Thirty-sixth session
FIRST COMMITTEE
Agenda item 55

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Study on Conventional Disarmament

Administrative implications of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/36/L.3

Observations by the Committee on Conferences in accordance with paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 35/10 A

1. In accordance with paragraph 6 of resolution 35/10 A, by which the General Assembly had decided that all proposals affecting the schedule of conferences and meetings made at sessions of the General Assembly should be reviewed by the Committee on Conferences when administrative implications were being considered under the requirements of rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, the Committee on Conferences met to review the implications of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/36/L.3.

2. By this draft resolution the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to initiate the work of the Expert Group on a Study on Conventional Disarmament in accordance with the provisions contained in paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 35/156 A and to submit a progress report on the study to the General Assembly at its Second Special Session Devoted to Disarmament and a final report at its thirty-eighth session. The Committee on Conferences was informed that this Expert Group would hold four sessions in the course of the biennium 1982-1983 as follows:

(a) 12 to 16 April 1982 at Headquarters;

(b) Two weeks in August/September 1982 at Headquarters;
(c) 21 March to 1 April 1983 at Headquarters;

(d) 18 to 29 July 1983 at Headquarters.

At each session the Expert Group would require two daily meetings, i.e. one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

3. The Committee discussed in detail the proposed organizational arrangements for the Expert Group. Some delegations suggested that in view of the dates of the Second Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament, the holding of one substantive session at an earlier date than August/September 1982 would be preferable as the April 1982 session would be organizational in nature. Other delegations pointed to a potential overlap in the mandate for this Expert Group and the possible work programme of the Disarmament Commission; and questioned the need of determining, at this point, a meeting schedule for 1983.

4. In view of explanations provided by a representative of the Centre for Disarmament, the Committee however decided to take note of the arrangements set out in paragraph 2 above and to recommend them to the First Committee and to the General Assembly.