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

**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, A/C.1/L.406/Rev.1)**

**CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION  
A/C.1/L.406/REV.1**

1. Mr. GARCÍA ROBLES (Mexico) (*translated from Spanish*): At our 1511th meeting on 30 October, I read the complete text of draft resolution A/C.1/L.406 which, with slight changes in operative paragraphs 3 and 4, has now been circulated to the members of the First Committee as document A/C.1/L.406/Rev.1. Today I should like to add only a few words explaining the content of this draft, since it seems to me that its wording is sufficiently clear.

2. The first two paragraphs of the preamble are intended to recall the main provisions of resolution 1911 (XVIII), which was adopted, without a single vote against, by the General Assembly on 27 November 1963.

3. The third and fourth paragraphs refer to provisions which are particularly relevant with regard to the item before us and which formed part, respectively, of the important resolutions 2028 (XX) and 2153 A (XXI).

4. The fifth paragraph is a very concise summary of the main aims of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (A/C.1/946) as set forth in its preamble.

5. The next and final preambular paragraph merely notes that the Treaty contains two additional protocols, and stresses the obvious fact that the co-operation of the States to which the protocols are open for signature will enable the Treaty to be as effective as possible.

6. Operative paragraph 1 is no more than a summary in the briefest possible terms of the generous views expressed

regarding the significance and scope of the Treaty, both by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in the message he addressed on 12 February 1967 to the Preparatory Commission on that Treaty, and by almost all the representatives of the forty-five States which, together with Mexico, participated in the Commission's general debate on this issue.

7. Finally, operative paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 contain recommendations addressed, respectively, to all States, to those which are or may become signatories of the Treaty and to those referred to in its Additional Protocol I, and, lastly, to the States possessing nuclear weapons. The object of these recommendations is that each of those States, within its own sphere of competence, should actively co-operate in ensuring the widest and most effective entry into force of the Treaty as soon as possible. The wording of the paragraphs in question is similar to the terms used in the resolutions on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons adopted at the twentieth session of the General Assembly and in resolutions 2260 (XXII) and 2261 (XXII), both unanimously adopted only fifteen days ago, concerning the use of outer space for peaceful purposes.

8. In introducing the item before us on 23 October, I took the liberty of expressing the hope that, as a fitting consequence of the work begun in this same room in 1963, the General Assembly would now adopt "a new resolution related to resolution 1911 (XVIII) which will make a decisive contribution towards ensuring that with the co-operation of all States, and particularly the nuclear Powers, the Treaty of Tlatelolco can become fully effective, and that in practice the juridical status of military denuclearization of Latin America will command the universal observance to which it is undoubtedly entitled by the high principles inspiring it and the noble aims it is designed to achieve" [1504th meeting, para. 158].

9. The delegations of the States sponsoring draft resolution A/C.1/L.406/Rev.1, including that of Mexico, trust that it contains all the elements necessary to make it a workable and effective resolution such as I have described above.

10. Miss JARDIM (Guyana): Even at so late a time I should like, on behalf of the Government and people of Guyana, to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your unanimous election to the Chairmanship of this Committee, and I wish to assure you of our firm support and co-operation as you guide its work. We wish similarly to extend our congratulations to the Vice-Chairman and the Rapporteur.

11. My delegation feels strongly the need for concrete expression of the principles enshrined in the Treaty for the

\* Resumed from the 1511th meeting.

Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America. It was because our Government so strongly endorsed the objectives set out in the Treaty that our Minister of State, the Honourable S. S. Ramphal, in his address to the General Assembly on 5 October, stated:

"In the Latin American region commendable success has recently attended the efforts of the Governments of that region to contribute tangibly to the cause of world peace. The Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, signed in Mexico last February, is a notable step forward in curtailing the spread of nuclear weapons through the creation of nuclear-free zones. . . .

"It is, therefore, a matter of deep regret and concern to my Government that, by virtue of the exclusionary provisions of article 25 of that Treaty, Guyana is precluded from being a signatory." [*1581st plenary meeting, paras. 7 and 8.*]

12. Article 25 of the Treaty whose endorsement is being sought by the draft resolution before us, reads as follows:

"1. This Treaty shall be open indefinitely for signature by:

"(a) All the Latin American Republics, and

"(b) All other sovereign States situated in their entirety south of latitude 35° north in the western hemisphere; and, except as provided in paragraph 2 of this article, all such States which become sovereign, when they have been admitted by the General Conference.

