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Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 28 October 1987, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. FLORIN (German Democratic Republic)

- International Year of Peace [26] (continued)
 - (a) Report of the Secretary-General
 - (b) Draft resolution
- Programme of work
- Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs [16]
 - (b) Election of twelve members of the World Food Council

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The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 26 (continued)

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PEACE

- (a) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/42/487 and Corr.2 and Add.1)
- (b) DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/42/L.12)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The International Year of Peace proclaimed by the General Assembly at the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations has contributed in stimulating activity for peace and security the world over. Governments, mass organizations, statesmen and people from various professions committed themselves to achieving the Year's objectives, with the theme, "To safeguard peace and the future of humanity", as amply demonstrated in the report submitted by the Secretary-General (A/42/487 and Corr.2 and Add.1). The recognition that peace can be preserved only through ongoing concerted efforts by us all is, in my view, the most important result of the Year. Peoples need peace because, in the final analysis, we must safeguard the survival of mankind and the development of human civilization. I should like in particular to emphasize the observation made by the Secretary-General of our Organization in his report, which reads as follows:

"Concerted action in the remaining years of this century inspired by the International Year of Peace can give substance to the vision of the year 2000 as the opening of a new era in international relations." (A/42/487, para. 49)

I sincerely hope that our debate will give new impetus to such concerted action, which is of the utmost importance.

(spoke in English)

I now call on the representative of Costa Rica to introduce draft resolution A/42/L.12.

Mrs. CASTRO de BARISH (Costa Rica) (interpretation from Spanish): Once again we are considering agenda item 26, "International Year of Peace". Two years have elapsed since the General Assembly solemnly proclaimed 1986 as the International Year of Peace, and the time has come to assess the achievements realized over the short term and those that can be made in the promotion of peace throughout the world.

In proclaiming the Year, the General Assembly appealed to all peoples of the world to join with the United Nations in the execution of specific plans to assist in safeguarding peace and the future of humanity through the continuing and positive action of Member States, peoples and individual men and women aimed at the prevention of war, the removal of threats to the peace, the peaceful settlement of disputes and the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without exception and in all parts of the world.

(Mrs. Castro de Barish, Costa Rica)

The International Year of Peace made a considerable contribution to raising consciousness about the potential of the United Nations as an instrument for promoting peace, and did so at all levels, personal and governmental, and among governmental and non-governmental organizations, educational institutions and peace research organizations. It was as if the potential of the world Organization to realize one of its primary purposes had been rediscovered.

We recall that the Secretary-General launched the Year with a special message, in which he stated that the Year provided a unique opportunity to tackle the problems and prospects of peace. Indeed, special attention was given during the Year to questions of disarmament and its relationship to development, respect for human rights and efforts to eliminate apartheid, promote economic and social development, improve the quality of life, protect the environment and settle existing conflicts.

It is encouraging to note the broad range of activities carried out in 1986; these are outlined in the excellent report of the Secretary-General (A/42/487), in paragraphs 14 to 39 of chapter II, entitled "Implementation of the programme for the Year: participation, co-ordination and communication".

But I should like to draw special attention to what is stated in paragraph 25: that non-governmental organizations played a key role in co-ordinating action at both national and local levels. We believe that their initiatives and activities are of unquestionable value in arousing and orienting interest in the communities they serve. Moreover, they put forward initiatives that can help carry out long-term projects with broad participation by their members; these projects will have a decisive impact on the establishment of a favourable climate for peace in all areas of the life of nations.

(Mrs. Castro de Barish, Costa Rica)

In our view, the fact that young people and children participated actively and with awareness is of fundamental importance; it is in their minds that the seed of peace can best bear fruit, for their work and play experiences can form the basis for their future activities as adults, community leaders, and ultimately governmental leaders. My country's report placed special emphasis on participation by young people and schoolchildren, both in the capital city and in the provinces and rural communities.

It is good to note also that among the numerous initiatives connected with the purposes of the Year, many involved the arts. These imaginative projects gave valuable momentum towards meeting the goals of the Year and enriched the many and varied activities intended to promote peace. We note that, in response to an initiative of the Universal Postal Union, 105 postal administrations issued stamps which commemorated the International Year of Peace and whose variety evoking a unifying theme added an interesting dimension to the observance of the Year.

The International Year of Peace was a year of valuable action and initiatives to promote peace and to engage in serious reflection and study concerning the nature of the elusive peace we so fervently desire and the conditions for achieving it.

I could go on much longer describing the many valuable activities and initiatives that took place during the Year, but I think I must take into account the need to be as brief as possible, considering the quantity of work before the Assembly. I therefore take this opportunity to introduce draft resolution A/42/L.12 for consideration by the Assembly, on behalf of Costa Rica and the delegations that have been good enough to join us in sponsoring it: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, German Democratic Republic, Guatemala,

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Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Mauritius, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Samoa, Saint Lucia, Senegal, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Thailand, Togo, Venezuela and Zaire.

In its preambular part, the draft resolution describes the various stages in the evolution of the International Year of Peace, recalling and recognizing that the Proclamation and the programme of the Year made a concrete and substantive contribution towards understanding and dialogue among nations, peoples and communities at all levels. It recalls that it was also of assistance in stimulating action for the promotion of peace, security and international co-operation and the solution of disputes and conflicts by peaceful means which strengthen the United Nations as an instrument of peace.

The operative part begins by taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General (A/42/487) and then affirms that peace is a fundamental element of human existence and that its promotion is one of the primary purposes of the United Nations.

It then expresses the Assembly's appreciation to the Secretary-General, under whose guidance the secretariat of the International Year of Peace co-ordinated the implementation of the programme of the Year and who maintained contact with the non-governmental organizations and academic and other specialized institutions which participated in activities relating to the purposes of the Year.

The draft resolution goes on to express the Assembly's appreciation to Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the international community as a whole for the enthusiastic welcome extended to the programme of the International Year of Peace and urges them to persevere in those efforts, developing initiatives conducive to the objectives of the Year, and to join the United Nations in its noble purpose of ensuring that humanity reaches the threshold

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of the twenty-first century in the full enjoyment of a stable and lasting peace. We all know that this poses a challenge and sets up an ideal that the sceptics will say cannot be attained. But with determination and political will from all, it will be attainable.

The draft resolution then requests the Secretary-General to invite Member States and interested organizations to inform the Secretariat of their activities at the national level. We believe that such activities can have special value as regards education for peace and non-governmental activities by individuals or by groups, communities or non-governmental organizations, which have stated their readiness to continue their efforts and their co-operation with the United Nations to promote peace. They have proposed, in addition, that the United Nations should maintain contact with them to co-ordinate activities world-wide. For that reason, the Secretary-General is requested to submit a report on important new developments throughout the world to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session under the item entitled "Achievements of the International Year of Peace", which is also the title of the draft resolution we are now placing before the Assembly.

The draft resolution ends with a paragraph expressing the hope that the ideals and objectives contained in the Proclamation of the International Year of Peace will continue to be an inspiration for concerted action by the entire international community during the closing years of the twentieth century.

We cordially invite the Assembly to adopt this draft resolution, maintaining the tradition of previous resolutions on this item, which have had a positive effect on the participation of the international community to achieve its goal: the attainment of peace, the mother of all that is good.

I therefore respectfully request that draft resolution A/42/L.12 should be adopted without a vote.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): Before calling on the next speaker, I should like to remind representatives that, in accordance with the decision taken this morning, the list of speakers in the debate on this item will be closed today at 4 p.m. I therefore request representatives wishing to participate in the debate to add their names to the list as soon as possible.

Mrs. APONTE de ROSTAMIZADEH (Venezuela) (interpretation from Spanish): Peace has always been and continues to be the supreme goal of mankind. That is why we totally support resolutions relating to the International Year of Peace, the celebration of which has permitted a beneficial exchange of ideas among Members of the Organization and has helped make the international community aware of the need to achieve and maintain peace.

We believe that the authentic path to peace can be found only through concerted action in the political, social and economic spheres. The United Nations is the appropriate forum to promote and encourage that common endeavour.

Venezuela has made peace its ideal and has fought for it with faith and devotion. Venezuela can state here in the United Nations that, since its independence, it has waged war against no one and has harboured no warlike intentions of any kind. As stated before this Assembly by the President of Venezuela, Mr. Jaime Lusinchi,

"Once again I come to this forum of universal dialogue to reaffirm the commitment of Venezuela to the fundamental causes of peace and understanding among peoples, which are the *raison d'être* of this Organization". (A/42/PV.5, p. 2)

I should like to outline briefly the achievements of the National Co-ordinating Committee for the International Year of Peace, created by the President of the Republic of Venezuela by Decree No. 966 of 8 January 1986. Its Chairman is our Minister for Foreign Affairs and its members include other Cabinet

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Venezuela)

members and representatives of non-governmental organizations, which made possible a convergence of interests resulting in a broad programme of activities providing many opportunities for participation. Among those activities were the following: school courses on the United Nations and international peace; workshops, seminars and conferences for teachers; a national prize for teachers who carried out peace activities; the establishment of the National Family Council for Peace; art competitions; conferences held by the National Academy of Political and Social Sciences and the Institute for International Affairs; and a special edition of the magazine "Analysis", published by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In its activities, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs paid special attention to the dissemination of information about the struggle for the final elimination of apartheid and for the defeat of colonialism in Namibia. Thus, wide national coverage was given to the visit of Mr. Sam Nujoma, President of the South West Africa People's Organization, who was in Venezuela from 20 to 25 March 1987; likewise, Venezuela received the visit from 11 to 14 July of Mr. Oliver Tambo, President of the African National Congress of South Africa, who held talks with distinguished national leaders. Also very important was the visit of the Anglican Bishop of Johannesburg and Archbishop of Cape Town, Desmond M. Tutu, who was received by officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 23 May 1987.

In sum, the programme encouraged a campaign to stimulate educational, cultural and academic institutions and the mass media to promote peace, international security and co-operation on the basis of the United Nations Charter and the peaceful settlement of disputes. There was an information campaign to increase public awareness of United Nations activities and to promote support for those activities.

