Twentieth Session
FIRST COMMITTEE

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE THIRTEEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY-THIRD MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York
on Wednesday, 6 October 1965, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. CSATORDAY (Hungary)

1. Election of the Vice-Chairman
2. Election of the Rapporteur
3. Organization of the Committee's work

Note: The Official Record of this meeting, i.e. the summary record, will appear in mimeographed form under the symbol A/C.1/SP.155. Delegations may submit corrections to the summary record for incorporation in the final version which will appear in a printed volume.
STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN: Before embarking on the consideration of the agenda of this meeting, I should like with the kind permission of the Committee to make a few introductory remarks.

I wish to express to all of you my very deep and sincere gratitude for the great honour you have done me and my country, the Hungarian People's Republic, by having unanimously elected me Chairman of this Committee for the current session.

I should like to express my special thanks to His Excellency Ambassador de Beus of the Netherlands who so eloquently proposed my nomination. I am also very grateful to His Excellency Ambassador Barnes of Liberia, His Excellency Ambassador Pachachi of Iraq and His Excellency Ambassador Waldheim of Austria - who seconded the nomination, for their warm and friendly words about me which were all too generous.
I was very gratified to hear from these representatives an expression of appreciation of my country's basic line of foreign policy to promote mutual understanding between East and West, to maintain good-neighbourly relations between countries having different social systems, and to foster fruitful co-operation with the developing nations, based on the principle of mutual respect and friendly relations among the peoples of the world.

With the kind permission of the Committee, I shall take the liberty of reflecting on the remarks made by my friend Mr. Pachachi concerning my future task of learning Arabic. It is not at all a strange question because my people have always maintained close relations with the peoples of the East. Long before the Hungarian people had a literary language, the Arab peoples had a very rich literature; in fact, the word "Magyar" -- meaning "Hungarian" -- appeared first in written texts of the famous Arab historian, Ibn Rusta. After this note I cannot but accept the challenge with respect and pleasure; nevertheless, I beg patience from my friend since temporary preoccupations in this very important Committee need my full attention and devotion.

Taking up my heavy responsibilities as Chairman, I can only hope that, in presiding over the meetings and conducting the work of the Committee, I shall not prove unworthy of the confidence of its members. On my part, I shall do my best and I intend to rely upon the kind co-operation, help and understanding of the members of the Committee.

I should like at this stage to welcome to our midst the new Under-Secretary for Political and Security Affairs, Mr. Alexei Efremovitch Nesterenko. I have no doubt that we shall benefit from his vast experience and knowledge. I should also like to place on record our appreciation of the services rendered by his predecessor, Mr. Vladimir Pavlovitch Suslov, who helped us during the eighteenth session of the General Assembly.

May I introduce to the Committee the Secretary of the Committee, Mr. Mihlath A. Vellodi, who certainly does not need an introduction to most of the members who have attended previous sessions of this Committee. We all appreciate his rich knowledge and outstanding human qualities. I am convinced that the Secretariat will, at this session too, render us its assistance and services of high standard to facilitate our work.
The First Committee has not met since two years ago, and now it has an accumulated agenda. The items on the agenda embrace the most important problems facing the Organization and indeed the whole of mankind.

Despite the discussions which have been held in the meantime, the questions of general and complete disarmament and related matters have not made any significant progress in any direction. The Disarmament Commission, comprising all States Members of the United Nations, met last spring and completed a comprehensive review of the situation regarding disarmament negotiations. It renewed the search which, in the words of the Secretary-General, "can go on simultaneously in many ways, multilaterally and bilaterally, on a universal basis and at regional levels".

The introduction to the annual report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization underlines the main aspects of the accomplishments of the Commission. It points out that one of its resolutions welcomed the proposal to convene a world disarmament conference and recommended its consideration by the General Assembly at its twentieth session. The Commission's second resolution indicated the urgent need to reach agreement on preventing further proliferation of nuclear weapons and extending the partial test-ban treaty to cover underground tests.

In these matters all States, large and small, industrially developed and developing, nuclear and non-nuclear, can make their contributions.

Such partial or collective measures as may promote the remaining issues related to disarmament are equally important and are properly considered to offer the best prospects for an early solution in present circumstances.

The meetings of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament are also on record and its reports stand before the Committee, after having been thoroughly examined in their most essential parts in the Disarmament Commission.
World public opinion is constantly interested in discussions of disarmament issues at all levels, in and outside the world Organization. This has manifested itself in many forms and in different forums. Among these an eminent place was occupied by the Cairo Conference of October 1964, whose Declaration won worldwide recognition through its realistic and constructive proposals regarding, *inter alia*, disarmament.

