaced by "procedural"; in the Spanish version, the wording "cuestiones apropiadas" should be changed to

a/ As contained in the summary records of the 18th and 19th meetings, which are reproduced herein in accordance with the decision of the Committee at its 19th meeting.

"cuestiones de procedimiento". His delegation also wished to reiterate the view, shared by many delegations, that the United Nations Centre for Disarmament referred to in paragraph 10 should be headed by a national of a third world country. Otherwise, the text of the paper was acceptable to his delegation.

9. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, she would take it that the Committee adopted the amendment proposed by the representative of Mexico.

10. It was so decided.

11. Mr. LAY (Italy) said he wished to stress that, in the discussions on measures for strengthening the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament, the importance of organizational changes should not be overemphasized. The political will of States to make substantive progress towards general and complete disarmament - progress to which the Italian Government was firmly committed - was more important than efforts to find new machinery, although that political will could certainly benefit from better modalities. The Conference of the Committee on Disarmament remained for his delegation the main forum for discussions on disarmament, and it did not therefore consider it useful that existing structures should be duplicated. Rather, it favoured the attainment of a greater degree of efficiency together with a better use of the budgetary resources of the United Nations, and it would prefer that those structures which had proved to be useful and effective should be strengthened in the measure required as shown by experience.

12. The revised working paper (A/AC.181/L.5/Rev.2) was generally acceptable to his delegation, which was fully aware of and had participated in the preparatory work leading up to its submission.

13. Mr. TULINOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the Soviet Union's position on the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament had been clearly expressed in its reply to the Secretary-General's questionnaire under resolution 3484 B (XXX) and in the statements of its representatives at the first and second sessions of the Committee. His delegation considered that the working paper submitted by the delegation of Sweden (A/AC.181/L.5/Rev.2) was a great improvement on the earlier version and that the changes made were generally in the right direction.

14. With regard to paragraph 8 (a), dealing with the publication of information on disarmament, he wished to repeat that his delegation, which had always considered it necessary to take effective measures to curb the arms race, did not believe that undue attention should be given to technical matters of a secondary nature, such as the development of criteria for the evaluation of data. That would mean ignoring the major aspects of the problem; moreover, such minor activities could be used by those opposed to disarmament as a cover for their unwillingness to take decisive action in the field.

15. While his delegation was not opposed to an expansion of the work of the Secretariat in connexion with the publication of documents on disarmament, or to an increase in the number of staff engaged in that kind of work, it wished to emphasize the need to reduce to a minimum the financial implications of such activities.

16. Mr. SCALABRE (France) said that his delegation was not opposed to the consensus on the working paper. However, with regard to section I.C (Role of the United Nations Disarmament Commission), it considered that the Commission should be recommended to examine the structure and procedures of the disarmament bodies as a whole. As for section I.E (The relationship between the General Assembly and the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament), he wished to make it clear that, while his delegation had no objection to the contents of the section, that did not imply any change in its well-known attitude to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament. In connexion with section I.F (Studies), his delegation would stress the particular difficulties which studies conducted by the Secretariat with the assistance of qualified experts nominated by Governments might encounter when they came to the most controversial aspects of disarmament - in other words, to those of the greatest importance.

17. Lastly, his delegation wished to stress the need to avoid increasing the expenses of the Organization, especially by the establishment of new posts, until more rapid and tangible progress was being made in the disarmament effort. Of course, no increase of funds would be too much if concrete results were in fact achieved in a field of such vital importance, which was unfortunately not the case at that time.

18. Mr. LOPEZ CHICHERI (Spain) pointed out a mistake in the Spanish version of the working paper; in the first two lines of paragraph 8 (b), the words "la posibilidad de publicar el" should be replaced by "la publicación del".

