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Chairman: Mr. AHMAD (Pakistan)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

SUBMISSION OF REPORTS BY CHAIRMEN OF WORKING GROUPS (continued)

The CHAIRMAN: In accordance with the decision taken by the Committee of the Whole at its 1st meeting on 3 June, the Working Groups concluded their work last Friday, 17 June. We will be receiving their reports at this meeting of the Committee of the Whole.

The Chairman of Working Group I, Ambassador Hegbourn, is unable to be here this morning as he was summoned by his Government for some important consultations and he has asked me to introduce the report of Working Group I (A/S-15/AC.1/18).

Working Group I was entrusted with the task of dealing with agenda item 10, "Assessment of the implementation of the decisions and recommendations adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth and twelfth special sessions". In this regard, the Working Group held a total of 13 meetings between 6 and 17 June. Four meetings were devoted to exchange of views and a large number of delegations participated in this exchange of views. Thereafter, a set of the elements of the subject was presented and adopted. On this basis various proposals were put forward by delegations. In order to facilitate the work of the Working Group, the Chairman then prepared an informal paper which served as the basic paper for the consideration of agenda item 10.

During the course of deliberations, many amendments were presented but owing to lack of time the Working Group was unable to consider all the amendments in depth. Delegations worked in a very business-like manner and demonstrated a positive attitude with a view to reaching agreement on the text. However, as that did not prove possible, at its last meeting on 17 June the Working Group decided to submit the Chairman's paper to the Committee of the Whole, as contained in the annex to its report.
(The Chairman)

The Chairman of Working Group I, Ambassador Hepburn, has requested me to express his sincere appreciation to all delegations for their co-operation and for their willingness to explore all possibilities in order to reach agreement on the many issues before the Working Group. He would also like, on behalf of the Working Group, to thank the Secretary of the Working Group, Mr. Kuo-Chung Lin, and his assistants, Mr. Vladimir Bogomolov, Mr. Jack Gerardi-Siebert, Ms. Anita Ng and Ms. Angeles Brito, for their assistance in carrying out the work of Working Group I.

Are there any comments on the report of Working Group I? If not, I shall take it that the Committee of the Whole wishes to take note of the report of Working Group I (A/S-15/AC.1/18).

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the Chairman of Working Group II.

Mr. VON STULPNAGEL (Federal Republic of Germany), Chairman of Working Group II: In my capacity as Chairman of Working Group II I have the honour to submit for the consideration of the Committee of the Whole the report of Working Group II (A/S-15/AC.1/19 and Add.1-3). I should point out that Addendum 3 will probably be available tomorrow.

Working Group II was entrusted with the deliberation of agenda items 12 and 15. The report which we present is self-explanatory and I shall, therefore, only note certain points. The Working Group held 11 meetings between 6 and 17 June. Following the general debate, during which a wide range of views was expressed on the subjects under consideration, I prepared an outline for focusing our discussion. In the course of the deliberations, many ideas and suggestions, as well as proposals containing specific formulations, were advanced regarding that outline.
Taking into account the discussions and the proposals made and on the basis of consultations I prepared a text in which I attempted to identify points of convergence and to present formulations that might command consensus. However, in the time available it was not possible to reach agreement on the text I submitted. Nevertheless, the Working Group agreed to transmit the draft text along with the outline for focusing the discussion and the proposals made in connection therewith to the Committee of the Whole. These documents are part of the report and are contained, respectively, in Addendum 1, Addendum 2 and Addendum 3. As I noted earlier, Addendum 3 will, in all probability, be issued tomorrow.

I should also point out that it was understood that the Chairman's draft text was prepared on his own responsibility and did not prejudice the position of any delegation.

Finally, I should like to note, as I stated at the time of the adoption of the Working Group's report, that I shall transmit to the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole other comments that I have received.

In submitting this report and its annexes to the Committee it only remains for me to express the hope that the work accomplished by the Working Group will make a useful contribution to the work that lies ahead in the next few days.

In conclusion, I should like to express my appreciation of the spirit of co-operation shown by all delegations in the Working Group. In particular, I should like to express my thanks to Ambassador Vejvoda and Ambassador Taylhardat for their many efforts and the assistance they provided me. Likewise I should like to express my gratitude to the Secretary of the Working Group, Ms. Aida Levin and the other assistants. I should like to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your support and encouragement.
The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Are there any comments on the report presented by Ambassador von Stulpnagel? If not, I shall take it that the Committee of the Whole wishes to take note of the report of Working Group II in document A/S-15/AC.1/19 and Add.1-3.

