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

Organizational session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 3rd MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York
on Wednesday, 30 March 1977, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. ORTIZ de ROZAS (Argentina)

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The meeting was called to order at 11.10 a.m.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

1. The CHAIRMAN announced that the representatives of the following countries had been elected Vice-Chairmen of the Preparatory Committee by consensus: Nigeria (African Group), Iran and Japan (Asian Group), Bahamas (Latin American Group), Poland and Yugoslavia (Eastern European Group), Australia and Norway (Group of Western European and other States). He thanked those delegations which had withdrawn their candidacies in order to make a consensus possible.

2. Mr. TILLUEGA (Panama) expressed his appreciation to the delegations which had withdrawn their candidacies for the post of Vice-Chairman, particularly the delegation of Romania, which in the past had made a significant contribution to the cause of disarmament and arms control.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

3. Mr. FLORIN (German Democratic Republic) said that the most vital task facing the international community at the present time was to remove the danger of another world war. In the Bucharest Declaration adopted in November 1976, his country, together with the other Warsaw Pact countries, had restated its readiness to co-operate actively with other States to remove that danger. The General Assembly, at its thirty-first session, had adopted a number of important decisions on disarmament and arms control and it was now up to the Preparatory Committee to ensure that efforts to implement those decisions were successful.

4. His country would do all it could to help guarantee the success of the special session of the General Assembly in creating the conditions for fuller and more effective disarmament and arms control. Political détente had made it possible to adopt international agreements on that subject, and those agreements must now be used to prevent further preparations for war, to promote international peace and security, and to free countries from the expenditure involved in participation in the arms race. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of his country had already described his Government's precise position on that issue in a letter addressed to the Secretary-General on 18 March 1977.

5. Because the problems of arms control and disarmament were extremely complex and directly affected the security of States, the Preparatory Committee must adopt a very realistic approach even in its procedural decisions. In that connexion, his country deeply regretted the fact that the Eastern European group of countries was not adequately represented in the Committee despite the major initiatives which it had taken to promote arms control and disarmament. A temporary solution to that state of affairs had been provided by the decision to permit non-members to participate in the work of the Preparatory Committee, but in his view the membership of the Committee should be reviewed by the General Assembly at its thirty-second session.

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6. With regard to the decision-making procedures to be followed by the Preparatory Committee, his delegation thought that the Committee should draw on the experience of meetings of other United Nations bodies, particularly the sixth and seventh special sessions of the General Assembly, and apply the rule of consensus wherever possible. Since the success of the special session depended on the co-operation of all States, the Preparatory Committee should try to set an example and show a constructive spirit by continuing to work on the basis of consensus.

7. His delegation had serious reservations concerning the participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Committee and the special session. General Assembly resolution 31/189 B made no mention of participation by non-governmental organizations and referred only to participation by Member States.

8. His delegation would do all it could to contribute to the success of the Committee's work so that the Committee could fulfil the hopes placed in it with regard to the special session.

9. Mr. DATCU (Romania) said that his delegation would do all it could to contribute positively and impartially to the success of the Committee's work and to the preparations for the special session.

10. His delegation fully agreed that the rules of procedure proposed by the Chairman would enable all delegations to participate democratically in the work of the Preparatory Committee. Such participation was vital, for the task of disarmament concerned every member of the international community.

11. Mr. LEONARD (United States of America) said that his delegation hoped that the work of the Preparatory Committee would give a positive stimulus to United Nations disarmament activities and was determined to work in a spirit of co-operation with all members of the Committee in order to fulfil that hope. He drew the Committee's attention to the recent statement made by the President of the United States on the occasion of his visit to the United Nations, in which he had underlined the commitment of the United States to work towards real progress in arms control and disarmament.

12. His delegation endorsed the Chairman's remarks concerning the need for decisions to be adopted by consensus both within the Preparatory Committee and at the special session. Disarmament was a highly sensitive issue, and if the special session devoted to disarmament was to lend new impetus to the disarmament process, the decisions of both the Preparatory Committee and the special session must enjoy widespread support, particularly that of the major Powers. The approach adopted by the Chairman would help to promote a spirit of co-operation at the special session.

13. Mr. MJUSEZINOVIC (Yugoslavia) pledged his delegation's full co-operation in the work of preparing for the special session devoted to disarmament, which, as the Secretary-General had stated in his opening statement, represented a landmark in the
search for international peace and understanding. In proposing the convening of a special session, the non-aligned countries had believed that they were expressing the general interest of the entire international community in ending the arms race and in involving all Member States in the search for solutions and agreements which would mark the beginning of the end of the arms race and open the way to general and complete disarmament.