19. Mr. BUENO (Brazil) said that his delegation had doubts as to the practical results to be expected from an expansion of the Secretariat staff responsible for disarmament affairs and the attendant financial implications, since all initiatives in that direction should serve the dual purpose of meeting the needs resulting from progress in the field of disarmament and of acting as political leverage to promote agreement in promising areas. Yet any advance in disarmament negotiations was a remote possibility. None the less, without losing sight of those realities, his delegation believed that no effort should be spared to improve the methods of work of the First Committee and to provide publications on latest developments in the field of disarmament for the interested public. That might enable countries which did not ordinarily have the opportunity to become acquainted with many of the issues involved to develop their potentialities for assessment and therefore to play a more active role in the process of formulating national policies and decisions.

20. As far as paragraph 7 (a) of the working paper was concerned, his delegation maintained its reservations on the idea of leaving the possibility open for the Secretary-General, in conducting studies of the arms race, to make use of sources other than the qualified experts designated by Governments. Among such "other sources" there might be private institutions which, while they had made valuable contributions in the field of disarmament, were already known to hold views that they were unlikely to change when dealing with the same questions under the aegis of the United Nations. Moreover, there was a need to clarify the precise meaning of the options that paragraph 7 (a) left open on such questions as the composition of expert groups, the type of assistance that might be requested, and the limits of the Secretariat's responsibilities for publications and for the opinions and conclusions contained in them. Aside from those reservations, his delegation found the new version of the working paper acceptable.

21. Mr. IONESCU (Romania) said that, although his delegation joined in the consensus on some measures to strengthen the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament, it was of the view that the work of the Committee was merely the beginning of a longer process to put the United Nations in its natural place in disarmament efforts. The views of Romania on the subject could be found in the documents it had submitted to the General Assembly in the previous year and to the Committee during the current year.

22. Mr. SHERER (United States of America) said that his delegation's support of the Committee's recommendations was based on the fact that it was in agreement with their substance and felt that if they were implemented by the General Assembly they would be conducive to improvements in the operation and effectiveness of the United Nations in the field of disarmament. However, that approval of the Committee's recommendations did not prejudice his Government's position on the financial and administrative implications of what would be required in the way of financial resources and staff, implications which would have to be examined by the First Committee and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) in the light of the United Nations budget and the priorities determined by the Assembly.

23. Mr. LOGAN (United Kingdom), referring to the amendment introduced by the Mexican delegation in the working paper, said it was his delegation's understanding that the new wording of paragraph 2 (d) would not rule out the possibility of the First Committee's taking decisions on other questions.

24. With regard to the recommendation in paragraph 9 (b) to the effect that as a general rule States might request the Secretary-General to assume the role of depositary, his delegation considered that the words "as a general rule" meant that the Secretary-General could exercise those functions when the parties to disarmament agreements deemed it appropriate.

25. With respect to section IV (Strengthening of the resources of the United Nations Secretariat), his delegation thought that the staff should not be expanded unless new tasks, clearly defined, so required, in which case the relevant administrative and financial implications should be considered by the General Assembly's Fifth Committee in the context of the other calls on the United Nations budget which may emerge during the thirty-first General Assembly and the priorities for expenditures that the Committee may set in the light of them.

26. Mr. MOHAJER (Iran), referring to section I.A (Improved methods of work of the First Committee of the General Assembly in disarmament matters), said that in the view of his delegation no further progress had been made in improving the First Committee's methods of work: all that had been done was to repeat what was already known. The rest of the document was, on the whole, acceptable, although the questions of substance which were really holding up progress had not actually been considered. For example, only a passing reference had been made to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament.

27. With regard to the studies provided for in section I.F, his delegation would have preferred to retain the previous wording of the text, particularly in paragraph 7 (a).

28. In conclusion, he stressed that the last subparagraph of paragraph 8 (a),

referring to factual information which should be contained in the Yearbook and the format of the latter, should be read and interpreted as a whole. There was a close connexion between the two parts of that subparagraph, which could not be considered separately.

