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CONTENTS

	Page
Agenda item 32: International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space: report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (<i>concluded</i>) Consideration of draft resolutions	1
Agenda item 91: Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (<i>continued</i>) General debate (<i>continued</i>)	5

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

AGENDA ITEM 32

International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space: report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (*concluded*)* (A/6668, A/6804, A/C.1/L.402 and Add.1, A/C.1/L.403)

**CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS
(A/C.1/L.402 AND ADD.1, A/C.1/L.403)**

1. The CHAIRMAN: In accordance with the decision taken yesterday, we shall now revert to item 32 of the agenda on the peaceful uses of outer space. The Committee has before it two draft resolutions: one is submitted by twenty-six Powers in document A/C.1/L.402 and Add.1, dated 24 and 25 October 1967 respectively; the other is submitted by thirteen Powers in document A/C.1/L.403. Before we continue, and before I call on the representatives of Austria and Canada to introduce the draft resolutions formally, I would propose—in order to avoid a second round of general debate on these two draft resolutions—that after hearing the representatives of Austria and Canada we should proceed to adopt the two draft resolutions. Thereafter, the Chair would be willing to give the floor to any representative who wishes to make a statement or to explain his vote after the Committee adopts the two draft resolutions.

2. If I hear no objection I shall take it that the Committee agrees to the proposal of the Chair.

It was so decided.

3. Mr. WALDHEIM (Austria): It is my pleasure to present to the Committee the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/L.402 and Add.1 which is co-sponsored by the

delegations of Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chad, Czechoslovakia, France, Hungary, India, Iran, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Poland, Romania, Sierra Leone, Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

4. These delegations, members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, have made every effort to take into account all suggestions and opinions expressed during the Committee's debate and to present to the Committee a proposal which would meet the wishes and intentions of all delegations.

5. The draft resolution, in its preamble, acknowledges the achievements of the first decade of man's activities in outer space and points to the benefits which all nations can derive from the exploration and use of outer space. It welcomes in particular the recent entry into force of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and other Celestial Bodies, [General Assembly resolution 2222 (XXI), *annex*] and reaffirms the general interest of mankind in the further exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes.

6. In its operative paragraphs the draft resolution would endorse the recommendations and decisions contained in the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space [A/6804], and then outline the tasks of the Committee in the coming year.

7. In particular, the draft resolution requests the Committee to continue with a sense of urgency its work on the elaboration of an agreement on liability for damage caused by the launching of objects into outer space and an agreement on assistance to and return of astronauts and space vehicles, and to pursue actively its work on questions relative to the definition of outer space and the utilization of outer space and celestial bodies, including the various implications of space communications.

8. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space is also requested to continue its activities concerning the exchange of information, and to take into serious consideration the suggestions and views expressed in the General Assembly and in the Committee regarding education and training in the field of the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space. The Committee is also urged to consider further the question of the applications of satellite technology and to study the technical feasibility of communications by direct broadcasts from satellites, as well as developments in this field and the implications of such developments.

* Resumed from the 1502nd meeting.

9. Finally, the draft resolution also contains an appeal to all those countries which have not yet signed the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space to accede to the Treaty, so that it can have the broadest possible effect.

10. These in brief, are the contents and the purpose of the draft resolution which has been circulated to members of the Committee.

11. As to the wording of the text, some delegations have drawn attention to the fact that in the operative paragraphs the name of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space is always spelt out in full, and have suggested that except for operative paragraphs 1 and 14 we might, in the other operative paragraphs, simply refer to "the Committee".

12. This suggestion is perhaps a good one, and since it concerns only a drafting matter we might leave it to the Rapporteur to proceed accordingly when the text of the resolution, in our Committee's report, is submitted to the plenary.

13. On behalf of the delegations co-sponsoring this proposal I express the hope that it will meet the wishes of all members of the Committee and that it will be adopted unanimously.

14. Mr. FAULKNER (Canada): I have the honour today to introduce a draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.403 which is co-sponsored by the delegations of Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Canada, India, Iran, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, Poland, Sierra Leone, the United Arab Republic and Yugoslavia.

15. In introducing this draft resolution on the Outer Space Conference scheduled to take place in Vienna from 14 to 27 August 1968, my delegation considers that it is useful to recall that thematic sessions at the Conference will be devoted to a wide and varied number of subjects. Without going into too much detail it may be appropriate to mention the main themes briefly and to stress that the papers to be presented at the Conference are expected to be meaningful to both scientists and non-scientists concerned with the welfare of their peoples in many fields. The main themes of the Conference as already endorsed by the General Assembly are:

- I. Communications,
- II. Meteorology,
- III. Navigation,
- IV. Other space techniques of practical benefit,
- V. Biology and medicine,
- VI. Non-space applications of space technology,
- VII. Education and training,
- VIII. International co-operation and opportunities for participation in space research and application,
- IX. Economic, legal and social problems of exploration and use of outer space relevant to international co-operation and practical benefits.

16. A number of delegations have already remarked on the direct relevance of communications and meteorological satellites to the needs of developing countries, and that so-called "spin-off" from space technology is having an

ever-increasing impact. We are hopeful that the Conference can do much to point the way to how developing countries can apply this new knowledge and increasing technological sophistication to their own specific needs in day-to-day life.

17. In listening to the statements made under item 32 last week my delegation was happy to note that general support exists for the Outer Space Conference. We were particularly happy to note that the delegations of several developing countries expressed considerable interest in this Conference. This is only appropriate because the objectives of the Conference, as we know, are

"to examine the practical benefits of space programmes on the basis of scientific and technical achievements, and the opportunities available to non-space Powers for international co-operation in space activities, with special reference to the needs of the developing countries" [General Assembly resolution 2221 (XXI), para. 3].

It is accordingly highly desirable that there be the widest possible participation by developing countries in this Conference. Indeed we would hope that all those invited to the Conference will attend, and that participating States which have not already done so will begin preparations as soon as possible.

18. It has been said that we are entering the second space decade. We can be sure that many dramatic advances will be made again in the next ten years in the realm of space, but we hope that this next decade will also be marked by advances here on earth. We consider that an important step can be taken in Vienna next year to translate this hope into reality.

