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VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 31st MEETING

Chairman: Mr. BOATEN (Ghana)

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The meeting was called to order at 11.05 a.m.

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Mr. ROSSIDES (Cyprus): The purpose of my statement at the present juncture is to introduce a draft resolution for a study on the interrelationship between international peace and security and disarmament. The draft is sponsored by nine States. Before actually introducing it, I should like to say a few words.

It is noted in the Secretary-General's report on the economic and social consequences of the armaments race, document A/32/88, dealing with recent studies on the future of the world economy, that there is a remarkable omission from those studies of any consideration of the implications thereof on the arms race. The report urges that:

"Both aspects of the problem need to be taken into account: ... the volume of resources consumed on the arms race and the socially constructive uses to which they could" - and should - "be put ..." (A/32/88, para. 170)

In this sense a link has been forged between development and disarmament between the new international economic order which grew out of the seventh special session and the new disarmament order that should grow out of the eighth special session.

Here we come to a point of particular importance. A primary requirement for a new disarmament order is that there should be a halt to the arms race. Unless there is a halt to the arms race, there can never be any progress on disarmament. Without it, we can have no link; unless we stop the arms race we can have no possibility of a link between disarmament and the economic order, because the link between disarmament and the economic order is related to the consequences of halting the arms race. But in order to see the consequences of the arms race and its destructive effect upon the economy of the world, we must also see how the arms race can be halted.

(Mr. Rossides, Cyprus)

By studying the consequences of the arms race, we make no progress towards halting it or towards getting at its causes so that we can halt this present-day scourge of humanity. Therefore I should like to point out that, although it is easily understandable and well conceived, the arms race is the inevitable consequence of the balance of power which in a polarized world has become nothing but the balance of weapons between the two principal sides and, by analogy, between the rest of the States in a world depending on force and armaments for security. So long, therefore, as the concept of armaments and an arms race is inextricably linked with the concept of international security there cannot be a halt to the arms race.

In order to maintain or to attain a balance of weapons, which is necessarily the consequence of the concept of balance of power, there must be an arms race. Any weapon produced by one side has to be counter-produced, and overdone, by the other side. And, therefore, we are in a vicious circle: we try to create disarmament when we cannot stop the arms race.

It is generally accepted that the more arms that are produced, the less security there is for the nations. There is where we are in the escalating process of the arms race. It is obvious that we are going down the precipice with regard to international security.

The primary consideration in the view of a number of delegations in this Committee is that the special session on disarmament should devote its efforts towards halting the arms race and, to that end, proceed to the relevant studies required in respect of the relationship between international security and peace and disarmament.

On the provisional agenda of the special session, in paragraph 9, there is provision for the review and appraisal of the interrelationship between disarmament and international peace and security, on the one hand, and economic development on the other. This Committee has had before it a proposal - which will be discussed in the special session on disarmament - for a study of the interrelationship between disarmament and economic development. My delegation, together with other delegations, is proposing parallel studies on the relationship of international peace and security to disarmament, so that the item on the agenda shall be completed and so that the possibility for linking disarmament to development can become realizable through providing the means of halting the arms race by studying the relevant relationship between disarmament and international security.

(Mr. Rossides, Cyprus)

The draft resolution, co-sponsored by Colombia, Cyprus, Egypt, Ghana, Mexico, Nigeria, Panama, Philippines and Yugoslavia, appears in document A/C.1/32/L.21, and reads:

"The General Assembly,

Mindful that, according to Article 1, paragraph 1, of the Charter, the primary purpose of the United Nations is to maintain international peace and security,

Convinced that the relationship between international peace and security to disarmament is a close one and that a determination of this relationship can promote peace, security and disarmament,

Considering that for the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament the Preparatory Committee proposed that one agenda item be a review and appraisal of the 'close interrelationship between disarmament, international peace and security and economic development',

Considering further that the proposal for a study of experts on the interrelationship between disarmament and economic development is under consideration by the present session of the General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the need for a parallel study of the interrelationship between disarmament and international security,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to initiate a study on the interrelationship between disarmament and international security;
2. Further requests the Secretary-General to submit a progress report thereon to the special session."

A progress report is requested particularly because of the lack of sufficient time for a complete report. But that progress report coming before the special session will open the way for the special session to consider and direct, if necessary, that there should be a more in-depth and more detailed study to be produced later to a coming session of the General Assembly, perhaps the thirty-third or the thirty-fourth. In that way we assure, on the one hand, that the matter of international security in relation to disarmament is brought before the special session on disarmament in the proper way and that the special session may consider the further steps to be taken for a more in-depth study on the subject. Therefore, without precluding the full study, we are opening the way for it, and in that way we are not only helping but accelerating the purposes of the other study, that is, the study on the link between disarmament and economic development.

The CHAIRMAN: The following delegations have become sponsors of the following draft resolutions: A/C.1/32/L.10/Rev.1: Cameroon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mali; A/C.1/32/L.16: Bahamas, Cuba, Liberia; A/C.1/32/L.25: Cuba; A/C.1/32/L.11: United Kingdom.

Representatives may recall that the Vice-Chairman requested the sponsors of draft resolutions A/C.1/32/L.3, A/C.1/32/L.13, A/C.1/32/L.17 and A/C.1/32/L.18 and the draft resolution in document A/32/29 to introduce them in the Committee today, and this was agreed to. I therefore ask the sponsors of those draft resolutions to introduce them as soon as possible.

The deadline for the submission of draft resolutions has been extended until noon today. This is the last time it will be extended.

I would remind representatives that we are due to complete consideration of the disarmament items and the draft resolutions under those items in the course of this week.

The meeting rose at 11.35 a.m.