VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 61st MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ALATAS (Indonesia)

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CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION UPON DRAFT RESOLUTIONS ON INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AGENDA ITEMS

The CHAIRMAN: It is a particular pleasure for me to welcome representatives to this august chamber. I should like to interpret the fact that the First Committee is meeting in the General Assembly Hall this morning as a proper reflection of the importance the international community attaches to the questions of international security and disarmament.

The Committee will this morning proceed to take action on draft resolutions contained in documents A/C.1/40/L.86, L.87 and L.88. I shall first call on those delegations that wish to make statements other than explanations of vote.

Mr. BORG (Malta): On behalf of my delegation and the other sponsors, namely Algeria, Cyprus, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Romania, Tunisia and Yugoslavia, I have the honour to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.86, on agenda item 71, "Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region".

This Committee will recall that in concluding my statement on Monday last I expressed the earnest hope that this Committee would once again reiterate its support of our regional initiatives to hasten the process of peace so that we can all live in a better world dedicated to the well-being of our peoples.

Indeed the draft resolution before us first of all tries to consolidate what we have achieved in these last years when this Committee, and later the General Assembly, has adopted relevant resolutions by consensus. Secondly it tries to highlight the agonizing tension and concern surrounding the Mediterranean region and the tragic situations emanating therefrom. Thirdly it tries to highlight the efforts of the non-aligned Mediterranean States, as well as those of individual
countries, to promote security and to strengthen co-operation in the region as provided for in the Mediterranean chapter of the Helsinki Final Act.

Many times it is said that countries have to help themselves in order to overcome problems facing them. Indeed this is what the non-aligned countries of the Mediterranean are doing. The ninth and tenth paragraphs reflect in a practical and concrete manner the transformation of words into actions. Reference is made to the Vallette meeting held last year and the recent meeting of economic experts, also held in Malta, both of which are vivid examples of the commitments assumed by the Mediterranean non-aligned countries to contribute to peace and security in the region as well as of their efforts to strengthen regional co-operation in various fields.
The Committee will note from the operative part of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/40/L.86 that there are no substantial changes to the operative paragraphs of resolution 39/153 of 17 December 1984. Therefore I shall not elaborate on their contents. It is enough to state that the draft resolution reaffirms some very important principles that have been unanimously accepted and give the Mediterranean countries the possibility of working together to define their future in their own way. At the same time the draft resolution continues to look forward to further communications from all States, including in particular the Mediterranean States, announcing proposals, declarations and recommendations on strengthening peace, security and co-operation in the Mediterranean. The draft resolution would also have the Secretary-General directly involved in developments in the region, in particular to render advice and assistance to the Mediterranean countries in their quest for peace, security and co-operation in the region. The potential contribution of regional organizations is also recognized in this regard. Finally, the draft resolution would request the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-first session, on the basis of all replies received and notifications submitted in the implementation of the present draft resolution, and taking into account the debate on this question at the current session, an updated and comprehensive report on the issue.

In the last few days the sponsors have been involved in very intensive consultations with interested countries, particularly those of the Mediterranean, concerning the draft resolution. All those involved in the consultations recognized that it was of utmost importance that this very important draft resolution be adopted by consensus in order smoothly to advance the process started a few years ago in this body and being actively pursued in other forums. May I hasten to point out that these consultations were carried out in a frank and friendly manner. All the sponsors are highly appreciative of that attitude, which made our efforts
easier. The result of that exercise, in which all points of view were taken into consideration, is contained in document A/C.1/40/L.86.

In conclusion, on behalf of all the sponsors, my delegation recommends that the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/40/L.86 be adopted by consensus.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I call on the Secretary of the Committee, who wishes to make a statement.

**Mr. KHERADI** (Secretary): I should like to draw the Committee's attention to document A/C.1/40/L.89. In subparagraph (a) of the first preambular paragraph, the word "concluded" in the third line should be replaced by the word "conducted" so as to conform with the actual language contained in paragraph 2 of draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.87.

**Mr. GBEHO** (Ghana): I should like to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.87, on the implementation of the collective security provisions of the Charter of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security.

