VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 46th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ALATAS (Indonesia)

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CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION UPON DRAFT RESOLUTIONS ON DISARMAMENT AGENDA ITEMS

The CHAIRMAN: This afternoon, the Committee will proceed to take action on the remaining draft resolutions in cluster II.

Mr. ELSE (Federal Republic of Germany): During the past week or so my delegation has been conducting a series of consultations on draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.74 on prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters, entitled "Prevention of nuclear war in the nuclear age". Those consultations have revealed a great number of interesting points that could facilitate future dialogue on this subject. However, they revealed also the complex nature of the issue. It has become clear that the item on prevention of nuclear war should neither be dealt with in an atmosphere of controversy nor be pushed through at one stroke. We feel, on the contrary, that this item requires further and substantial consideration.

The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.74 have therefore decided that that draft resolution should not be put to a vote. They have been guided by a spirit of responsibility regarding future discussions on the subject, and they want to make their contribution to the creation of the favourable climate they deem necessary for any future dialogue.

Mr. CAMPORA (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): The representative of the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr. Elbe, has just spoken of the prevention of nuclear war, stating that it is necessary to create a favourable climate for future dialogue on this question. The delegation of Argentina shares that view and undertakes to contribute to that end to the best of its ability.
I wish to bring to the attention of the First Committee the fact that draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.65 failed to take note of the report of the Secretary-General (A/40/498) on the prevention of nuclear war. To rectify that omission, the sponsors of the draft resolution have prepared a revised text (A/C.1/40/L.65/Rev.1) which includes a final preambular paragraph reading as follows:

"Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General",

and a footnote giving the reference to "A/40/498".

Otherwise the draft resolution is unchanged.
Mr. VIKIS (Cyprus): I wish to announce that draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.23/Rev.1 is withdrawn.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will now take a decision on the remaining draft resolution in cluster II, draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.65/Rev.1. The draft resolution has 22 sponsors and was introduced by the representative of Argentina at the 36th meeting of the First Committee, on 13 November 1985. The sponsors are Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cameroon, Colombia, Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, the German Democratic Republic, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Romania, Sudan, Uruguay, Viet Nam and Yugoslavia. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: France, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America
Abstaining: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Turkey

Draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.65/Rev.1 was adopted by 110 votes to 3, with 15 abstentions.*

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the representative of the United Kingdom who wishes to explain his vote.

Mr. CROMARTIE (United Kingdom): My delegation was unable to support draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.65/Rev.1 because of the call in it for negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on the prevention of nuclear war. That call overlooks the fact that a number of practical measures have already been taken to prevent the accidental outbreak of nuclear war. In addition, in our view, and as expressed in draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.74, the best way to prevent nuclear war, and indeed all war, is to respect the provisions of the United Nations Charter.

We note with interest that the joint statement issued earlier today in Geneva by the Soviet Union and the United States spoke about the subject in the following terms:

"The sides, having discussed key security issues, and conscious of the special responsibility of the Soviet Union and the United States for maintaining peace, have agreed that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought. Recognizing that any conflict between the Soviet Union and the United States could have catastrophic consequences, they emphasized the importance of preventing any war between them, whether nuclear or conventional. They will not seek to achieve military superiority."

We thoroughly endorse that approach.

*Subsequently, the delegation of Ireland advised the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.
Our vote on draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.65/Rev.1 does not indicate any unwillingness on our part to have a full discussion of the subject of the prevention of nuclear war and all related matters during the forthcoming session of the Conference on Disarmament. Indeed, we would welcome this, and will approach this item at the Conference in a constructive spirit.

The report of the Secretary-General on the subject, which identifies a certain common ground, would provide an excellent basis for such a full and frank discussion.

The CHAIRMAN: The First Committee has thus concluded its consideration of and action upon the draft resolutions in cluster 11.
The CHAIRMAN: I now call upon the representative of Egypt, who wishes to introduce a draft resolution.