Acting on all items pertaining to disarmament, our efforts should forge ahead -- and here I quote the President of the General Assembly -- "with concrete deeds, ... with concrete and constructive steps".

Some items on our agenda deal with basic political aspects of inter-State relations, particular regional or local problems which are to be considered with full respect for the sovereignty and equality of all States under the Charter and in conformity with international law.

Last but not least, there is the item concerning the great human undertaking for the peaceful uses of outer space.

We are faced today with many international troubles, armed conflict and acts of intervention. Relying on past experience, we should be wiser and should clearly see that the road to universal peace is long and still unpaved. Despite the enormous difficulties of technical, juridical, social and moral nature that we have to surmount, we should not be discouraged. Scrutinizing every day problems of what can and what should be done, a realistic approach can ensure progress if a strong will and determination prevail and the principles of the Charter are complied with.

An essential feature of the evolution of the Organization in its first two decades has been that, owing to historical changes, the forces behind the principles and purposes of the Charter have been multiplied by the emergence of the newly independent States. It is greatly beneficial to the world Organization that the new States of Africa, Asia and Latin America, whose peoples in the past were denied a say in world affairs, now display authority in our deliberations, a strong dedication to the United Nations, and a constructive approach to the solution of the basic problems of maintaining international peace and security.

It is in this spirit that I extend a warm welcome to the representatives of the newly independent countries which joined the United Nations in the course of the nineteenth session and during the present session of the General Assembly --
Malawi, Malta, Zambia, the Gambia, the Maldives Islands and Singapore—who participate in our work for the first time. However, I regret to say that some of them were unable to be present today. I am convinced that their contributions to our deliberations will be as important and useful as those of other States.

At this point, permit me to express, on behalf of all the members of this Committee, our sincere and heartfelt condolences to the people of the Philippines for the suffering caused by the recent volcanic disaster.

I should now like to say a few words about the methods to be followed in our Committee.

The items before us will be dealt with as the Committee decides upon their sequence, urgency, and the length of time to be allotted for their consideration.

The coming debates, while they may enhance the expression of the widest possible range of views of members, will best serve our common objectives if they are aimed at concrete solutions.

Let me conclude by expressing the hope that we shall be able to proceed with our work in an efficient and expeditious way and to finish within the time limit set for the current session.

ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIRMAN

Mr. GARCIA ROBLES (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): I have great satisfaction in presenting, for the post of Vice-Chairman of this Committee, the candidacy of the representative of Ecuador, Ambassador Leopoldo Benites. The fact that Ambassador Benites has been his country's Permanent Representative for the past five years will enable me to be very brief in my presentation, since I believe he is well known to all the representatives here.

Ambassador Benites has had a brilliant career both in bilateral diplomacy and in multilateral or parliamentary diplomacy. He has been his country's Ambassador to Argentina, Bolivia and Uruguay. He has also been Ecuador's representative at a large number of inter-American meetings, among them two of the Meetings of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, the Fifth and the Eighth Meetings.
As far as the United Nations is concerned, Ambassador Benites has represented his country at seven sessions of the General Assembly, the first one being in 1953. On three of those seven occasions, he was not only his country's representative but also head of his delegation. He is therefore fully conversant with the work of the United Nations General Assembly and its Committees.

I shall venture specifically to point out that, in connexion with one of the subjects which is closely linked with items on our agenda this year, that of denuclearization of Latin America, Ambassador Benites has played a very important role since 1963, at which time, as will be recalled, the General Assembly adopted resolution 1911 (XVIII), entitled "Denuclearization of Latin America". Ambassador Benites has also played a distinguished role in the work carried out by the Latin American Republics in these past two years in connexion with the same subject. He participated in the preliminary meeting held in Mexico in 1964 and also in the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the Denuclearization of Latin America, which was held in Mexico City from 25 August to 2 September of this year.
Therefore Mr. Benites is conversant with the operation of the General Assembly and its various Committees and is fully conversant with all the matters that we have to consider. I might add that he also knows the functions of the officers of the Committee, since in 1962, during the seventeenth session of the General Assembly, he occupied most efficiently the important post of Chairman of the Special Political Committee.

For all those reasons, I am convinced that, if he is elected Vice-Chairman of the Committee, he will bring to our work a most important contribution.

