Fourteenth Session
FIRST COMMITTEE

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE ONE THOUSAND AND SIXTIETH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 20 November 1959, at 3.55 p.m.

Chairman:

Mr. MATSCH
(Austria)

Suspension of nuclear and thermonuclear tests [59] (continued)

11 September 1959 from the Chairman of the Disarmament
Commission to the Secretary-General [66]

Note: The Official Record of this meeting, i.e. the summary record, will
appear in mimeographed form under the symbol A/C.1/SR.1060.
Delegations may submit corrections to the summary record for
incorporation in the final version which will appear in a printed
volume.
AGENDA ITEM 69

SUSPENSION OF NUCLEAR AND THERMONUCLEAR TESTS (A/4186; A/C.1/L.236/Rev.1, L.237/Rev.1/Add.2) (continued)

The CHAIRMAN: At the close of proceedings last evening, the Chairman announced that explanations of vote on two draft resolutions, documents A/C.1/L.236/Rev.1 and A/C.1/L.237/Rev.1/Add.2, would be heard at today's meeting. At that time several representatives had indicated a desire to explain their votes after the voting had taken place. Now, however, two representatives are on the list of speakers for this afternoon. Others are free to explain their vote if they so wish.

Mr. MUYSER (Luxembourg) (interpretation from French): My delegation wishes to explain not a vote but a failure to vote yesterday; my delegation was absent when the vote was taken on the draft resolutions on the suspension of nuclear and thermonuclear test, documents A/C.1/L.236/Rev.1 and A/C.1/L.237/Rev.1. I have asked for the floor today to explain that our absence at the time the vote was taken was not one of those silences that are pregnant with meaning which often occur in the United Nations. The contrary is true. My delegation wishes to make it very clear that no political or other interpretation should attach to our silence, which was due to the fact that this Committee passed on to the vote last night with a speed which my delegation surely was the only one to deplore. The representatives of Luxembourg were retained by concomitant or imminent votes in other Committees.

If my delegation had been present, it would have been in a position to join with all those who supported resolution A/C.1/L.236/Rev.1, and it would have abstained from voting on A/C.1/L.237/Rev.1.

I would request that my statement be included in the records of the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: The statement of the representative of Luxembourg will be recorded in the minutes of the Committee.
Mr. PETROS (Ethiopia) (interpretation from Spanish): I was unable to explain my vote last night because of the lateness of the hour, and I should like to do so now very briefly.

My delegation voted in favour of the three-Power draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/L.236/Rev.1 because, if it is more limited in scope, it does not contradict the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/L.237/Rev.1/Add.2, of which my delegation has the honour of being one of the co-sponsors along with twenty-two other delegations. We co-sponsored and supported that draft resolution because it is more in keeping with my delegation's approach to the disarmament question and in particular the question of the suspension of nuclear and thermonuclear tests.
seem desirable to have the item on the suspension of nuclear and thermonuclear tests added to the agenda of the plenary meeting, in which case the item would be dealt with tomorrow morning.

If there is no objection, the Secretariat will take the appropriate action as regards that item.

The next item on our agenda is the report of the Disarmament Commission; letter dated 11 September 1959 from the Chairman of the Disarmament Commission to the Secretary-General. It was my intention to turn to this item as soon as we had completed the previous one but, through an oversight on the part of the Secretary of the Committee, the next item did not appear in today's Journal. The Chair wishes to apologize to the Committee for the oversight and to inquire, notwithstanding the technicality, whether representatives are prepared now to begin discussion of this item. Being master of its procedure, the Committee can decide to take up this matter now.

Representatives will have seen the draft resolution distributed this morning and contained in document A/C.1/L.242, submitted by India and Yugoslavia. It may be that the co-sponsors are ready to introduce their proposal this afternoon, which would help in the consideration of this item. The Chair is, however, in the hands of the Committee in this matter, and I invite comments.

Mr. CORREA (Ecuador) (interpretation from Spanish): I simply asked for the floor in order to tell the Secretariat that it might be useful to have this draft distributed to all delegations, as some of us have not as yet received it. I think it would greatly facilitate matters if this document were distributed.

The CHAIRMAN: If the Committee decides to take up this matter, the distribution of the document in Spanish will be made immediately. Are there any other comments?

The Chair interprets the silence of the Committee as approval of the Chair's suggestion.
AGENDA ITEM 66


Mr. JHA (India): I shall be very brief. I am taking the floor just to make a formal introduction of the draft resolution submitted in the name of the Yugoslav delegation and my own. It is a simple resolution; it "Decides that the Disarmament Commission shall continue to be composed of all Members of the United Nations", "Transmits to the Disarmament Commission all the documents, proposals and records of discussions relating to disarmament at the fourteenth session of the General Assembly" and "Requests the Secretary-General to provide the staff and services required by the Disarmament Commission and in consultation with the Governments concerned provide such facilities as may be required by the ten-nation disarmament committee".

