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VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 45th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. BAGBENI ADETTO NZENGEYA (Zaire)

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10p.

The meeting was called to order at 4.35 p.m.

**AGENDA** ITEMS 56, 62, 64, 65, 67 AND 69 (continued)

**CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION ON DRAFT RESOLUTIONS ON DISARMAMENT ITEMS**

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): The **Committee** will **continue** and conclude the third phase of its work, the consideration of and action **on** draft resolutions on agenda items 48 to 69, and take a decision on draft resolution **A/C.1/42/L.65/Rev.1**. I shall first call **on** those delegations that wish to make statements **other** than in explanation of vote.

Mr. GRANGER (United States): On 6 November my delegation introduced for the Committee's consideration a draft **resolution** concerning the free exchange of views **on** disarmament and related issues of international security. We were honoured that joining us in sponsoring the draft resolution were Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece and Italy. Since then we have welcomed the additional sponsorship of the Netherlands.

The United States delegation has **consulted** many other delegations on the draft resolution, and these consultations have resulted in a revised draft - **A/C.1/42/L.65/Rev.1**, submitted on 12 November. The revised draft incorporates, to the extent possible, suggestions offered by **many** delegations, including delegations from neutral and non-aligned countries and **from Warsaw Pact countries**. In our further consultations our delegation was gratified to learn that a large **number** of delegations, representing a **wide** spectrum of views on issues of concern **to** the Committee, could support the revised draft.

Unfortunately, **some** delegations were not satisfied by the flexibility we **demonstrated** in seeking to **accommodate** their concerns. **Those** delegations have indicated their intent to pursue amendments to draft resolution **L.65/Rev.1** which,

Mr. Granger, United States)

if adopted, would have the **effect** of completely altering the **character** of the draft **resolution**. To this my delegation cannot agree.

One **concern** expressed by **some** delegations about the draft resolution **is** that it intrudes into **issues** of human rights more properly dealt with in other **forums**. Yet **one** of the amendments offered in document A/C.1/42/L.81 would have the effect of pointing to a new right, a **right** described in the amendment as "**inalienable**" but one that, so far as my delegation **is** aware, **is** not **contained** in any internationally agreed declaration<sup>6</sup> or **covenants** dealing with human rights.

On the other hand, the **relationship** between the free exchange of views **addressed** in draft resolution L.65 and international security concerns has been **recognized** in, for example, the Helsinki Final Act of 1975 and General Assembly **resolution** 37/100 J of 1982, which was adopted by **consensus**.

Another proposal in document A/C.1/42/L.81 **is** to delete any reference to international security issues other than disarmament. This proposal seems strange. In our view, disarmament is an international security issue and cannot be **dealt with outside the broad context** of international security **issues**. Otherwise there is a tendency not to deal realistically with disarmament,

Most disturbing, perhaps, is the proposal **to** delete paragraph 1 from draft resolution L.65/Rev.1. No persuasive explanation has been offered for the amendment, which would have the effect of removing one of the main operative provisions of the draft resolution, a provision dealing with issues of free speech and openness that our delegation had assumed were of **fundamental** importance to **all** peoples and to all member States of this body and highly relevant to our work. It **is** with regret that we note that our assumptions in this regard may have been overly optimistic.

(Mr. Granger, United States)

I would point out that our delegation has accepted the replacement of paragraph 4 of draft resolution L.65 with the wording of paragraph 2 of resolution 37/100 J. I would also point out that other modifications to draft resolution L-65 have been made in an attempt to accommodate the views expressed in document A/C. 1/42/L. 81. They include the addition of the word "international" before "security" throughout the text, so as to avoid any misunderstanding of what we had in mind;

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extensive modifications of paragraph 1 to place the emphasis of that paragraph more squarely on the basic subject of the draft resolution, and modifications to paragraphs 2 and 3 to clarify their intent.

AS I have noted, this flexibility on the part of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.65/Rev. 1 was not reciprocated by the sponsors of the amendments contained in document A/C.1/42/L.81. We regret very much that even our attempts at a late hour to reach a compromise were not positively received and that the position of non-aligned delegations even hardened during these consultations. The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.65/Rev.1 therefore have decided not to bring it to a vote.

In conclusion, the United States delegation cannot but express its disappointment about the intensity of activity displayed by some delegations in Opposition to a draft resolution that one would have thought rests on principles and aspirations all of us have subscribed to. Indeed, it is curious that this resolution was the only one singled out at this session for amendments aimed at completely changing its character. But then perhaps we should not have been too surprised.

Mr. MacKINNON (Canada) : The second preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.65/Rev. 1 notes that open discussion and debate on all points of view concerning disarmament and related security issues contribute to better understanding of such issues and may exercise a positive influence on the attainment of meaningful arms limitation measures and progress in disarmament.

We consider this to be very much of an understatement of an extremely significant and important concept and we are most disappointed that we could not agree in this Committee on a substantive resolution on the free exchange of views on disarmament and related security measures.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): Members of the Committee have heard the statements made on draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.65/Rev.1. They will therefore know that draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.65 was submitted during the 35th meeting of the First Committee on 6 November 1987. It had at least six sponsors and dealt with general and complete disarmament. Amendments, published in document A/C.1/42/L.81, have been added to the draft resolution, and as a result, the sponsors have expressed their wish not to insist on having draft resolution L.65/Rev.1 put to the vote or adopted by the Committee. Accordingly the Committee will not have to take a decision on this draft resolution or on the related amendments.

