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General Assembly  
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*Official Records*

FIRST COMMITTEE  
50th meeting  
held on  
Friday, 30 November 1990  
at 10.30 a.m.  
New York

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 50th MEETING

**Chairman:** Mr. Rana (Nepal)

CONTENTS

General debate, consideration of **and** action on draft resolutions on **international** security agenda item (**continued**)

Report of the **Economic** and Social Council (chapter III, section D)

**Conclusion** of the **work of the First Committee**

Concluding statement by the **Chairman**

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The meeting was called to order at 10.55 a.m.

**AGENDA ITEMS 68, 69, 70 AND 12 (continued)**

**CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION ON DRAFT RESOLUTIONS ON INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AGENDA ITEMS**

**REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (chapter III, section D)**

**The CHAIRMAN:** This morning the Committee will take a decision on draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.66/Rev.1, submitted under agenda item 69.

**Mr. KOTEVSKI (Yugoslavia):** Since document A/C.1/45/L.66/Rev.1 was issued, the sponsors have held additional consultations and have agreed to introduce a few more changes into the text. I promise that these changes will be the last.

The revisions relate to operative paragraph 7, which should read as follows:

"Welcomes recent active involvement of the Security Council in pursuance of its primary responsibility in the maintenance of international peace and security, and       the hope that it will continue in this spirit to address other threats to international peace and security."

**The CHAIRMAN:** We shall now proceed to take a decision on draft resolution **A/C.1/45/L.66/Rev.1** as orally revised. The draft resolution is entitled "**Review** Of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of **International Security**"\*\* and was introduced by the representative of Yugoslavia at the 48th meeting of the First Committee, held on 29 November 1990. I call upon the Secretary of the **Committee**.

**Mr. KHERADI** (Secretary of the **Committee**): Draft resolution **A/C.1/45/L.66/Rev.1** is sponsored by the following delegations: Algeria, **Bangladesh**, Cuba, **Egypt**, India, Indonesia, Madagascar, **Malaysia**, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Yugoslavia.

**The CHAIRMAN:** A recorded vote has been **requested** on draft resolution **A/C.1/45/L.66/Rev.1**, as orally revised.

**A recorded vote was taken.**

**In favour:** Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria. **Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe**

**Against:** United States of America

**Abstaining:** Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, **Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

**Draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.66/Rev.1, as orally revised, was adopted by 91 votes to 1, with 29 abstentions.**

**The CHAIRMAN:** I call now on those delegations wishing to speak in explanation of their vote.

Mr. LENZI (Italy) (interpretation from *French*): **The** Twelve States members of the **European** Community, on whose behalf I am speaking, welcome the adoption by consensus Of draft resolution **A/C.1/45/L.67**, **\*\*Implementation of the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace\*\***. The views of the States **members** Of the **European** Community on the Declaration were given at the time of its adoption, on 8 December 1978. We note, however, that the draft resolution adopted yesterday marks the end of an exercise that, given the recent developments in the international situation, **no** longer has any *raison d'être*. In the circumstances, we were able to join *in the consensus*.

Ms. CLERICI (United States of America): I should like to explain my delegation's vote **on** two of the draft resolutions that we have just considered.

My delegation joined in the consensus in favour of draft resolution **A/C.1/45/L.65**, "Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region". I should like to comment on references to the proposal for a *conference* on security and co-operation in the Mediterranean. The United States supports the plan to address the basic economic **and** social concerns **of** the Mediterranean through economic co-operation and regional dialogue. However, our support **for** those goals and our endorsement of the draft resolution should not be understood to constitute endorsement of the proposal **for** the creation **of** a conference on security and co-operation in the Mediterranean.

In regard to draft resolution **A/C.1/45/L.66**, "Review **of** the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security", which the Committee adopted this **morning**, I have asked to make a statement **explaining** why we voted against it. **My** delegation believes that, while the draft resolution has been improved as compared with draft resolutions adopted in recent years, it still contains several factual errors **as** well as a number of concepts that my Government

(Ms. Clerici, United States)

does not support. More to the point, we feel that the time has come to re-examine the entire approach of the draft resolution on this subject.