(Mrs. Aponte de Rostamizadeh,
Venezuela)

I wish now to refer briefly to the report of the Secretary-General (A/42/487 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1), which summarizes the preparations for the International Year of Peace, the implementation of the programme for the Year and the effects of the Year. It is important to emphasize the efforts of the Secretariat and of organs in the United Nations system to meet the goals set for the Year. That contribution was in keeping with the stated aspirations of the international community.

Yet my country is concerned at the fact that, according to the Secretary-General's report, only 64 Member States established national co-ordinating mechanisms for the International Year of Peace, which accounts for only 40 per cent of the membership of the Organization. We hope that these results, which thus far have not been altogether satisfactory, are not the final results, and that everyone will make a steadfast effort to mobilize efforts to maintain peace.

Work for peace is an ongoing process in which Venezuela will continue to participate, as it has in the past. For that reason, we joined in sponsoring draft resolution A/42/L.12.

Mr. TURISOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): A world free from weapons and violence in which every people can live in justice and security, free to determine its own future: that is the highest aspiration of the international community. In today's world, which is brim-full of weapons and in danger of turning itself into a lifeless desert, is it realistic to continue to aspire to such a future?

The Soviet Union believes that it is realistic. But, if the determination of the peoples of the United Nations to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war is not to be a mere empty phrase, we must all recognize that the world has

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entered the nuclear-space age at a time when it is too small and fragile for wars and policies of force. We need new political thinking with the requirement that the philosophy of survival and equal security for all be strengthened by courageous and decisive action.

One of the most important components of that new political thinking is imbuing people with the spirit of peace. The importance of this was reaffirmed by the United Nations in 1978, when the General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace. This led logically to the proclamation of 1986 as the International Year of Peace.

As a Deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, I wish to inform the Assembly that Soviet parliamentarians have supported the goals of the International Year of Peace. In a statement, the Supreme Soviet's Committee on Foreign Affairs stressed that it was important that, beginning with the International Year of Peace, every year until the end of the century should be a milestone on the path to the total elimination of the nuclear threat. In our view, the International Year of Peace should contribute to making peaceful coexistence a universal principle of international relations and should inspire constructive and creative activities by States and peoples.

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The International Year of Peace has become an important stimulus for mobilizing the activities of millions of persons on all the continents of the world to bring about the adoption of specific measures aimed at eliminating the threat of a nuclear catastrophe and improving the international situation. The multifaceted work for the observance of the International Year of Peace has served as practical political and moral training in the difficult but necessary art of living in peace with each other, finding a balance of interests, and courageously and honestly facing the present and the future.

The slogan for the International Year of Peace - "Ensuring peace for the future of mankind" - is deeply symbolic for the Soviet people. In a few days we shall celebrate the seventieth anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. The Soviet State was born with the word "peace" on its lips, and its first foreign-policy action was the "Decree on Peace". During the raging world war Soviet Russia urged all the countries in that war to cease their hostilities at once and called for the solution of all issues at the negotiation table and for peaceful coexistence between large and small States irrespective of social and political orientation. Its appeal showed the world's peoples the way to the building of inter-State relations free from violence and enmity. The Soviet Union continues today to pursue that principled policy in international affairs for the maintenance and strengthening of peace. As stated by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party:

"We will not deviate from our policy of promoting peace, resisting the arms race and advocating the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons, so as to eliminate that threat from the face of the Earth."

Our current determination to find ways and means for a secure world is conditioned by the logic of the processes, emerging today in the USSR, of renewal,

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glasnost, openness and dialogue - processes which are an organic continuation of the work started by the Great October Socialist Revolution.

The task of maintaining peace and preventing nuclear self-destruction today confronts mankind in a radically new dimension. The objective laws governing the present stage in mankind's development are such that they cannot be disregarded by any individual State, however powerful it may be, or any group of States, whatever their influence in world affairs.

Today's world faces a choice which will be decisive for mankind's future: shall we follow the path of confrontation, violent conflict leading to the brink of annihilation, or shall we, recognizing the radically new realities, take resolute action for the practical realization of the ideal of building a non-nuclear world based on equal and reliable security for all States.

We can no longer base our relations with each other on old philosophies impregnated with mistrust and suspicion; but, to be realistic, neither can we disregard the facts of life as they have developed and as they exist today. Here we need to strike a fair balance, taking account of both general and national interests and reconciling them in political practice.

In spite of all these contradictions and differences, our world is integrated and interdependent, and all of us in the world are not opponents but rather partners and allies in the struggle for the survival and development of human civilization. This is an axiom of the new political thinking, and the degree to which mankind recognizes it will largely determine its future.

The General Assembly's Proclamation of the International Year of Peace emphasizes that it gives timely impulse to new thinking and activities in the struggle for peace and enables Governments, non-governmental organizations and others to express in practical terms the common aspiration of all peoples for

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peace. A demonstration of the new political thinking is the readiness to take a courageous step from words to concrete, practical deeds. It is by the touchstone of deeds that we can judge people's dedication to the tasks posed by the International Year of Peace.

In his message to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev expressed the idea that, in response to the unanimously adopted resolution, every State should submit to the United Nations an accounting of what it has done to ensure that the International Year of Peace lives up to its name. For our part, we consider it our duty to inform the United Nations, even if only briefly, of what specific action the Soviet Union has taken to ensure that the International Year of Peace justifies the hopes placed in it.

It seems no exaggeration to state that the Soviet Union's most important contribution to the International Year of Peace was something that took place only a few days after its commencement, namely, a proposal we made for the elimination of all nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction by the year 2000. That was followed by the meeting at Reykjavik between Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, and Ronald Reagan, President of the United States of America, which centred on the major political issues of today's world: ending the arms race and bringing about nuclear disarmament. You all know that as the result of a lively discussion and an exchange of views, an agreement in principle has been reached on the elimination of medium-range missiles and shorter-range tactical missiles. The signing of an agreement on this matter is important not only in itself but also because it could create a political atmosphere that will facilitate the advance to newer and broader agreements. A favourable backdrop for thoughts about the ideals of the International Year of

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Peace and a nuclear-free future for mankind was the silence that reigned for 18 months at Soviet nuclear testing grounds.

But we have passed through only the first stage, and we must now work to see to it that we make further progress. If we can retain the agreement on anti-ballistic missiles and prevent the expansion of the arms race into outer space, there will be some reality to the agreement on the 50 per cent reduction in strategic nuclear weapons. A practically attainable measure in this connection would be the conclusion of a convention on the total prohibition of chemical weapons. While pointing the way to a nuclear-free world, we are also thinking about how we can reduce non-nuclear arsenals on a reciprocal basis, and we are prepared for a constructive dialogue on this issue.

The Soviet Union responded favourably to the Harare appeal, which contained a powerful call from the Non-Aligned Movement for the abolition of nuclear weapons and for an end to the arms race. Furthermore, the Soviet Union reacted with full understanding to the appeal of the "six States from four continents" which called for an early end to the arms race and the non-militarization of space.

We agree with the ideas expressed at the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, recently held under the auspices of the United Nations, to the effect that as a companion measure to the process of arms limitation, the funds thus saved should be allocated to meet social and economic development needs.

The Soviet Union has either itself put forward or supported many initiatives designed to settle the existing regional conflicts that seriously undermine international security and stability.

Recognizing the enormous role played by the United Nations in solving these problems of today, the Soviet Union has consistently spoken out for enhancing the role and effectiveness of the Organization, for the widespread use of the methods

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for the peaceful solution of disputes provided for in its Charter, and for greater use of the capabilities of the Security Council and the General Assembly.

This is a very brief list of the areas in which we have been working to implement the humane ideals and goals of the International Year of Peace. We are inspired by the fact that we are not alone in our efforts. An ever-growing number of States and Governments are recognizing their common responsibility for the future of the world.

A non-nuclear and non-violent world must be built by establishing a comprehensive system of international peace and security that will encompass all countries and all spheres: military, political, economic, humanitarian, ecological and others. This task can be accomplished only if all States - large and small, developed and developing, regardless of their social and political systems - work together. A special responsibility in establishing such a universal system of security rests with parliaments.

The numerous activities that have been undertaken within the framework of the International Year of Peace in our country and in other States have shown the broad interest in finding ways to mutual understanding and co-operation. As stated recently by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev at a meeting with representatives of French public opinion:

"The imperatives of our time are such that it is not only politics, and in fact not so much politics as other factors, that will determine the direction of the global processes affecting the survival and preservation of mankind. But there can be no doubt that with every day, at every stage, there will be growing voices from the people, from world public opinion and from various political forces, regardless of their class content."

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We are convinced that the International Year of Peace will also promote and increase in the political activity and political awareness of the world's peoples. Take, for example, the many activities, including international conferences, seminars, meetings and competitions devoted to the International Year of Peace that took place in the Soviet Union. They were in a sense, a nation-wide referendum in support of efforts to strengthen peace and remove the danger of nuclear war. One of the most massive activities undertaken in our country was the Lesson for Peace, during which 80 million schoolchildren involved themselves in the concerns of adults about the fate of our world and the future of our planet.

A major issue that is of concern to all of us is: What will tomorrow bring for our planet? The countless victims lost in mankind's struggles are still in our hearts and minds. In their memory and for the edification of present and future generations, we call upon all States, Governments and peoples to observe annually throughout the world a "Minute of silence in memory of the victims of war on the planet Earth", when, for the first time in the history of mankind, the entire population of the planet will, at the same hour in each time zone, symbolically pay tribute to the victims of war. Such an action, demonstrating our determination not to permit new wars, would, among other things, be in the spirit of the resolution adopted at the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly on the observance of an International Day of Peace and would be a contribution to its implementation.