The draft resolution, which is sponsored by Malaysia, Mali, Nigeria, Trinidad and Tobago and Ghana, follows the same pattern and wording in its first to ninth preambular paragraphs as those of resolution 39/158, adopted on the same subject last year. Reference has, of course, been made to resolution 39/158 of 17 December 1984 in the first preambular paragraph in order to update the present draft resolution.

In the tenth preambular paragraph reference is made to the commemorative session of the Security Council held especially to mark the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations. Delegations will no doubt agree that statements made at the ceremony by members of the Security Council, and particularly the President's statement made on behalf of the Council, are of direct relevance and importance to what the present draft resolution and its antecedents seek to achieve in the interest of the more effective maintenance of international peace and security.
The eleventh preambular paragraph seeks to restate the position of the Non-Aligned Movement on the subject of the present draft resolution by recalling the Final Political Declaration of the Movement adopted at the Luanda Ministerial meeting last September.

The twelfth, thirteenth and fourteenth preambular paragraphs remain the same as those of last year's resolution. The twelfth of course again recalls the views of the Nordic countries on the strengthening of the United Nations, which remain germane to the subject-matter of the present draft resolution.

In the operative part of draft resolution L.87, in paragraphs 2 and 5 there are no changes from last year's resolution, except that paragraph 5 would include the item on the agenda of the forty-first session. Changes in dates in paragraphs 3 and 4 are similarly consequential changes since the views which Member States may wish to submit to the Secretary-General are now expected to reach him by 30 April 1986, and the Ad Hoc Committee is now requested to submit a progress report at the forty-first session and a final report to the Assembly at its forty-second session.

As regards paragraph 2, there has been an effort to explain further how the size of the Ad Hoc Committee was put at 54 Member States by including the words "in accordance with the formula of the Economic and Social Council". However, in deference to several delegations that have indicated to us that that creates additional difficulties for them, my delegation would like to delete those words.

The only new element in paragraph 2 are the words "on the basis of consultation already conducted". This has been included to reflect the fact. Paragraph 2 will now read as follows:
(Mr. Gbeho, Ghana)

"Requests the President of the General Assembly, as a matter of urgency, to appoint 54 Member States and on the basis of consultation already conducted to constitute the membership of the Ad Hoc Committee on the basis of equitable geographical representation and including the permanent members of the Security Council."

Although my delegation has deleted the words that made direct reference to the ECOSOC formula, we hope that it is widely understood that there is a gentleman's understanding that it is the ECOSOC formula that has been the subject of consensus among those who have considered the matter.

Finally, may I state that the sponsors of draft resolution L.87 rest their case on the statements they and other delegations have made in the general debate on agenda item 73. We do not intend to repeat them but hope that those who did not see eye to eye with us before are now persuaded to join us in voting in favour of draft resolution L.87.
Mr. DJOKIC (Yugoslavia): Forty years after the founding of the United Nations, lasting peace and security are not yet within our reach. The negative factors characterizing the present international situation are inevitably reflected in the activity of the United Nations. None the less, our adherence to the United Nations Charter remains firm.

Proceeding from that conviction and a desire to promote international security, a group of non-aligned countries has endeavoured to work out a draft resolution on the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security (A/C.1/40/L.88).

This year marks the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of that Declaration. Since then, many changes have occurred in the world, but the causes of the general uncertainty that overshadows all of us have not been removed. The arms race is continuing unabated and is being extended to new areas. The existing crises are not subsiding and are threatening to engulf new areas. Attempts are being made to arrest positive trends and the democratization of international relations and to return them to a historically obsolete framework. The widening gap between developed and developing countries is giving rise to attempts to impose new forms of domination.

Proceeding from this assessment, as well as from the fact that every effort should be made in this United Nations anniversary year to promote international security, the sponsors of the draft resolution have indicated the principles that must be respected in order to achieve lasting peace and security. The sponsors have also, inter alia, pointed to the need to enhance the effectiveness of the Security Council and to strengthen the role of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General in accordance with the Charter.

On behalf of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.88, which I had the honour of introducing, I should like to submit two small revisions. The first is
in operative paragraph 8 and the second follows operative paragraph 16. After the last word of operative paragraph 8, we propose adding the words "in accordance with the Charter," so that the paragraph would read:

"Calls upon all States, taking into account the views expressed at the commemorative session of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations, to promote the role of the General Assembly of the United Nations and the Secretary-General in the field of the strengthening of international security, in accordance with the Charter".