The United States believes that the work of the United Nations would be improved by the introduction of draft resolutions that focus on the issues at hand. A large portion of the text before us deals with environmental, social and developmental concerns. These issues are important - they are, in fact, too important for anything less than the most serious attention the United Nations can bring to them; indeed, they are being addressed fully in other forums - but as presented in this draft resolution the issues are abbreviated, and we believe that they do not always reflect the agreements that have been reached on them, often by consensus, in the proper forums,

For example, the Declaration on apartheid of the sixteenth special session, which was adopted by consensus and supported by the United States, recognized the right of all peoples, including the people of South Africa, to determine their own destiny and called on them to join together to negotiate an end to apartheid. The Declaration placed the responsibility for dismantling apartheid and devising a new system where it rightfully belongs, namely, with the people of South Africa. We do not think that now is the time for sterile rhetorical condemnations on this particular issue.

With regard to the draft resolution more generally, my delegation believes that the time has come to look at some of the issues in a more forthright manner.

Mr. ALPMAN (Turkey) : I would like briefly to explain my delegation's position on draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.65, "Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region", which the First Committee adopted yesterday.

As in the case of similar draft resolutions in previous years, my delegation joined in the consensus in favour of the draft resolution. This is an expression

**(Mr. Alpman, Turkey)**

of our keen **interest** in the maintenance **and** strengthening of peace **and** security **in** the entire **Mediterranean** region. I should note, however, that the draft resolution refers to certain meetings in which Turkey did not participate. I would like to put on record the fact that our participation in the adoption of the draft resolution should not be construed **as** Turkey's agreement with every element contained in the conclusions of those meetings.

**Mr. AMIGUES** (France) (interpretation from **French**): The French delegation has joined in the consensus on draft resolution **A/C.1/45/L.65**, "Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region". France regrets, however, that consultations on the draft resolution, which deals with a subject to which it attaches great importance, failed again this year to produce a fully satisfactory text, in spite of the **commendable** efforts of the delegation of Malta.

The **result of** those consultations is a draft resolution **in** which the positions of certain groups of States are better reflected **than** are those of other groups. In particular, my delegation finds the fourth **preambular** paragraph and operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution unclear and unbalanced. France hopes that these **comments** will be duly **taken** into **account** at the next session of the First **Committee** and that the consultations held then will make it possible to arrive at a text that is **fully** satisfactory to all.

**Mr. JANDL** (Austria) delegation abstained in the voting on draft resolution **A/C.1/45/L.66/Rev.1**, "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security".

I wish to underline my delegation's gratitude to the traditional sponsors of **the draft** resolution for **their** efforts to improve the text **and** make it **more** acceptable to **delegations** with a critical stance on it. We note with appreciation **that** this year's **text** was **free** of several **features found** in earlier resolutions, most recently resolution **44/126**, which my delegation could not support. **In** this

(Mr. Jandl, Austria)

context, however, I have to add that we preferred the original version of the text to the revised one.

While fully acknowledging the rapid improvements in the text, which we welcome, we were - much to our regret - still not in a position to support the draft resolution. In our view the entire draft resolution tries to include so many different aspects that its conceptual structure and thrust become somewhat blurred. Furthermore, there are some elements whose concepts or meanings are not clear and not fully understandable. In the preambular part, for example, mention is made of the economic needs of the least developed countries, without a sound elaboration of the important aspects of the immediate relationship and interaction between the economic situation on the one hand and stability and security on the other. In addition, operative paragraphs 10 and 14, for instance, contain formulations the conceptual and analytical foundation of which are unclear.

In spite of various positive elements in draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.66/Rev.1, my delegation, for the reasons just outlined, was compelled to abstain, particularly in the light of the changes introduced yesterday.

Mr. DA COSTA E SILVA (Brazil): As a clear sign of its full commitment to and endorsement of the principles and concepts contained in the 1970 Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security, which was adopted by virtual consensus, Brazil voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.66/Rev.1, as it has consistently done in the voting on earlier draft resolutions on the subject.

We welcome the flexibility and constructive spirit of the sponsors, who made every effort to accommodate, even in last-minute negotiations, the concern of many delegations, including my own, which have always supported the draft resolution on this important issue.

(Mr. Da Costa e Silva, Brazil)

I would **also wish to express my thanks** to you, Mr. Chairman, for having **allowed** more time for **consultations**. **As we** had the opportunity to **emphasise** in our **statement** during the general debate on international security, it is our **profound** belief that the Committee **should** **dedicate** more time to **deliberation** on **this** subject of **particular importance** in the present international **circumstances**.