The present urgency of the question of mankind's survival leads us to the logical conclusion that activities to strengthen peace should not be limited in time but should instead be carried out on a constant daily basis. We agree with the Secretary-General's conclusion that the ideals and goals laid down in the Proclamation of the International Year of Peace will continue to be a vital source for future dialogue and activities aimed at promoting and achieving peace. On

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behalf of the Deputies of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, I wish to reaffirm our readiness to expand and increase contacts between parliamentarians for this purpose.

Hundreds of non-governmental organizations have urged that the activities and projects started during the Year should be continued and be made a part of the regular activities of the United Nations; they have also called for a consideration of what new steps might be taken in this connection. One such step in our view, might be the convening, under United Nations auspices, of a world consultative council whose membership would consist of outstanding scientists, politicians, public figures, representatives of international non-governmental organizations, cultural workers, including winners of the Nobel prize and other international prizes of global significance, and world religious leaders. Such a council, bringing together the intellectual élite of the entire world, could substantially enrich the spiritual and ethical potential of world politics and the cause of securing peace.

The Soviet delegation agrees with the draft resolution's appeal to Member States to inform the Secretariat periodically of their initiatives in pursuit of the goals of the International Year of Peace.

The General Assembly, as the highest body of the international community, must provide an additional stimulus for the practical realization of the lofty humanitarian purposes of the International Year of Peace.

Mr. KOSTOV (Bulgaria): The proclamation of 1986 as the International Year of Peace was an important and timely initiative corresponding to the interests of all peoples and their aspirations to live in peace, security and understanding. The adoption of this resolution by the General Assembly at its fortieth anniversary session demonstrated once again that the maintenance and strengthening of world peace has remained a matter of priority for the world Organization. This

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initiative was also prompted by the grave concern of the international community over the threat of a devastating nuclear catastrophe looming over the planet.

As Todor Zhivkov, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party and President of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, stressed in his message addressed to Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar on the occasion of the International Year of Peace:

"The International Year of Peace has demonstrated that the champions of peace are gaining momentum and that the principles of peaceful coexistence are further winning recognition as a norm of life and inter-State relations".

(A/42/126, annex, p. 2)

Although the International Year of Peace has gone down in history as an important event in the activities of the United Nations, the goal of safeguarding peace has remained high on our agenda. The draft resolution entitled "Achievements of the International Year of Peace" (A/42/L.12), which my country has joined in sponsoring, expresses quite rightly the hope that the ideals and objectives of the Year will continue to inspire the concerted efforts of Governments, political parties and social movements so that the year 2000 will open a new era in international relations. Today there is no goal higher than the maintenance of peace and the reaffirmation of moral ideals and political criteria which would banish war and violence as a means of settling problems in relations among States.

What the nations of our complex, multifaceted, interrelated and integrated world need is more humanism, security and confidence. We are convinced that the ways and means of yesterday cannot and should not be used today. The political realities and imperatives of today impose the necessity of new political thinking and new approaches to international affairs.

Realism and a sense of responsibility for the fate of mankind is what underlies the proposal for the establishment of a comprehensive system of

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international peace and security put forth by the socialist countries, including the People's Republic of Bulgaria, during the International Year of Peace, an idea that is steadily gaining ground today. In making this proposal, we have proceeded, first of all, from our understanding of the unity and oneness of the modern world, of the relatedness of problems in relations among States, as well as the need for their early resolution in the political, military, economic, humanitarian, ecological and other fields.

At the same time, we should like to emphasize, in particular, that concrete practical measures for disarmament should be at the core of efforts to achieve lasting peace and security. We are pleased to note the fact that, at the very beginning of the International Year of Peace, the Soviet Union set forth a comprehensive programme to build a world free of nuclear weapons, an idea that has received broad international support. We welcome the recent Soviet-United States agreements to establish centres for reducing the nuclear threat, to begin comprehensive negotiations on the cessation of nuclear-weapon tests and, above all, the agreement in principle to eliminate medium- and short-range missiles. The early conclusion of such a treaty would lead not only to the elimination of two classes of nuclear weapons for the first time in history, but would also become an incentive for achieving even greater goals in the radical reduction of strategic armaments and the non-militarization of outer space.

Peace and security cannot be achieved in a world plagued by hunger, poverty, illiteracy and disease. At the same time, only a small portion of the resources now squandered on armaments would be sufficient to overcome underdevelopment in various parts of the world.

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That was the principal conclusion of the recent United Nations International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development. The Disarmament for Development Fund could become a channel for reallocating the resources released in the disarmament process. Proceeding from the understanding that the United Nations should play a key role in the process of disarmament and development, we view the recently concluded Conference as an important initial step in that direction.

As repeatedly noted throughout the International Year of Peace, a peaceful foreign policy should be the contribution of each State to that end. The People's Republic of Bulgaria has always been guided by the lofty purpose of strengthening peace and security in the Balkans, in Europe and throughout the world. In this connection, we should like to mention the positive reaction and support with which the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Balkans has been met. The joint Bulgarian-Romanian initiative to establish a zone free of chemical weapons in the Balkans has also been well received. Equally topical and timely is our proposal to conclude bilateral agreements with all the Balkan countries which would include a code for good-neighbourly relations, as well as the initiative of the Balkan States to sign a treaty on the ecological protection of our peninsula and to issue a joint appeal to all European countries and peoples on that issue. The conclusion of bilateral agreements on the non-use of force and the peaceful settlement of disputes endangering peace and security in the region, as well as the fostering of multilateral co-operation in areas of common concern to the Balkan countries, will be in keeping with the purposes of the International Year of Peace and the need to promote mutual understanding, peace and security in the Balkans, in Europe and throughout the world.

In its reply to the Secretary-General earlier this year, the Bulgarian Government outlined the numerous events held in my country in support of the

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International Year of Peace. Another recognition of the Bulgarian public's participation in the struggle for peace was the conferring of the "Peace Messenger" award to three Bulgarian organizations, namely, the Banner of Peace Centre for Children's Creativity, the Institute for International Relations and the Ecoforum for Peace, as well as the proclamation of the capital city, Sofia, as "City for Peace". I should like to point out that the commemoration of the International Year of Peace in my country became a spontaneous expression of the Bulgarian people's commitment to the ideals of peace, security and understanding.

Today we are more confident than ever that the efforts to strengthen peace and security for all and to eliminate the nuclear threat remain a paramount task for the international community. The objectives of the International Year of Peace will be implemented only when mankind rids itself of the nuclear peril and all recognize peace as humanity's supreme ideal.

In conclusion, I wish to express our appreciation to the Secretary-General and the secretariat of the International Year of Peace for all their activities for the implementation of the Year's programme and to convey to them my Government's gratitude for their co-operation in organizing a number of important international events in my country.

Mr. VIDAURRE (Bolivia) (interpretation from Spanish): The Bolivian delegation is honoured to express here its fervent adherence and commitment to one of the most noble and worthy of causes - peace - for the attainment of which the whole world should harness all its energies.

The welcome initiative of the fraternal Republic of Costa Rica in 1981 has gradually borne fruit. It is gratifying to note that one of the most noble objectives of our Organization - the attainment of permanent and lasting peace - with the passage of time has built up momentum and is a goal of which all peoples, Governments and the international community are becoming increasingly aware. This

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is also an appropriate occasion to express my delegation's deep satisfaction at the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to the President of Costa Rica, Don Oscar Arias Sánchez. The determination and commitment of the Costa Rican President to work for permanent peace in Central America are in keeping with the Costa Rican nation's commitment to universal peace, a factor borne out in the initiative taken by his country under this agenda item.

The Bolivian delegation wishes to thank the Secretary-General for his report on the International Year of Peace (A/42/487 and Corr.2 and Add.1), which lists activities carried out by Member States, organizations and agencies in the United Nations system to promote the cause of peace.

While the activities and measures taken by Member States are highly commendable, my delegation hopes that they can be strengthened and implemented in the future in such a way as to contribute to the attainment of this just aspiration for all the inhabitants of our planet.

It would be unfair to mankind, and all the more so for future generations, if this commendable initiative and these noble efforts to consolidate peace were diluted once the initial enthusiasm had worn off. The commitment by States demonstrated in the activities during the Year of Peace should become a permanent and increasingly energetic exercise. There can be no doubt that the path to the attainment of those objectives is strewn with enormous difficulties, but all peoples of the world should press ahead in their endeavours and spare no effort to attain them.

The need to strengthen peace is specified in the United Nations Charter. Its significance should be manifested in the conduct of Member States consistent with the provisions of the United Nations Charter. The relations between States should

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be carried out in a pluralistic fashion, based on co-operation and mutual respect. Peace requires that international relations be conducted without the threat or use of force.

My delegation has already stated here that it shares the view that peace is indivisible and, consequently, it is necessary to eliminate all direct and indirect obstacles to peace. In saying that, we have a good range of factors in mind, inter alia, economic development, the satisfaction of basic social needs, full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms - in short, an entire international order based on justice and equity.

In this connection, the international order being advocated should contain positive elements which would contribute to integration among States through policies of rapprochement and co-operation, which would presuppose peaceful settlement of disputes and historical injustices.

With a view to contributing to the strengthening of an appropriate climate fostering the noble cause of peace, the Government of Bolivia carried out activities specified in the Secretary-General's report. In addition, however, it has also decided to convert the Bolivian Commission for the International Year of Peace, set up to promote those activities, into the Bolivian Commission for World Peace. With this change, which is not just one of nomenclature but of very conception, my Government wishes to initiate activities to promote peace in a permanent way.

The Bolivian Government and people are proud that the city of La Paz, the seat of government, has won the special "Peace Messenger" award. This distinction, conferred by the Secretary-General, does honour to the city of La Paz and also commits Bolivia as a whole to the noble cause which is the *raison d'être* of the United Nations.

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Accordingly, the delegation of Bolivia will once again have the honour and privilege of being among the sponsors of draft resolution A/42/L.14.

In that regard, Bolivia considers it very important for this draft to be adopted without a vote, as was the case in the past; once adopted, it should serve as a mandate for the Secretary-General, who, under operative paragraph 6, would submit his report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session.

