PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE SECOND SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEVOTED TO DISARMAMENT

Second session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 16th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 14 May 1981, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. ADENIJI (Nigeria)

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Any corrections to the records of the meetings of this session will be consolidated in a single corrigendum, to be issued shortly after the end of the session.
The meeting was called to order at 11.05 a.m.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF DR. BENJAMIN HARRY SHEARES, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

1. The CHAIRMAN, on behalf of the Committee, paid tribute to the memory of Dr. Benjamin Harry Sheares.

2. On the proposal of the Chairman, members of the Committee observed a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of Dr. Benjamin Harry Sheares, President of the Republic of Singapore.

EXPRESSION OF SORROW REGARDING THE NEWS OF THE ATTEMPT ON THE LIFE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE JOHN PAUL II

3. The CHAIRMAN, on behalf of the Committee, expressed deep sorrow regarding the news of the attempt on the life of His Holiness Pope John Paul II and sincerest wishes for his speedy and complete recovery.

4. Mr. TOPCUOGLU (Turkey) expressed his delegation's deep sorrow and shock at the attempt to assassinate His Holiness Pope John Paul II. The man accused of the crime was a terrorist and convicted murderer who had escaped from prison in Turkey and later fled that country with the help of terrorist organizations. He had been tried in absentia in Turkey and sentenced to death in 1980. Since he had disregarded the call of Turkish security authorities to give himself up, an international warrant for his arrest had been issued. Unfortunately, in spite of the repeated efforts of Turkish and other national authorities, it had not been possible to capture him.

5. The abhorrent attempt on the life of His Holiness provided evidence justifying the struggle of the Turkish nation against all forms of terrorism and clearly demonstrated the need for greater co-operation between all nations towards the adoption of co-ordinated measures against terrorism. The entire Turkish nation joined in condemning the attempted assassination and prayed for the recovery of His Holiness.

6. He expressed his delegation's condolences upon the death of the President of the Republic of Singapore.

7. Mr. KRYSTOSIK (Poland) expressed his delegation's profound sorrow and shock at the attempt on the life of His Holiness Pope John Paul II. The sentiments of the Polish people were well reflected in the message sent by Polish leaders to His Holiness, wishing him a speedy recovery so that he might continue his mission in the service of the humanitarian ideals of peace and brotherhood.

8. His delegation wished to express its condolences upon the death of the President of the Republic of Singapore.
9. Mr. BLOMBERG (Finland) introduced a working paper submitted by his delegation (A/AC.206/12). The emphasis of the working paper was on the assessment of the main negotiating processes and a survey of regional disarmament efforts. During its current session, the Committee had concentrated on the draft agenda and other organizational aspects of the special session. His delegation felt that, in terms of substance, the special session should be based on a realistic evaluation of the state of the arms race and disarmament efforts. With that in mind, it had submitted the working paper at a rather early stage in the preparations for the special session, hoping that it would be a constructive contribution to the successful outcome of the session. His delegation intended to return to the substance of the working paper at appropriate later stages in the preparations for the special session.

The meeting rose at 11.20 a.m.