Mr. HASEGANU (Romania) (interpretation from French): Mr. Chairman, I would ask you to accept the most sincere congratulations of my delegation on the occasion of your election to the high post of Chairman of the First Committee. Permit me to tell you of my satisfaction at seeing that post occupied by the representative of a socialist country of Eastern Europe with which my country, Romania, has brotherly relations which bring us closer together every day and are in the full interests of our two peoples.

I have asked for the floor in order to support most warmly the proposal made by the representative of Mexico, Mr. Garcia Robles, that Mr. Benites, permanent representative of Ecuador in the United Nations, be elected Vice-Chairman of this Committee.

A well known diplomat of Latin America, Ambassador Benites has represented his country in Uruguay, Bolivia and Argentina as well as at various international conferences. He became the permanent representative of Ecuador to the United Nations and took part in a wide range of activities which showed his great experience and his vast talents. As Chairman of the Special Political Committee at the seventeenth session of the General Assembly, Mr. Benites discharged remarkably well the difficult task that was entrusted to him, showing tact and impartiality in conducting the work of that Committee.

In supporting the candidature of Mr. Benites for the post of Vice-Chairman of the First Committee I am convinced that he will make an important contribution to the work of this body. I am convinced that his candidature will be unanimously supported by the delegations here.
Mr. AZNAR (Spain) (interpretation from Spanish): Mr. Chairman, I am very happy to congratulate you upon your unanimous election as Chairman of this important Committee. I must frankly say that from the very outset I held the view, as I still do, that your election to the post of Chairman of this Committee was most desirable. Those of us who have followed your activities in United Nations through the years have been able at all times to note the extent to which you were able to adapt yourself to the exigencies of the coexistence between different peoples which is the main feature of our Organization. I personally am profoundly aware of your qualities of tact, moderation, impartiality and ability to reflect carefully on all problems. Therefore, I have not the slightest doubt that with you as Chairman the Committee will see not only your great personal success but also the success of the whole of this Committee.

Turning now to the candidature of the permanent representative of Ecuador for the post of Vice-Chairman, I have very little to add to what has already been stated by the representatives of Mexico and Romania.

Ambassador Benites is a man of many different facets. He is a politician, a diplomat and an intellectual. However, when we see him in action among us, we observe at once that, without in any way renouncing his fundamental viewpoints as a politician, he strives, for the greatest success in the work of all, to let his qualities as a diplomat and an intellectual prevail. In other words, Mr. Benites, who, like all of us, I assume, has clearly defined political viewpoints, nevertheless is a man who never gives in to passion when reason could prevail and who exercises care, moderation and the greatest respect for the positions taken by others.

In his career as a diplomat who has been for a long time in the service of the United Nations -- I would add to what has been said by the representatives of Mexico and Romania -- he was President of the Security Council on two occasions, and he occupied that high office with great dignity and tact. Furthermore, as has been recalled by those who have already spoken, he was Chairman of the Special Political Committee at the seventeenth session, a post which he filled to the satisfaction of all.

In view of what I have stated, therefore, I think that his election as Vice-Chairman of the First Committee would be most desirable and would give us reason for satisfaction, for we may all rest assured that his contribution to the work of the officers of the Committee will be most valuable and even outstanding.
Mr. SIDI BABA (Morocco) (interpretation from French): The delegation of Morocco would not wish to let this opportunity pass without making its modest contribution to the felicitous inauguration of our work.

First, I should like to extend to you, Mr. Chairman, our sincere congratulations on your election. Indeed, for some time now we have been nurturing the ambition of seeing you directing the work of this important Committee of the United Nations; your election was therefore a source of deep and true satisfaction to us all. You are well known in this Organization, and we have always appreciated your deep sense of responsibility and your earnest desire faithfully to serve the cause of the United Nations.

The representatives of Mexico, Formania and Spain, respectively, have warmly nominated and supported Mr. Benites of Ecuador for the post of Vice-Chairman of this Committee. I should like to say how much that nomination pleases my delegation. Mr. Benites is an eminent Latin American figure, whom we have known, appreciated and esteemed for many years in this lofty Organization. We have always listened to his statements with the greatest admiration; the ideas that he has expressed, the nobility of his words, the positions he has taken on various subjects have always been a source of inspiration to the delegation of Morocco.

Moreover, Mr. Benites represents a country, Ecuador, that enjoys the respect, the sympathy and the friendship of a large number -- I would even say of all -- of the Members of the United Nations.

