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

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 3rd MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 5 December 1980, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. ADENIJI (Nigeria)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.40 p.m.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the list of background papers, which had just been circulated to members of the Committee. The background papers mentioned had been prepared by the Secretariat for the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament: the list before the Committee also contained the Secretariat's suggestions on the updating of some of those documents. He invited members to comment on the list.

2. Mr. KAMAANDA wa KAMAANDA (Zaire) said that he was in favour of issuing addenda to the background papers, in particular those listed in items 3, 4 and 5, since that would considerably facilitate the Committee's task.

3. Mr. SHUSTOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said, in connexion with the document referred to in item 7, that since there had been no developments concerning the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones in Africa, South Asia, the Middle East or the South Pacific, perhaps it would be better to prepare an updated document relating only to the establishment of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean, a question on which there had been developments as well as discussions at the United Nations. His delegation agreed that the Secretariat should be asked to prepare the other updated documents mentioned.

4. Mr. U. RAHMAN (Bangladesh) said that the members of the Committee seemed to be agreed on the need to have a set of background papers prepared by the Secretariat.

5. With regard to the comments made by the representative of the Soviet Union in connexion with item 7, his delegation felt that members of the Committee would benefit from the preparation of a background paper reflecting the views expressed over the years on the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones in Africa, South Asia, the Middle East and the South Pacific as well as in the Indian Ocean. If delegations needed additional documentation, a decision could be taken at the Committee's first substantive session in the spring of 1981. He pledged his delegation's full support for every effort to ensure the complete success of the special session.

6. In conclusion, he expressed his delegation's condolences to the delegation of Portugal on the death of that country's Prime Minister and to the delegation of Sri Lanka on the death of Mr. Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe, President of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea.

7. Mr. KAMAANDA wa KAMAANDA (Zaire) fully supported the comments made by the representative of Bangladesh in connexion with the documentation mentioned in item 7 on the list of background papers.

8. Mr. KABIA (Sierra Leone), referring to item 7 on the list of background papers, said that his delegation would agree to the preparation of an updated document on
the establishment of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean, but any documentation prepared should also relate to the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones in the other areas mentioned, particularly Africa.

9. Mr. SHUSTOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the points raised by the representatives of Bangladesh, Sierra Leone and Zaire were cogent, and he would not pursue the idea he had raised.

10. Mr. MESHARREFA (Egypt) said his delegation wished to stress that it was important for the Secretariat to include both positive and negative developments in the preparation of updated documents, so as to give a clear picture of everything that had occurred since the first special session devoted to disarmament.

11. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Secretariat should be entrusted with the task of updating the original documentation, when there was no need to reissue entire documents, or issuing a separate document containing all the relevant developments, or foregoing the preparation of any new document, as appropriate. He also suggested that the Secretariat should be guided by the same objectivity which had guided it in the preparation of the original background papers and that the comments made by the representative of Egypt should be borne in mind in that endeavour; any additional proposals could be considered during the Committee's substantive session.

12. It was so decided.

ELECTION OF OTHER OFFICERS

13. The CHAIRMAN, supported by Mr. ROSE (German Democratic Republic), suggested that, since some difficulties concerning the election of the other officers still remained, the Committee should suspend its meeting, and during the suspension the co-ordinators of the regional groups should hold consultations with a view to resolving those difficulties.

14. It was so decided.

The meeting was suspended at 4 p.m. and resumed at 5 p.m.

15. The CHAIRMAN said he had been informed by the co-ordinators of the regional groups that, because of competing interests in one regional group, the election of the other officers of the Committee could not be completed during the current meeting. Accordingly, he suggested that the election should be deferred until the first day of the Committee's substantive session.

16. It was so decided.

COMPLETION OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK

17. The CHAIRMAN said that, since there were no other matters to discuss, the Committee had now completed its work in so far as possible.

The meeting rose at 5.05 p.m.