Finally, my delegation urgently appeals to Member States and governmental and non-governmental organizations to continue promoting peace at all levels and in all its dimensions, throughout the world. Only in that way can we ensure that our children and succeeding generations will live in brotherhood and peaceful coexistence, free from the distressing problems and conflicts that beset mankind today, that is, in a world where peace holds sway.

Mr. OTT (German Democratic Republic): Looking back on the 1986 International Year of Peace we can note with satisfaction that, thanks to the world-wide efforts of millions of people, that Year was indeed a period of greater commitment to the maintenance of peace and security. Those who, guided by common sense and realism, are actively working for the ideal of a nuclear-weapon-free and non-violent world are growing in number. The international peace movement has seen a rapid upswing. In the present conditions of the nuclear and space age, and at a time of controversy about the ideology of confrontation and war, peace has become the dominant idea of our time.

The report of the Secretary-General on the International Year of Peace sets out an impressive balance-sheet of wide-ranging activities undertaken during the Year of Peace, at the national and international as well as governmental and non-governmental levels. With justified pride we can say that the people of the German Democratic Republic have made their specific contribution to that outcome.

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Today, at the end of the twentieth century, a question has assumed the highest urgency: What will be the future of our common house, the Earth, where differing social systems with different economic structures, forms of government, ideologies and social concepts have come to exist? To be or not to be; to survive together or to perish together: that is the overriding issue facing mankind. In the light of that situation, it is more imperative than ever that concrete measures be taken in the field of nuclear disarmament in order to prevent a slide into nuclear catastrophe.

Peace-loving people all over the world therefore noted with joy and satisfaction that the USSR and the United States reached agreement in principle on the world-wide elimination of their land-based intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles. The conclusion of such an agreement and its implementation in practice would constitute a genuine step towards ridding the world of nuclear weapons, a step which would have to be followed by others.

In our view there is reason to believe that there is a real chance to banish war from the life of mankind and to begin a peaceful era in which nations can fashion their life in the interest of social progress.

The socialist countries took account of that need when they proposed the establishment of a comprehensive system of international peace and security. At the meeting of their Political Consultative Committee, held at Berlin in May 1987, the Warsaw Treaty States reaffirmed that such a system, which should embrace the military and political as well as the economic and humanitarian spheres, along with ecological and other global problems, would lead to the emergence of a peaceful world in which the use or threat of force would be ruled out and in which relations among nations would be shaped in the spirit of mutual respect, friendship and co-operation.

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It is the position of the German Democratic Republic that, in all the complicated issues of the world, there is not one problem that could not be resolved through negotiations taking into account the interests of the sides involved. The policy of dialogue, understanding and co-operation is and remains the only practical way to bring about a turn for the better in international affairs. Eloquent testimony to that policy was provided by the official visit which the Head of State of the German Democratic Republic, Erich Honecker, recently paid to the Federal Republic of Germany. The central theme of that visit was the overriding concern of our time: the safeguarding of peace, in particular the joint commitment to do everything possible to ensure that never again will war emanate from German soil.

There has been growing awareness in the world - due in no small part to the International Year of Peace - that peace and security can no longer be ensured by States working against each other, but only with each other, and that there is no reasonable alternative to the policy of peaceful coexistence between States of differing social systems.

In the efforts for peace, understanding and fruitful co-operation, the United Nations has a special role to play. The world Organization is an irreplaceable forum of collective wisdom, a manifestation of the will of the international community and a unique centre where States can agree on joint action for the benefit of all mankind. It is therefore essential to strengthen the Organization and enhance its international influence in every possible way.

In 13 years, this century will come to a close. That is a very short period in the life of mankind, but it will be a crucial one for the future of civilization. At the end of the century, there could be a world free of nuclear

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and chemical weapons. There could be an atmosphere of détente and trust marking relations between States. It could be the beginning of a millennium of peace.

There is no doubt that this goal - peace - will not become reality automatically. Persistent and systematic efforts, understanding and joint action by all forces of peace, common sense and realism are needed to that end. That is how we perceive the statement contained in General Assembly resolution 41/9, that:

"The ideals and objectives contained in the Proclamation of the International Year of Peace will remain a valuable source for future dialogue and action to promote and achieve peace." (General Assembly resolution 41/9, para. 3)

As a follow-up to that significant United Nations Year, joint endeavours on behalf of peace should, in our view, be pursued and mobilized, especially within the framework of the United Nations. As a sponsor of draft resolution A/42/L.12, my delegation assures the Assembly that the German Democratic Republic will actively participate in that effort.

Mr. TRIPATHI (Nepal): Mankind needs peace not only for the fulfilment of its basic needs, but also for the attainment of higher spiritual goals. No nation, no ideology and no national or racial ego, however powerful it might seem, could survive a nuclear holocaust. Peace is the overall central issue of our times and peaceful coexistence is the only option open for our survival. In such a conceptual framework, it is useful to remember that the continuing urgent need for international peace and security was the underlying purpose that gave birth and still gives life to the United Nations. Against that backdrop, my delegation felt that the decision taken at the fortieth session of the United Nations General Assembly to commemorate 1986 as the International Year of Peace was most welcome.

Before reviewing the observance of the International Year of Peace, 1986, my delegation wishes to congratulate most warmly President Oscar Arias Sanchez of Costa Rica on being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 1987. My delegation would like to think that the honour thus granted to President Arias is as much an appreciation of his valuable contribution to the process of peace and stability in Central America as a recognition of the many other initiatives taken by Costa Rica in the interest of peace.

Nepal, with its proud heritage of peace propagated and practised by its great saints, sages and philosophers, responded to the call of the United Nations to celebrate the International Year of Peace, 1986, with jubilation and enthusiasm.

Constitutionally committed to honouring the Charter principles of the United Nations regarding international peace and security, Nepal has always been active at both the national and the international level in promoting the cause and course of peace. As a concrete expression of our commitment to peace, our august Sovereign, His Majesty King Birendra bir Bikram Shah Dev, proposed, as far back as 1975, that Nepal be declared a zone of peace. Similarly, Nepal has supported all peace efforts and initiatives in the United Nations and outside and has been actively

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associated with the peace-keeping efforts of the United Nations from the very beginning. Despite certain financial constraints, we have at present a large contingent serving with the United Nations peace-keeping Forces in Lebanon.

The report of the Secretary-General on the International Year of Peace, 1986 (A/42/487 and Corr.2 and Add.1) clearly establishes the popular world-wide support which the international peace campaign received in 1986 from all Member States, as well as from various international agencies and non-governmental organizations. Indeed, even a cursory glance at some of the major activities during the Year underscores that the spontaneous common faith of humanity at large in the cause of peace is very deep-rooted and widespread, encompassing as it does all peoples and nations.

The great success of the international observance of the Year of Peace, my delegation feels, has also contributed greatly to clarifying the wider significance of the multifaceted issue of peace-building and peace-keeping, most significantly by emphasizing that peace is not merely the absence of war; it is interlinked in its totality with such other vital questions as disarmament and arms control, decolonization, the elimination of racial discrimination, economic and social progress, the eradication of poverty, the fulfilment of basic human needs and the enjoyment of human rights, disaster relief and the protection of the global environment. My delegation believes that this added understanding has enhanced the process and prospects of comprehensive peace-making.

In the vital arena of international relations the observance of the International Year of Peace reminds us of the need to address and adhere to the process of dialogue and negotiation and to the ultimate just and peaceful solution of all conflicts. Our pledge to ensure peace will remain unfulfilled unless we strive seriously to end the tragic conflicts in the different regions of the globe which continue to pose direct and serious threats to our security and survival. In

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this context we welcome the recent agreement in principle between the two super-Powers on the elimination of intermediate- and shorter-range nuclear missiles, which we hope will contribute to creating a better international atmosphere and understanding.

After the observance of the International Year of Peace, 1986, there is now an enhanced realization that peace, both regional and global, must be defended and nurtured continuously in its totality. My delegation therefore reiterates its proposal that the United Nations should consider instituting an annual peace medal to be awarded to a deserving individual and/or organization, whether within or outside the Government, in recognition of contributions made to the promotion of the peace-building process. Such an award could also be a concrete outcome and visible annual reminder of our observance of the International Year of Peace, 1986.

My delegation expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General and the Secretariat for all the activities undertaken in implementing the programme of the International Year of Peace and for the recognition of and the award of "Peace Messenger" certificates to deserving international and national non-governmental organizations and cities.

My delegation is convinced that activities and initiatives inspired by the ideals and objectives contained in the proclamation of 1986 as the International Year of Peace deserve to be continued and that further concerted action should be taken in that connection in the closing years of this century. It has therefore become a sponsor of draft resolution A/42/L.12 and hopes that the Assembly will adopt it by consensus.

Finally, since peace is the most urgent prayer of mankind in this century, let us, the States Members of the United Nations, representing humanity at large, do our best, unilaterally, bilaterally and multilaterally, to lessen the risks of wars and eliminate fears of nuclear annihilation in the remaining years of this

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century. Let us also resolve not to transfer those threats to peace and human existence to the new century. It is the imperative message of the enthusiastic world-wide observance of the International Year of Peace, 1986, reflecting the inner desire of humanity at large for peace, that the dawn of the coming twenty-first century must start with a brighter promise of a peaceful and safer world today.

Mr. TANASIE (Romania) (interpretation from French): The idea of the proclamation of the International Year of Peace was quite rightly a reaction of solidarity on the part of the entire international community to the many serious threats to the very existence of mankind. The alarming arms race, both nuclear and conventional, the armed conflicts, the underdevelopment, dire poverty and human suffering in many countries have led to international instability. Peace, the basic objective of our Organization, is still imperilled. In the face of such circumstances, the International Year of Peace has allowed for a broad awareness of the need to find a solution to the serious problems of our times, a solution on which the peace and security of the world depend. From that standpoint one might say that the International Year of Peace was a unique experience, as is shown by the excellent report of the Secretary-General, to whom we should like to express our thanks and sincerest congratulations.