I am sure that Mr. Benites' long experience, his wealth of knowledge and his talents will be placed at the service of this Committee, in the interests of international peace and security.
The CHAIRMAN: In the absence of any other nominations, I have the
great pleasure of announcing that Mr. Leopoldo Benites has been unanimously
elected to the office of Vice-Chairman of this Committee for the current
session. I heartily congratulate him and wish him success in his work. I
invite him to take the Vice-Chairman's seat.

Mr. Benites (Ecuador) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

Mr. BENITES (Ecuador), Vice-Chairman (interpretation from Spanish):
I am deeply moved in speaking for the first time this year in this Committee.

First, I should like to express to you, Mr. Chairman, my deep satisfaction
and that of my delegation in seeing you assume the important function of
presiding over the work of this important Committee. It has been my honour
to know you for many years and to admire your serenity and your great
understanding, which have enabled you to overcome differences in ideology and
political doctrine and to show the greatest human comprehension for all
of us who have come to you for advice or to discuss problems.

I should also like to express my sincere congratulations to our new
Under-Secretary, Mr. Nesterenko, from whom we expect advice and the benefit
of his wisdom.

It is also a source of great satisfaction to me to see as Secretary of the
Committee a person with the great experience of Mr. Vellodi.

And now may I express my most sincere thanks to the representative of
Mexico, Mr. Garcia Robles, for his very kind words. It is a pleasant duty for
me to express my great satisfaction at the fact that one of the most outstanding
diplomats of that great country, Mexico, a man whose juridical knowledge,
experience and equanimity I have always respected, has presented my modest
name to this Committee. At the same time, I should like to tell the
representative of Mexico how great is my affection for his country, that
exemplary nation of Latin America, of which we other Latin Americans always
think with deep feeling and love.
May I also thank the representative of Romania, my old friend, Ambassador Haseganu, who is always so kind and so courteous, who seconded my nomination for this important post. It is interesting to note, and so far I have only mentioned two of them, that the representatives who sponsored the modest name of a Latin who is proud of his Latin origin should have been the representatives of two Latin countries, and I hope that those who may not have realized this before will feel that they have here a Latin who is proud of being a Latin for the simple reason that at all times everything Latin has been the highest expression of universality.

Lastly, I would ask the representative of Spain, the third Latin who honoured me by being a co-sponsor, to realize that I am profoundly grateful both to him personally -- he knows of my affection for him -- and to his great country. He knows that we Latin Americans love Spain, not as our mother country, but as part of our very being. We feel that Spain is at the very root of our spiritual life, that Spain is the very blood in our veins and part of the very marrow of our bones. It is the eternal Spain.

Finally, and in the order in which the representatives were kind enough to support my nomination, I should like to thank the representative of Morocco. There is no longer here one of the three Latins who sponsored my nomination, but I also feel that he is a brother, because all those of us who have Spanish blood in our veins feel deep in us the Arab roots that made Spain the greatest manifestation of the tolerant merger of all races and cultures. He knows, too, of my great love and feeling for the Arab culture, of which, through Spain, I feel a true heir.

May I now thank each and every one of the representatives here who supported my nomination, the Europeans who today indicated their support, the Africans for whom I have had from the very beginning twelve years ago the greatest loyalty and devotion in defence of their cause when they were still oppressed peoples, the Asians who have also contributed so much, to my readings and meditations, to my own training, to each and everyone, I offer my sincere thanks, my sincere affection.
Finally, may I say that this honour that all of you have conferred on me today I consider, as the representative of Morocco said, to be a tribute to my country and also a tribute to Latin America, the Latin America that I am very proud to represent in this office. I represent a small country, and I should like to recall that great lesson in humility given to all, great and small, a few days ago by His Holiness the Pope when he said that if we were not equal, we were all here as equals. That is why, as the representative of a small country, I hope to be able in its name to fulfil the task entrusted to me with honour and dignity.

Mr. Chairman, your good health and great qualities no doubt will make it unnecessary for me to take your place. I hope that you will remain in good health, because I know you will always conduct our debates in an excellent manner. I hope that it will not be for health reasons that I will have, at any time, to replace you. In my temporary capacity as Vice-Chairman, and afterwards as a mere representative, I make a solemn oath that I shall above all defend the ideals of the Charter and the rules of procedure, which is the only law I will follow when I am no longer the representative of a country, but the representative of United Nations law and of the strict implementation of the rules of procedure. This is my solemn oath to all of you, and once again I thank you.