The sponsors would also propose the addition of a new paragraph following operative paragraph 16. That new paragraph would read as follows:

"Invites Member States to submit their views on the question of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-first session on the basis of the replies received".

In fact, the paragraph I am now introducing is the same as the paragraph contained in the resolution the General Assembly adopted last year on the same subject. All we are suggesting, therefore, is that we invite States Members to submit their views to the Secretary-General. I hope that these two revisions will not create difficulties for members of the Committee.

Finally, I should like to say that draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.88 is sponsored by Algeria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Congo, Egypt, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Madagascar, Mali, Nigeria, Pakistan, Romania, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Yugoslavia. I should like again to express our sincere hope that the draft resolution will meet with the widest possible support of members of the First Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: I shall now call upon those members who wish to make statements in explanation of vote before the voting.
Mr. JESSEL (France) (interpretation from French): I have asked to speak to explain my delegation's vote on draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.88. Last year, the French delegation voted in favour of resolution 39/155 on the strengthening of international security. However, certain portions of the text of that resolution did pose problems for us and were not in keeping with the views of my Government. Last year's positive vote, therefore, was a demonstration of great goodwill on our part.

This year, the text of the draft resolution more or less copies that of last year, but there are certain changes. Those changes only add to the problems we had with last year's text. First, operative paragraph 5 mentions military disengagement. The intentions are, I am sure, praiseworthy; however, this matter is treated in a way that has two serious shortcomings. First, it deals exclusively with the great Powers and their alliances, when there are in the world today cases in which military disengagement would be just as desirable and in which the great Powers are in no way involved. No distinction is made between existing engagements that are acts of aggression and those that involve legitimate collective self-defence.

Secondly, the twelfth preambular paragraph, which mentions the role of the United Nations, goes further than the one relating to the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations.

Lastly, operative paragraphs 8 and 9, which concern the roles of the General Assembly and the Security Council, create thorny legal problems that should have been studied more carefully.

For all those reasons, the French delegation feels compelled to abstain in the voting on draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.88.
Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The Soviet delegation wishes to make the following statement in explanation of its votes on draft resolutions under international security agenda items.

First of all, the Soviet delegation supports draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.88 on review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security. The draft resolution takes note of the important role the Declaration has played in strengthening peace and security and expresses the Assembly's concern at the continued escalation of tension in the world, the escalation of the arms race, particularly in nuclear weapons, and the danger of its extension into outer space. The draft resolution rightly expresses awareness that in the present-day world there is no alternative to a policy of peaceful coexistence, détente and co-operation. We share the concern expressed in the draft resolution at the increasing recourse to the use or threat of use of force, military intervention and interference, aggression and foreign occupation, destabilization and other means of economic and political pressure which infringe the territorial integrity, sovereignty and security of States.

The draft resolution contains an important paragraph reaffirming the legitimacy of the struggle of peoples under colonial domination, foreign occupation or racist régimes and urging Member States to increase their support for and solidarity with those peoples and their national liberation movements for the total elimination of colonialism, racism and apartheid. We agree too with the draft resolution's statement that the struggles of peoples for independence and human dignity must not be viewed as falling within the context of East-West confrontation. We support the appeal to all States to abide strictly, in their
international relations, by their commitment to the Charter to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations in the strengthening of international security, as envisaged in the Charter.

We agree with the thrust of paragraph 5, and wish to stress that the new programme of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union now under wide discussion in our country states the need to reduce military preparations, to freeze weapons and military forces in the most volatile regions of the world, and to prevent the division of the world into military groupings. The Soviet Union is in favour of eliminating foreign military presence - above all, foreign military bases - on the soil of other States. It is well known that the Soviet Union and other socialist countries have taken initiatives to reduce the level of military confrontation in Europe and to remove from certain parts of the world's oceans ships bearing nuclear weapons. We are in favour of creating in Europe a corridor free from nuclear weapons and of establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones and zones of peace in various parts of the world. Implementation of those measures would certainly be an important contribution to the strengthening of international security.