"2. The General Conference shall not take any decision regarding the admission of a political entity part or all of whose territory is the subject, prior to the date when this Treaty is opened for signature, of a dispute or claim between an extra-continental country and one or more Latin American States, so long as the dispute has not been settled by peaceful means." [*A/C.1/946.*]

13. It is because of the exclusionary provisions of article 25 (2) that Guyana has been prevented at regional level from being a signatory to this Treaty and from expressing in tangible form our support for world peace. Our embarrassment at being excluded as a possible signatory is now well known and we are aware of the concern shared by many other countries at the inclusion of article 25 (2) in a Treaty of this nature.

14. We are now called upon to vote in support of a draft resolution which will enshrine that exclusionary article at the highest level in the General Assembly of this world Organization. Let there be no doubt about Guyana's stand on the question of denuclearization of Latin America; let there be no doubt about Guyana's recognition of the need to secure that all States "give their full co-operation to ensure that the régime laid down in the Treaty enjoys the universal observance to which its lofty principles and noble aims entitle it" [*A/C.1/L.406/Rev.1, para. 2*]. But Guyana cannot give an affirmative vote when by that vote we help to give universal sanction to exclusionary features of which we ourselves are the victims.

15. By its very nature, a draft resolution such as this demands acceptance of the principle of universality; but this Treaty by its own provisions makes universality impossible. One would have hoped that the cause of world peace would have transcended any existing and unrelated regional difficulties.

16. My delegation invites this Committee to join with us in looking forward to the day when Guyana will no longer be restrained by exclusionary provisions, such as those embodied in article 25 (2), from making its own contribution to peace. Indeed we invite all Member States to join with us in anticipating the time when exclusionary provisions such as these find no place in a treaty of this nature. My country would welcome and give its fullest support to any suggestion from this Committee which would contribute to strengthening the principle of universality, a principle upon which the issue of denuclearization, more than any other, so vitally depends.

17. In order to permit consultations which have already begun on this matter to continue to a constructive conclusion, my delegation requests that consideration of this item be deferred until Tuesday of next week, 21 November.

18. The CHAIRMAN: The Committee has heard the statement made by the representative of Guyana, concluding with her request that the Committee should postpone further consideration of this draft resolution until Tuesday next, 21 November.

19. Mr. ARCHIBALD (Trinidad and Tobago): My delegation believes that full weight should always be given to requests such as that which has just been made by the representative of Guyana. However, as a co-sponsor of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/L.406/Rev.1, my delegation would welcome an opportunity to consult with the other co-sponsors, and we wonder whether our best procedure might now be to suspend this meeting for a short while so that such consultations might take place.

20. Mr. AKWEI (Ghana): I should like to address myself to the request which has been made by the representative of Guyana.

21. We are somewhat concerned that this request has come at this time; we could have wished that it had been made earlier. But at the same time we feel that all consideration should be given to it in view of the important issues which have been raised.

22. In our intervention in the general debate on this item we hailed the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America as one of the most historic and important documents for mankind. We do not deviate from that conviction; indeed we recognize it as a distillation of Latin American statesmanship and diplomacy at its best. We recognize it as an important contribution to the subject of disarmament, especially in the field of nuclear disarmament, a subject which is of such great importance to all mankind and dear to the hearts of all peace-loving people. We hailed it also on the ground that it was a significant contribution to other parts of the world because of the example which this Treaty held out to those regions which had accepted the principle of denuclearization zones in the world.

23. I speak therefore from the point of view of a country, a member State of the Organization of African Unity, which has adopted a similar resolution with regard to the

denuclearization of Africa.<sup>1</sup> And indeed we have, as I have already stated, hailed this document as a fitting example which might well be taken into consideration by the African countries.

24. I feel that the principle of universality is most important in the Treaty which is before us, particularly in the area of Latin America; and if it seems to be exclusive or discriminatory with regard to any member of that region participating in such a noble venture—and one which we all acclaim as an important task of mankind—I believe that it might be useful for us to suspend discussion of this item for a short time in order that consultations might be held among the co-sponsors of the draft resolution, with a view to making whatever conclusions emerge from the Committee more relevant and more interesting to the other parts of the world which have hopes of adopting a similar move.