29. Mr. SCALABRE (France) said that his delegation agreed with the United Kingdom representative's interpretation of the expression "as a general rule" in paragraph 9 (b). It was for States to determine the modalities of implementation of the agreement to which they were parties and of supervision of compliance, as well as to decide whether there was a need to secure the good offices of the Secretary-General as depositary for the agreement in question.

30. Mr. TANAKA (Japan) expressed his delegation's satisfaction with the new version of the working paper; however, he wished to reserve its position with regard to the strengthening of the resources of the Secretariat in so far as it might have financial implications.

31. Mr. GALLAGHER (Canada) expressed his delegation's satisfaction at the consensus which had been reached, in which it participated.

32. Mrs. CASTRO de BARISH (Costa Rica) said that her delegation endorsed the opinion of the Italian representative that political will was a determining factor in the attainment of goals in the sphere of disarmament. At the same time, it was obvious that an improvement in procedures and organization of work in the field of disarmament would enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations in fulfilling the role assigned to it. That was why the recommendations in the working paper were valuable. Emphasis should also be placed on the important part which non-governmental organizations could play in activities related to disarmament.

33. Mr. NEUBERT (Federal Republic of Germany), referring to paragraph 2 (d), said that his delegation felt that the possibility of the First Committee's taking decisions instead of adopting resolutions did not rule out the application of rule 125 of the General Assembly's rules of procedure. With regard to paragraph 6, his delegation considered that the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament was the body which could most appropriately conduct substantive negotiations in the field of disarmament. Finally, his delegation felt that any increases in staff or financial resources should be examined by the Fifth Committee and ACABQ.

34. Mr. JANKOWITSCH (Austria) said that although his delegation considered that the outcome of the deliberations had on the whole been positive, it would have preferred more far-reaching recommendations, especially with regard to improving the methods of work of the First Committee and the Secretariat facilities for the dissemination of information on disarmament issues. However, it hoped that in restricting the scope of the recommendations the Committee had facilitated their adoption by the General Assembly at its forthcoming session.

35. Mr. PASTINEN (Finland), supported by Mr. VALDERRAMA (Philippines), said that the new text of the working paper (A/AC.181/L.5/Rev.2) was an improvement on the earlier version except in one respect, which his delegation considered of particular importance. In document A/AC.181/L.5/Rev.1 it was stated that the Committee recommended that the United Nations should publish a Disarmament Yearbook and also a disarmament periodical which would be issued three times a year. In the present version, the publication of the Yearbook was again recommended but with

regard to the periodical the wording was somewhat vague and gave the impression that the project for its publication was being deferred. His delegation wished to place on record its hope that the idea of issuing a disarmament periodical would not be forgotten or relegated to some future date, since if that were to happen it would mean that the intention to inform public opinion about disarmament issues was not being carried out.

36. He also noted that Finland, in its reply to the Secretary-General, had stressed the importance which it attributed to the role that could be played by non-governmental organizations in arousing the support of public opinion for disarmament efforts. The new version of the document did not specifically mention non-governmental organizations, and although it could be assumed that paragraph 8 (c) and (d), referring to public opinion and to information disseminated to the public, also implicitly covered non-governmental organizations, his delegation would have preferred them to be mentioned explicitly.

37. Mr. MULYE (India) recalled that in his Government's reply to the Secretary-General's enquiry, emphasis had been placed on the political will of Governments being necessary for real progress in the field of disarmament. Exercises such as the present one, although important, could only have limited value. He noted the importance of the role played by the delegation of Sweden in securing consensus on the proposals agreed upon by the Committee which, although not ideal, indicated some progress. While his delegation would like to comment substantively on all aspects of the report during the discussions in the First Committee, it would have preferred paragraph 7 (a) of the revised Swedish paper without its last part.

