



General Assembly

Fifty-fifth session

First Committee

14th meeting

Friday, 13 October 2000, 3 p.m.
New York

Official Records

Chairman: U Mya Than (Myanmar)

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Agenda items 65 to 81 (continued)

General debate on all disarmament and international security items

The Chairman: First of all, we will hear statements by any delegation wishing to exercise the right of reply.

I now give the floor to the representative of Israel to exercise the right of reply for the second time.

Mr. Issacharoff (Israel): I will not take up very much of the Committee's valuable time. I just want to make some very brief comments regarding the statement made this morning by the Syrian delegation.

First of all, I am very well informed of my Government's policies and I know what proposals were made to President Al-Assad by President Clinton at Geneva. Those proposals were far-reaching and designed to reach peace with Syria. The fact that they were rejected by Syria is a matter of public record, so I am not sure what the Syrian representative is arguing with me about.

Secondly, if the Syrian representative really said that they have a strategic decision for peace, I would definitely urge him to make peace with Israel. We always respond eagerly to such offers.

The last point is with regard to the incidents in the territories. I really do think that the Syrians should let the Palestinians speak for themselves. I have no

trouble talking about those events, but I am not sure that this is the right time and place. But I do find it particularly objectionable to receive lectures from the Syrian representative on those issues the day after three of our soldiers were so brutally murdered at Ramallah. I think there are times when silence would, at the very least, be of better service to the Syrians.

Thematic discussion on item subjects; introduction and consideration of all draft resolutions submitted under all disarmament and international security items

The Chairman: As I mentioned this morning, in accordance with the programme of work that has been adopted, this afternoon the Committee will begin the second phase of its work, namely, a thematic discussion on item subjects, as well as the introduction and consideration of all draft resolutions submitted under agenda items 65 to 81. For the ease of reference of delegations, document A/C.1/55/CRP.2, which contains subjects for thematic discussion, has already been distributed. In this context, I should like to encourage delegations to make reference, wherever appropriate, to the Millennium Declaration, to the proposals of the Secretary-General and to other proposals made at the Millennium Summit meetings of the General Assembly.

As we have done in previous sessions in accordance with the decision made on the rationalization of the work of the Committee, the programme will be rather flexible during this phase of

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the Committee's work. In other words, the Committee's work will continue the discussion of specific subjects and take up the introduction or consideration of all draft resolutions so that sufficient time will be allowed for informal consultations and discussions on draft resolutions. In order to organize the forthcoming meetings, I should like to suggest that, as far as possible, delegations inscribe their names on the list of speakers for specific meetings.

I should like to open the floor this afternoon for the thematic discussion or for the introduction of any draft resolution.

In the meantime, I should like to inform the Committee that, in connection with the medium-term plan, we have planned the discussion of that plan to take place on 17 October. I wish to draw the Committee's attention to the relevant documents, namely, A/C.1/55/CRP.3, A/C.1/55/6 and A/C.1/55/16/Part 1. Those are the supplementary documents being circulated for the benefit of delegations with regard to the medium-term plan.

The floor is open for the thematic discussion. Any delegation wishing to take the floor to express its views on any of the subjects may do so.

Does any delegation wish to take the floor at this stage? That does not appear to be the case.

We have completed the general debate. This morning we had a very long and intensive discussion. So I believe that, today being Friday and given the prolonged meeting this morning, representatives deserve a short meeting this afternoon. If no delegation wants, or is prepared, to take the floor at this stage, I intend to adjourn the meeting. I hope that in the coming week delegations will be prepared to introduce draft resolutions, express their views on the subjects and participate in the thematic discussion with vigour.

Before adjourning the meeting, as I announced at this morning's meeting, the consultations on small arms scheduled for 4 p.m. this afternoon have been cancelled.

The three documents I mentioned earlier will be distributed to the members of the Committee immediately.

The meeting rose at 3.25 p.m.