Mr. ABDEL WAHAB (Egypt): It gives me great pleasure to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.68/Rev.1. I do so on behalf of the sponsors, the delegations of Algeria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cameroon, China, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Romania, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zimbabwe and Egypt. After extensive consultations with the sponsors of draft resolutions A/C.1/40/L.1/Rev.1, L.4, L.45/Rev.1 and L.22/Rev.1, we now bring to the Committee a new text in which we have tried hard to meet the concerns of all the sponsors of the aforementioned draft resolutions.

I shall indicate the changes introduced into draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.68, which are as follows: in the fourth line of the ninth preambular paragraph, we have introduced a comma after the word "security," deleted the word "and," and added, after the word "disarmament," the words:

"and risk creating obstacles to the development of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space,"

In the third line of the seventeenth preambular paragraph, we have added the word "multilateral" after the word "sole," so that the phrase reads: "the sole multilateral negotiating body".

In the eighteenth preambular paragraph, we have used the word "Mindful" instead of the words "Expressing concern" at the beginning of the paragraph, and we have deleted the fourth line, "in accordance with resolution 39/49 of 12 December 1984".
A new operative paragraph has been added as paragraph 5, which reads as follows:

"Requests the Secretary-General to invite Member States to submit their views on the possibility of enhancing international co-operation in the field of preventing an arms race in outer space and the peaceful uses of outer space, including the desirability of establishing relevant machinery for that purpose, and to submit a report to the forty-first session of the General Assembly."

In former paragraph 8, now paragraph 9, we have reverted to the language of last year's draft resolution, so that after "1986" there is a comma, followed by the words "with a view to undertaking negotiations", after which the paragraph remains as it was in L.68.

There have been slight changes of a cosmetic nature made in former paragraph 9, now paragraph 10: in the second line, the word "seriously" has been replaced by the word "intensively", and in the fourth line of the paragraph the word "regularly" has been changed to the word "periodically".

Former paragraph 10, now paragraph 11, has been replaced by the following new language:

"Calls on all States, especially those with major space capabilities, to refrain in their activities relating to outer space, from actions contrary to the observance of the relevant existing treaties or to the objective of preventing an arms race in outer space".

A new operative paragraph 12 has been added, which reads as follows:

"Invites the Member States to transmit to the Secretary-General, not later than 1 April 1986, their views on the scope and content of the UNIDIR study" - which is then mentioned in a footnote as Document A.40/725 - "being undertaken on disarmament problems relating to outer space and the
(Mr. Abdel Wahab, Egypt)

consequences of extending the arms race into outer space; and request the Secretary-General to convey the abovementioned views of the Member States to the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies for consideration in order to enable it, in its capacity of Board of Trustees of UNIDIR, to give the Institute such possible guidance with respect to the elaboration of its study as it may derive from those views".

The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.68/Rev.1 have worked hard to accommodate all concerns and urge the members of the Committee to accept a single draft on the prevention of an arms race in outer space. We have done our utmost to secure the widest possible support. The group of non-aligned countries in the First Committee fully endorse this draft resolution.

Finally, as I stated in introducing draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.68, on 13 November, we hope that this draft resolution will command the support of all in this Committee now that the concerns of all the sponsors of related draft resolutions have been taken into consideration.
PROGRAMME OF WORK

The CHAIRMAN: If the Committee agrees, I propose that we take up cluster 12 tomorrow morning, 22 November. I further propose that we then take up all the remaining draft resolutions held in abeyance, namely, A/C.1/40/L.62/Rev.1, L.70/Rev.1 - or whatever revisions are to come - and L.8, to which an amendment has been distributed in document A/C.1/40/L.80. We shall take up those draft resolutions and, after having thus cleared the deck, will be ready to launch into the draft resolutions on outer space.

If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee agrees to proceed in that manner and that we can adjourn this meeting. Before doing that, however, I should like to remind members that on Monday, 25 November, the Committee will begin its general debate and consideration and action on agenda item 70, namely, "The question of Antarctica". I therefore urge delegations that wish to speak in that debate and that have not yet done so to put their names on the list of speakers as soon as possible in order to enable the Committee to utilize its time as efficiently as possible.

The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.