An impressive number of governmental and non-governmental organizations in all countries the world over took part in one way or another in the activities of the International Year of Peace. In mobilizing the various levels of public opinion around the ideals of peace, the International Year of Peace has heightened the awareness of Governments and statesmen of the need to take new steps and initiatives to meet the earnest aspirations of peoples for peace, security and development.

On the basis of mass action, the International Year of Peace has again highlighted the importance of a fundamental principle of international life, namely, the part to be played by people in safeguarding peace and in solving the major problems on which peace depends.

Romania hailed with justified hope the decision of the United Nations to declare 1986 the International Year of Peace. From the outset the Romanian people reaffirmed its unshakable determination to work along with other peoples and all

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those who cherish peace and the future of mankind to see to it that the year 1986 would mark the adoption of concrete steps to change the course of international life completely and to pass on from confrontation to détente, from declarations to acts, and even to steps in the field of disarmament so as to open the way to real progress in promoting the ideals of freedom and peace for peoples.

The activities undertaken by the Romanian people, activities inspired by its age-old peaceful nature, took place under the aegis of the Front for Socialist Democracy in Unity, and they have been set out in the reply from the Government of Romania to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Throughout the year 1986 the Head of State of Romania, the Parliament, the Government and other State bodies undertook a substantial number of activities and initiatives dedicated to peace and disarmament. In messages and steps taken with Heads of State or Government, President Nicolae Ceausescu took a clear stand in support of real disarmament measures, the building of security in Europe, the solution through negotiation of conflicts existing throughout the world, and the elimination of underdevelopment.

The Romanian Parliament - the Great National Assembly - in its statement on the International Year of Peace committed itself to work relentlessly with the parliaments of all States and all peace-loving forces to defend and preserve peace, détente, security and co-operation the world over. Be it in the United Nations or other international bodies, the Romanian Government has committed itself to resolute action to promote and support concrete initiatives for peace and disarmament.

Special attention was given to Europe where, as we know, there is the greatest concentration of armaments. In this regard we should mention the spirit with which Romania worked for the elimination of medium-range missiles and even for the start

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of negotiations on the reduction of conventional weapons and increased confidence and co-operation for a united Europe.

Romania's most eloquent contribution to mark the International Year of Peace was its unilateral decision to reduce in 1986 its weaponry, military staff and expenditures by 5 per cent. That act of great political and practical importance, endorsed by a popular referendum on 23 November 1986, shows that the adoption of concrete measures to reduce armaments and military expenditures is possible without jeopardizing a country's defence capacity.

The objectives of the International Year of Peace are more timely than ever. To be sure, they must be pursued from now on with even more sustained efforts both by the United Nations, to which falls the crucial role and responsibility, and by other States to ensure continuity in their actions for peace, to which each country is committed to making its contribution.

Some results along this difficult path can already be perceived. We now find ourselves faced for the first time with the prospect of the elimination of two categories of nuclear weapons, namely, medium-range and shorter-range missiles. Nevertheless, the desire to carry on, which should crown the objectives of the International Year of Peace, must be sustained because, despite a certain optimism which has emerged recently, international life still remains serious and complex. Threats to international peace and security, unfortunately, are still real and require constant vigilance on the part of all States, all peoples and all individuals.

From that standpoint, the year 1986 was a good experience and created a valuable basis for future action, and might turn every year into a year of peace. We fully agree with the following idea emphasized in the conclusions of the Secretary-General's report:

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"Concerted action in the remaining years of this century inspired by the International Year of Peace can give substance to the vision of the year 2000 as the opening of a new era in international relations." (A/42/487 and Corr.2 and Add.1, para. 49)

That is the objective for which Romania and its people have committed themselves to work in a determined manner.

In conclusion, I should like to avail myself of this opportunity to say that Romania has joined in sponsoring draft resolution A/42/L.12, introduced by the delegation of Costa Rica, to which we address our warmest congratulations.

Mr. CHORNIY (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) (interpretation from Russian): The ideal of peace has always inspired mankind in all ages; it has always been its greatest hope. The broad response to the appeal of the United Nations to take an active part in commemorating the International Year of Peace bears witness to the fact that in the nuclear-space age the fate of world civilization involves the struggle for peace as the most important and most burning topic of our times.

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It is pointed out in the report of the Secretary-General (A/42/487 and Corr.2 and Add.1) that 67 countries established national co-ordinating bodies for the International Year of Peace. Among them was the Ukrainian SSR, which established a Committee of eminent State and public figures and representatives of the mass media.

Thanks to a carefully thought-out co-ordinated plan of action, there was broad-based and effective commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations and the International Year of Peace. In the framework of the International Year of Peace alone, 175,000 activities took place in the Ukraine, with the participation of 40 million people from virtually all strata of the population, as well as thousands of foreign students, specialists and tourists. Moreover, there was significant mobilization of the rural population. In the light of our considerable experience in organizing anti-war activities of many kinds in the past, we agree with the report's conclusion that

"many local activities helped to integrate people into the broader framework of a global community". (A/42/487 and Corr.2 and Add.1, para. 19)

We think that integration is an important and necessary element of support for United Nations efforts, and in enhancing the authority of the United Nations.

Many of our activities were truly international: a cruise along the Dnieper; a joint student anti-war festival with the participation of nearly 100 countries from all over the world; a song for peace competition; a "Bike for peace" tour from Kiev to New York via Prague and Montreal; international scientific seminars and symposiums; and many other activities. The International Year of Peace gave rise to many books, brochures, articles, broadcasts and posters; indeed, posters by students from Kharkov were exhibited at United Nations Headquarters.

To save time, I shall not continue that list. I will say only that we have read with attention the summary of activities in various countries contained in the addendum to the report of the Secretary-General (A/42/487/Add.1). Most of the

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types of activities reflected in the report were used by us in the Ukraine as well. These activities were promoted by the 1985 regional seminar for Europe, and by the 1986 consultative meeting of national co-ordinating bodies, held under the auspices of the United Nations.

At one of the meetings of our Committee we specifically discussed the importance of International Year of Peace activities for instilling in young people the spirit of peace and friendship among peoples.

The Ukrainian public is grateful to the Secretary-General for his praise of our contribution to the programme of the International Year of Peace, as demonstrated by the conferring of the "Peace Messenger" award on the Ukrainian Peace Committee and on the city of Kiev, the capital of the Soviet Ukraine. During his visit to Kiev this year the Secretary-General awarded a medal to the Committee for its commemoration of the International Year of Peace in the Ukrainian SSR.

This is an integral part of the multifaceted activities of the proponents of peace in our Republic. Activities were undertaken in the context of the 1986 International Year of Peace, but they were no less intense in 1987.

For us, 1987 is an anniversary year. It is the seventieth anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution and the establishment of Soviet power in the Ukraine. The workers in the Ukrainian SSR are now active in restructuring the economic and social life of our country through broad democratization and accelerated scientific and technological progress. Our plans may be great and interesting, but they are not easy; they can be carried out only in conditions of peace. Our recognition of that simple truth was reflected in the first decree of the Soviet régime, the Leninist decree on peace. But today as never before we need vigorous, decisive action to promote peace.

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Traditionally, the first working day of each year is a day of labour for peace. Many work collectives decide to contribute their salary for that day to a peace trust fund. We also actively conduct days, weeks and months for peace. We have held Weeks against war, for security and co-operation in Europe and for prohibiting nuclear weapons. We observe World Peace Day, and engage in many other mass activities. In all schools and educational institutions in the Ukraine a lesson for peace is taught on 1 September. An important anti-war activity was the 1987 international cruise along the Dnieper, with the participation of 150 proponents of peace from 18 Western European countries, the United States and Canada.

This is how we have responded to the appeal of the United Nations, by continuing efforts towards the attainment of the goals and fulfilment of the tasks of the International Year of Peace.

Of course, all our activities are being carried out not in isolation, but in the context of the world situation. Based on our philosophy of political thinking based on our love of peace, we have incorporated in our programmes the ideas of good-neighbourliness and friendly relations with those that live alongside us on earth. By its very nature socialist society precludes stereotyped images of an enemy. Article 67 of our Constitution states that it is the international duty of a citizen of the Ukrainian SSR to promote the development of friendship and co-operation with the peoples of other countries and to support and maintain world peace.

Unfortunately, however, we see everywhere racism, apartheid, neo-colonialism, international terrorism and other manifestations of the violation of human rights and the rights of peoples.

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We also see influential forces obsessed with the maintenance of their national security as distinct from the universal goal of a secure world, thereby threatening the survival of mankind. They continue to press forward with the arms race and are attempting to bring us to the brink of disaster. They are doing this with such haste and so obsessively that they do not hear the voice of reason. The cry is that in a nuclear age, there is danger to everyone and that death by nuclear weapons will know no class or national boundaries, but will be universal.

The most noble, lofty task today is the maintenance of peace and life on earth. We must make every effort and mobilize all resources to carry out that task. We cannot reconcile ourselves to a situation in which peace is subverted by constant tension, mistrust and disputes, bringing us to the brink of destruction.

The path to a worthy future may have been opened up by the International Year of Peace, and has been proposed by the socialist countries, including the Ukrainian SSR, in a new programme to build life on earth on the basis of a comprehensive system of international peace and security. In his article "Reality and safeguards for a secure world", Mikhail S. Gorbachev wrote of "a future in which the security of all is the guarantee of the security of each"

(A/42/574, p. 12).

We draw special attention to a proposal in that article to provide, under United Nations auspices, a world information programme in order to tell peoples about the lives of other peoples and guard against the young being brought up in a spirit of hatred because of the content of films, television and other mass media, as is, unfortunately, the case in a number of countries.

The Ukrainian delegation agrees that the ideas of the International Year of Peace are truly invaluable in our struggle to bring about stable, lasting peace on

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earth, and to eliminate the nuclear threat, so as to convert the Year of Peace to a century of peace.

We support the draft resolution on this item and will vote in favour.

Mr. ST.-PHARD (Haiti) (interpretation from French): I have the great honour and privilege of speaking on behalf of the delegation of Haiti for the purpose, principally, of supporting draft resolution A/42/L.12, which was introduced by the delegation of Costa Rica and of which we are pleased to be a sponsor.