19. It is with this purpose in mind and out of a desire to focus renewed attention on the objectives and possible benefits of the international Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that the thirteen delegations which I have mentioned have submitted the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.403 for, we hope, the unanimous approval of the First Committee.

20. The CHAIRMAN: I propose that the Committee proceed to vote on the two draft resolutions which I referred to at the beginning of this meeting.

21. If there is no objection, I propose that the Committee adopt the two draft resolutions contained in documents A/C.1/L.402 and Add.1 and A/C.1/L.403 by acclamation.

The draft resolutions were adopted by acclamation.

22. Mr. FOUNTAIN (United States of America): The United States supported the draft resolution presented by Canada on behalf of itself and twelve other delegations concerning the forthcoming United Nations Outer Space Conference in Vienna next August. We commend the sponsors: we feel that their effort serves to remind all the members of this Committee that those who stand to gain the most at the Conference are not the space Powers but the non-space Powers, particularly the developing countries.

23. We also find it useful again to record the objectives of that Conference, with focus on the practical benefits in the future and the practical opportunities available to non-space Powers.

24. Let me also pay tribute to the distinguished Chairman of the Committee on Outer Space, Ambassador Waldheim of Austria, to whom we all owe so much for his tireless labour which has succeeded in bringing together the many diverse views expressed on this item and which are harmoniously put forward in the twenty-six Power draft resolution.

25. This draft resolution carries forward the agreed recommendations of the Committee on Outer Space, based on its report to the General Assembly this year [A/6804], and in addition it raises one or two new points which have not previously been singled out for action by the General Assembly or by the Committee.

26. One of these is the question of the technical feasibility and implications of communications by direct broadcasts from satellites, mentioned in operative paragraph 13. I wish to express our willingness to co-operate in this study when the Committee on Outer Space reaches it.

27. We believe it is important, in terms of concluding the technical study without delay and also of drawing on the best possible sources of information, to take advantage of the work of specialized agencies which have already published studies in this field, in particular the International Telecommunication Union and its International Radio Consultative Committee.

28. Mr. WYZNER (Poland): As the Committee has noticed, Poland is privileged to be among the authors of both resolutions which have just been approved by the Committee.

29. The first in document A/C.1/L.402 and Add.1, constitutes we believe an objective and balanced acknowledgement of the progress achieved, and at the same time represents a comprehensive programme of the future work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies in the field of the peaceful uses of outer space.

30. At this juncture we wish to pay a special tribute to the distinguished Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Ambassador Waldheim, whose untiring efforts made possible elaboration of the document, which we feel reflects the opinions and attitudes of the membership of the Committee.

31. The Polish delegation especially welcomes the resolution's reference to the recent conclusion of the first decade of man's activities in outer space, inaugurated by the launching in the Soviet Union of the first artificial earth satellite. Each year of the decade has contributed to the development of space science and the practical utilization of its benefits; each year has been marked by further progress in mankind's knowledge of the new dimensions of space.

32. I could not let this opportunity pass without expressing my delegation's warmest and heartfelt congratulations to the Soviet scientists and technicians, as well as to the Soviet people, on their recent outstanding success in achieving for the first time a soft landing on Venus of its space laboratory. The scientific data collected are of tremendous value in the process of discovering the mysteries of the universe.

33. We also extend our congratulations to the American scientists and technicians on their remarkable accomplishment of the mission of the space ship Mariner 5.

34. The text of the resolution draws our attention to the recent entry into force of a basic document concerning space law—the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies. We welcome the fact that nearly ninety countries have signed the Treaty to date, but at the same time we do not feel that this number represents a limit to the participation. We therefore note with satisfaction paragraph 2 of the resolution, which calls upon other countries to accede to the Treaty so that it can have the broadest possible effect.

35. We also believe that the United Nations activities in the legal as well as in the scientific and technical spheres of the peaceful uses of outer space have hitherto been crowned by significant progress. Many further tasks lie ahead, and my delegation attaches great importance to the proper programming of the further work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space along the lines of paragraphs 9 to 14 of the resolution.

36. The second resolution, in document A/C.1/L.403, which was so ably introduced by the representative of Canada, aims at ensuring the success of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to be held in Vienna in August 1968.

37. It is indeed difficult to exaggerate the importance of the Conference for all States, and particularly for developing countries in providing them with knowledge of practical application of space technology, thus promoting their industrialization. That is why we regret that the General Assembly when, at the last session, it took up the issue of participation in the Conference, did not go all the way towards ensuring a fully universal character of the gathering. My delegation has always believed that the General Assembly should invite all States, without exception, to participate in the Conference.

38. The preparation of the Conference, in order to ensure its success as envisaged in the General Assembly resolution 2221 (XXI), is indeed a formidable task, not only for the participants but also for the Secretary-General and his highly qualified staff, as well as the persons and the institutions mentioned in paragraph 3 of document A/C.1/L.403.

39. We hope that the resolution which has been adopted unanimously by the Committee, though far from perfect, will make this task easier by mobilizing the efforts of the countries of the world and by drawing the attention of world public opinion to the first United Nations conference devoted to the peaceful exploration of outer space.

40. Mr. MENDELEVICH (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (*translated from Russian*): The Soviet delegation supported both draft resolutions on the matter we discussed concerning international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

41. The resolution submitted by members of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in

our view, comprises all the main aspects of co-operation within the purview of the United Nations in the field of the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space and contains answers to these questions which are acceptable to all of us—answers which lead us to expect further successes in the work of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in the interests of all peoples.

42. We think that in this connexion we should draw attention to the useful rôle played in the preparation of this resolution by the Chairman of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Mr. Waldheim. I must say that he has proved himself a most skilful helmsman by steering his ship between the various constellations and celestial bodies, including some stars of the first magnitude, and that he successfully achieved a soft landing. The Soviet Union is one of the sponsors of this resolution, and we are fully satisfied with its content.

43. With respect to the second resolution, which deals specifically with the question of convening a United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, we consider that it, too, contains the main provisions required, and for that reason the Soviet delegation has supported it. We should like to state that we support the widest possible participation of all States in this forthcoming United Nations Conference.