In **this context**, while fully sharing the **concerns expressed** in the twelfth preambular paragraph on the **question** of the environment, my delegation also **strongly believes** that the **question** of environment **should** not be dealt with in an **item dealing** with international security **because** of the political and, **consequently**, **institutional implications** that might be derived therefrom. Our **positive vote** in favour of draft **resolution A/C.1/45/L.66/Rev.1** **should** not be construed in any way **whatsoever** as an acceptance, on our part, of dealing with the **problem** of the environment as an **international-security issue**.

Finally, my delegation would **also like** to make an **observation** with regard to the sixth preambular paragraph, which **was certainly** improved with its new drafting. With the **rest** of the international community, we welcome the **positive trends** in Europe towards **shaping relations** based on peaceful and co-operative **mechanisms**. **When** we bear in mind that Europe **has** been the arena for an **overwhelming arms race** and for an ideological confrontation that has **substantially** affected the **rest** of the world, the **new trends** are certainly of the utmost importance and should be warmly welcomed and, above all, stimulated and **consolidated**.

However, it **should** be borne in mind that Europe is just a part of a world rich in **diversity**, where separate **historical, political and economic realities** require **specific solutions**. In Latin America, for instance, we have maintained a long

**(Mr. Da Costa e Silva, Brazil)**

tradition of friendly relations, which are based on our common historical heritage and which have given rise to the establishment of various long-standing regional co-operation institutions.

The **CHAIRMAN:** The Committee has heard the last speaker in explanation of vote on agenda items 63, 69 and 70, related to international security, and the Committee has therefore concluded its work on those agenda items.

As I informed you at the organisational meeting on 9 October, the relevant part of item 12 of the agenda of the General Assembly, namely, chapter III, section D, of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/45/3), entitled "International co-operation in the elimination of the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant", which was allocated to the First Committee, was placed within the same time slot as the general debate, consideration of and action on draft resolutions on international security agenda items, but, of course, as a separate item.

However, as I also informed you at the same meeting on 9 October, I had consulted with all delegations concerned, as well as with the Chairman of the Second Committee, on this subject, since item 12 was also on the agenda of the Second Committee, where it was expected to receive comprehensive consideration. Accordingly, in the course of its consideration of its programme of work and timetable, the First Committee had decided that it might not need to address that agenda item. It is my understanding that the recommendation of the Assembly under chapter III, section D, of the item, will accordingly be taken up in the report of the Second Committee.

**(The Chairman)**

In view of that, and on the basis of further consultations, it is my understanding that as far as the First Committee is concerned the Committee wishes to decide that no action is to be taken on this agenda item. If I hear no objection I shall take it that the Committee agrees.

**It was so decided.**

**The CHAIRMAN:** I now call upon the Secretary of the Committee, who wishes to make some announcements.

**Mr. KHERADI** (Secretary of the Committee): I should like to inform delegations that, with a view to facilitating their work at this stage of preparation for the forthcoming vote on disarmament item 8 by the General Assembly in plenary meeting, the secretariat of the First Committee has prepared an informal paper that is a tabulation entitled "Reports of the First Committee", which will be distributed shortly. This is only an informal paper, and it will set out tabulation showing the corresponding number 8 on the "L" document 8 adopted in the First Committee with the corresponding number 8 in the report that will appear when the voting is held in plenary meeting. It is our sincere hope that this will facilitate and expedite the work of the member 8 of the First Committee when the plenary meeting reaches this stage.

In addition, I should just like to put on record the fact that a conference room paper will also be issued subsequently setting out a consolidated statement of financial implications of the draft resolution 8 adopted.

CONCLUSION OF THE WORK OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

**The CHAIRMAN:** I now call upon the representative of Tunisia, who has asked to make a statement on behalf of the Group of African States.

**Mr. JFRANDI** (Tunisia) (interpretation from Arabic): At the outset, Mr. Chairman, as the Committee is about to conclude its work after finishing our consideration of all the item 8 on our agenda, allow me to express to you

**(Mr. Jerandi, Tunisia)**

**personally**, on behalf of my delegation and all the fraternal African delegations in the **First Committee**, our **warmest congratulations** on your excellent guidance of the **business** with which you have been **entrusted** as Chairman of the Committee. I wish to commend your **extreme efficiency** in conducting the **Committee's** work. We thank you for **all the efforts** you have made throughout the **session** and your **willingness to listen to our statements** and take **account** of our **concerns**, all ultimately aimed at **realizing** the noble hope of the Committee, namely, that **peace** and tranquillity might prevail in the world. Our **task** in the **Committee** has been greatly assisted by your **chairmanship**, and it has been carried out in the best possible manner. In this connection I should also like to **express** the **thanks** and **gratitude** of all the African delegations in the **Committee** to all the other **officers** of the **Committee** and to the **Committee's secretariat** for their **efforts**, which have facilitated our **task**. You, Sir, have met our **expectations** and have made it **easier** for us to **consider** all the items on our **agenda**.