38. Mr. TELLMANN (Norway) said that the effectiveness of the United Nations in promoting the cause of disarmament and arms control must be improved. The scope and complexity of disarmament issues made it essential to establish better procedures for compiling and disseminating documents and to arouse greater awareness of those issues on the part of public opinion, purposes which could be achieved by improving the information services of the United Nations. His Government was in favour of adopting specific measures to improve the capacity of the Secretariat, and particularly of the Disarmament Affairs Division, to carry out its informational task and contribute to the conclusion of effective multilateral disarmament agreements. His delegation would have preferred a different wording in some passages, which would have strengthened certain ideas, but it supported the consensus document, which constituted a positive result of the consultations and negotiations that had been carried out in a spirit of co-operation.

39. Mr. PALMA (Peru) said that his delegation considered the document before the Committee acceptable although it could have gone farther in certain respects. It was now for the General Assembly to examine the results of the Committee's efforts and adopt the appropriate decisions to expand and strengthen the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament.

40. The CHAIRMAN said that if she heard no objection she would take it that the Committee was prepared to adopt the recommendations in working paper A/AC.181/L.5/Rev.2 and include them in its report to the General Assembly at its thirty-first session.

41. It was so agreed.

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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 19TH MEETING

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (continued)

Draft report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Review of the Role of the United Nations in the Field of Disarmament (A/AC.181/L.10)

1. Mr. ALFARARGI (Egypt), Rapporteur, briefly presented the draft report of the Committee (A/AC.181/L.10). The introduction cited the provisions of General Assembly resolution 3484 B (XXX), the second part gave an account of the Committee's work following the chronological order of its sessions, the third part contained the Committee's agreed proposals in the order indicated by resolution 3484 B (XXX), and the last part reproduced the comments made by four delegations at the previous meeting. If the Committee's work had proved successful, that was due to the spirit of teamwork and co-operation which had prevailed during the current session and which he hoped would also mark the following session.
2. Mr. LOGAN (United Kingdom) said that since certain delegations, including his own, seemed to have some difficulties with regard to the draft report, it would be preferable to suspend the meeting in order to hold the necessary consultations.
3. The CHAIRMAN said that, in the absence of any objection, the meeting would be suspended for one hour.

The meeting was suspended at 11.10 a.m. and resumed at 12.15 p.m.

4. Mr. ALFARARGI (Egypt), Rapporteur, said that after consultations the members of the Committee had agreed on a new wording for paragraph 19, which would now read as follows: "The summary records of the 18th and 19th meetings of the Committee, containing delegations' interpretations of, and views and comments on, the agreed proposals of the Committee, appear in annex I."
5. The CHAIRMAN said she understood that the new paragraph 19 was to replace paragraphs 19-22, which would be annexed to the draft report. If there was no objection, she would take it that the paragraph was adopted.
6. It was so decided.
7. Mr. ELLIOTT (Belgium) wished to reaffirm the general reservation his delegation had expressed at the Committee's previous session concerning those proposals which might have financial implications.
8. Like several other delegations, his delegation felt that only genuine progress in the field which concerned the Committee would justify any increase in staff or expenditure. Such an increase would be acceptable only for tasks which were clearly defined and required actual work on the part of the Secretariat.
9. His delegation also wished to point out that the possible financial and administrative implications would in any case have to be considered at the appropriate level, namely, by the Fifth Committee and ACABQ.

10. Mr. OTEGUI (Argentina), supported by Mr. CORREA (Mexico), said he wished to repeat that it should have been made clear, in paragraph 9 (b) of the section of the report relating to the Committee's proposals, that the official with the rank of Assistant Secretary-General who would head the United Nations Centre for Disarmament should be a national of a developing country.

11. Mrs. BEAGLE (New Zealand) was pleased that the Committee's recommendations had been adopted by consensus. She hoped that, in considering them, the appropriate United Nations bodies would take account of the fact that during the informal negotiations many delegations had stressed the need for careful examination of the financial and personnel implications of those recommendations.