44. Indeed, the wider the participation of States, the more useful will be the results of the Conference for all participants, and the more they will benefit the whole of mankind. That is why we firmly believe that all States, without exception and without any discrimination, must be given an opportunity to take part in the space Conference. We are convinced that this would be consonant with the spirit of the whole discussion in the First Committee, a discussion in which all delegations emphasized the need to ensure the widest possible participation in the Conference. This would also be in the interest of the Conference itself, and therefore in our common interest.

45. Mr. SALIM (United Republic of Tanzania): Intervening as we do for the first time in the discussion of the item under consideration in explanation of my delegation's vote on the two draft resolutions that were before the Committee, my delegation is privileged to take this opportunity to associate itself with the tributes and congratulations that have been voiced by representatives who preceded me to the space Powers on their many accomplishments in the conquest of outer space. The Tanzanian delegation would like particularly to express its most sincere felicitations to the delegation of the Soviet Union and through it to the Government and people of the Soviet Union for their latest spectacular achievement in the soft landing of a Soviet space craft on Venus, an event which coincided not only with the ending of the first decade of man's daring and remarkable thrust into the unknown, but also, and even more significantly, with the preparations for the fiftieth anniversary of the great October Socialist Revolution. Our sincere and warm congratulations also go to the United States delegation for its Government's latest achievement.

46. But while we rejoice at those successes, it is only fitting that we should pay homage with reverence to those

who have sacrificed their dearest possessions to make it possible for mankind to be able to rejoice at such accomplishments. Here I refer particularly to the four "envoys of mankind" who have this very year lost their lives while on duty—astronauts Grisson, White and Chaffee and cosmonaut Komarov.

47. My delegation followed very attentively during the general debate the consideration of the item on the peaceful uses of outer space. We were very impressed by the degree of cordiality and understanding which characterized the debate. We have also studied very carefully the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Both the spirit reflected in the general debate on the item in this Committee and the good work done by the Outer Space Committee give much reason for optimism. Yet, in commending the good work performed by the Outer Space Committee, my delegation cannot but express its genuine disappointment at the failure of the Committee to reach an agreement on one of the principal tasks and, in my delegation's view, the most urgent task assigned to it. Here I refer to the failure so far of the Legal Sub-Committee to define outer space.

48. The representative of France, in recapitulating the regrets of his delegation over certain loopholes in the Treaty on outer space in his intervention on 17 October, said:

"In particular, we find it hard to see how, in the absence of a definition of outer space, it is possible to reconcile in practice the traditional principle of the sovereignty of States over their air space with the new principle, set forth in the Treaty, of renunciation by States of all sovereignty in outer space. We also find it hard to understand how the principle of the free use of outer space could have been established in the Treaty without at the same time proclaiming the need to prevent excesses that could result from abuse of that freedom by a particular State and prejudice the interests or sovereignty of other States." [1498th meeting, para. 21.]

49. Tanzania shared, and still shares, that misgiving. Our concern for the lack of a definition of outer space stems from, among other things, our apprehension that without a proper definition States, and particularly developing countries, lie exposed to the danger of perpetual encroachment of their air space and thereby to the violation of the sovereignty of their States. The Tanzanian delegation hopes, therefore, that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space next year will give the matter the most serious consideration with a view to evolving an international agreement.

50. While we voted for the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/L.402 and Add.1, we are not very happy to note that operative paragraph 9 does not accord the matter the priority that my delegation would have desired.

51. But while expressing our misgivings over the failure of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to agree on a definition, we cannot close our eyes to the Committee's achievements in different fields—although in some fields, like that of a draft agreement on assistance to and return of astronauts and space vehicles as well as a draft agreement on liabilities for damages caused by the landing

of objects from space, progress has been markedly slow. Substantial headway has been made by the Committee in promoting international co-operation on scientific and technical aspects. In this context the forthcoming United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in Vienna in 1968, is a very welcome event.

52. My delegation notes with satisfaction the importance and significance which all the delegations which took part in the discussion when the Committee was considering this item in the general debate attached to the Conference. While looking forward to playing its very modest role, Tanzania would like to join those who have made appeals to all Member States to make adequate preparation to ensure the success of the Conference. Our fervent appeal is directed particularly to the countries of the Third World, to whose interests the Conference is expected to devote its greatest attention.

53. In voting in favour of draft resolution A/C.1/L.403, the Tanzanian delegation would like to express its confidence that maximum publicity will be given to the Conference and that everything possible will be done to ensure its success.

54. While lauding the facilities provided by the United Nations in sponsoring rocket launching stations such as the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station in India, and firmly endorsing the proposal that such facilities not only be continued but be further promoted, the Tanzanian delegation would like to support fully the constructive proposals made by the United Arab Republic representative in his intervention on 19 October, when he said:

“Training courses should be created at these stations to meet the needs of the developing countries; financial assistance could also be extended to their specialists to enable them to participate in these courses.” [*1499th meeting, para. 137.*]

Equally laudable and meriting serious attention is the suggestion made by the same representative that

“... the space Powers and those who are conducting advanced research in outer space be requested to allocate several fellowships each year at their universities and research centres at the behest of the United Nations”. [*Ibid., para. 136.*]

55. My delegation took note of the fact that operative paragraph 11 of draft resolution A/C.1/L.402 and Add.1 relates to education and training, but we would have liked to have seen that paragraph worded in a more positive way.

56. My delegation, conscious of the many benefits that a developing country like mine is bound to obtain from space technology, and being aware of the numerous highly commendable and fruitful efforts made by the Committee on Outer Space, voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.1/L.402 and Add.1. But in doing so we wish to express our sincere hope, and even confidence, that the legal Sub-Committee, in co-operation with the Technical and Scientific Sub-Committee, will in its many meetings next year pursue vigorously the question of completing an international agreement on the definition of what constitutes outer space.