It was so decided.
The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the Chairman of Working Group III, Ambassador Engo.

Mr. ENGO (Cameroon), Chairman of Working Group III: I am sorry to say that I am not in the comfortable position of my colleagues the Chairmen of Working Groups I and II. The report of Working Group III is ready, as is my written report to the Committee of the Whole. However, for some reason, neither has yet descended to this Conference Room. I can only say that everything was done to ensure that the report would be here in time for this meeting, and I have been assured that it is on its way. I regret that members of the Committee will not have it before them as I make this oral report.

Working Group III dealt with agenda items 13 and 14: "Consideration of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament and of the effectiveness of the disarmament machinery" and "United Nations information and educational activities in the field of disarmament, including measures to mobilize world public opinion in favour of disarmament".

Working Group III organized its programme of work to ensure that we would not have the usual debate in which delegations merely listed their opinions or their countries' positions. Delegations undertook to address the issues in the form of a basic general debate, as it were.

At this stage, I wish to express deep gratitude to the members of Working Group III for the serious way in which they tackled the issues before the Working Group. I think the Committee of the Whole should recognize that without such an attitude it would have been impossible to deal with so complicated a series of issues.

The report of Working Group III will be circulated as document A/S-15/AC.1/20, dated 17 June 1988. I shall not take the time to read it out. It is a factual report; it sets out what actually happened. It contains a long list of the
documents on the basis of which our negotiations took place.

Since we did not have enough time to tackle all the relevant subjects, we have transmitted to the Committee of the Whole a series of proposals on which it was impossible to reach any kind of consensus, and also the issues on which it was impossible for me, as Chairman, to attempt to make any proposal that I believed could obtain a consensus.

Hence, the first part of the report of Working Group III contains a factual account. Annexed to the report is the revised text of the Chairman's working paper.

My written report to the Committee of the Whole contains an explanation of the difficult areas and the written proposals made in the Working Group, either during private consultations or in meetings of the Group. It was the wish of the members of the Working Group that the results of our work should be presented in that way so that the Committee of the Whole could have a clear picture of what really happened. This makes clear the desire of the members of the Working Group that the Committee should have all the facts during the consultations that will take place in the coming days.

The annex to the report is submitted under specific conditions. In that connection, I shall now read out paragraph 8 of the report of the Working Group:

"Taking into account the discussion and the proposals made and on the basis of consultations, the Chairman prepared a revised text of his working paper" -

the original paper was in document A/S-15/AC.1/WG.III/CRP.2 -

"in which he attempted to identify points of convergence and to present formulations that might command consensus. This revised text was not discussed, but the Working Group agreed that it be transmitted, along with the documents referred to in paragraph 4 above" -
there is a very long list of documents -
"to the Committee of the Whole. It was understood that the Chairman's draft
text was prepared on his own responsibility and did not prejudice the position
of any delegation" (A/S-15/AC.1/20, para. 8).

That procedure was adopted because we worked right down to the last minute;
our efforts were really very intense. In those circumstances, it was impossible
for the Chairman to prepare the revised text and bring it to the Working Group. I
wish to thank the members of the Working Group for the confidence they have shown
in me in asking me to go ahead with the revision and annex it to the report.

This revised text of the Chairman's working paper came out of the debates.
The original text came out of the original debates; the revised text came out of a
full discussion of the original text. I believe that what I have presented will
form some basis for consensus. Of course, what constitutes consensus is, in the
final analysis, a matter entirely for delegations, not for a chairman. I think it
was generally recognized that consensus could hardly ever be reached on every
proposal made by various delegations and coming out of various interest groups. I
think it is important to note that. I believe that the Committee of the Whole will
be able to identify such items when they have before them the list of proposals in
our report.

I again apologize for the fact that the report has not yet arrived in this
Conference Room. I am sure that when members of this Committee have before them
the text of the report of Working Group III as well as the paper containing my
written report to this Committee, which sets out all the amendments, they will find
answers to any questions that may arise.

Finally, I would point out that there is a corrigendum to the text of the
report itself.
The CHAIRMAN: I believe that the report, which is contained in document A/S-15/AC.1/20, will be available in a few minutes, and perhaps we can postpone the noting of the report until it is available.

I call on Ambassador Garcia Robles, whom we requested at the last meeting to undertake consultations on a comprehensive programme for disarmament.