12. Mr. KLEINPETER (German Democratic Republic) said that his Government's position had been put forward in its report to the Secretary-General and in the statements made by his delegation at the Committee's second session. In keeping with that position, his delegation felt that the suggestions contained in paragraph 7 (a) (iv) were not consistent with the desired goal, which was to enhance the political role and increase the weight of the United Nations; the suggestions in question were oriented to purely technical questions instead of encouraging all States to adopt a constructive attitude towards effective disarmament negotiations.

13. Mr. SOKALSKI (Poland) said it was no secret to anyone that his delegation had always questioned the advisability of calling into question the procedural and organizational aspects of disarmament negotiations. His country could not support the theory that it would be better to concentrate on procedural questions of minor importance rather than on the political will of States to make tangible progress in the field of disarmament and arms limitation. On the contrary, attempts to alter the tested machinery available to the United Nations in that field only diverted the international community's attention from the substance of the problem and hampered the efforts currently being made by existing bodies.

14. It was in a spirit of conciliation and in order to permit a consensus to emerge that his delegation had accepted the document submitted by the Swedish delegation, but it still had some reservations in that regard. He recalled that his Government's point of view was set out in document A/AC.181/1 and expressed the hope that it would be duly reflected in the annex to the draft report.

15. Mr. VALDERRAMA (Philippines) was pleased that the Committee had been able to reach a compromise. He recalled, however, that at the previous meeting his delegation had advocated the publication of a periodical on disarmament; he hoped that action along those lines would be taken without delay so that public opinion would be properly informed of the progress made in that field.

16. Mr. NIEHE (Netherlands) expressed satisfaction at the successful outcome of the Committee's deliberations and stressed that the financial and administrative implications of the Committee's recommendations should be carefully considered in the appropriate bodies.

17. Mr. PLASEK (Czechoslovakia) said that his delegation would like paragraph 22, which was to appear in the annex to the Committee's report, to begin with the words "The delegations of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic ..." in order to make it clear that his delegation's views coincided with those of the Soviet delegation.

18. The CHAIRMAN said she took it that the amendment proposed by the Czechoslovak representative was acceptable to the Soviet representative.

19. Mr. GALAMBOS (Hungary) said that, in a spirit of conciliation, his delegation gave its endorsement to the draft report but it had some reservations regarding paragraph 7 (a) (iv).

20. Mr. GHELEV (Bulgaria) also expressed some reservations regarding paragraph 7 (a) (iv). He reaffirmed the position of principle adopted by his Government, which was fully reflected in paragraph 22, and the reservations and doubts his Government had expressed in the communication it had submitted in accordance with paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 3484 B (XXX).

21. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the draft report should be adopted section by section.

Introduction (paras. 1-4)

22. The introduction to the draft report was adopted.

Work of the Committee (paras. 5-18)

23. The section on the work of the Committee was adopted.

Agreed proposals (items I-IV, paras. 1-9)

24. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the section in question reproduced, word for word, the text approved by consensus the previous day.

25. The section on agreed proposals was adopted.

New paragraph 19

26. The CHAIRMAN noted that the new paragraph 19 replaced paragraphs 19-22, which were to be annexed to the report, and had already been adopted by the Committee.

27. The draft report of the Ad Hoc Committee, as a whole (A/AC.181/L.10), was adopted.

28. Mr. PASTINEN (Finland) expressed pleasure at the successful conclusion of the Committee's work and noted with satisfaction that there was a fair chance that added resources, in both money and manpower, would be placed at the disposal of the Secretariat - subject, of course, to approval by the General Assembly - for its work on behalf of disarmament.

29. He thanked the Chairman and the members of the Secretariat, who had made a substantial contribution to the success of the Committee's work, and also the Swedish delegation, whose efforts had made it possible to adopt recommendations which had every prospect of receiving broad support at the next session of the General Assembly.

30. The comments he had just made, taken in conjunction with the written reply of his Government and the previous statements of his delegation, foreshadowed the line of conduct which his Government would follow when the Committee's agreed proposals came up for action at the forthcoming session of the General Assembly.

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