AGENDA ITEM 91

Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (*continued*) (A/6663, A/6676 and Add.1-4; A/C.1/946)

GENERAL DEBATE (*continued*)

57. Mr. GALLIMORE (Jamaica): My delegation wishes to make only a very brief statement on the item now before the Committee. Representatives will recall that on 10 October 1967 the Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs of Jamaica, Mr. Hugh Shearer, in his statement in the general debate in the General Assembly [*1584th plenary meeting*] gave the reasons for Jamaica's hesitance to sign the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America [A/C.1/946]. On that occasion my Prime Minister, whilst expressing support for the broad objectives of the Treaty, strongly objected to the exclusion of Guyana and British Honduras from participation in the Treaty for reasons which seemed to us irrelevant to the purposes of this instrument.

58. Jamaica took this step because it is aware that the terms of the Treaty do not allow for signature with reservations. We continue to regard the provisions of paragraph 2 of article 25 of the Treaty as a regrettable defect in the instrument, rendering it less effective than we would have hoped. Jamaica proposes to work earnestly towards the goal of the participation of those countries in the Treaty. However, as proof of our belief in the broad objectives of the Treaty, I am pleased to announce that Jamaica's representative in Mexico City has now been authorized to sign the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America, and I have been advised that this will be done today at 2 p.m. New York time.

59. In closing, may I take this opportunity to pay a special tribute to the Chairman of the Mexican delegation, Mr. García Robles, who has worked so untiringly to bring this Treaty into being.

60. Mr. GARCIA (United States of America) (*translated from Spanish*): On the occasion of this memorable and historic celebration of the Treaty of Tlatelolco,¹ an instrument of great importance and significance for the peace and tranquillity of the whole world, I should like, as a tribute to the skill and talents of the distinguished leaders of Mexico and other Latin American countries, to offer them with my personal gratitude this statement in Spanish, the language of Cervantes and a tongue spoken not only in Spain and Latin America, but also in more than twenty States of my country, the United States of America. In fact, in many parts of the United States of America, such as Texas, there are radio stations which broadcast all their programmes in Spanish. Thus, as I say, in homage to these leaders I shall make this statement on the nuclear-free zone of Latin America in Spanish.

61. My Government warmly endorses the decision taken by the Preparatory Commission for the Denuclearization of Latin America on 12 February 1967, concerning the Treaty

¹ Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America, signed at Tlatelolco, Mexico City.

for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America. On that occasion, my Government declared that it considered the achievement of this first international instrument establishing a nuclear-free zone to be an event of great significance. We hope that the Treaty will constitute a starting-point on the road to general and complete disarmament and, in particular, that it will lead in the near future to the conclusion of a world-wide treaty prohibiting the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

62. My delegation has much pleasure in extending its congratulations to the twenty Latin American nations which have already signed the Treaty, and particularly to the Government of Mexico, which has already ratified it.

63. In this connexion, I wish once again to express my delegation's appreciation for the outstanding work of Mr. García Robles, the Chairman of the Preparatory Commission, and of the members of that Commission who took part in the preliminary negotiations for the drafting of this great Treaty.

64. It is not surprising that Latin America should have been the first region of the world to sign a Treaty embodying among its provisions the nuclear-free zone concept and verification of compliance with it. Latin America has traditionally been an area where solutions to problems have been achieved through the development of law and appropriate regional co-operation. Latin America has taken the lead in the establishment of international political organizations. The Organization of American States was the first regional organization to devote itself to problems of peace and security. The skill and the optimism of Latin American statesmen gave inspiration to the drafting of the United Nations Charter.

65. Latin America's faith in man as a reasonable and fair-minded being has triumphed in the Treaty under consideration today. My Government endorses the determination of the countries of the region to maintain the high level of international idealism which has set an example to other parts of the world.

66. This magnificent example set by Latin America has lighted a torch on the path of history which illumines the way to further arms control measures. In a general way, the Treaty prohibits the parties to it from producing, testing or possessing nuclear weapons in their respective territories. It also prohibits the acquisition or installation of any nuclear weapons. It provides for an Agency to verify compliance with the purposes and procedures set forth in it. The principal means of verifying compliance will be through the application of the International Atomic Energy Agency's safeguards system to the nuclear activities of each signatory and through special inspections.

67. The primary object of these provisions is to ensure compliance with the prohibition of nuclear weapons, while at the same time encouraging the peaceful uses of nuclear technology.

68. In recent years my Government has been holding discussions with other nations with a view to preventing the spread of nuclear weapons to countries and areas which do not possess them. We have maintained that the ban on the

possession or manufacture of nuclear weapons in areas where they have not been introduced could, in appropriate circumstances, constitute a decisive step towards universal agreement on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

69. On a number of occasions my Government has announced the four basic requirements we believe should apply to nuclear-free zones. These requirements were set forth at length by Mr. Foster in his letter of 10 December 1965 to the Chairman of the Preparatory Commission, Mr. García Robles, which states as follows:

"The United States supports the creation of nuclear-free zones such as a Latin American nuclear-free zone, where the initiative for such zones originates within the area concerned, where the zone includes all States in the area whose participation is deemed important, where the creation of a zone would not disturb necessary security arrangements, and where provisions are included for following up on alleged violations in order to give reasonable assurance of compliance for the zones."

70. The Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America meets those basic requirements. In the first place, the effort has been definitely Latin American in character. The initiative for the creation of the zone arose out of a joint Declaration dated 29 April 1963 by the Presidents of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador and Mexico, proposing the denuclearization of Latin America.² The General Assembly took note of the proposal, and on the initiative of Brazil unanimously adopted resolution 1911 (XVIII), which expressed the hope that the Latin American States would initiate studies designed to create such a zone. Secondly, practically all the countries in the zone have either signed the Treaty or indicated their intention to sign it or to approve its principles. This suggests that the agreement will be effective. It is to be noted that Cuba is the sole exception. Thirdly, the security balance within the area is not affected. Fourthly, the Treaty contains provisions for verifying compliance with its obligations and carrying out investigations to determine possible violations of the Treaty, and it also contains measures to be taken in the event of a violation occurring.

71. We support the idea of applying the International Atomic Energy Agency's safeguards to the nuclear activities of each country. Additional Protocol II to the Treaty stipulates that the nuclear-weapon States will undertake to respect the obligations set forth in the Treaty. They will not contribute in any way to the performance of acts involving violation of obligations undertaken by the Contracting Parties, and they will not use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against them.