Secondly, with regard to draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.86 on the strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region, the Soviet Union, as a Black Sea Power and hence a Mediterranean Power, supports the efforts of States of the region, above all the non-aligned States, to reduce tension and build confidence and security. In our view, that is the only correct and reasonable course. Of course, the legitimate interests of coastal States must be taken into account. The fundamental relationship between the security of the Mediterranean region and that of adjacent areas has been affirmed in General Assembly resolution 37/118.
Thirdly, the Soviet delegation, unfortunately, will have to vote against draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.87. In its provisions calling for the constitution of the Ad Hoc Committee, the draft resolution in our view runs counter to the provisions of the United Nations Charter, since questions of the implementation of the collective security provisions of the Charter fall within the purview of the Security Council. As members know, the Security Council deals with matters connected with enhancement of its effectiveness, and hence with matters of collective security.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.86. This draft resolution has eight sponsors and was introduced by the representative of Malta at the 61st meeting of the First Committee, on 6 December 1985. The sponsors are Algeria, Cyprus, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malta, Morocco, Romania, Tunisia and Yugoslavia. The sponsors have requested that the draft resolution be adopted without a vote.

If there is no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to adopt the draft resolution.

Draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.86 was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: The First Committee will now take action on draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.87 as orally revised. The draft resolution has five sponsors and was introduced by the representative of Ghana at this meeting. The sponsors are Ghana, Malaysia, Mali, Nigeria and Trinidad and Tobago. This draft resolution has programme budget implications, which are set out in document A/C.1/40/L.89.

A recorded vote has been requested.
A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burma, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Comoros, Congo, Cyprus, Democratic Kampuchea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Afghanistan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Mongolia, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Grenada, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Spain, Sweden, Viet Nam

Draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.87, as orally revised, was adopted by 91 votes to 21, with 16 abstentions.*

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will now take action on draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.88, as orally revised. The draft resolution has 21 sponsors and was introduced by the representative of Yugoslavia at the sixty-first meeting of the First Committee, on 6 December 1985.

The sponsors are Algeria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Congo, Egypt, Ghana, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Madagascar, Mali, Nigeria, Pakistan, Romania, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda, Yugoslavia and Zambia.

*Subsequently the delegation of Burkina Faso advised the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.
A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Comoros, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, 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: None

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Grenada, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.88, as orally revised, was adopted by 102 votes to none, with 25 abstentions.*

The CHAIRMAN: I shall now call upon those delegations that wish to make statements in explanation of vote after the voting.

Mr. LOVING (United States of America): My delegation would like to explain its votes on the draft resolutions the Committee has just adopted.

As it did last year on a similar draft resolution, the United States voted against draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.87 on the implementation of the collective

*Subsequently the delegation of Burkina Faso advised the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.
security provisions of the Charter of the United Nations. That draft resolution again proposes to establish a committee to perform activities already provided for in the mandate of the Special Committee on the United Nations Charter and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization. My delegation regards the latter Committee as the proper body for consideration of these matters. The Sixth Committee has just moved to renew the mandate of that Special Committee for another year. The issues involved are complex and contentious. Progress will not be served by institutional duplication and indeed can only be dangerously complicated by such duplication. We firmly believe that the expenditure of funds for this purpose is neither wise nor necessary. It verges on irrational profligacy.

I should also like to comment on draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.86 on the strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region. The United States joined in the consensus on that draft resolution, despite some reservations. For example, the language in operative paragraph 1 (c) refers to previous United Nations resolutions on the subject. We remind the Committee that the United States does not support all of those resolutions adopted concerning the Mediterranean region. We have acted, however, in a spirit of compromise and with the understanding and belief that the draft resolution will complement efforts in other forums to enhance the security of the States of that region.

My delegation also wishes to make it perfectly clear that our action on that draft resolution in no way implies any support for the 1984 Valletta Declaration, which we consider totally unacceptable.

The United States abstained in the voting on draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.88 on the review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security. While these issues are important ones worthy of consideration, my delegation believes that the text frequently strays into contentious regional issues and takes positions that tend to prejudice the outcome
of negotiations. Moreover, the draft resolution places blame for the deterioration of the international security climate exclusively on the super-Powers, ignoring other conflicts that have in the past two decades produced considerable loss of life and much human suffering.