Mr. GARCIA ROBLES (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): As will be recalled, the Committee of the Whole at its 1st meeting, held on 3 June, agreed, in connections with agenda item 11, entitled "Consideration and approval of the comprehensive programme of disarmament", to authorize you, Mr. Chairman, to entrust me with the task of carrying out consultations on the item and in due course reporting to the Committee on the results of the consultations. In accordance with that request, I have in the past two weeks held a series of consultations with representatives of all the regional groups: that is, the African Group, the Latin America and Caribbean Group, the Asian Group, the Group of Western European and Other States and the Eastern European Group.

I am sure that delegations will understand that, for obvious reasons, it was not possible for me to consult with each of the 159 Member States of the United Nations. Nevertheless, I believe that my consultations were broad enough to allow me to draw a conclusion that reflects the general feeling. The conclusion that has emerged from my consultations is that there is general agreement that, taking into account, on the one hand, the progress achieved at the Conference on Disarmament in the task of developing a comprehensive programme of disarmament, as can be seen in paragraph 9 of the report of the Ad hoc Committee, which forms an integral part of the report of the Conference on Disarmament to the special session devoted to disarmament, in document A/S-15/2, and, on the other hand, the shortness of time available at this session for the various substantive agenda items, it would be
most advisable for the Conference on Disarmament to continue the negotiations on this item with a view to finalizing the preparation of the programme.

To that end, it was felt that at this special session we should: first, emphasize the importance of a comprehensive programme of disarmament; secondly, take note of the progress achieved by the Conference on Disarmament; and, thirdly, ask the Conference on Disarmament to continue the negotiations on the comprehensive programme of disarmament during the second part of its 1988 session, with the firm intention of finalizing the preparation of the programme for submission to the General Assembly at its forty-third session, or, at the latest, at its forty-fourth session, if the objective cannot be attained this year.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank Ambassador Garcia Robles for his oral report and for the efforts he undertook on my behalf and on behalf of the Committee of the Whole with regard to agenda item 11. If there are no comments on that oral report, I take it that the Committee wishes to take note of it.

It only remains for me to thank the three Chairmen of the three Working Groups, Mr. Hegburn, Mr. von Stulpnagel and Mr. Engo, and also Mr. Garcia Robles for the very hard work they have undertaken during the past two weeks. I also thank them on behalf of the Committee of the Whole for the manner in which they have fulfilled the duties placed on them.

As the Committee is aware, a considerable number of proposals have been submitted by various delegations and they have been issued in relevant documents. At this stage, following the practice of the first and second special sessions on disarmament, I would propose that the deadline for submission of any further proposals be set at 6 p.m., Wednesday, 22 June. I assume that this is acceptable to the Committee.

It was so decided.
The CHAIRMAN: While we wait for the report of Working Group III to be distributed, I should like to turn to the question of how to organize our work during this week, which is the last week. I discussed this with the officers of the Committee last week, and it was my feeling that they would like the Chairman to prepare a paper on the basis of the work that has already been done in the Working Groups on the substantive agenda items for the consideration of the Committee of the Whole as a basis for working out the final product of the third special session on disarmament. If that is also the wish of the Committee, I intend to close the formal meeting of the Committee of the Whole and soon thereafter reconvene in an informal meeting. There I should like to elicit the views of delegations on how to construct or assemble a draft of what could be the final product of the special session. I hope that at the informal meeting delegations will be in a position to indicate to me in broad outline their views on the matter. I should like to devote tomorrow, Tuesday, to having more selective consultations with Groups, beginning with the Group of Western European and Other States, perhaps at 9.30 a.m., with the Eastern European Group at about 11 a.m. tomorrow, and perhaps I could see the representative of China at about 12.30 p.m. and then the non-aligned and neutral States at about 4 p.m. tomorrow.
I hope that these consultations, which will include the entire membership of the Committee of the Whole, will enable me to present a paper to the Committee of the Whole some time late tomorrow, say about 5.30 in the afternoon, when we can have a short, and again informal, meeting, for the presentation of this paper. If it is the wish of the Committee that the Chairman prepare this paper, then I intend to follow the procedure I have indicated.

As there are no comments, I take it that the Committee wishes me to follow the procedure I have outlined and to prepare a paper for the Committee's consideration, it is to be hoped by late Tuesday afternoon.

There being no objections, I shall take it that it is so decided.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: Perhaps before adjourning the meeting we can take up the report of Working Group III, contained in document A/S-15/AC.1/20, which is now available. Are there any comments on this report?

There being none, I take it that the Committee wishes to take note of the report of Working Group III contained in document A/S-15/AC.1/20.

It was so decided.

I think we can adjourn the formal meeting of the Committee of the Whole at this point and reconvene in an informal session in 10 minutes.

The meeting rose at 11.05 a.m.