We congratulate the Secretary-General on his efforts to raise public awareness, as indicated in his report (A/42/487 and Corr.2 and Add.1).

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Vauvenargues said,

"The mind is the eye of the soul, not its strength; its strength is in the heart, that is, in the passions. The most enlightened reason does not compel to action or to will. Must one have good eyesight to walk? Must one not rather have feet and will, with the power to move them?" (Reflexions et Maximes, 1746).

In re-reading Maurice Bertrand's great study entitled Remaking the United Nations: a Programme for Peace, I encountered energetic and enlightened thinking, a dialectic that gives short shrift to utopias and illusions, a certain vision of things whose quintessential postulate is that peace, in many respects, stops at the threshold of the third world. In that, he is noting a shattering, almost indecent spectacle. What is it that he sees?

He sees tolerance of every kind of injustice, every kind of violence, even the unimaginably cruel acts that continue to be perpetrated in southern Africa, day after day, as if by magic. He tells us that he sees the indifference of the rich, who seem disturbed only by the hideous spectre of the great calamities marking this century's end: terrorism, which even here we have trouble defining, ubiquitous racism, the indebtedness of the poor countries. I wonder whether the author of Remaking the United Nations, were he writing today rather than in 1986, might not add to his catalogue of things that concern the rich a few words about the turmoil in the financial markets, for those markets seem to be caught up in a kind of dance of death, punctuated by human tragedies, whether in Florida, Wisconsin or elsewhere, and seem to be revealing ever more obvious flaws in the economic carapace of the wealthy nations in the trilateral community.

So I willingly grant him the truth of his statements, his diagnosis, and the validity of his programmatic prescription for a United Nations that will not be a "charitable bureaucracy" but rather "a centre for political negotiations",

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capable of meeting the threats prevalent in the modern world, threats that could not have been foreseen in the post-1945 context of San Francisco.

And yet, surely there is just a hint of a divergent view if we turn to the almost contemplative words of Dag Hammarskjöld, who wrote:

(spoke in English)

"In the flourishing literature on the art of life, there is much talk about that rare quality: maturity of mind ... It is reflected in an absence of fear, in recognition of the fact that fate is what we make it ... The dignity of man, as a justification of our faith in freedom, can be part of our living creed only if we revert to a view of life where maturity of mind counts for more than outward success and where happiness is no longer to be measured in quantitative terms ... There is no formula to teach us how to arrive at maturity and there is no grammar for the language of the inner life ... The rest is silence because the rest is something that has to be resolved between a man and himself ..."

The great Karl Augustus Menninger, in his book, Man Against Himself, demonstrated this very eloquently in his own way.

Hammarskjöld continues:

"You may be surprised by an approach to international service and to the problems raised by present-day developments in international life which, like mine today, is concerned mainly with problems of personal ethics. The so-called realists may regard what I have tried to say as just so many fine words, only tenuously related to everyday life and political action. I would challenge this criticism. The thoughts I have shared with you about international service are conclusions from a most practical experience. Politics and diplomacy are no play of will and skill where results are independent of the character of those engaging in the game. Results are

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determined not by superficial ability but by the consistency of the actors in their efforts and by the validity of their ideals. Contrary to what seems to be popular belief there is no intellectual activity which more ruthlessly tests the solidity of a man than politics. Apparently easy successes with the public are possible for a juggler, but lasting results are achieved only by the patient builder." (SG/424, 14 June 1955)

(continued in French)

What I have just quoted is from an address in 1955 at Johns Hopkins University.

Having said that, it seems to me that the character make-up of the protagonists in the search for peace becomes of the highest importance, just as peace itself demands that in seeking it we display an unparalleled commitment that must exceed the passionate love a man feels for an adored woman - if I may so express it. We all have an obligation to demonstrate a healthy realism, but even greater is our common commitment to transcend the limits and constraints of such realism by daring to believe sincerely in the sacred nature of peace for all nations, rich and poor, large and small, and by fearlessly setting out on the path, strewn with countless dangers, which is clearly the only one that can deliver us from the evils of hatred, selfishness, rancour and, above all, lack of respect for one's adversary.

Jean-Paul Sartre warned us of the danger of believing that "Hell is others." Martin Buber warned us against the subtle snares of morbid narcissism inherent in the Ich-Das relationship as opposed to the Ich-Du, the je-ça as opposed to the je-tu, the I-it as opposed to the I-thou. Put another way, he warned about the evils of reification, of viewing the human being as a thing, as happens, for example, when we reduce the victim of our antipathy to an abstract entity, an inanimate object, a thing, to what we call an enemy, and he ceases to exist as a living human being, a human being to whom, as a sacred duty, we owe respect.

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The teachings of Robert Bak on the relationship between masochism and paranoia, which he introduced in 1946, also have their place in our efforts to grasp the dynamics governing the paroxysms of conflict and confrontation that abound throughout the world.

Closer to home, we have the report of the first International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, which covers the alarming report of the Group of Eminent Persons under the chairmanship of Mrs. Inge Thorsson; and the Brundtland report to the Assembly on our threatened environment; furthermore, there is the report of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development, all of which help to shed light on the evil that is gnawing away at our planet - particularly in Africa, as we saw yesterday.

However, given the condition of the patient, the time has passed for the luxury of elegant diagnoses; the team of doctors at the bedside must get down to work with faith in the prospects for saving the patient, working with endurance and passionate commitment against the greatest enemy, that is, death.

Martin Luther King, Jr., said:

(spoke in English)

"Over the bleached bones and jumbled residues of numerous civilizations are the pathetic words: 'Too late' ... We still have a choice today: non-violent coexistence or violent coannihilation. This may well be mankind's best chance to choose between chaos or community."

(continued in French)

It is with this feeling of urgency, ardent faith in the possible - after all, as they say, "impossible is not French" - and above all this sublime passion in the search and pursuit of peace for all that I have the honour to support the draft resolution introduced by the sister delegation of Costa Rica on the International Year of Peace.

Mr. TOLKACH (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) (interpretation from Russian): The events of 1986, which was declared by the United Nations General Assembly to be the International Year of Peace, give us every reason to state that the international community's efforts for peace, disarmament, confidence-building and co-operation were given a powerful impetus.

During the International Year of Peace the Soviet Union made a proposal, which gained ground - a programme for the complete elimination by the year 2000 of nuclear and other types of weapons of mass destruction. For more than a year and a half - that is, throughout the International Year of Peace - not one nuclear test was conducted at USSR testing grounds.

The States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty proposed a concrete programme for the radical reduction of conventional weapons and armed forces in connection with tactical nuclear weaponry from the Atlantic to the Urals.

At the Stockholm Conference, the States that had participated in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) reached agreement on a broad number of political and military activities designed to build confidence and reduce the danger of armed conflict.

The Soviet-American meeting in Reykjavik opened up real prospects for the implementation of a programme of genuine nuclear disarmament, if we can prevent the transfer of the arms race to space.

Last year the Group of Socialist States, including the Byelorussian SSR, put forward the idea, which was approved by the United Nations General Assembly, of establishing a comprehensive system for international peace and security.

During the Soviet-Indian summit meeting, on behalf of more than 1 billion persons, those two friendly States signed the "Delhi Declaration on the principles of a world free from violence and nuclear weaponry".

The list could be continued.

(Mr. Tolkach, Byelorussian SSR)

Furthermore, the impetus for the International Year of Peace continues in effect in 1987. Important initiatives based on new political thinking and priorities in universal values were taken by the Soviet Union and other States of the socialist community; there were the Delhi Six, the non-aligned and other peace-loving forces.

All that has made it possible to make progress towards a Soviet-American agreement to eliminate medium-range and shorter-range missiles and to set the target of a 50 per cent reduction in strategic weapons of the USSR and the United States of America, while complying with the anti-ballistic missile Treaty, that is, to advance step by step towards a non-nuclear, non-violent world.

There is greater response now from world public opinion and a closing of the ranks of the proponents of peace in their struggle against the nuclear and conventional arms race. We see in that the influence of the constructive initiative recently taken and the role played by the United Nations in strengthening the movement to achieve the noble goals of the International Year of Peace.

The mobilization of mass anti-war activities and the new measures taken by the proponents of peace to increase their activities are real fruits of the International Year of Peace. It is a significant fact that the movement against a nuclear catastrophe and the arms race has gone beyond the framework of individual countries; it has truly become universal: in 137 countries national organizations have been formed in support of peace and disarmament. This is a force which ruling circles cannot fail to take into account.

A number of activities took place in 1986 which are continuing to make progress in establishing lasting contacts between peoples in their struggle for peace and the establishment of a fruitful dialogue and in seeking ways and means of strengthening anti-war movements that might take different ideological positions.

(Mr. Tolkach, Byelorussian SSR)

We welcome the steps taken by the United Nations to activate world public opinion in its struggle against the threat of nuclear catastrophe.

In 1986 and 1987 major anti-war steps of an international nature were taken: first and foremost among them we should call attention to the World Congress of Peace-Loving Forces in Copenhagen; the Conference of the Five for Peace and Disarmament, which took place at Athens; and the Moscow Forum for a Non-Nuclear World and the Survival of Mankind. Those forums helped us correct the distorted ideas and prejudices of the proponents of peace about peace proposals from the socialist countries - ideas that were systematically spread by those in favour of psychological war.

(Mr. Tolkach, Byelorussian SSR)

The Soviet public participated actively in the anti-war movement. In that connection, I should like to cite the English writer James Aldrich, who observed that:

"The fact is that the USSR is prepared to sacrifice itself in the name of peace; it can see no other way. Thousands of people in socialist society have defended that principle, undergoing suffering and sacrifice. Many have given their lives rather than betray their faith in the ideals of socialism. This is a most difficult task, but a noble one. The Soviet Union is true to the ideals of the October Revolution and to all those who have struggled and continue to struggle for them."