If this is the view of the Committee, I shall therefore take it that this draft resolution will not be put to the vote.

It was so decided.

#### PROGRAMME OF WORK

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French) : We have just concluded the third phase of our work, namely, consideration of and action on draft resolutions on our agenda items 48 to 69 dealing with disarmament.

Tomorrow we shall begin the general debate on agenda item 70 entitled "Question of Antarctica", and then we shall turn to the last items that still have to be considered, namely, items 71, 72 and 73 relating to international security.

I shall now briefly review the situation as it stands and share with members some personal thoughts on what we have accomplished during these past few weeks. At the present session the Committee had before it 77 draft resolutions and two draft decisions on questions of disarmament. Although the number of draft proposals submitted was slightly larger this year than last year, the Committee nevertheless seems to have made some innovations and has moved forward as regards

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the total number of draft proposals finally adopted, In fact, out of 79 draft proposals presented this year, the Committee adopted 63, of which 25 were adopted without a vote, while the sponsors of 16 drafts did not insist on having their drafts put to the vote.

This year again, the Committee had before it a large number of complicated questions which are of great concern to the international community, as was seen from the majority of proposals calling for specific measures in the field of arms limitation and general disarmament. Among the numerous proposals calling for urgent measures aimed at solving the most pressing problems, I should like to mention those relating to the nuclear-test ban, the cessation of the nuclear-arms race and the prevention of nuclear war, the prevention of an arms race in outer space, the conclusion of a convention on the prohibition of the development, manufacture and stockpiling of chemical weapons, verification measures, confidence-building measures and conventional disarmament and, lastly, regional efforts.

Some of the proposals considered reflected the encouraging new situation which has been observed on the international scene, in particular the progress made in the negotiations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America. The special importance that States members of the Committee attach to these negotiations has taken the form of a draft decision proposed by the Chairman in which the two States are urged not to spare any effort in concluding a treaty on the elimination of their intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles and to make a similarly intensive effort to achieve a treaty on 50 per cent reduction in their strategic offensive arms. On the recommendation of the First Committee, this draft decision was subsequently adopted without a vote at the 46th plenary meeting of the General Assembly on 21 October 1970. In spite of the

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sustained efforts of all delegations, however, the Committee was, unable to bring about a convergence of views on the two other draft resolutions, concerning bilateral negotiations relating to nuclear weapons, and the Committee was therefore not in a position to elaborate a single text on this important item.

At the beginning of our work I expressed the hope that we would profit from the favourable trends in the present international situation and that we would do our utmost to conduct the work of the Committee constructively and methodically and with the necessary flexibility, so as to produce valid results in the examination of all the items on our agenda. I hope members will agree with me that the positive new developments that have taken place during the last few months have had a favourable impact on the conduct of our work at the present session.

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(The Chairman)

As I assess our work, I cannot fail to express my deep gratitude first of all to the members of the Secretariat: to the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, Mr. Akashi; to the Committee Secretary, Mr. Kheradi; and to all their staff. I thank also the Group of Friends of the Chairman and all delegations for their painstaking and patient efforts, which enabled us to harmonise positions and seek consensus whenever possible. My thanks go also to the other Committee officers, who helped so effectively in all our consultations. Those efforts led to the merging of more than one draft resolution submitted on a single agenda item and to the adoption of many of them without a vote.

Thus, despite the complexity of the questions concerned, the Committee was able to adopt a single draft resolution *on* the prevention of an arms race in outer space. I wish also to lay special stress on the progress achieved this year in adopting single draft resolutions on two aspects of chemical weapons, on naval armaments and disarmament, on verification, on the World Disarmament Campaign, and on objective information on military matters.

On the other hand, despite sincere efforts by all concerned, the Committee was unable to adopt a single unified text on a comprehensive nuclear-test ban. But we all know that considerable progress was made towards the formulation of a joint text; I therefore hope sincerely that we shall be able in the future to bring our views even closer together on this crucial matter so as to make further progress at the next session.

The Committee also adopted a draft resolution on the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, to be held from 31 May to 25 June 1988. I am sure that our work during the forty-second session will make a positive contribution to that special session, which will define new disarmament guidelines for the future.

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Last year, as members will recall, the Committee was requested to continue consideration of the improvement and rationalization of its work, taking into account suggestions both made by previous Chairmen of the Committee and included in document A/C.1/39/9 and in this year's report of the Disarmament Commission. In the course of this session we have held several series of consultations on that subject, including those in the open-ended Group of Friends of the Chairman. A draft resolution on this matter was adopted recently. The Disarmament Commission and other bodies will almost certainly continue their consideration of the subject; I hope to be able to provide further information in due course.

I Wish our colleagues from Geneva a pleasant journey; we look forward to seeing them both at the Disarmament Commission and at meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the Third Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament.

The following delegations are scheduled to speak at tomorrow morning's meeting of the Committee, at Which we shall consider agenda item 70, "Question Of Antarctica": Antigua and Barbuda, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Ghana, Pakistan and Rwanda. I urge delegations wishing to speak on this item to inform the Secretariat as soon as possible.

The meeting rose at 4.55 p.m.