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MEETING**

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Chairman: Mr. Ismail FAHMY
(United Arab Republic).

Order of discussion of agenda items
(A/C.1/945 and Add.1 and 2) (continued)

1. The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will recall the discussion which took place at the 1495th meeting. At that meeting it was not possible to reach agreement, or even for the Chairman to assess the feeling of the Committee, because of the lack of speakers on this particular point. I hope, therefore, that it will now be possible for delegations to indicate their preference in order that we may be able to dispose of this procedural problem as quickly as possible.

2. Mr. OULD DADDAH (Mauritania) (*translated from French*): The Committee will recall that at the end of the 1495th meeting a proposal was put forward by the representative of India. My delegation regards that proposal as an acceptable compromise in this already lengthy procedural discussion on our order of work. My delegation would like to make it known that it accepts the proposal in question and hopes the Committee will adopt it, since it strikes us as a suitable formula. It allows us to begin by discussing items that do not raise any particularly difficult problems. The question of disarmament, and any other matters on which documentation is not yet ready or for which some delegations are anxious to obtain expert opinion or to strengthen their numbers before entering into discussion, would be taken up later.

3. The Indian delegation's proposal was to take the items as follows: first, item 32: International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space; second, item 96: Conclusion of a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons; third, item 91: Treaty for the prohibition of nuclear weapons in Latin America; fourth, item 92: Examination of the question of the reservation exclusively for peaceful purposes of the sea-bed and the ocean floor; fifth, item 33: The Korean question.

4. If the proposal were accepted, the Committee could begin its work immediately—it is already late—and while we are discussing those items, a solution could be worked out for the other items on our agenda.

5. The CHAIRMAN: Before calling on the representative of the Philippines I should like, for the benefit of the

Committee, to indicate that the order proposed by the representative of Mauritania is identical to the order suggested by the Chairman [1495th meeting, paras. 49-53], and not by the Indian delegation.

6. Mr. LOPEZ (Philippines): Mr. Chairman, you have already made the clarifications I had intended to seek from you.

7. Mr. OULD DADDAH (Mauritania) (*translated from French*): My delegation is glad to note that the order is that proposed by the Chairman himself. What my delegation is anxious to stress is that it does not believe that the delegation of India, which put forward the later proposal, has any objection to that order.

8. Mr. MISHRA (India): I had not intended to speak today, because the proposal we made at the 1495th meeting is in the provisional verbatim record, which is now available to all of us.

9. The representative of Mauritania is right in suggesting that there is not much difference between the proposal made by the Chairman and the suggestions which I made later the same day. But there is a change, in the sense that the delegation of India felt that the items connected directly or indirectly with disarmament should come one after the other, in the hope that by the time we finished item 96, on the conclusion of a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons—in accordance with the Indian suggestion—we would have the reports of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament on the other items relating to disarmament.

10. It was in that hope that we suggested that the first item we should take up should be outer space; the second, Korea; the third, prohibition of nuclear weapons in Latin America; and the fourth, conclusion of a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons; and if by then we did not have available to us the reports of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament in regard to the main items on disarmament, we would take up the item proposed by the delegation of Malta, on the sea-bed and the ocean floor.

11. If, however, the report of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament was available by the time we finished item 96, on the conclusion of a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons, we would go on to the other four items—that is, non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, general and complete disarmament, suspension of nuclear and thermonuclear tests, elimination of foreign military bases in Asia, Africa and Latin America; and finally we would revert to item 92 on the sea-bed and the ocean floor.

12. Now, there are two slight clarifications I should like to make here in regard to this proposal which I submitted at the 1495th meeting. First, it must be very clearly understood that the delegation of India did not mean to suggest in any manner that the item concerning the prohibition of nuclear weapons in Latin America should be given lesser priority because it is not of any importance. That, of course, as my Latin American friends will realize, was far from the intention of the delegation of India. But we did believe that once we took up the items connected directly or indirectly with disarmament we should try to complete those items before moving on to the so-called non-disarmament items.

13. The second clarification I should like to make concerns item 92, on the sea-bed and the ocean floor. It would be our hope that if the order we have suggested were adopted the delegation of Malta could be given the opportunity, either at the end of our consideration of item 32, on outer space, or at the end of our discussion of item 33, the Korean question, to make a statement in this Committee explaining the purposes behind the inscription of item 92, so that the delegations here could better appraise the situation and better discuss the item when we finally came to it. This is also intended to reassure the delegation of Malta that we have no intention of minimizing the importance of that item.