The relevant United Nations documents contain considerable information about the specific contribution of the Byelorussian SSR to the observance of the International Year of Peace. There is, therefore, no need for me to go into these in detail. Suffice it to say that in 1986, there were 18,000 massive anti-war activities throughout the country, with the participation of virtually every adult member of the population. They demanded an end to nuclear-weapon testing, that the arms race be halted on Earth and not allowed to spread to outer space and that we undertake genuine disarmament. Those are, in fact, the goals of the peace-loving policy of the Soviet State.

The contribution of the Byelorussian SSR to the commemoration of the International Year of Peace was recognized by the United Nations by the conferring of the "Peace Messenger" award on our hero city of Minsk and on the Byelorussian Peace Committee.

We think the United Nations should study, strengthen and develop the positive experience gained in various countries during the International Year of Peace. In our view, the General Assembly should now declare the final decade of our century a

(Mr. Tolkach, Byelorussian SSR)

decade for action to build a non-nuclear world. That view is shared by many delegations.

It is also important to call upon States to act in such a way that each year will bring us closer to the ideal of peace, help us refrain from actions not in keeping with peace and bring about a new way of thinking. Consistent with the peace campaign, the General Assembly should appeal to States to encourage mass anti-war movements and should respond to their demands with concrete action.

As we commemorate the seventieth anniversary of the great October socialist revolution - which gave rise to the world's first socialist State, a State which made the ideals of peace and disarmament and the principle of peaceful coexistence among States with differing social systems the foundation of its foreign policy - our people are determined to make a substantial contribution to the maintenance and strengthening of peace.

We shall continue to do our utmost to ensure that 1986, the International Year of Peace, is followed not only by years of peace and genuine disarmament during which a comprehensive system of international peace and security will come into effect, but also by years free of war and weapons. Mankind must greet the twenty-first century in the glow of sunshine and life, trust and co-operation.

Mr. NOWORYTA (Poland): The delegation of Poland is one of those that enthusiastically supported the Proclamation of the International Year of Peace and highly valued the experience in building consensus in the preparation and observance of the Year. The theme of the Year - safeguarding peace and the future of mankind - rightly reflected the main vocation of the United Nations, the promotion of peace. In our opinion, the implementation of the programme of the International Year of Peace made a substantial contribution to a wider recognition

(Mr. Noworyta, Poland)

of peace as the supreme value of mankind and to greater understanding and increased dialogue among nations and peoples.

The Proclamation and observance of the International Year of Peace resulted from a common belief that effectively countering threats to peace not only called for positive action by Governments, but was of concern to and called for initiatives by peoples and groups all over the world. The real success of the Year was that consensus within the United Nations resulted in so many positive initiatives at the local, national and international levels.

A concern for peace is deeply rooted in the consciousness of the Polish people. An awareness of the dangers inherent in the arms race, especially the nuclear-arms race, and of the threat it poses to peace is widespread in Polish society. Moreover, there is genuine recognition that social and economic development and the enhancement of civilization are conceivable only in conditions of peace.

Therefore, Poland spares no effort to promote the cause of peace and security. In that respect the Polish Government and society at large act as one; there is broad popular identification with and dedication to the cause of peace and international security, which constitutes the basic tenet of Poland's foreign policy.

Last year, Poland, along with other socialist countries, submitted for the consideration of the General Assembly a far-reaching proposal for the establishment of a comprehensive system of international security. We proceeded from the assumption that, in the nuclear age, there is no alternative to a peaceful policy, for, as has been recognized elsewhere, "a nuclear war cannot be won and should never be fought".

(Mr. Noworyta, Poland)

This year, Poland presented an initiative, the Jaruzelski plan, on decreasing armaments and increasing confidence in Central Europe (A/42/413, annex). The substance of the measures proposed in the plan and their mutual interrelationship stem from present-day requirements, the state of the disarmament dialogue and from a wish to take into account the security interests of all concerned.

The Polish Government and broad circles of Polish society responded positively and en masse to the appeal for action in the framework of the International Year of Peace. The Committee for the Observance of the International Year of Peace in Poland, established under the chairmanship of our Foreign Minister, Marian Orzechowski, helped co-ordinate activities launched by cities, non-governmental organizations, schools, academic institutions and art and cultural organizations. In the process, strong support emerged for the United Nations as an instrument of peace, along with new ideas about how to strengthen the Organization.

The ideas that emanated from the events and projects launched in Poland during the Year covered a vast area of interests and concerns. The Congress of Intellectuals for a Peaceful Future of the World emphasized the important role of scientists, artists and journalists in the promotion of peace.

(Mr. Noworyta, Poland)

Meetings devoted to children expressed concern for the peaceful future of young generations. Several cities, among them Warsaw, Wroclaw and Oswiecim, called for increased co-operation and human contacts at the local level. Academic meetings advanced peace studies and helped to plan future research devoted to peace.

Poland hosted the first meeting of the Panel of Experts on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace at Nieborow, in January 1986. The discussions of the Panel focused on the mechanisms and forces necessary to give this process, described in the 1978 declaration, concrete and positive momentum. This process must be continuous, based on common effort and dedication.

It is important that the United Nations remain at the heart of such long-term efforts, co-ordinating and harmonizing the actions of Member States, non-governmental organizations and concerned groups and individuals. It is essential that the impetus created by the observance of the International Year of Peace in 1986 should not be lost but should continue along practical and dedicated paths.

The draft resolution on achievements of the International Year of Peace of which Poland has the honour of being a sponsor - as it has consistently been of similar draft resolutions since 1983 - in picking up some of the suggestions in the report of the Secretary-General (A/42/487 and Corr.2 and Add.1) goes a long way in that direction.

The International Year of Peace has shown the capacity of the United Nations to work as a focal point for action on behalf of peace. Let us further develop the action of the Organization in pursuit of peace as a basic objective of the United Nations. Let us transform the Year of Peace into an everlasting era of peace, so that "the vision of the year 2000 as the starting-point of a new era in international relations" - in the words of the draft resolution before us - may materialize.

Mr. WASNIK (India): India participated with great enthusiasm in many events and activities held at United Nations Headquarters and in India in connection with the celebration of the International Year of Peace. In recognition of the good work done by them towards promoting the cause of peace, seven Indian organizations were awarded "Peace Messenger" awards by the Secretary-General of the United Nations instituted under resolution 40/10. On 19 May 1987

Mr. V. Safronchuk, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Political and Security Council Affairs, presented, in New Delhi, the International Year of Peace Medal to the Indian National Committee for its contribution to the International Year of Peace.

Since time immemorial Indian saints and seers have prayed and worked ceaselessly for peace and tranquillity. From the Vedic rishis through Gautama Buddha to Gandhi there is an unbroken chain of great messengers of peace and harmony. Our ancient wisdom teaches us to seek harmony with all creation and peace on all planets.

The serious concern of humanity at the threat to its existence of galloping innovations of weapons of destruction is reflected in the growing crescendo of peace marches and rallies all over the world. However, ironically enough, new concepts of security are breeding ever increasing insecurities and ever greater threats to the survival of mankind. It is our firm conviction that the real concept of security can be built only on mutual trust and co-operation and not on a futile pursuit of one-upmanship and domination.

Humanity today is held hostage to the apocalyptic arsenals of extinction. Our earth, our oceans and our atmosphere are dotted with weapons which could in a few minutes reduce human civilization to an object of archaeology. Yet we appear to be racing inexorably to the brink. There are today over 60,000 nuclear warheads in the arsenals of nuclear-weapon States and their allies. New and more deadly

(Mr. Wasnik, India)

engines of death and destruction of unprecedented precision have been deployed. Annual global military expenditure is now close to \$US 1 trillion. It is too well known to need stressing that the expenditure on modernization of existing nuclear arsenals is rising disproportionately faster than military expenditure. The options for mankind are getting narrower and narrower. We earnestly hope that the fast-shrinking option between the human race and the arms race will be exercised with the utmost sense of responsibility. Warmongering, whether on Earth or in space, should be outlawed by mutual co-operation and consent. The Earth, space and the stars should be not war stations, but objects of our eternal dream for the human race and civilization. Before we conquer the stars we must conquer our fears and suspicions.

The summit meeting between President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev during the past year and subsequent developments have given rise to the hope that the prevailing stalemate in disarmament negotiations will be broken. India attaches great importance to the proclaimed objectives of bilateral negotiations between the United States of America and the Soviet Union, namely, to prevent an arms race in outer space and terminate that race on Earth, and ultimately to eliminate nuclear arms completely. It is now universally acknowledged that the greatest peril facing the world is the threat to the survival of mankind posed by the existence of nuclear weapons.

In conclusion, my delegation reiterates its firm commitment to the cause of peace. Let balance of terror be replaced by balance of sanity, and mutually assured destruction by mutually assured prosperity.

This year my country is joining over 40 other nations in sponsoring draft resolution A/42/L.12, which we hope will be adopted by consensus, on the

(Mr. Wasnik, India)

achievements of the International Year of Peace. We have expressed the hope in that draft resolution

"that the ideals and objectives contained in the Proclamation of the International Year of Peace will continue to be an inspiration for concerted action during the closing years of this century which may materialize in the vision of the year 2000 as the starting-point of a new era in international relations."

The PRESIDENT: (interpretation from Russian): I have to inform the Assembly that Jamaica has become a co-sponsor of draft resolution A/42/L.12.

Mr. PIEDRA (United States of America): My delegation would like to take this opportunity to discuss briefly the United States Institute of Peace (USIP), which recently released its first report to the President summarizing its programmes and goals. The United States Institute of Peace Act, signed into law on 19 October 1984, established a national, independent, non-profit corporation to promote research, education, training and information dissemination about international peace and the management of international conflict.

(Mr. Piedra, United States)

The Board of Directors of the Institute was sworn in by the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court on 25 February 1986, and on the same day the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, cabled Secretary of State Shultz, commending the creation of the USIP. The Board met on the following day with President Reagan and Secretary Shultz. It is composed of 11 private citizens and heads or senior designees of the Departments of State and Defense, the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency and the National Defense University.

