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

Fourth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 29th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 13 February 1978, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. ORTIZ de ROZAS (Argentina)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.45 p.m.

ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE SPECIAL SESSION

Mr. JAROSZUK (Poland) said that the Committee's current session was characterized by a constructive atmosphere, a spirit of co-operation and the desire of members to contribute to the elaboration of realistic and action-oriented drafts of the principal documents to be adopted at the special session. He felt, however, that the Committee should further accelerate its work in order to fulfil its mandate.

The Committee's discussions so far confirmed that the success of disarmament negotiations required goodwill and a readiness to compromise in seeking solutions which took account of the interests of all parties. The history of disarmament negotiations revealed that adherence to the principle of equal and undiminished security for all parties was essential to the conclusion of viable agreements. That was also true of current disarmament negotiations in various forums, hampered as they were by a lack of political will on the part of some participants seeking unilateral advantages.

As could be seen from document A/AC.187/75, the greatest number of initiatives designed to curb the arms race and promote genuine disarmament had been submitted by the socialist States. Today they continued to attach particular importance to such areas as nuclear disarmament and the emergence of new weapons of mass destruction, where continuation of the arms race might jeopardize mankind's very existence.

Poland supported the important disarmament proposals put forward by the Soviet Union on the occasion of the sixtieth anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. His delegation hoped that the documents of the special session would reflect those proposals, as well as those referred to in the Soviet working paper A/AC.187/98, especially the proposals for the simultaneous cessation by all States of the production of nuclear weapons and the gradual reduction by the nuclear Powers of their accumulated stocks of weapons. Poland was deeply concerned over the plans to develop and deploy the neutron bomb, a particularly inhuman weapon of mass destruction. If implemented, those plans would escalate the arms race. His delegation therefore fully supported the Soviet proposal recently addressed to Western States to agree on a mutual renunciation of the production of the neutron bomb.

The importance which Poland attached to the successful outcome of the special session and its determination to take an active part in the preparations had recently been reiterated by the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party, Edward Gierek, and in talks held at the highest level between Poland and other socialist, non-aligned and Western States.

Poland would make every effort to ensure that the special session was productive. Yet, while recognizing the significance of the special session per se,
it strongly believed that the session should also become a major step towards convening a world disarmament conference. Such a conference, as the most universal and authoritative forum, vested with powers to take effective decisions, would be the best instrument to translate General Assembly resolutions into practical measures. A concerted decision should therefore be taken at the special session to convene a world disarmament conference on a specific, not too distant date, and a preparatory committee should be established for that purpose. Such a conference would be an extremely important element which could not be overlooked in any programme of action on disarmament or in documents on the machinery of disarmament negotiations.

Poland strongly believed that the political and material prerequisites existed for reversing the arms race and making decisive progress in disarmament. The pace of such progress would depend on many factors, especially the further consolidation of détente and the willingness of all States to display a constructive approach to disarmament negotiations.

The CHAIRMAN announced that the Committee would continue its discussions as a Working Group.

The meeting rose at 3.55 p.m.