14. Mr. GRAUERT (Uruguay) (*translated from Spanish*): Mr. Chairman, in speaking for the first time in this Committee, the delegation of Uruguay wishes to express its particular satisfaction at the results of the election of the officers of the Committee in the personalities and delegations represented by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur.

15. With regard to the problem under consideration, I feel that the Committee has not advanced very far since the Chairman's first suggestion regarding the order of work and considering the comments made by representatives here present. My delegation therefore wishes, thereby sharing the views of certain representatives and certain countries such as Kenya, Liberia and others who spoke at the last meeting [*1495th meeting, para. 86*], to support the suggestion of the representative of Chile—if I am right in thinking it was not a formal motion—that we take up first of all two questions that do not admit of any argument as to their priority, namely, international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space, and the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America. It seems to me that, as the representative of Chile in my opinion quite correctly pointed out, there is nothing to prevent the officers of the Committee, while we are examining these two initial items, from holding conversations with representatives of other countries that have commented on the order of the items.

16. I should also like to stress my delegation's view that all matters relating to the problem of disarmament should be considered together, once we receive the report of the Eighteen-Nation Committee. We also feel that that should be the occasion for a joint study of the question raised in item 96 of the Assembly's agenda, namely the conclusion of a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons. All these matters seem to us to be intimately

bound up together, even though the proposals relating to the various topics are different.

17. In a word, I support the Chilean motion and I repeat that there is no reason whatever, in spite of the situation as it was originally, why the officers of the Committee should not in the meantime hold any talks that may be necessary with the various delegations in regard to the order of the other items.

18. I also reiterate that all the items relating to disarmament, together with the drafting of the Convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons, should be studied jointly once we have before us the report of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament at Geneva.

19. Mr. BANZAR (Mongolia) (*translated from Russian*): First of all, Mr. Chairman, may I offer you my warm congratulations on your election as Chairman of the First Committee. Our delegation is especially glad that the representative of a friendly country, the United Arab Republic, has been elected to that important office. Our delegation also wishes to congratulate the representative of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Mr. Tchernouchchenko, and the representative of Sweden, Mr. Örn, on their unanimous election as Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of this Committee respectively. Our delegation is deeply convinced, Mr. Chairman, that under your able guidance our Committee will be able to discharge successfully the duties assigned to it by the twenty-second session of the General Assembly.

20. With regard to the matter under discussion, my delegation has listened attentively to the previous speakers and in view of the importance and urgency of the question of the conclusion of a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons, it welcomes and fully supports the proposal of the delegation of the Soviet Union to give priority to that question and to begin considering it forthwith. However, our delegation has taken into account the last statement of the representative of the Soviet Union to the effect that the Soviet delegation would not insist on its original proposal.

21. In view of the large number of proposals made by previous speakers, and in a spirit of co-operation, our delegation feels it necessary to support the proposal of the Chairman of this Committee made at the beginning of our debate on this item. In the proposal of the Chairman there is an item entitled "Question of Korea", with three sub-items. The delegation of the Mongolian People's Republic wishes to make a small reservation in connexion with this item. Our delegation considers that the First Committee should send out in good time invitations to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and to South Korea—representatives of the parties directly concerned—to consider the Korean question. This would enable the representatives of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and of South Korea to attend the debate on the Korean question, thus putting an end to a great injustice committed over many years by the United Nations. The right of the representatives of parties directly concerned to take part in debates on their own problems in the United Nations has become an integral part of the practice of our

Organization and is borne out by the rules of procedure of the United Nations bodies.

22. We hope that this reservation of our delegation will be duly included in the records of our Committee. Thus our delegation fully shares the view of our Chairman and supports his proposal, and suggests that the said problem should be solved on this basis.

23. Mr. ESCHAUZIER (Netherlands): In the first place, I wish to associate myself, Mr. Chairman, with previous speakers in congratulating you on your election to the Chair. I do so with all the more pleasure in view of our long-standing and cordial relationship dating back to the days when we were both stationed in Vienna and served as members of the board of the International Atomic Energy Agency. I have no doubt that under your wise and able leadership this session of the Committee will be an auspicious one.