We note with some interest the new operative paragraph 5, which favours the gradual military disengagement of the great Powers from various parts of the world. We interpret that language as calling again for the withdrawal of the 118,000 Soviet troops now occupying Afghanistan. We hope the Soviet leadership heeds this call, which was also reiterated by an overwhelming majority - 122 to 19 - for the sixth consecutive year in the General Assembly's resolution calling for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan.

Mr. HAIACHEV (Bulgaria): My delegation would like to explain its position on draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.86, "Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region," which the Committee has just adopted without a vote.

The People's Republic of Bulgaria, together with other Member States, has invariably followed with keen concern developments in the Mediterranean area, which remains a region of conflict and tension that threatens peace and security in Europe and throughout the world.
Bulgaria is a Black Sea country and thus a Mediterranean one. In that connection, it is easy to understand why peace and security in the Mediterranean is of immediate significance to Bulgaria's own security. In that respect, we especially value and support the view set forth in General Assembly resolution 37/118 that the security of the Mediterranean and the security of adjacent regions are interdependent. Without belittling the priority of island and littoral States in discussions on the issue of the Mediterranean region, we are of the opinion that the soundest basis for tackling the formidable task facing all of us in this regard would be agreement on the relationship between the security of Europe and that of the Mediterranean viewed in the present context of world security, as stipulated by the Helsinki Final Act.

We also support the provisions of resolutions 38/189 and 39/163, for in our opinion their main thrust can be viewed in the spirit of that positive interrelationship. We appreciate the fact that the present draft resolution too focuses on this important element.

At the same time, we feel that the draft resolution would gain in substance by dealing more directly and comprehensively with the main issue relating to security in the region: the curbing of the arms race. We remain convinced that political will and concerted efforts to reduce military tension in the area, to curb aggression and intervention and to diminish the nuclear threat are what really matters with regard to transforming the area into a zone of peace and co-operation.

In the light of that consideration, and in the light of what I have said, although my delegation has certain reservations, we have not given up hope that we can reach fruitful agreements on the subject. We interpret that draft resolution in that way, and therefore my delegation has joined the consensus on its adoption.
Mr. BAY ROSSI (Italy) (interpretation from French): My delegation participated in the quest for the consensus again achieved on the draft resolution on the strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region, A/C.1/40/L.86. With its special geographical, political and economic position in that region, Italy cannot but welcome a general plan encompassing all the efforts of coastal States to ensure peace and thus strengthen co-operation and mutual confidence in the Mediterranean region.

Mr. BORG (Malta): I should like to join the representative of Italy in thanking delegations for lending their support to the adoption by consensus of the draft resolution on the Mediterranean. My delegation expresses the hope that the process of regional co-operation so assiduously and actively promoted by the non-aligned Mediterranean countries will be matched with a similar approach by all, most particularly by our industrialized neighbours to the north, so as to ensure a close and equitable relationship. We believe that with more understanding and support from all concerned the endeavours of the non-aligned Mediterranean States will flourish and be strengthened to a point where we can truly say that the Mediterranean is a region of peace, security and co-operation.

Mr. ISSACHAROFF (Israel): The delegation of Israel, having joined the consensus on draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.86, would like briefly to explain its position in that regard. Bearing in mind the subject matter of agenda item 71, it is the view of my delegation that the wording and content of the draft resolution could have been greatly improved.

Israel is deeply committed to the principle of strengthening security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region, particularly in view of some events that have occurred there, such as, inter alia, the murder of Israeli civilians at
MR. ISSACHAROFF, ISRAEL

Larnaka, the Achille Lauro affair and the recent hijacking of an Air Egypt aircraft to Valetta. All those tragic instances, in our view, indeed constitute grave dangers for peace and security in the Mediterranean region.

Accordingly, my delegation joined in the consensus on draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.86, in order to emphasize its agreement with the principle mentioned above, despite certain reservations about textual inadequacies and references in that draft resolution.

The CHAIRMAN: In connection with our consideration of agenda item 66, "Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace", which will begin at this afternoon's meeting, a draft resolution is contained in document A/C.1/40/29, which has already been distributed to delegations.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.