On behalf of my delegation and all the African **delegations**, we wish to thank you all for your help, which has embodied the spirit that has **prevailed** in the **Committee**. Although we are from **different geographical regions**, the **détente** that **prevails** today in international relations will, we believe, enable us to achieve a better world and build an international family motivated by co-operation and **common interests**, a world in which **justice** and **peace** will prevail.

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the representative of Turkey, who has asked to speak on behalf of the Group of Asian States.

Mr. ALPMAN (Turkey): On behalf of the Chairman of the Group of Asian States, I have the honour and the pleasure of congratulating you, Sir, on the able and expeditious manner **in** which you have conducted the deliberations of the First Committee. We take special pride in your success because you are an eminent member of our Asian Group. This session of the First Committee has been an exemplary one, in harmony **with** the spirit of co-operation prevailing in international relations. That spirit was present throughout the work of the Committee, and it was reflected in particular in the increased number of draft resolutions adopted by consensus.

As you stated earlier, Sir, on the occasion of the conclusion of the Committee's work on disarmament agenda items:

"... the Committee has made significant headway in narrowing important differences, both broadening the areas of consensus and taking practical steps in **the** areas of 'disarmament' and the further rationalisation of the work of the Committee". (A/C.1/45/PV.39, p. 76)

We pay a tribute to you and to all the others who contributed to that *success*.

In that regard, I would like to extend our appreciation to the **Vice-Chairmen** of the Committee, Mr. Ronald Morris **of** Australia and Mr. Sergei **Martynov** of the **Byelorussian** Soviet Socialist Republic, as well as to our Rapporteur, Mr. Latevi Modem **Lawson-Betum** of Togo.

Our appreciation also goes to Under-Secretary-General Mr. Yasushi Akashi, head of the **most** efficient Department **for** Disarmament Affairs, and to Mr. Vasilii **Safronchuk**, Under-Secretary-General for Political and Security Council Affairs, who have always been ready to place **their** knowledge and expertise at the service of the Committee.

(Mr. Alpman, Turkey)

Through you, Sir, I also wish to express our thanks to the Secretary of the Committee, Mr. Sohrab Kheradi, and to all the other members of the Secretariat who assisted the Committee in its work with great dedication and ability. We should also express our special gratitude to all the interpreters, conference officers and the personnel of the Department of Public Information for their vital contribution to our work.

While looking forward to next year's session with the anticipation of further enhancing the success of the First Committee, I should like once again to express to you, Sir, on behalf of the Group of Asian States, our deep gratitude.

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the representative of Romania, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States.

Mr. DRAGHICI-SUTIC (Romania): The Romanian delegation, in its capacity as Co-ordinator of the Eastern European Group of States for the month of November, would like to express to you, Sir, and to the members of the Bureau the appreciation of the Group for the efficient and productive manner in which the debates of the First Committee were conducted, as was reflected also in the impressive number of draft resolutions adopted by consensus.

I should also like to thank the members of the Secretariat who, by their activity, have fully contributed to the success of the Committee's work.

Last but not least, we should like to extend our appreciation to the interpreters, because without their contribution the entire activity of the United Nations could hardly be imagined.

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the representative of Brazil, who will speak on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group.

Mr. ARAUJO CASTRO (Brazil): On behalf of the delegations of the States members of the Latin American and Caribbean Group, I should like to extend to you, Sir, our acknowledgement of the very able and efficient manner in which you have

**(Mr. Araujo Castro, Brazil)**

conducted the work of the First Committee during the current session of the United Nations General Assembly. Your proven diplomatic skill and long-standing **experience** were fundamental, not only **in** ensuring the smooth conduct of our work, but also in securing substantive results at the present session.

The work of the First Committee is unique **in** that it focuses on issues of great importance to all members of the international community. The Committee has discharged its functions as a forum for debate and negotiation in its traditional businesslike manner and in a spirit of dialogue and understanding, as the results obtained are sure to confirm.

I should like to request you, Sir, to convey to the Vice-Chairmen, Mr. Ronald **Morris** of Australia and Mr. Sergei **Martynov** of the **Byelorussian SSR**, and to the Rapporteur, Mr. **Latevi Modem Lawson-Betum** of Togo, the appreciation of the Latin American **and** Caribbean Group for the invaluable assistance they have provided to the Committee during the current session.