24. I also wish to extend my warm congratulations to the Vice-Chairman and the Rapporteur on their election.

25. I want to be very brief, Mr. Chairman. I think it may be helpful and important to you to be able to assess the opinion of as many delegations as possible on the matter before us, and I shall therefore limit myself to declaring that I wholeheartedly support the proposal put forward by the representative of Chile and now supported by the representative of Uruguay. I think that that proposal would enable us to start our work immediately, while affording ample opportunity for such consultation as may still be necessary to reach agreement on the other items on our agenda.

26. Mr. TOMOROWICZ (Poland): Most unfortunately we are once again deeply engaged in procedural debate. If I dare to take the time of this Committee on these matters, I am nevertheless prompted by the desire to shorten this debate as much as possible.

27. It is obvious, I believe, to all of us that the matter of arranging the procedure in this Committee is one of the most important matters facing us at the very beginning of our labours, since without the proper arrangement of the items for the rest of our work the time allotted to the individual problems with which we are confronted here would probably tend to be a little haphazard and would not guarantee the proper discussion of those problems and they are far too important to be treated so. Therefore, I believe that we really must establish the order of discussion at the very outset of our deliberations, thus contributing to better and more organized work later on.

28. Now, if I may come to the order. A suggestion has been made by the representative of Chile to start the debate with the first two items, and to leave the remaining time for consultation and discussion. That would mean that the question of priority would crop up again at least once, if not several times, in our future debates, thus having a disruptive influence. As for the order itself, I understand that the proposal made by the Chairman at the very outset of this debate was based on a very thorough knowledge of the different approaches represented here. I believe that it represented a very well-balanced compromise solution.

Hence, it was made with the best understanding of the need to shorten this debate and to speed up the establishment of the order we should follow in our work.

29. It has been argued here that some of the items could not possibly be taken up in the first part of our debate because they are too closely connected with the whole package of Disarmament Committee problems, that is, the question of a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons. On the other hand, it has been argued that the question of the denuclearized zone in Latin America could very well be taken up at the very outset without waiting for the rest of the Disarmament Committee problems because of its complete detachment from them. I should like to stress the importance I attach to the question of the prohibition of nuclear weapons in Latin America because it is very closely connected with the problem of further steps towards disarmament. It is true that it is only a small step forward, and but a partial solution of the problem, but it is a step towards disarmament. I feel that I shall probably not be far from the truth in suggesting that if that item is discussed here it will be in the light of the need to guarantee the full observance by all States of the existence of this denuclearized zone in Latin America; and it is quite obvious that that is connected very much with the problems of disarmament.

30. I think that the problem of the conclusion of a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons is in the same way—not more so, but in the same way—connected with the problems of disarmament. Therefore, I believe that we cannot apply a double standard in allotting places on the agenda to separate problems. It is true, and generally agreed I believe among all of us, that the problems connected with disarmament, which have been debated in the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament in Geneva, have to be postponed until the latter part of our debates. Otherwise, I think that the compromise solution suggested by the Chairman is the ideal one and offers all of us the possibility of really closing this debate on procedural matters and starting with the work for which we have all gathered here.

31. Mr. FATTAL (Syrian Arab Republic): Mr. Chairman, may I convey to you my delegation's heartiest congratulations on your unanimous election to the chairmanship of this important Committee. We also congratulate the Vice-Chairman and the Rapporteur on their election.

32. My delegation feels that this Committee should not spend more time in discussing the order of priority of the various items on its agenda. Having heard a number of speakers, we are inclined to support the proposal made by the Chairman at the 1495th meeting. We believe that the distribution of work proposed by the Chairman accords with the wishes of the majority of the Committee members and that, if accepted, it would be conducive to a constructive and orderly discussion of our agenda items.

33. Mr. TARABANOV (Bulgaria) (*translated from French*): First of all, Mr. Chairman, I should like to extend, to you my delegation's congratulations on your unanimous election to the Chairmanship of this important Committee. My delegation believes that with your vast experience of international organizations you will have a great contribu-

tion to make to this Committee's discussions and to the success of the work on which we are now embarking. Your election is also a great tribute by this United Nations Committee to your country, which has long been in the vanguard of the struggle for national liberation in a continent still under the yoke of colonialism and suffering from imperialist intervention. For this reason we believe that your election is of immense significance at this decisive juncture in the work of the United Nations.