72. My Government is giving very careful and sympathetic consideration to the possibility of signing Protocol II in the light of our over-all security arrangements and the strict obligations implied in Protocol II. We trust that the other four nuclear Powers will study the Protocol with the utmost promptness and consider the possibility of acceding to it.

73. The treaty is a Latin American achievement; but the United Nations played an important role in stimulating and

² *Official Records of the General Assembly, Nineteenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 74 (A/5415/Rev.1, annex).*

catalyzing the action taken at the regional level. The International Atomic Energy Agency is an organization with competence and experience in this field, and the Latin American countries can have complete confidence in it as far as verification of the peaceful uses of their nuclear production and scientific activities is concerned.

74. In conclusion, I wish to emphasize once again the great importance my Government attaches to this Treaty. As the Committee is well aware, every step towards disarmament is the outcome of long and arduous negotiations. We regard the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America as another very important step, on a par with the Antarctic Treaty, the Test Ban Treaty and the Outer Space Treaty, that series of giant strides in the direction of the goal of general and complete disarmament. We believe that the Treaty should be unanimously supported by this Committee.

75. Mr. KULAGA (Poland): From the point of view of our search for disarmament, a most significant part of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America is the political thought which underlies the Treaty and which finds particular expression in its Preamble. The Preamble states, *inter alia*:

“That the establishment of militarily denuclearized zones is closely linked with the maintenance of peace and security in the respective regions”.

It also states:

“That the military denuclearization of Latin America . . . will . . . constitute a significant contribution towards preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons and a powerful factor for general and complete disarmament . . .”

and:

“That the military denuclearization of vast geographical zones . . . will exercise a beneficial influence on other regions . . .”

Those ideas are indeed of great value to our many-pronged efforts to achieve general and complete disarmament, in particular through partial measures in that direction.

76. The head of the Polish delegation recalled during the general debate that ten years had passed from the moment when the idea of partial steps towards disarmament emerged to assert itself with increasing strength as a way to achieve the goal of disarmament. That process was made essential by the complexity of the problem. It was made urgent by the gravity of the rapidly expanding armaments race. Political realism and wisdom rendered it necessary.

77. We of Poland are happy to be among those who adopted that course and who helped it to make headway both in the United Nations and outside the Organization. If I may be permitted to quote from our statement of 17 October 1958 in this very Committee:

“ . . . time is running short and necessity and political realism dictate our preference for partial solutions.

“We see, therefore, several ways of implementing them: unilateral disarmament steps taken by Governments,

regional disarmament agreements, and partial disarmament agreements on a world-wide scale.”³

78. Facts have proved the correctness of that approach: the Moscow Treaty of 1963 and the 1967 Outer Space Treaty are partial measures towards disarmament on a global scale. The draft treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, now being finalized in Geneva, is a measure of the greatest significance. In another sphere, the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the idea of the denuclearization of Africa, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 1652 (XVI) and 2033 (XX), are initiatives towards regional disarmament.

79. As far as we are concerned we consistently upheld the concept of partial measures of disarmament as an integral, important part of the efforts to achieve general and complete disarmament. In that spirit we advanced concrete proposals: our initiative for the denuclearization of Central Europe, presented by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Adam Rapacki, in the United Nations on 2 October 1957 [697th plenary meeting], was one of them. Our proposal for a freeze on nuclear armaments in Central Europe, advanced by Wladyslaw Gomulka on 29 December 1963, was another.

80. It is not of course our intention to dwell on those proposals. But upon the completion of the efforts of Latin American States, aimed at the prohibition of nuclear weapons on their continent, we cannot refrain from asking ourselves: How much nearer to “peace and security in the region”—to quote the preamble of the Treaty—would we now be in Europe; how much easier the adoption of the treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons would be, had those proposals of Poland been accepted and implemented; how much lighter would be the burden of armaments on European countries, and how much greater the potential resources that Europe could have allotted to economic and technical assistance to developing countries.

81. It was in this frame of mind that at the eighteenth session we greeted with satisfaction the initiative of the Latin American States, adding the considerations which, in our opinion, should have been taken into account in order that the denuclearization of the continent be successfully achieved. It is in this frame of mind, too, that we should like to make a few remarks on the subject.

82. We wish to state that by their efforts towards the practical establishment of a status of denuclearization in Latin America, statesmen of that continent have undertaken a great task, which deserves recognition. In some fields—I have in mind, in particular, the attempt to define the notion of nuclear weapons—their work bears the mark of pioneering. As such it met with difficulties; it may have to be complemented in future juridical instruments bearing on the creation of other denuclearized zones. But that does not diminish the value of the undertaking itself. And since we have among us one of the architects of that Treaty—Ambassador García Robles of Mexico—we wish to express

³ This statement was made at the 953rd meeting of the First Committee, the official record of which is published in summary form.

to his country and to him our recognition for the efforts and the dedication put into the preparation of the Treaty.

83. It is not our intention to enter into a detailed consideration of the provisions of the Treaty. We shall limit ourselves to two particular remarks. We note the lack of a stipulation on the prohibition of transport of nuclear weapons through the territories of States signatories to the Treaty. That appears to stand in contradiction with the statement contained in the Preamble that the territories of States signatories shall be kept forever free from nuclear weapons. We wish also to note the objective difficulties in reconciling in practice article 18, paragraph 1, and articles 1 and 5.

84. We should also like to mention briefly some of the international or rather world-wide implications of the Treaty, and in particular its objective value as a contribution to disarmament, peace and security as well as its importance as a precedent for other concepts of denuclearized zones.

85. As far as the first element is concerned, one must note that the refusal of the United States to include its bases in the region in the area of the Treaty has definitely diminished the military significance which the Treaty could have had just as it has provoked a limitation of the geographical area of the Treaty.

86. As to the second element—the value of the Treaty as a practical precedent—one conclusion is beyond doubt: with all its limitations, the concept of denuclearized zones has proved its objective value in the quest for disarmament. It has established itself in the theory and is establishing itself in the practice of partial disarmament.