This draft resolution gives effect to the recommendation of the Disarmament Commission, which met on 10 September 1959 under the chairmanship of Dr. Padilla Nervo, that the Disarmament Commission -- which had been constituted the previous year, a commission of the whole, of all the Members of the Assembly -- should be continued and set up in the same manner as specified in General Assembly resolution 1252 (XIII) and that it should be convened whenever deemed necessary.

I do not wish to say anything more about the draft resolution; it is quite clear and does not really need much comment. I commend this draft on behalf of the Yugoslav delegation and my own for the consideration of this Committee and acceptance by it.

Mr. PAIAMAS (Greece): During the meeting of 10 September of the Disarmament Commission, the views of the Greek delegation were expressed on the setting up of the ten-nation committee to deal with the question of disarmament. I do not, therefore, see any reason again to embark upon a substantive examination of this point.

The Disarmament Commission has, as we know, been recognized as the principal organ of the United Nations to deal competently with matters of disarmament. We are all aware of the important task assigned to it.
It is therefore, we believe, most necessary that the Commission -- which has been established on an ad hoc basis and for the duration of one year only -- should be given a new span of life, during which it will, of course, retain its present membership. This point has been covered by the draft resolution submitted by the delegations of India and Yugoslavia (A/C.1/L.242) and which will, we have no doubt, receive unanimous approval.

The question of disarmament is now one of common concern for both the Disarmament Commission and the ten-nation committee. These two committees may function in a parallel way but, I should say, without interference in each other's work. In our view this should be the case, because these two bodies are based on different principles and political considerations. But if a link of association between them does not seem to us to be practicable, there can be no doubt that both should co-operate whenever appropriate in order to serve their common purpose and our common cause.

It is in this sense that, in my statement in the Disarmament Commission and later in this Committee during our debate on general and complete disarmament, I mentioned the possibility and the underlying advantage of having the President of the Disarmament Commission -- our distinguished colleague, Mr. Padilla Nervo -- ensure this link of co-operation. Mr. Padillo Nervo, in his capacity as President of the Disarmament Commission, bears a special responsibility in this matter. Furthermore, he is an internationally outstanding personality representing a country, Mexico, which is highly esteemed and honoured by us all. As our suggestion met with a prompt and warm response from many delegations, I venture to submit that it will serve a common and useful purpose if the President of the Disarmament Commission is invited to be present at the opening meeting of the ten-nation disarmament committee. This will offer him the opportunity to convey to the committee the earnest hope of the General Assembly that its work will be fruitful and to state the readiness of the Disarmament Commission to co-operate whenever it may be deemed appropriate in order to promote the cause of disarmament.

The CHAIRMAN: Does any other member wish to take the floor on this item? It does not seem to be the case.
As to the suggestion of the representative of Greece, the Chair would say the following. No objection having been made to the suggestion of the representative of Greece, I think that this suggestion will be taken into account as appropriate.

The Chair is now inquiring whether the Committee is prepared to vote on the draft resolution A/C.1/L.242, which is the logical consequence of the corresponding resolution passed by the Disarmament Commission unanimously on 11 September. If I hear no further comment, can the Chair assume unanimity on this draft resolution?

**Mr. CORREA** (Ecuador)(interpretation from Spanish): I certainly do not object, so far as the substance is concerned, to the Spanish text of the document before us. However, I should like to point out that the translation of the final paragraph is not exactly the same as the original English. The original English text says, in the last line "provide such facilities as may be required by the ten-nation disarmament committee", and both "disarmament" and "committee" are in lower case. But in the Spanish text capital letters are used, as though indicating that this was an established body of the United Nations. Apart from this detail of the translation, I have no objection to document A/C.1/L.242 being put to the vote.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Due note has been taken concerning the last paragraph of this document in the Spanish text, and the Secretariat will either issue a corrigendum or put the correct Spanish text into the draft report to be presented to the General Assembly.

Does the Committee approve putting this item on the agenda of tomorrow's plenary meeting, or is there any objection? No objection has been heard.

We now pass to another consideration, before adjourning. I consider it desirable to consult the Committee about the order for the discussion of the remaining items on our agenda. Some decision on this matter would enable the members to prepare themselves for the forthcoming debate. The three remaining items are: first, The Korean question: report of the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea -- item 26; second, Question of Algeria -- item 59; third, Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space -- item 25.
The Chair has been in consultation with many delegations, and I have the impression that the Committee might wish at this time only to decide which item should be the sixth -- that is, the next -- item on our agenda to be considered. There seems to be considerable support for discussing the Korean question next, and unless there is some objection I shall assume that this is the wish of the Committee.

The order of the last two items could be decided during the course of next week.

In view of the decision which the Committee has just taken, on Monday we shall take up item 26, The Korean question; and as soon as that item is completed the Committee will decide either to take up the item on outer space or the one on Algeria.

The meeting rose at 4.20 p.m.