The acknowledgement of the Group also goes to Mr. Yasushi Akashi, Under-Secretary-General for **Disarmament** Affairs, and to Mr. Vasilij Safronchuk, Under-Secretary-General for Political and Security Council Affairs.

Last but certainly not least, I also convey our appreciation to the Secretary of the First **Committee**, Mr. Sohrab **Kheradi**, and to his capable staff, as **well** as to the conference officers, interpreters and all other support **personnel**, without whose **collaboration** our work would not have been possible.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I call on the representative of Denmark, who has asked to speak on behalf of the Group of Western European **and** other States.

**Mr. JAEGER (Denmark):** the end of the work of **the** First **Committee for this session, I am pleased to express to you, Sir, on behalf** Of the Group of Western **European** and other States, our collective appreciation and sincere

(Mr. Jaeger, Denmark)

congratulations on the skilful and excellent manner in which you have guided our work in this important Committee.

Our congratulations also go to the other officers of the Committee and to Mt. Akashi, Under-Secretary-General of the Department for Disarmament Affairs and Mr. Kheradi, Secretary of the Committee, as well as to the other members of the Secretariat. We also thank the interpreters and the technical staff, who, by their efficiency and co-operation, have supported the work of the Committee.

The work of the First Committee during the present session has been performed in a businesslike atmosphere with a considerable degree of co-operation and mutual understanding, as reflected in the increased number of draft resolutions adopted by consensus.

We trust that that trend will continue in the future and will also be seen in the search for further rationalisation of the work of the First Committee, to which you, Sir, have contributed significantly in the consultations you have undertaken during recent weeks and which has been reflected in the working paper you presented.

CONCLUDING **STATEMENT BY** THE CHAIRMAN

The **CHAIRMAN:** With the adoption of the draft resolutions regarding international security, we have completed the work programme of this year's session of the First Committee, and with the Committee's indulgence I would like to share some personal reflection<sup>6</sup> on our work and accomplishments this year.

Today, world attention is focused on the United Nations. There is now a growing recognition that the Organisation, with nearly universal membership, is **an** irreplaceable **forum** for advancing the goals of disarmament and international peace and security. It **was** a matter of satisfaction to all of us that this year the Committee could register broader area<sup>6</sup> of agreement on a **number** of issues. That was reflected not only in the **many** decisions adopted without a vote, but also in the reduced number of proposals submitted for consideration.

A<sup>6</sup> I **stated** earlier, at the **close of** our consideration of the disarmament agenda items, almost 50 per cent of the proposals submitted under the disarmament agenda items were adopted without a vote. I am sure that all members of the **Committee** will agree with me when I say that that is a clear indication of genuine and strenuous efforts on the part of all concerned to undertake the necessary consultations with a view to **realizing** common positions whenever and wherever possible. Indeed, the **fact** that fewer proposals were submitted this year than at **any time** during the past **many** year<sup>6</sup> can only be interpreted as a renewed **and** invigorating interest on the part of delegations in matters concerning disarmament **and** arms limitation, which are at the core of the security interest<sup>6</sup> of all countries.

**However,** we are all aware that a number of serious and complex issues remain before **us**. Efforts towards peace and disarmament cannot cease now that the cold war **has** ended. Processes of change and policy innovation offer opportunities that this Committee must fully exploit. The goals are clear, and the Organisation provides **us** with the means to **achieve them**.

(The Chairman)

In that context, ● duration, training and the dissemination of relevant ● □□□□×□□□□□ and information are among the crucial elements, and hence I am glad to note the agreement reached on the three draft resolutions dealing with the United Nations disarmament fellowship programme, the United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament, and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research.

Better knowledge of issues and substantive research in new fields permit us also to deepen our understanding of the tasks before us, as well as of the role that the United Nations could play. Here, I would like to mention the three studies that were launched - confidence-building measures in outer space; the potential uses of resources allocated to military activities for civilian endeavour to protect the environment) and defensive security concepts and policies - and a research report dealing with the economic aspects of disarmament.

Against the background of the recent conclusion in Paris of an unprecedented regional disarmament agreement, the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe, we may note at the same time with satisfaction that, at the multilateral level, five proposals dealing with conventional disarmament were adopted by the First Committee without a vote. That common approach was also evident in the proposals addressing the issue of chemical and biological weapons. The Committee has once again renewed its call to all States to observe strictly the principles and objectives of the 1925 Geneva Protocol. It has also urged as a matter of highest priority the intensification of efforts towards the conclusion of a global convention banning chemical weapons. The same spirit of commonality has marked the questions of radiological weapons and possible new weapons of mass destruction.

