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

Third session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 11th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 25 January 1988, at 11 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. AHMAD (Pakistan)

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The meeting was called to order at 11.25 a.m.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The Chairman declared the session open.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (A/AC.230/4)

2. The provisional agenda contained in document A/AC.230/4 was adopted.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

3. The CHAIRMAN said that the Bureau was recommending that the Committee should devote the next two meetings to a general exchange of views on what might be expected to emerge from the third special session, so as to establish the broad parameters for the Committee's subsequent work. In accordance with the recommendation contained in paragraph 12 of the Committee's report (A/42/46), one meeting would be set aside for statements by representatives of non-governmental organizations; four meetings would be devoted to attempting to identify the elements to be agreed upon under each substantive agenda item starting with item 10, the understanding being that item 11 would be left aside for the time being. The Bureau would meet on Friday to consider further the organization of the Committee's work and make appropriate recommendations.

4. Mr. AKALOVSKY (United States of America) said that it was his delegation's understanding that the agreed elements would consist of a brief indication of specific aspects of issues under various agenda items which delegations had agreed on at the Committee's previous session. His delegation would oppose any detailed drafting on those issues, which would pre-empt the work of the third special session and turn the Preparatory Committee's meetings into a minisession. He asked whether the Chairman had reached the same understanding.

5. The CHAIRMAN replied that there would be a brief description of the issues that would have to be tackled under each agenda item but that there would be no narrative.

6. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee agreed to the organization of work he had proposed.

7. It was so decided.

REMAINING ORGANIZATIONAL AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS RELATING TO THE THIRD SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEVOTED TO DISARMAMENT

8. The CHAIRMAN recalled that, in General Assembly resolution 42/45, paragraph 3, the Assembly had requested the Committee to include in the agenda of the third special session an item entitled "Relationship between disarmament and development, in the light of the action programme adopted at the International Conference". It
was his understanding that the Committee wished to include that item in the provisional agenda that it would recommend to the special session.

9. **Mr. Akalovsky** (United States of America) recalled that his delegation had not participated in the adoption, and did not consider itself bound by the terms, of the resolution. In its view there was no organic relationship between disarmament of the developed countries and the economic development of the less developed countries. Accordingly, it objected to the inclusion of the item.

10. The **Chairman** recalled that the Department for Disarmament Affairs had sought clarification of some of the legal and procedural issues, including the question of the inclusion of a new item in the provisional agenda of the third special session of the General Assembly, as requested by the General Assembly at its forty-second session. According to the legal opinion provided by the Office of Legal Affairs, the Preparatory Committee, as a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly, was required to follow the instructions given to it by its parent organ. In the practice of the United Nations, a request from a principal organ to its subsidiary organ that an item be placed on its agenda was considered to be a directive which the subsidiary organ must follow. The same would apply to the "directive" of the Assembly to the Preparatory Committee to include a particular item in the provisional agenda of the special session. The Office of Legal Affairs had further stated that inclusion of the item would not prejudice the authority of the special session to determine its own agenda, which might or might not correspond to the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee.

11. Accordingly, while noting the position of the representative of the United States, he said that, unless he heard anything to the contrary, he would take it that the Committee agreed to include an additional item in the provisional agenda being recommended to the special session, pursuant to the request contained in resolution 42/45, paragraph 3.

12. It was so decided.

13. **Mr. Akalovsky** (United States of America) said that the fact that his delegation had remained silent did not necessarily mean that it agreed with the legal opinion. The Preparatory Committee should work on the basis of consensus on all issues. He would not obstruct the Committee's work. However, the fact that the Committee had taken note of his delegation's position did not mean that his delegation would be prepared to accept any working group or group of any kind set up to deal with that particular issue.

14. The **Chairman** pointed out that a number of issues pertaining to the organization of work of the third special session remained outstanding; he would revert to them in due course.

15. **Mr. Edis** (United Kingdom) recalled that a number of other resolutions adopted at the forty-second session of the General Assembly requests that certain subjects should be considered by the third special session. The Secretariat might perhaps
(Mr. Edis, United Kingdom)

draw up a list of those resolutions, giving the numbers, titles and the relevant operative paragraphs.

16. The CHAIRMAN said that that would be done. Responding to a comment from Mr. Teja (India), he said that the Committee would make every effort to deal expeditiously with the remaining organizational matters.

The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.