34. We would also like to congratulate the Vice-Chairman, our friend Tchernouchchenko. He has already served as this Committee's Rapporteur, and we are sure that he will assist us greatly in our work at this session. We should also like to congratulate the Rapporteur who, with the experience he already has and will acquire, will we are sure make a significant contribution to the work of the Organization.

35. A variety of arguments have been advanced here by certain delegations for continuing to apply procedures which they contend would lead to fruitful work, namely, combining certain questions as has been done—or not done—in past years. This is based on theoretical reasoning inspired by past United Nations practice; but if I may be so bold as to say so, this reason has not so far succeeded in persuading either the Committee or international public opinion that they could bring about truly meaningful results, or indeed any results at all. On the contrary, whenever we have linked certain questions in such a way that the settlement of one was dependent on the settlement of the other, the results we have achieved have been pathetic; in fact we have achieved nothing at all.

36. That is why we are astonished that some delegations here present—led by the United States—are once again this year eager to link practice with the theory already created by that practice and to combine together questions that cannot possibly be solved if we handle them in that way. Take the Korean question, for example. We tried to deal with it in accordance with a practice that had always been followed. As a result, after many years we have still not been able to reach a solution. You will also recall other similar issues. That is why we find it quite astonishing that there is now a desire to combine certain questions with others that have been or are being discussed at the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament at Geneva.

37. The item put forward by the Soviet Union for inclusion in this session's agenda: Conclusion of a convention on the prohibition of nuclear weapons, is in essence a political matter, as has already been made clear here in the discussion. It is an issue whose solution calls neither for experts—Geneva experts, presumably—nor for a knowledge of all the disarmament discussions that have been held within that Committee. It is a matter that calls first and foremost for a political decision on the part of Governments, the decision not to employ nuclear weapons, the decision to prohibit them. It is an issue which, were it to be dissociated from the other matters, could form a basis for the discussion of other problems, and that would enormously advance the work of disarmament.

38. At the other extreme, some delegations that say they are interested in solving certain disarmament problems and

concluding a treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, are anxious to combine that question with the others in order to prevent any decision from being reached, either on that question or on any other.

39. We consider that if progress is to be made in regard to disarmament, that problem must actually be separated from the rest and solved politically; it must be discussed now while we have the opportunity, since we are not yet in a position to discuss all questions regarding disarmament. Let us therefore discuss this one; and on the basis of the decision taken (it will be a decision of great moment if Governments decide not to use nuclear weapons and to prohibit their use), the atmosphere for the discussion of the other issues will be greatly improved.

40. Mr. AMERASINGHE (Ceylon): Mr. Chairman, may I first of all, on behalf of the delegation of Ceylon, endorse the sentiments expressed by those who preceded me in this discussion when they conveyed their congratulations to you, to the Vice-Chairman and to the Rapporteur upon your election to your respective offices.

41. If I may turn briefly to the subject we have been discussing, I think that amidst all the divergence of opinion that exists we owe it to ourselves and we owe it to the Chairman to accept some form of compromise. With about nine items on the agenda, the permutations and combinations are so innumerable that it would be futile to try to reach complete agreement. One thing at least seems clear, namely, that despite this divergence of opinion there is a consensus, or so it seems to me, that item 32 and item 91, dealing respectively with the peaceful uses of outer space and the prohibition of nuclear weapons in Latin America, could properly and appropriately be taken up as the first two items. That was the Chilean proposal and we heartily endorse it.

42. There are some who feel that the Chilean proposal is not acceptable because, while telling us where we can start, it does not tell us where we are going to finish. It is not necessary in all activities to know beforehand where you are going to finish. In this sort of activity, the best thing is to know where we are going to start, and to make a start. The initial impetus and the momentum that we get from a discussion that begins might help us to arrive at some understanding and agreement in regard to the next few items. However, I would go further than merely supporting the Chilean proposal. I would say that we should, in deference to the Chairman, on whose guidance we shall have to rely for the rest of our proceedings here, accept the proposal made by him that after the consideration of item 32 and item 91 we take up item 96, on the conclusion of a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons, and item 92, on the sea-bed and the ocean floor.