87. The establishment of denuclearized zones in regions where countries do not possess nuclear weapons and when denuclearization is complete is valuable indeed. Even more important, in our opinion, is the establishment of denuclearized zones in regions where nuclear weapons are either in the possession of countries of the given region or are stocked on their territories. For the value of denuclearization in regions without nuclear weapons lies primarily in the sphere of prevention of proliferation, of arresting potential armaments races, of preventing a waste of resources needed for the economic development of the countries of the region, as has been rightly emphasized in the Preamble of the Treaty. But denuclearization in regions where nuclear weapons are present has the additional, invaluable importance of being a measure of concrete nuclear disarmament or of a halt to the deadly spiral of nuclear armaments. It may have the advantage of taking off the nuclear pin from any regional conflict, which otherwise could erupt into a nuclear holocaust. It leads to a disengagement of the nuclear forces, preventing their direct confrontation. It opens the way to an improvement of the political atmosphere, and thus to a facilitating of the solution of political problems.

88. In conclusion, I should like to express the hope that the concept of denuclearized zones, now in the process of implementation in Latin America, will find early acceptance and be implemented in other regions of the world. For it would be a great contribution to the solution of the most

pressing of the disarmament problems—the halting of the spread of nuclear armaments—and, therefore, a great contribution to world peace and security.

89. Mr. TURBAY AYALA (Colombia) (*translated from Spanish*): In a world torn by constant international tension and threatened by the impotence of mankind to exercise the diabolical destructive power of the warlike apparatus man has himself created, the peoples of the world can nevertheless from time to time experience the understandable elation caused by the rare good news they hear telling them of the elimination of the dangers surrounding the human race on all sides.

90. Today, for example, we can rejoice at the happy outcome of resolution 1911 (XVIII), in which the General Assembly expressed the hope that the States of Latin America would seek suitable ways and means of prohibiting the utilization of nuclear weapons. The spirit of that recommendation was well received in the Americas, with the result that twenty-one States of the Hemisphere, in exercise of their sovereignty and after an intense process of creative activity, decided to draw up the Treaty of Tlatelolco. Thus the countries signatories of that instrument reaffirm their peaceful intent and demonstrate that they are equal to the historic challenge of America.

91. Many people, more out of ignorance than of treachery, are blind to the merits and the significance of an instrument like that under discussion for the prohibition of nuclear weapons throughout the vast territory of our continent. There are not a few who assume that because the countries of Latin America do not possess nuclear weapons today and moreover, because they are notoriously developing nations and hence have no likelihood of acquiring any in the near future, the multilateral agreement they have signed is of no real significance. Those who feel this way are clearly unaware that there are various ways of restoring the sense of security which vanished from the world when mankind split the atom and diverted nuclear energy towards warlike ends.

92. Undoubtedly, the most effective contribution is that to be made by the nuclear Powers when, as we all hope, they agree to general and complete disarmament, subject to inspection. A critical step in this direction was taken in Moscow in 1963, when the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics signed the historic Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapons Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water. It is likewise not improbable that further progress will be made by the Powers at Geneva, and that one day in the not too distant future we hope, we may attain the coveted goal of prohibition of nuclear and conventional weapons. However, this hope is conditioned by the vital question, still unanswered, of the unyielding attitude of certain nuclear Powers.

93. Another way of contributing to man's peace of mind, although within very understandable limitations, is that adopted by the Latin American nations at Tlatelolco when they took steps to bring about the voluntary commitment to prohibit and prevent on their territories:

“(a) The testing, use, manufacture, production or acquisition by any means whatsoever of any nuclear

weapons, by the Parties themselves, directly or indirectly, on behalf of anyone else or in any other way, and

“(b) The receipt, storage, installation, deployment and any form of possession of any nuclear weapons, directly or indirectly, by the Parties themselves, by anyone on their behalf or in any other way.” [A/C.1/496, art. 1, para. 1.]

94. It is easy to see how the peoples of Latin America are seeking ways and means of protecting themselves against the awful risk of a nuclear war, by flatly refusing to allow their territory to be turned into an arsenal or an arena for the costly and terrifying arms race.

95. Naturally, the mere will of the nations of the Americas is not sufficient to safeguard them against all the risks arising from the unlikely but not impossible event of a nuclear confrontation. For that reason, the inspired initiative of the Presidents of Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador and Mexico was very fortunately brought to the United Nations, since this is the only forum in which we can discuss a juridical instrument which would be hamstrung if it did not have the support of all nations and particularly that of the nuclear Powers.

96. By committing ourselves to the prohibition of nuclear weapons, we have made the greatest contribution to the cause of peace of which our peoples are capable. We now hope that the great Powers will sign the Additional Protocols which form an integral part of the Treaty.

97. The commitment for the other signatory States under the protocols is that they should respect the peaceful intent of Latin America and not commit acts involving violations of the obligations laid down in article 1. Likewise, the other States undertake not to use nuclear weapons against the Contracting Parties to the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

98. This is a magnificent opportunity for the great Powers to give a stimulus to nations which, like the nations of Latin America, have pledged themselves to proscribe nuclear weapons. We who signed the Treaty of Tlatelolco have never had any misgivings as to the broad support already announced publicly, at the Geneva discussions, as recalled in the well-documented statement by the representative of Mexico, Mr. Alfonso García Robles.

99. My delegation does not feel it appropriate to repeat at great length and in great detail the explanations given by the representatives of other States. The essential features of the Treaty are well known to you all, since they constitute a model for a possible subsequent agreement at the level of the nuclear Powers themselves. Nevertheless, it will not be out of place to stress the decision of the Contracting States to submit to permanent inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency and the body set up essentially to supervise the functioning of the safeguards system. No one need fear that the Treaty leaves any loop-hole. All its provisions inspire confidence by their utter transparency.

100. The delegation of Colombia is confident that the discussion of this momentous item will culminate in the adoption of a new resolution designed to induce the great Powers to sign the relevant Protocol and ratify it as soon as possible so as not to frustrate the legitimate aspirations of Latin America.

101. My delegation wishes to express its gratitude to all the Members of the United Nations for the interest they have shown at every stage of the negotiation of the Treaty in the world forum. We have definitely had the Assembly solidly behind us, and we have had the constant and valuable co-operation of the Secretary-General.