14. Like the Chairman, he believed that the preparations for the special session would be successful if all members of the Preparatory Committee were truly concerned to see an end to the threat of a nuclear holocaust. His delegation fully agreed with the Chairman's suggestions concerning the organization and rules of procedure of the Preparatory Committee. In that connexion, he was confident that the Secretariat would be able to start work immediately on compiling the replies submitted by Governments in response to General Assembly resolution 31/189 B, so that all Governments' views could be incorporated into a Secretariat document in time for the May session. His delegation agreed that the Bureau should discuss the question of participation by non-governmental organizations before the Committee took a decision on that subject. With regard to participation by States, all countries with an interest in disarmament should be able to contribute to the preparations for the special session.

15. Mr. MACAULAY (Nigeria) said he was confident that the delegation of Romania would be able to contribute significantly to the work of the Committee, even though it would not be a member of the Bureau. He was also confident that given co-operation, the Committee would be able to fulfil its collective responsibility to guarantee the survival of mankind. The Committee's task was extremely complex, and it would be utopian to expect disarmament to happen overnight. However, that should not prevent the international community from trying to follow up the initiatives proposed by the non-aligned countries, which had now become a collective responsibility.

16. Mr. BENSMAIL (Algeria) said that his delegation appreciated the Romanian representative's co-operation in withdrawing his candidacy for the Bureau. It also agreed that the participation of non-governmental organizations should be decided on the basis of recommendations to be submitted by the Bureau.

17. Mr. CASSELL (Liberia) said that the Preparatory Committee should appeal to the super-Powers to reach an understanding on disarmament, because they would be providing the guidelines for all work in that area. Success in the talks currently taking place in Moscow would also greatly expedite the Committee's work. His delegation favoured the participation of non-governmental organizations without the right of vote, but only in the case of important, internationally recognized bodies which were seriously involved in disarmament matters. He also wished to thank the Romanian delegate for withdrawing his candidacy.

18. Mr. HEFEBURN (Bahamas) said that his delegation was prepared to support any procedures which would contribute to the attainment of complete disarmament.
19. **Mr. TURKMEN** (Turkey) said that his delegation would do its utmost to ensure the success of the Preparatory Committee's work and hoped that the special session would lend new impetus to disarmament efforts. The call for a special session reflected the desire of all States to avert the dangers arising from a continuing arms race. Careful preparations were required in order to ensure success, and consensus should be the basis for the adoption of decisions.

20. Useful experience could be provided by non-member States, and his delegation would welcome their participation without the right of vote. Care should be taken not to duplicate the work of the First Committee and other United Nations bodies. His delegation hoped that the work of the Preparatory Committee and of the special session would help to curb the arms race and promote peace and security: it felt that all States had a role to play in achieving those ends.

21. **Mr. MULYE** (India) said that his delegation fully supported the decision-making procedures which had been adopted by the Preparatory Committee at its 1st meeting.

22. **Mr. PALMA** (Peru) thanked the representative of Romania for withdrawing his candidacy and expressed his delegation's full support for the decision-making procedures adopted at the 1st meeting. His delegation also favoured the participation of non-members.

23. **Mr. HARRY** (Australia) said his delegation felt that non-members could make a useful contribution to the Committee's work. Non-governmental organizations also had an essential contribution to make, at least through written submissions if not as participants in the debates, and his delegation would welcome suggestions from the Chairman regarding the mechanical handling of such submissions. He also suggested that if the Committee's work could not be completed at the May session, consultations should be held with the Secretariat regarding the possibility of extending the September session by a few days.

24. The **CHAIRMAN** said that such an extension would be necessary, especially in view of the time required to produce the progress report, and suggested that the Secretariat should make available in September any days that might have been saved by then.

25. **Mr. SUCHARIPA** (Austria) said that his delegation supported the statement made by the Chairman at the 1st meeting regarding the decision-making procedure and future work of the Preparatory Committee. Non-governmental organizations could make a useful contribution, and his delegation would welcome proposals regarding the procedures for their participation. His delegation also agreed that the September session should be extended.

26. **Mr. HAMILTON** (Sweden) said that internationally recognized non-governmental organizations could play an important role in enlightening public opinion and could provide valuable input into the deliberations on disarmament. Careful consideration should therefore be given to finding some practical way for them to participate.
If a decision on the matter could not be taken at the current session, the Chairman, in consultation with the Bureau and with members, should propose a solution for consideration at the next session. His delegation agreed that the September session should be extended by a few days.

27. The CHAIRMAN said that he had received a number of proposals regarding the participation of non-governmental organizations and that a consensus on how they might contribute seemed to be close at hand. A number of delegations had suggested that the Bureau should deal with the matter, and Sweden had expressed the view that the decision could be postponed. He therefore suggested that the Bureau should consider the matter and submit recommendations for consideration on the first day of the May session.

28. It was so decided.

29. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that replies from Governments would be circulated as they arrived.

30. He requested the five geographical groups to designate one or two persons to act as liaison between the plenary meetings of the groups and the Chairman.

31. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the organizational work of the Preparatory Committee had been concluded.

32. It was so decided.

33. The CHAIRMAN asked the Secretariat to take note of the Preparatory Committee's wish to use the time saved for an extension of the September session.

The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.