ELECTION OF THE RAPPORTEUR

Mr. MISHRA (India): Mr. Chairman, may I on behalf of my delegation and myself first of all congratulate you on your unanimous election as Chairman of this Committee. With your qualities of head and heart, your ability, your impartiality and, above all, your tact, we have not the slightest doubt that you will discharge your duties as Chairman of this very important Committee of the General Assembly in the most befitting manner. May I extend to you, on behalf of my delegation, the assurances of our fullest co-operation in this task.

May I be the first to congratulate our Vice-Chairman, who has just been unanimously elected. As the representative of Mexico pointed out, Ambassador Benites was at one time Chairman of the Special Political Committee, and those of us who alternated between the First and the Special Political Committee now of his qualities. We have not the slightest doubt that, in the great traditions of Latin America, he will discharge his duties very ably.
(Mr. Mishra, India)

My task now is to present a nomination for the third important office in this Committee, that of Rapporteur, and for this post I have the honour and the very great pleasure of nominating Mr. Ismail Fahmy, of the United Arab Republic's delegation. Mr. Ismail Fahmy has been known to most of us, and most certainly to my delegation, for a number of years. He has been associated in the work of his delegation for almost sixteen years, if not for more than sixteen years. He was in the permanent mission of Egypt, and then of the United Arab Republic, in New York, a member of his country's delegation to the Security Council in 1949-1950 and in 1962-1963, and he has been the adviser to the delegations from his country from the fourth session onwards. What is more important, he has served in his country's delegation to this Committee from the fourth session onwards. He has also been associated with the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the International Atomic Energy Agency and with other organs concerned with atomic energy.
But let it not be taken that he is an expert merely on disarmament. His political experience is also noteworthy. Apart from serving in his delegation to the Security Council, he has been a member of the United Arab Republic delegation to the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations, a member of his country's delegation to the African summit conference held in Cairo in 1964 and to the conference of non-aligned countries held in Cairo, again, in 1964, and an adviser to the United Arab Republic delegation to the Arab Prime Ministers' Council held in Cairo this year.

In view of all that I have stated, my delegation has not the slightest doubt that he will discharge the duties of Rapporteur with integrity and high ability. May I therefore, on behalf of my delegation, in nominating Mr. Ismail Fahmy, express the hope that he will be elected unanimously, in accordance with what has become a tradition in this Committee.

Mr. BURNS (Canada): May I first of all, Mr. Chairman, offer to you on behalf of the delegation of Canada our most sincere congratulations on your unanimous election to the very important post of Chairman of this Committee. As the delegation of Canada knows from its previous experience when you occupied the post of Vice-Chairman of this Committee, all the words of praise that have been offered to you by preceding speakers are indeed sincere and justified. We are confident that you will preside over our deliberations with tact and the necessary diplomatic skill to bring them to a satisfactory conclusion.

We should also like to offer our congratulations to Mr. Leopoldo Benites, who has been unanimously elected Vice-Chairman. We are confident that he will second your efforts in the way that, as we have heard, he has always performed his duties as representative of his country and as an official of the various Committees with which he has been associated.

We feel lucky that this session of this Committee will have as its presiding officers diplomats of such distinction in whom there is such general confidence.

The Canadian delegation has the particular honour of seconding the nomination of Mr. Ismail Fahmy, of the United Arab Republic, as Rapporteur of the First Committee. We have heard from the representative of India his long
and distinguished career, particularly in association with the United Nations, and I am sure I can add very little to what has already been said about Mr. Fahmy's experience. I would say, however, that he has represented his country for a considerable period in the International Atomic Energy Agency, which, of course, has in certain ways a close link with the subject of disarmament which we shall be considering here.

The Canadian Government feels, with confidence that other delegations will feel the same way, that Mr. Fahmy will perform his duties as a member of the Bureau, as Rapporteur, with distinction and efficiency. He is the representative, I would say, of a nation that has played the most important part in the discussions on disarmament in the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee along with the other non-aligned nations represented there.

Mr. Fahmy is well known to most of us here for his good judgement, his diligence, his prudence and his very sympathetic personality. As I said before, we are sure that he, together with you, Sir, and with the Vice-Chairman, will form a very strong team under whose guidance the work of this Committee can be accomplished effectively and with due despatch, without hurry and without delay.
Mr. BOURATTOUA (Algeria) (interpretation from French): Mr. Chairman, as soon as your name was put forward, during the nineteenth session of the General Assembly, for the Chairmanship of this important Committee, the Algerian delegation thought that you would probably be, as the English expression goes, "the right man in the right place". Your personal qualities need no further elaboration. It is to them that your presence in the Chair of this Committee is due, and you are there by unanimous agreement of your colleagues. But I would here stress your qualities of courtesy and kindliness that have won for you the particular esteem in which you are held in this Organization.