102. I would like to say too how sincerely grateful the Colombian delegation is for the contribution made by Mexico, through the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, Mr. García Robles, to the success of the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

103. Let us hope that the gloomy international scene will now be illuminated by the flame of hope which the unanimous support of the United Nations for the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America can kindle in a sceptical world.

104. Mr. SOLANO LOPEZ (Paraguay) (*translated from Spanish*): In speaking for the first time in this Committee, my first duty, which I perform with great pleasure, is to extend to the Chairman my delegation's most sincere congratulations on his election to the high post we have unanimously entrusted to him; and I join in the praises addressed to him by other speakers, because they are a fitting tribute to his great qualities. I also heartily congratulate the Vice-Chairman and the Rapporteur.

105. This debate on item 91: Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America, has begun most auspiciously. The first statement was made by the Mexican Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mr. García Robles, who at the 1504th meeting made a statement that was so excellent, so complete and clear, that from then on those of us who requested the inclusion of this item can only repeat in our statements what he has said more lucidly and more eloquently.

106. Hence I shall not at this point attempt to analyse the Treaty of Tlatelolco and its provisions. I shall confine my comments to certain aspects which it would certainly be useful, even if not absolutely necessary, to stress.

107. In the first place, I would refer to the profound satisfaction, or perhaps better, the pride we feel in submitting this Treaty to the United Nations. At a grim moment for the world, when ominous dangers and doubts hover over nations and over the Organization, Latin America, confident in its own destiny and the destiny of the world, brings forth this first example of what the joint will of peoples can do to protect a vast area inhabited by hundreds of millions of human beings from nuclear weapons. Each of the States of Latin America, free, independent and sovereign, has decided of its own spontaneous volition to join in a collective treaty to prohibit from the Hemisphere the testing, use, manufacture, production or acquisition, the acceptance, installation, deployment or any form of possession, direct or indirect, of nuclear weapons, on behalf of third parties or in any other way.

108. It is this collective will, the sum of the wills of each of us, that I wish to emphasize. Seldom do cases such as this occur, in which so many nations state so categorically

and solemnly their coincident decision; and in the matter of prohibition of nuclear weapons, this Treaty of Tlatelolco, the first of its kind, is a step—indeed a giant stride—towards the most noble of all goals.

109. This is my first comment, and I think I may be forgiven for making it with a measure of self-satisfaction. My delegation, which along with other Latin American delegations proposed this item, put its name to the proposal with great pleasure. My country's spokesmen have often said in plenary that our tradition is proud of the fact that during the lifetime of the United Nations we have never raised any specific issues peculiar to our country, but have tried to solve these satisfactorily—and peacefully moreover—on our own. On the other hand, we certainly have raised issues, and will continue to do so, where questions of principle or general interest are involved, or where our particular rights and interests coincide with the rights and interests of other States. In these latter cases we have always played and will continue to play our part; and the item before us is certainly one of them.

110. The second comment refers to the pledge to use exclusively for peaceful purposes nuclear materials and installations under the supervision of any one of our countries. As the chief of my delegation said at the 1570th meeting of the General Assembly, just as we are passionately opposed to proliferation of nuclear weapons so we are in favour of extending the peaceful uses of the atom.

111. My third comment has to do with the stipulations of the two Additional Protocols, the first intended for those States which *de jure* or *de facto* have territories for which they are internationally responsible in the area; and the second for the States which possess nuclear weapons. We call upon the first of these groups, and we exhort the second, to sign the pertinent Additional Protocols as soon as possible.

112. We of the Latin American States have done our share. We have done it seriously, in a spirit of faith in man's common sense; and we hope and trust that the other States referred to in the Protocols will respect our collective will. Our path is marked out, and we believe that the path to be trodden by the other Powers should likewise be marked out.

113. Before I conclude my statement, I wish to add my tribute to the many already paid to the representative of Mexico, Mr. García Robles, for the distinguished part he has played, and for his devotion to the cause of this Treaty. If I say no more about this good and eminent friend, it is to avoid wounding his modesty; but he knows that when a Paraguayan pays a tribute, however poor his words, his whole heart is behind them.

114. One final remark, to say how pleased my delegation was to hear the representative of Jamaica say during the meeting that as of today's date his country will be the twenty-first to subscribe to this Treaty.

115. Mr. ESMURDOC (Dominican Republic) (*translated from Spanish*): Latin America has launched the crusade for peace on to the political horizon of the world. This Continent, with its eminently peaceful tradition, based on

the principles of mutual understanding and respect for the rights of others, has shaken off the age-long sloth that found it always left behind in major world decisions. It has risen above its own ills, and it turns on itself and on the entire globe the spotlight that will illumine the conscience and the will of those who guide the destinies of men, and show them the road—long and arduous still, but not impassable given a measure of sincere determination—to the market-place of political barter. Here hatred and resentment will be exchanged for peace, firm and lasting peace which will serve as a frame for just and peaceful coexistence among men, the only state that befits beings endowed with divine gifts.

116. I refer to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America, or the Treaty of Tlatelolco, opened for signature in the Mexican capital on 14 February of this year.

117. I do not propose to weigh the merits and virtues of the Treaty here. My statement will be too brief to allow me to do what has been so ably done by those who have spoken ahead of me. But manifestly the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America is a challenge to belligerency, to political misunderstanding, to the insensate and uncontrolled confrontation of power, a challenge issued by moderation to violence. It is, in a word, a milestone of such importance that it will give the world a boost by its example, by the contribution it makes to the development of the principles of law and justice it embodies and to general and complete disarmament, a goal which embraces and includes the most cherished ideals of this Organization.

118. We live, unfortunately, in a difficult world, made even more difficult and dramatic by violence, bitterness, destruction and ruin. The Middle East is the distressing, bloody scene of bitter fighting whose final outcome looks bleak and gloomy for victor and vanquished alike. Our African and Asian brothers, forged like ourselves in the furnace of adversity and tempered in the crucible of age-old misfortune, are striving like ourselves to surmount the obstacles of deep-rooted wretchedness and underdevelopment.