43. For our part, it would not matter very much to us whether item 96 came before item 92 or after. But they are both of very great importance. As regards item 96, we do not agree that it has any necessary connexion with disarmament. It is possible for countries to agree not to use this frightful weapon and yet to retain their nuclear armoury intact, for the contingency—far remote and inconceivable, we hope—of having to use it in case those who are not parties to the proposed convention should threaten them.

44. But it is in accordance with the fears and sentiments of almost every country in this world that we do not wish to see a repetition of the use of nuclear weapons after the first experience we have had of it. That explains and underlines the importance it has for us.

45. As regards item 92, the ocean floor proposal put forward by Malta, we must congratulate the delegation of Malta on its initiative. It is a matter of paramount importance and it is very necessary that we should take it up for discussion at this stage, because the prospects of the ocean bed resources being exploited by countries which have the exclusive use of the necessary technological means is imminent. If we have any intention of preserving those resources for the benefit of all mankind, we should not delay one moment in taking the matter up in this Committee and in the General Assembly.

46. In conclusion, may I say that the delegation of Ceylon will be very glad to support the proposal made by you, Mr. Chairman.

47. Mr. McKEOWN (Australia): The Australian delegation would like to join those other delegations that have spoken in extending their congratulations to you, Mr. Chairman, and to the Vice-Chairman and the Rapporteur on their election to their respective posts in this Committee.

48. My delegation, in response to your request, would very briefly like to explain how we see the present stage of the debate in this Committee. It seems that various proposals have been made under which delegations and you yourself, Mr. Chairman, have proposed orders of items for facilitating the work of this Committee. We are faced with a particularly difficult and complicated task this year because the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament is still meeting in Geneva, and the normal order, which would have given priority to all the disarmament questions, poses some problems for us. Indeed, the initial preference in my delegation would have been to see the disarmament items dropped to the bottom of our agenda and some of the other items taken up earlier. However, after hearing the extensive debate we have had in this Committee, we are now in the position of asking ourselves how we can speedily get on with our work and begin to discuss our agenda items.

49. After hearing the many views that have been expressed, it seems to my delegation that no order of items that has been proposed so far for dealing with all the items on our agenda enjoys general support. Indeed, because of the particular difficulties with the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament still meeting, it is somewhat difficult for us to anticipate the way things will go and to determine at the outset what should be the complete order of items to be considered. Because of these factors, my delegation believes that the virtue of the proposal advanced by the representative of Chile was that, while it did not dispose of the entire order of business, it did enable us speedily to begin our work. It seems to me that this is a virtue which does not appear, at any rate from the course of our debate, to be enjoyed by other proposals that have been advanced.

50. For this reason, my delegation would support the proposal of the representative of Chile. We hope that this

will commend itself to the Committee as a means by which we may avoid continuation of this somewhat prolonged procedural debate and be able speedily to begin our work. It would then allow time for further consultations, in the light of subsequent developments, to determine the remaining order of items.

51. Mr. TINOCO (Costa Rica) (*translated from Spanish*): Mr. Chairman, I have pleasure in offering you my delegation's warm congratulations on your well-deserved election as Chairman of this Committee. We also congratulate the Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur.

52. With regard to the topic now under discussion, my delegation considers the general and unanimous consensus to be that the first two items proposed by the Chair should be taken first.

53. The Chilean delegation's very sound suggestion is that we should not hesitate any longer in making a start with our debate but should tackle these two items immediately, postponing until later our decision on the order of discussion of the other items. My delegation supports that suggestion. From the point of view of procedure, what we might perhaps do is regard the proposal submitted by the Chair as being in two parts. Today we would approve the first two items as proposed and make a start with our debate, postponing the decision on the later items for a meeting to be held when we deem it appropriate to take up the proposal again.

54. As some representatives said at the previous meeting, it may well be that by the time we complete our consideration of the first items the atmosphere may be clearer and we shall be in a better position to decide which should be the third item to be discussed.

55. The delegation of Costa Rica feels that the proposal made by the representative of Malta might well be the third on our programme; but I would not press the point if the majority of delegations feels that one of the other items assigned to us by the General Assembly for discussion this year should take precedence.

56. Mr. KLUSAK (Czechoslovakia) (*translated from Russian*): Mr. Chairman, since this is the first time that our delegation has spoken in this Committee, may I first of all congratulate you most sincerely on your election to this important and responsible office.