Our gratification at your election springs, probably, from the particularly friendly relations that exist between my country and Hungary, and perhaps also from the numerous similarities that can be found in the histories of our two countries. Furthermore, we believe that the election of a socialist country such as Hungary was at one and the same time both necessary and revealing: necessary if we intend -- as does everyone here -- to get back on the road to harmony; revealing of the feeling that we have regarding the paramount importance of certain conflicts and the common search we must carry on -- whatever may be our social systems, whatever our political regimes -- for ways which will lead if not to peace, at least to a relaxation of tensions which, if we do not take care, could well be fatal. All this, I emphatically repeat, gives us cause for satisfaction.

I would also like to offer congratulations on the part of the Algerian delegation to Ambassador Penites, whose intelligence, whose great talents as a diplomat, whose discretion and progressive views constitute a good augury for the work that the Bureau, under your high-minded and competent guidance Mr. Chairman, will be able to perform, I am convinced, the co-operation of all delegations.
It is a very great pleasure for the Algerian delegation and for me to second and support the candidacy of my friend Ismail Fahmy as Rapporteur of this Committee. Mr. Fahmy, as has already been said, is not unknown in the United Nations. He has been a member of the Permanent Mission of Egypt and of the United Arab Republic. He has likewise participated in the work of various bodies whose activities have been intimately linked to the problems that we shall have to examine here.

The speakers who have preceded me have commented on the numerous professional qualities of Mr. Fahmy. Allow me to add that when I met Mr. Fahmy for the first time many years ago, I saw in him a very great courtesy, a very great kindness and a deep discretion which nevertheless could not conceal the competence that he evinced in many conferences where I have had the privilege of working side by side with him.

I think that were I to say more about my friend Ismail Fahmy, this man whom we support for the post of Rapporteur, I would risk embarrassing him, and since I do not intend to abuse your patience, I wish only to express here the hope that Mr. Fahmy will be unanimously elected as Rapporteur of this Committee, which would be a way of guaranteeing success for our Bureau and for the work of this Committee.
Mr. OTUMA ALLIMADI (Uganda): Before I second the nomination of Mr. Ismail Fahmy for the post of Rapporteur, may I, on behalf of my delegation and the people of my country, congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your election to the highest office of this very important Committee. Likewise, I should like to extend our warmest congratulations to His Excellency Ambassador Benites on his election to the office of Vice-Chairman. My delegation is firmly convinced that under your wise guidance this Committee will accomplish most, if not all, that it has set out to do.

It is with considerable pleasure and confidence that I second and support the nomination of Mr. Ismail Fahmy for the important and exacting post of Rapporteur of this Committee. Mr. Fahmy comes from the United Arab Republic, a country with which we in Uganda have enjoyed long and friendly relations. Personally, I first met Mr. Fahmy eight years ago, and since then I have become fully convinced that if he were elected to the post of Rapporteur of this Committee, he would fulfil all the tasks assigned to him with the greatest efficiency.

Mr. Fahmy's diplomatic career started nearly twenty years ago. Since then he has represented his country with distinction both here at the United Nations and at other international conferences, as we have already heard from three preceding speakers. Moreover, he has vast experience concerning this Committee, having been adviser and alternate as well as representative of his country in this Committee since the fourth session of the General Assembly. He has participated and contributed very ably in the deliberations of the Economic and Social Council, the Security Council and the Technical Assistance Committee. Thus, most of us will note with growing satisfaction that he has been most articulate in the work of the International Atomic Commission from 1957 to 1960.

It is needless to speak of Mr. Fahmy's qualifications for the post of Rapporteur of this Committee. His qualifications speak admirably for themselves, that is, for the man whom I strongly recommend for this important post. I hope that he will be elected unanimously.
Mr. OMONO NKOUDOU (Cameroon) (interpretation from French): Mr. Chairman, may I congratulate you on behalf of my delegation upon your election to the chairmanship of the First Committee, which election confirms your merits and the recognition by your colleagues of your great experience in our work. No one doubts that the members of the Committee have taken into account all that you have done since you first came among us, which characterizes a man who is sincere in his relations with his colleagues. All this proves that you are the man who, this year, is capable of leading to success the work we are to undertake.