119. We are struggling constantly, at times desperately, our hopes drowned in the sea of our daily strife, to seek some integration which will allow us to reach a higher stage in our incipient economy, it is a vain search in a world in upheaval that on the slightest provocation raises the banner of war.

120. It is in the midst of this scene of chaos that Latin America, appreciating that peace is the very foundation of all striving to overcome obstacles, takes its stand, rises to the occasion and excels itself in offering to the world, in the Treaty of Tlatelolco, a magic formula which slowly but surely will bring us world peace.

121. The Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America provides a guideline, a coupling by which in due course, when the proliferation of nuclear weapons, has been disposed of, first general and complete disarmament and then the same on a universal basis, can be linked up. When the means are good, the end is bound to be good.

In the case in point, the end is the consolidation of peace based on mutual respect and the sovereign equality of States.

122. The Dominican Republic is deeply gratified to be a signatory of this Treaty, and in the euphoria of our satisfaction we cordially exhort all countries which have not yet done so, especially the nuclear Powers, to accede to Additional Protocol II to the Treaty so as to make it universally applicable.

123. Mr. SALIM (United Republic of Tanzania): When you, Sir, our distinguished and experienced Chairman, proposed that the item entitled: Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America be discussed as the second item on our agenda immediately after we had concluded our deliberations on the outer space item, you gave this item the priority it well deserves. The consensus of the Committee in agreeing to your suggestion is self-evident. For there is no doubt in the opinion of my delegation that the Treaty for the “denuclearization” of Latin America—now signed by twenty States, with the twenty-first and last member State of the Preparatory Commission soon to follow suit—is a document of great importance and historical significance in man’s quest for general and complete disarmament and the attainment of durable peace.

124. The Treaty concluded in Mexico City by our Latin American friends, who undoubtedly constitute an important and integral part of the community of the developing nations, is a happy culmination of great diplomatic skill, tact and patience.

125. It is above all a clear manifestation by our Latin American friends that concrete steps towards general and complete disarmament, which is at least the professed objective of every Member State represented in this Committee, are not only desirable but possible. Yet without minimizing the great efforts undertaken by our colleagues and the many hurdles they had to cross, one cannot but express admiration to our colleagues for having accomplished so much in the relatively short period of three years. This is all the more reason why my delegation is happy to associate itself with the representatives who have spoken before me, in extending our sincere congratulations to the Latin American countries for the prohibition of nuclear weapons in Latin America. And may I just add here my delegation’s appreciation for the impressive and useful elucidation of the Treaty—its history and related matters—given by Ambassador Alfonso García Robles in his intervention before this Committee on 3 October.

126. In commending this Treaty my delegation is above all guided by Africa’s own endeavour to achieve the objective of denuclearization—and may I hasten to point out that I use the word “denuclearization” with the meaning that Ambassador García Robles has correctly pointed out: “... ‘the absence of nuclear weapons’ and not the prohibition of the peaceful use of the atom, which on the contrary was to be encouraged, particularly in the interests of the developing countries” [1504th meeting, para. 86]. Thus the African States, which have in their own way consistently striven for the prohibition of nuclear weapons in our Continent, cannot in the opinion of the Tanzanian

delegation but welcome and indeed be inspired by the attainment of a similar objective by our friends in Latin America with whom we have so much in common. My colleague the representative of Ghana, Ambassador Akwei, dealt very eloquently with this point in his intervention yesterday [1506th meeting] and there is therefore no need for repetition.

127. The Treaty is a step in the right direction. It is designed to prohibit the dissemination of nuclear weapons in that region. To that extent it is also a positive and important contribution towards general and complete disarmament under effective international control. It is the sincere and earnest hope of my delegation that the Treaty will be crowned with success in that its provisions will be strictly adhered to by the signatories and respected by the nuclear Powers. It is also not out of context here to express a word of caution to the effect that by renouncing their privilege—if I may call it so—to go nuclear if they so desired, the Latin American States must not under any circumstances whatsoever be the victims of nuclear blackmail.

128. There is one particular feature of the Treaty which my delegation considers to be of great significance. This is the clear distinction made between the renunciation of developing nuclear energy for warlike purposes and the assertion of the right of the signatories to continue harnessing the atom for peaceful purposes. Ambassador García Robles was forthright when he explained:

“It was precisely to avoid any misunderstanding concerning the scope of the Treaty and to indicate quite clearly that what was wanted was not civil denuclearization but only military denuclearization, that the Preparatory Commission resolved, at its final session, to change the name it had originally intended to give the Treaty—‘Treaty on the Denuclearization of Latin America’—and to call it ‘Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America.’” [1504th meeting, para. 132].

The representative of Brazil, Ambassador Corrêa do Lago, elaborated further on this fundamental point when by way of clarification, he said:

“...the objective of freeing the area from nuclear armaments is gained without hindering research, technological development and the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy in all its forms, an essential condition for the scientific and economic advancement of the contracting parties”. [1505th meeting, para. 8.]

My delegation firmly maintains that this clear distinction made on the question of utilization of nuclear energy is what makes the Treaty an even more commendable document to the developing countries like mine. For nothing would be more unfortunate and nothing more ruinous for the development of the countries of the Third World than for them to allow themselves to be victims of perpetual technological backwardness.

129. In hailing the wisdom of the Latin American countries in concluding this Treaty my delegation would like to place on record its belief that such a move, apart from being a serious attempt to rid their region of the horror and devastation of nuclear weapons, will also ensure the mobilization of all the resources of the region for the

betterment of its people. For we are all quite aware of the fantastic amounts involved and the tremendous straining of resources that are a prerequisite for a country, and particularly a developing country, to join the nuclear club.

130. By concluding the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and thereby binding themselves not to manufacture or acquire weapons of mass destruction, the States of this Region have provided the world with a fine and remarkable example of how, once the determination is there, it is possible to take concrete steps towards peace.

131. One would only hope that this positive action by an important region of the non-nuclear community would be reciprocated by some action on the part of the nuclear Powers which would show the world that they are equally serious in the realization of general and complete disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament. For peace and security in our planet does not become any less threatened by unilateral measures, however positive, of the non-nuclear Powers.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.