57. We also congratulate our Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur, and we wish the officers of the Committee full success in guiding the work of the First Committee.

58. The Czechoslovak delegation has closely followed the debate on the order of priority of items to be examined by the First Committee.

59. For well-known reasons there is general agreement that disarmament matters, which must be examined by the Committee in the light of reports from the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament which is still meeting in Geneva, should be examined later. Therefore, as regards the order of priority of the other items, we think that the Chairman's original proposal made at the very beginning of

our work is the most objective since it gives due weight to the various items and reflects the degree of interest of the various delegations in those items.

60. Like a number of other delegations, we wished at first to support priority for the item submitted by the Soviet Union on the prohibition on the use of nuclear weapons. However, in view of the businesslike approach of the sponsors of this item—and we should be grateful to them for that approach—we are not going to revert to that question.

61. If we carefully compare the order of items proposed by you, Mr. Chairman, and the various contentions submitted in the debates, we cannot see any serious arguments which could justify lengthy procedural polemics. If we are not mistaken, there is no objection to our taking up item 32 as our first item, on the question of outer space.

62. There are various opinions concerning the next two items, that is, item 91, "Treaty for the prohibition of nuclear weapons in Latin America", and item 96, "Convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons".

63. In that connexion, I should like to draw the attention of my colleagues to the remarks made quite recently by the representative of Poland.

64. The Czechoslovak delegation, in its examination of the contents and purport of both those items and their relation to the problem of disarmament, sees no substantial difference between them. Our delegation does not quite understand how one of those items could be included in the agenda for immediate discussion while discussion about the inclusion of the other item could be postponed until later.

65. That kind of approach would, in our opinion, reflect somewhat different attitudes towards items similar in character and principle, when the question of their inclusion in the agenda was considered.

66. As regards the other two items—92 and 33—I have the impression that the delegations generally agree, or at any rate the great majority agree, that their inclusion in the agenda has already been decided upon.

67. In view of all these circumstances, the Czechoslovak delegation has no reason to believe that the proposal to include only two items in the agenda would be a compromise which would enable us to move forward.

68. Sometimes it may be useful to postpone a decision on some question or other, but I do not think that that is the case at present. If we act on those lines, the debate now taking place will only be repeated.

69. In view of all these considerations the Czechoslovak delegation would be happy if those delegations that

supported the proposal that only two items should be included changed their minds and gave their full support to the view last expressed, I think, by the representative of Ceylon, namely that we should support the proposal made by the Chairman at the very beginning of our discussion.

70. The Czechoslovak delegation supports that proposal especially because it knows, as do all other members of the Committee, that it was not made suddenly but, on the contrary, was the result of lengthy consultations, after all possible points of view and interests which had already been expressed during preliminary consultations, had been duly weighed.

71. To conclude, I would again address an appeal to my colleagues to end these procedural debates as soon as possible and to accept the proposal submitted by the Chairman at the beginning of our debate.

72. The CHAIRMAN: I think it is time to try to clarify the situation which has developed this morning. It is apparent that there is a split and that there is no general agreement on or support for any of the suggestions on the order of discussion which have been made so far. We have two meetings scheduled for tomorrow, and we must profit from the fact that the General Assembly is in recess for the time being. For these practical reasons it is my duty as Chairman to see that we start our substantive work tomorrow. As you all know, up to the present the Chair has not received any formal proposal; therefore, I shall take it upon myself once again, for the practical reasons to which I have alluded, to propose that the Committee should take up tomorrow item 32, on international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

73. In the hope that certain seemingly rigid positions may become flexible, it is the intention of the Chair to conduct consultations in order to get out of this impasse. If I hear no objection I shall take it that the Committee concurs in this proposal.

It was so decided.

74. The CHAIRMAN: Before adjourning, I appeal to all delegations to ponder seriously on what has happened this morning and during the 1495th meeting, and to exert every effort in order to help themselves and eventually the Chair to agree on the order of the remaining items which do not depend on reports from the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament. The Chair is ready to consult on and discuss all aspects of this particular problem with any delegation, but I must be candid and point out that if there is no agreement by the end of the discussion on the first item I shall once again propose the next item, and follow that procedure item by item.

The meeting rose at 12.5 p.m.