I should like also to express our most sincere satisfaction on the election of Mr. Benites to the post of Vice-Chairman of this Committee. I am convinced that the members of the Committee have considered that this year they needed in their Bureau men whose qualities particularly fitted them for the task that we have to accomplish.

I am sure, as you have pointed out, that the importance of the work that we have to face deserves that special attention be given by all delegations. I wish to express our congratulations with the hope that, under your direction, we shall work most successfully and finish our work in time.

May I be permitted to support the candidacy of Mr. Ismail Fahmy, a member of the UAR delegation, for the post of Rapporteur of this Committee. We have heard several delegations speak about Mr. Fahmy's vast experience of the activities of the United Nations. He has given proof of this in various committees. He has been a representative of the United Arab Republic to the United Nations, and he has at all times greatly contributed to the search for solutions of the complex problems that confront our Organization.

On behalf of my delegation and on my own behalf, I should like to add that as Ambassador to the United Arab Republic, I have personally been able to appreciate the great esteem enjoyed by Mr. Fahmy while a member of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs where he is at present the Director of the Department of International Affairs, and I have also been able to appreciate his great skill and competence.
I am convinced that his experience he has gained through the years will be of benefit to our Committee, and I have in mind, above all, his experience as representative on the International Atomic Energy Agency, whose problems we shall be dealing with in due time. I am sure that the matters on which he will be obliged to report will also benefit from his experience. On behalf of the delegation of Cameroon, I wish to support the candidacy of Mr. Tahmy as Rapporteur, and I believe that he will be supported by all other representatives on the Committee.

Mr. REDONDO (Costa Rica) (interpretation from Spanish): Following the example of those who have spoken before me, I should like to associate my delegation with the words of appreciation concerning your election, Mr. Chairman, and that of Mr. Benites of Ecuador as Vice-Chairman of this Committee. The talent and experience of such able diplomats is ample guarantee of the success of the work of the Committee.

My delegation also wishes to support the nomination of Mr. Tahmy as Rapporteur of the Committee. It is a privilege for us to give our support to his nomination. His qualifications are such as to enable him to discharge with great brilliance the duties required by this important post. Apart from having held important posts in the Foreign Service of his country, he has distinguished himself in the United Nations as one of the most talented, tactful and able diplomats. Those of us who have known him well have observed these qualities which, without doubt, will facilitate the discharge of his duties.

Finally, we have no doubt that the co-operation which you, Mr. Chairman, and Mr. Benites will receive from Mr. Tahmy will facilitate the discharge of your own tasks in the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: Does any other representative wish to speak?

Mr. Tahmy has been nominated by the representative of India and the nomination supported by the representatives of Canada, Algeria, Uganda, Cameroon and Costa Rica.

Are there any other nominations?
In the absence of any other nominations, I have great pleasure in announcing that Mr. Fahmy has been unanimously elected to the office of Rapporteur of this Committee for the current session. I heartily congratulate him and wish him success. I invite Mr. Fahmy to take his seat at the Committee table.

Mr. Fahmy (United Arab Republic) was elected Rapporteur of the First Committee by acclamation.

Mr. Fahmy (Rapporteur): It is indeed an honour for me to be chosen as Rapporteur of this important Committee. The Committee's unanimous election of a representative of the United Arab Republic is in fact a tribute to my country and to the policies which it pursues in our world of today. I am particularly touched by the wholehearted support which my candidature received. A special expression of gratitude is due to the representatives of India, Canada, Algeria, Uganda, Cameroon and Costa Rica, who nominated me and seconded my candidature. I am deeply indebted to them for their warm support, which I value and shall keep in my heart.

In all frankness, I must say that when I came to the First Committee almost sixteen years ago I never expected my association with the Committee to endure that long, but I have to confess that I have had the privilege of learning -- and I am still learning -- from association with the representatives who serve on this important Committee. I hope that, in the post of Rapporteur, which will be an added experience for me, I shall be able to live up to the expectations of the members.

I am sure that, with your help and guidance, Mr. Chairman, and that of the Vice-Chairman, and with the close co-operation of the able and experienced Secretary of this Committee and his colleagues, my task will not be difficult. As Rapporteur, I can only give my pledge that the reports on the various items which the Committee will consider will reflect objectively the facts as they appear during the discussions on each item.
ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK (A/C.1/896 and Add.1).