The USIP is non-interventionist and does not participate in the conduct of foreign policy, ongoing international disputes or policy processes in any country. It is prohibited by law from attempting to influence legislation pending before Congress or any other local, state, national or international body.

The USIP is funded entirely by federal appropriations. It has established a grants programme to support research, education, training and information dissemination activities by non-profit and official public institutions and by private individuals. Approximately \$1.5 million in USIP grants have been awarded to date to more than 50 recipients both in the United States and abroad. A fellowship programme is also under development to provide assistance for periods of up to two years for scholars and leaders in peace, from the United States and abroad, to pursue scholarly inquiry and other appropriate forms of communication on international peace and conflict management. The USIP is also conducting its own projects, including the drawing up of an intellectual map surveying the international peace field, a national peace essay contest for high school students, whose theme this year addresses the relationship between international peace and human rights, a pilot television project on United States-Soviet relations, a study on strengthening the international system to deal with covert and low-intensity aggression and an annual survey on the state of world peace.

(Mr. Piedra, United States)

The USIP solicits information about governmental, scholarly and professional-conflict-management related activities in countries abroad. Competition for USIP fellowships and grants is open to citizens of all countries.

Let me turn now to the draft resolution before us (A/42/L.12). We want to congratulate the principal sponsor, the delegation of Costa Rica, for its strenuous efforts throughout the entire International Year of Peace process, and particularly during the Year itself, to bring about a successful celebration. Moreover, we would be remiss if we did not congratulate the President of Costa Rica and the Costa Rican people on their efforts to establish peace generally. Those efforts were of course recognized with the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to President Arias.

My delegation has been pleased to join every year since 1982 in the adoption of resolutions dealing with the International Year of Peace. We believe that this year's draft resolution reflects this spirit of the Year that was manifest in so many activities, including in my own country. As noted in documents A/42/487 and Corr.2 and Add.1, we commend in the draft resolution the support given to the role of the United Nations in the maintenance of peace and security. The International Year was in many ways observed in the context of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations.

I would note one point of concern with regard to operative paragraph 6, which calls for a report and the inscription on the agenda of the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly of an item entitled, "Achievements of the International Year of Peace". Last year, following the adoption of resolution 41/9, certain delegations declared that this item should be inscribed on the agenda of the forty-second session solely for the purpose of considering the final report of the Secretary-General and that thereafter the item should no longer be inscribed.

(Mr. Piedra, United States)

This concern having been noted, my delegation is pleased to join the consensus on this draft resolution.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): We have heard the last speaker in the debate on this item.

The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/42/L.12.

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

Draft resolution A/42/L.12 was adopted (resolution 42/13).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): I shall now call on those representatives wishing to explain their position after the decision.

May I remind representatives that, pursuant to decision 34/401 of the General Assembly, explanations are to be limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. BIERRING (Denmark): On behalf of the 12 member States of the European Community, I should like to make some comments on the draft resolution on which the General Assembly has just taken action.

It is well known that our delegations welcomed the sentiments behind Costa Rica's initiative to establish 1986 as the International Year of Peace. The final report of the Secretary-General on the International Year of Peace helped to focus international attention on a primary goal of the United Nations, namely, to strengthen the maintenance of international peace and security.

On 24 October 1986 the 12 member States of the European Community in a statement on resolution 41/9 on the International Year of Peace stressed that:

"the need for the international community to continue to search for practical measures which will contribute to a strengthening of international peace and security remains ...". (A/41/PV.49, p. 87)

(Mr. Bierring, Denmark)

It was in that spirit, and on the understanding that the resolution did not detract from the guidelines endorsed by consensus by the General Assembly in 1980 regarding International Years in general, that the Twelve agreed to the inclusion of this item on the agenda of the forty-second session of the General Assembly in order to enable the Secretary-General to present his final report. We believe that the re-inscription of the item at a future session of the United Nations General Assembly would be contrary to the spirit of the 1980 guidelines regarding International Years.

Nevertheless, the Twelve have joined in the consensus in the hope that hereafter other ways of presenting information on activities undertaken in connection with the goals of the International Year of Peace can be found.

Let me conclude by reiterating the commitment of the 12 member States of the European Community to international peace and our determination to strive for a more peaceful and secure world.

Ms. RASI (Finland): On behalf of the five Nordic countries, Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Finland, I should like to address some remarks to the draft resolution in document A/42/L.12, just adopted by the General Assembly.

The International Year of Peace was widely observed in all Nordic countries. It contributed to the increased public awareness of the importance of international peace and disarmament in our countries. Although we have some reservations on certain aspects of the resolution, the five Nordic countries joined in the consensus on it, on the understanding that it will be implemented in full compliance with the guidelines for future international years adopted by consensus by the Economic and Social Council in 1980 and confirmed by the General Assembly in the same year.

Mr. ABE (Japan): As the Secretary-General mentions in his report (A/42/487/Add.1), Japan actively participated in the International Year of Peace. The Government of Japan commemorated the Year with a solemn ceremony which was attended by His Royal Imperial Highness the Crown Prince and the Prime Minister. In addition, it established a liaison office within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and sought to heighten public awareness of the Year by placing notices in many Japanese national newspapers and distributing posters and leaflets throughout the country. The Government also supported a wide array of events organized throughout the year by private organizations.

My delegation joined in the consensus on draft resolution A/42/L.12 as an expression of its steadfast determination to continue its efforts to secure and strengthen world peace. Nevertheless, my delegation wishes to comment, for the record, on paragraph 6 of this resolution.

We understand that the International Year of Peace officially ended in 1986, and that the inclusion of the International Year of Peace in this year's agenda was

(Mr. Abe, Japan)

solely intended to allow discussion of the report of the Secretary-General. We are therefore not convinced of the value of having it included again as an agenda item for the forty-fourth session. In fact, in the view of my delegation, it is at the very least premature to decide, at this stage, that this item should be included in the agenda for the forty-fourth session.

Mr. OKELY (Australia): Delegations will be well aware of Australia's support for the International Year of Peace. Our activities have been detailed in successive reports of the Secretary-General to this Assembly.

The Assembly will note that Australia was not a co-sponsor of the draft resolution we have just adopted by consensus. We very much regret this because we have co-sponsored International Year of Peace draft resolution texts at previous sessions of the General Assembly.

Australia was unable to co-sponsor the draft in document A/42/L.12 because of the inclusion of operative paragraph 6. In our considered view arguments to continue the idea of the International Year of Peace under another guise into successive sessions of the General Assembly could not be justified considering the 1980 Economic and Social Council guidelines on International Years. Nor were we convinced that the action proposed in paragraph 6 of document A/42/L.12 could be carried out without the allocation of additional Secretariat and financial resources, resources that could be better utilized elsewhere.

Despite these reservations my delegation joined in the consensus on the draft resolution in document A/42/L.12.

Mrs. CASTRO de BARISH (Costa Rica) (interpretation from Spanish): My delegation feels obliged to place on record its appreciation to all representatives who contributed by giving valuable support to the draft resolution entitled "Achievements of the International Year of Peace", just adopted by the General Assembly without a vote.

(Mrs. Castro de Barish, Costa Rica)

I should like to express my thanks for the understanding and spirit of co-operation shown by delegations which joined in the consensus although they had some reservations about the draft resolution.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): We have thus concluded our consideration of agenda item 26.

PROGRAMME OF WORK

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): Before going on to the next agenda item, I should like to inform the Assembly that, at the request of the Chairman of the Latin American Group, the elections to fill one seat in the Economic and Social Council originally scheduled for our next meeting will be postponed to a later date, to be announced.

AGENDA ITEM 16

ELECTIONS TO FILL VACANCIES IN SUBSIDIARY ORGANS

(b) ELECTION OF TWELVE MEMBERS OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): The Assembly has before it document A/42/320, which contains the nominations by the Economic and Social Council.

The 12 retiring members are: Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Mexico, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey, United States of America and Zambia.

The following States have been nominated by the Economic and Social Council: three African States for three vacancies: Côte d'Ivoire, Madagascar and Zambia; four Asian States for three vacancies: China, Indonesia, Nepal and Thailand;

(The President)

three Latin American States for two vacancies: Brazil, Mexico and Uruguay; one socialist State of Eastern Europe for one vacancy: Bulgaria; three Western European and other States for three vacancies: Canada, Turkey and United States of America.

Mr. JOSSE (Nepal): Nepal is a small developing country whose economy is largely based on agriculture. It is therefore natural that the agrarian sector should occupy a place of the highest priority in our national development plans. In the belief that membership of the World Food Council would at this particular juncture be most beneficial to our efforts to promote better management and the modernization of agriculture, Nepal presented its candidature for membership of the World Food Council for a term beginning 1 January 1988. However, as there are more candidates than vacancies allotted to the Asian and Pacific region this year, His Majesty's Government in Nepal has decided to withdraw its candidature, both in view of the close and friendly relations we have with the three other candidates - China, Thailand and Indonesia - and also in the interest of Asian Group solidarity. We hope that our withdrawal will facilitate their unanimous endorsement.

We would like to take this opportunity to express appreciation to all States that had lent their valuable support to our candidature prior to this announcement.

Ms. MORALES (Brazil): My delegation wishes to inform the Assembly that since last July, as communicated to the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, Brazil has not been a candidate for one of the two Latin American and Caribbean vacancies on the World Food Council during the current session of the General Assembly.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): Members of the Assembly have heard the statements of the representatives of Nepal and Brazil. Therefore, the number of States nominated from among the African, Asian and Latin American Groups, the Socialist States of Eastern Europe and the Group of Western European and other States is equal to the number of places allocated to each of those groups.

(The President)

In accordance with paragraph 16 of decision 34/401, the Assembly may dispense with balloting when the number of States nominated from each group is equal to the number of places allocated. I take it that the Assembly wishes to declare that the States nominated have been elected members of the World Food Council for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1988.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): I congratulate the States which have just been elected members of the World Food Council.

The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 16.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.