25. Therefore, while stating my conviction that this is a noble and historic and significant document, I would add my support to the request which has been made by the representative of Guyana for a short suspension of the discussion of this item so that consultations may take place.

26. The CHAIRMAN: Before calling on the next speaker I should like to try to clarify the situation as I see it. In my opinion the problem raised by the representative of Guyana is a very important problem which needs thorough consideration, and if her request is granted there will have to be reconsideration of the provisions of the Treaty which deal with the points she raised. But I believe that the best way of handling the two procedural proposals from Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago would be to suspend the meeting for half an hour to enable the Latin American countries co-sponsors of the draft resolution to consult each other and come to a decision on this basic issue, namely, whether it is possible to accommodate the request of Guyana or, for certain reasons, it is not possible to do so even if we adjourn the consideration of this item till Tuesday. Accordingly, I urge all the members of the Committee not to involve us in procedural motions which will not help to solve these basic issues. If they agree with me in this, they can make their own points of view known informally to the other delegations during the recess. For the reasons I have given, and if there is no objection, I shall suspend the meeting for half an hour.

27. Mr. GARCÍA ROBLES (Mexico) (*translated from Spanish*): Mr. Chairman, I agree completely with what you have just said. Immediately following suspension of this meeting, the sponsors of the draft resolution will meet in another room to exchange their views on the suggestions or motion submitted by the representative of Guyana.

28. I should like to add that I cannot speak on behalf of all the sponsors of the draft since, obviously, I have not had time to consult them; but I do speak on behalf of my own delegation in saying that we should be pleased if a representative of Guyana would also join us at that meeting to clarify some points which might raise doubts among the sponsors concerning the motion.

29. The CHAIRMAN: I think the Latin American group can meet in Conference Room No. 8 as soon as we suspend this meeting. I call on the representative of Tanzania who wants to raise a point of order.

30. Mr. SALIM (United Republic of Tanzania): I completely concur with the view that we should not waste our time by indulging in procedural debate. But, in connexion with the proposal made by the representative of Guyana, I was just wondering whether such consultations would take only half an hour. I should have thought that, even if they were confined to the Latin American group, they still would take longer than that. I for one am of the opinion that the original motion to adjourn the debate until Tuesday would allow the co-sponsors of the resolution not only to discuss the matter among themselves but also to have consultations with the other members of the Committee.

31. The CHAIRMAN: Even if the consultations take forty-five minutes I shall not be very rigid. Afterwards we shall decide on the course of action that we should adopt. Since there is no objection the meeting will be suspended for forty-five minutes.

*The meeting was suspended at 11.25 a.m. and resumed at 12.25 p.m.*

32. Mr. GARCÍA ROBLES (Mexico) (*translated from Spanish*): The sponsors of the draft, joined by the representative of Guyana, have met and after an exchange of views it was agreed that we would not oppose the motion submitted by Guyana.

33. We also set up a small Working Group which will make all possible efforts between now and 21 November to find a formula which may be satisfactory to everybody, including the representative of Guyana.

34. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, we should be thankful if, in accordance with the decision of the group as a result of the meeting, you would be good enough to set a final deadline (one not to be postponed, this time) either for the morning of 21 November or for the afternoon of that day, whichever conforms better to the schedule you have set for the work of the First Committee.

35. The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Mexico and the co-sponsors of the Latin American draft for their spirit of co-operation and for their effort to accommodate themselves to the point that was raised this morning by the representative of Guyana. In accordance with their wish, I shall suspend further discussion of this item until Tuesday afternoon at 3 o'clock. I believe all will agree with me that we can then hear the explanations of vote, because representatives would doubtless prefer to make their statements in accordance with the last revision that is going to be presented to the Committee on Tuesday.

36. The Committee has no further business before it this morning, but before we adjourn I should like to inform members that we shall have one meeting on Monday at 10.30 a.m., when the Committee will start its deliberations

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twentieth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 105, document A/5975.

on the item proposed by the Soviet Union, namely the convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons. In the afternoon the working group on the sea-bed will meet in the Economic and Social Council chamber at 3 p.m.

37. If I hear no objection, I shall consider that the Committee agrees to this.

*It was so decided.*

*The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.*