Despite the positive developments I referred to earlier, I must ● emphasize that progress remains unrealised in some areas, including some of particular significance. For instance, as the Committee is aware, divergences persist on nuclear matters. In particular, despite good-faith efforts, the Committee was

(The Chairman)

unable to narrow differences regarding the question of the cessation of nuclear-test explosions.

The debate on various aspects of that issue was in line **with** that which took place in Geneva at **the** Fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the non-proliferation Treaty, a debate **that** can be expected to continue at the forthcoming amendment Conference. One can only express the hope that those processes of change in **the** world so often mentioned and welcomed by the Committee will soon narrow the divergences in approach and ultimately make them irrelevant.

As another step towards the continuing process of rationalisation of the work of the First Committee, I initiated extensive consultations among delegations on **the** issue and held several informal open-ended meetings of **the** Friends of the Chairman during the current session. Taking into account various views expressed and proposals made in **the** course of those consultations, I am availing myself of the opportunity to set out certain proposals and suggestions in a working paper entitled **\*\*Suggestions for further rationalization of the work of the First Committee" (A/C.1/45/10)**, which I hope will provide a basis for **further** consideration of that subject. In addition, it should be noted that, in **my** capacity as Chairman of the **Committee** at the forty-fifth session, I would be available, with the assistance and co-operation of **the** Secretariat, to facilitate **the** necessary consultations during **the** interim period between now and the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly. **The** Committee may also wish to devote attention to **the** question of establishing a standing consultation group that would give consideration on a more consistent basis to issues relating to the further **rationalization** of the work of the First Committee.

I also believe **that this year's** debate on the question of Antarctica generated several helpful insights, principally with respect to **growing** global concern for effective safeguards **for** the Antarctic environment.

(The Chairman)

In concluding our *work*, I am encouraged by the positive attitude of Member States in approaching all aspects of international security with a fresh vision, compatible with the challenges and opportunities of the present time. It is my belief that it may take some time for Member States to thoroughly analyse and reflect on the dramatic • ventr rapidly occurring in the world today in terms of their own vital needs for security. As attested by most of the statements, this session has brought to the fore the reality that, despite a hopeful new world political environment, serious threats to peace and security remain.

(The Chairman)

The First **Committee** has amply demonstrated that it is up to the task of making an important contribution to the strengthening of international peace and security. I **am** particularly gratified that, despite the occasionally differing **views** expressed by delegations, there was overwhelming agreement on the need to revitalise **the** work of the United Nations in the realm of expanding and deepening international peace and security.

I could not **conclude** my work as Chairman without a very deep and warm expression of **thanks** to those individuals who worked closely with me over the past **few months**. I owe heartfelt **thanks** to my fellow officers of the Bureau, **the** two Vice-Chairmen, Mr. Ron Morris of Australia and Mr. Sergei Martynov of the **Byelorussian** SSB, and **the** Rapporteur of the Committee, Mr. Latevi Modem **Lawson-Betum** of Togo. Certainly, the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, Mr. **Yasushi Akashi**, and the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Security Council Affairs, Mr. Vasilii **Safronchuk**, have earned my deep gratitude for **the** extremely valuable support and guidance that they have rendered me and the entire Committee.

I believe **that** all members would **wish** to share in my tribute to the Secretary of the **First Committee**, Mr. Sohrab Kheradi, whose particular qualifications have made a **tremendous** contribution to our work. **His** knowledge of the disarmament field, his diplomatic abilities and his organisational skills have certainly enriched our work, and I want him to know how deeply grateful I and the Committee are to him. I am also truly grateful to his colleagues, in particular his assistant, Mr. **Sattar**, and to Ms. Perkins, Mr. Ion, Mr. Alasaniya, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Ms. **Brosnakova**, Mr. **Gerardi-Siebert**, Ms. Marcaillou, Miss Patil, Mr. Taylor and **Mr. Gavrioushkin**, all of *whom* have rendered tremendous service to us. I am grateful, of **course**, to **the** conference officers, interpreters, verbatim reporters

**(The Chairman)**

**and press officers,** and to all who have enabled the **Committee** to **function** efficiently **and** effectively.

**The meeting rose at 11.55 a.m.**