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GenerAL
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Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament

Third session

Summary record of the 19th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 8 September 1977, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. ORTIZ de ROZAS (Argentina)

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77-56536
The meeting was called to order at 3.45 p.m.

DRAFT PROGRESS REPORT

1. Mr. ALFARAGI (Egypt), Rapporteur, drew the attention of the Committee to Conference Room Paper No. 11, which contained the draft progress report on the work of the current session. A number of drafting changes and additions to the draft report were contained in two corrigenda which had also been circulated to the members of the Committee.

2. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should consider the draft progress report paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1-2

3. Paragraphs 1-2 were approved.

Paragraph 3

4. Mr. JAROSZEK (Poland) proposed the addition of the following sentence at the end of the paragraph: 'Views to that effect were also expressed at the sessions of the Preparatory Committee and are reflected in the summary records annexed to this report.'

5. Mr. BROWN (Australia) said that his delegation would not formally object to the Polish amendment. He noted, however, that the paragraph did not mention the letter on the question of representation from the Group of Western European and Other States indicating that that group had selected its members on the understanding that no changes would be made in the allocation of seats in the Committee; it might therefore be inappropriate to retain the paragraph as it stood.

6. The CHAIRMAN noted that the information contained in paragraph 3 had been drawn from document A/31/475, which contained the text of the letter written by the Chairman of the Eastern European Group. While that document also reported the views of the Group of Western European and Other States, it contained no mention of a specific letter from that group.

7. Paragraph 3, as amended, was approved.

Paragraph 4

8. Mr. ALIEN (Secretary of the Committee), referring to the question of replies from Member States to the note verbale of the Secretary-General, said that on 9 June 1977 the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China had informed the Centre for Disarmament in an oral communication that the position of the Chinese Government on the question of a special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament had been put forward by its representatives at the 25th and 50th meetings of the First Committee of the General Assembly at the latter's thirty-first session and that that position had remained unchanged.

9. Paragraph 4 was approved.
10. Paragraphs 5-8 were approved.

11. **Mr. VALDERRAMA** (Philippines) observed that the phrase "in order to facilitate the knowledge of non-governmental organizations' contributions" was somewhat vague and proposed that it should be replaced by the phrase "in order to facilitate dissemination of information on the contributions of non-governmental organizations".

12. **Paragraph 9, as amended, was approved.**

13. **Paragraphs 10-19 were approved.**

14. **The CHAIRMAN** said that he would send a letter to the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences, asking for account to be taken of the recommendation approved by the Preparatory Committee concerning the phases of construction work in the General Assembly hall.

15. **Paragraph 20 was approved.**

16. **The CHAIRMAN** proposed inserting a new paragraph before paragraph 21 stating that the Committee felt that the General Assembly would wish to continue its previous practice of considering the President of the regular session to be the President of the special session. That would require inserting an additional subheading, "Presidents", to be numbered 3, and renumbering the subsequent subheadings and paragraphs.

17. **It was so decided.**

18. **Paragraph 21 was approved.**

19. **Paragraphs 22-26 were approved.**

20. **Mr. VALDERRAMA** (Philippines) proposed adding the words "adoption of" after the words "The Committee recommends".

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21. Paragraph 27, as amended, was approved.

Paragraphs 28-29

22. Paragraphs 28-29 were approved.

Paragraph 30

23. In reply to a question by the representative of India, the CHAIRMAN said that the Preparatory Committee would transform itself into a working group at its fourth session and that all officers of the working group would be the same as those of the Committee itself unless the Committee took a decision to the contrary.

24. Paragraph 30 was approved.

Paragraph 31

25. Mr. HAMILTON (Sweden) proposed adding the following words at the end of the paragraph: "and further recommends that the final decisions in this respect be taken by the special session".

26. Paragraph 31, as amended, was approved.

Paragraph 32

27. Paragraph 32 was approved.

28. The CHAIRMAN, replying to a question by the representative of Yugoslavia, said that the reference in Conference Room Paper No. 12 under the heading "Organization of the future work of the Preparatory Committee" to a possible meeting of the Committee during the thirty-second session of the General Assembly had not been included under section IV (B) of the draft report because the matter was not one requiring a decision by the General Assembly.

29. The first reading of the draft progress report had now been completed. The report, as amended, would be adopted formally at the next meeting.

The meeting rose at 5 p.m.