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

Organizational session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 5 December 1986, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. MARTENSON (Under-Secretary-General
for Disarmament Affairs)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.55 a.m.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. Mr. Martenson (Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs), speaking on behalf of the Secretary-General, declared open the organizational session of the Preparatory Committee for the Third Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament.

2. He wished to draw attention to paragraphs 1 to 5 of General Assembly resolution 41/60 G. He understood that various procedural and organizational questions relating to the Preparatory Committee's work, including the election of the Chairman and other officers of the Committee, were still the subject of consultations and that it seemed to be generally recognized that, under such circumstances, the current meeting should be devoted to consideration of the dates of the Committee's substantive session in 1987. He also understood that consultations on the questions to which he had just referred would continue until the opening of the Committee's substantive session.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (A/AC.230/1)

3. The agenda was adopted.

DATE OF THE 1987 SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

4. Mr. Martenson (Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs) said he understood that, in the course of the relevant consultations, a general preference for a two-week session in the latter part of May and early June had emerged, since such a time-frame would, inter alia, permit members of the Conference on Disarmament, who would be in New York for the session of the Disarmament Commission, to attend the Preparatory Committee's substantive session. The services required for the Committee's session could be made available from Tuesday, 26 May (Monday, 25 May being a public holiday) to Friday, 5 June 1987. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to hold its substantive session from 26 May to 5 June 1987.

5. It was so decided.

OTHER MATTERS

6. Mr. Prandler (Secretary of the Preparatory Committee), responding to a point raised by the representative of Sweden, said that he wished to provide the Committee with some information on certain organizational aspects of the work of the Preparatory Committees for the General Assembly's first and second special sessions devoted to disarmament.

7. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 31/189 B, the Preparatory Committee for the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to
disarmament had been composed of 54 Member States appointed by the President of the General Assembly on the basis of equitable geographical distribution. The Committee had elected a Chairman (Argentina), 8 Vice-Chairmen (Australia, Bahamas, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Nigeria, Norway, Poland and Yugoslavia) and a Rapporteur (Egypt).

8. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 35/47, the Preparatory Committee for the Second Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament had been composed of 78 Member States appointed by the President of the General Assembly on the basis of equitable geographical distribution. The Committee had elected a Chairman (Nigeria), 13 Vice-Chairmen (Australia, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Benin, Bulgaria, German Democratic Republic, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, Peru and Yugoslavia) and a Rapporteur (Turkey).

9. Further information on various procedural and organizational questions concerning the work of the Preparatory Committees for the General Assembly's first and second special sessions devoted to disarmament could be found in the reports of those Committees to the General Assembly (A/S-10/1 and A/S-12/1).

10. Mr. EDIS (United Kingdom) said that the dates set for the Preparatory Committee's 1987 substantive session were acceptable to his delegation. His delegation was surprised at the low-key start to the Committee's proceedings, however. Although the third special session was a major event, there was an apparent lack of interest in the task before the Committee. There were important matters which must be discussed without delay, particularly since there would be fewer preparatory meetings than for past special sessions. There was no need for extensive new documentation, as a great deal of documentation was already available. Since there was considerable vagueness about the dates for the third special session, consultations on that matter, as well as on the issue of the General Committee, should be stepped up.

The meeting rose at 11.10 a.m.