The CHAIRMAN: I wish to inform the Committee that, in accordance with rule 100, we have now to consider the question of priorities to be adopted for dealing with the various items on our agenda. As members are aware, the order in which the items appear in the two documents before us is of no particular significance as these documents have merely followed the administrative order in which the items have been submitted to the General Committee and then to the General Assembly, and accordingly referred to this Committee by the President of the General Assembly. For logical reasons and for the sake of expediency, I believe that Members of the Committee will agree with me that we must rearrange the order of the items. Therefore, I invite representatives to express their views on this question.
Mr. SETTE CAMARA (Brazil): Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Brazilian delegation, I have the privilege of conveying to you our warmest congratulations upon your election to the Chairmanship of this Committee. We share the conviction that your experience, skill and ability will lead this Committee to positive results in its deliberations.

We also take special pleasure in extending our congratulations to Mr. Leopoldo Benites, of Ecuador, and to Mr. Ismail Fahmy, of the United Arab Republic, who have just been elected Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur, respectively, of our Committee.

As for the organization of our work, my delegation shares the feeling that consideration of the items on our agenda should follow the chronology that may best suit our objective of reaching constructive results in our discussions. Without abandoning the general guidelines that have prevailed in the past, it seems logical to my delegation that we should begin by examining those items the nature of which requires priority, so that we may provide fruitful directives for the adequate consideration of other important items.

Among these items, my delegation has given deep thought to the question of convening a World Disarmament Conference. It is no doubt a point of paramount importance, particularly taking into account the resolution recently adopted by the Disarmament Commission. It seems logical, however, and appropriate that, by taking up in the first place the concrete aspects of the disarmament negotiations, which encompass two draft treaties on non-proliferation submitted by the United States and by the Soviet Union, the Committee will have at its disposal a very important amount of material to enable it to go more deeply into the question of convening such a conference.

In the light of these considerations, my delegation wishes to propose that we organize our work in the following order:

First, item 28, question of general and complete disarmament: reports of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament;

Second, item 29, question of convening a conference for the purpose of signing a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear and thermo-nuclear weapons: reports of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament;
Third, item 30, Urgent need for suspension of nuclear and thermo-nuclear tests; reports of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament;
Fourth, item 106, Non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.
Fifth, item 95, Question of convening a World Disarmament Conference;
Sixth, item 105, Declaration on the demilitarization of Africa;
Seventh, item 93, Question of Cyprus;
Eighth, item 99, Peaceful settlement of disputes;
Ninth, item 107, The inadmissibility of intervention in the domestic affairs of States and the protection of their independence and sovereignty;
Tenth, item 32, The Korean question: reports of the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea;
Eleventh, item 53, Actions on the regional level with a view to improving good-neighbourly relations among European States having different social and political systems;
Finally, twelfth, item 51, International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space: reports of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Those are the suggestions that my delegation has the honour to present to the Committee.

Mr. GEBRE-EGZI (Ethiopia): Mr. Chairman, may I first extend to you my delegation's congratulations on your election to the Chairmanship of the First Committee.

I should also like to extend congratulations to the representative of Ecuador on his election as Vice-Chairman and to the representative of the United Arab Republic on his election as Rapporteur.

We should like to suggest that the item which the representative of Brazil has placed in fifth position, that is, the question of convening a World Disarmament Conference, might be taken up first. I think that then we could take the other items almost as suggested by the representative of Brazil: the second one, in our opinion, could be non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, followed by the reports of the Committee on Disarmament, and then the others, right on down the line. I wonder whether that would be acceptable to the representative of Brazil.
Let me explain why we make that suggestion. As the Committee knows, the Disarmament Commission has made a decision with regard to a world conference, and if such a conference is going to yield useful results some consultations and prior arrangements will have to be made. Therefore we thought it would perhaps be acceptable to all delegations if that item, which is really a procedural item, were taken up first. Perhaps the Committee could be consulted on that suggestion.

The CHAIRMAN: There are now two suggestions before the Committee: the first presented by the representative of Brazil concerning the whole agenda of the Committee and the second made by the representative of Ethiopia, who proposes we should embark on a discussion of which item should be the first on our agenda. The representative of Ethiopia suggests that the question of a world disarmament conference should take first place. I should like to ask the opinion of other members.

Mr. BURNS (Canada): The Canadian delegation would like to support the proposal of the representative of Brazil, with a certain modification. That modification is that, while the order would be the same -- that is to say, all the items relating to disarmament would be taken up first -- we should follow the precedent which has been established here in previous years of having our discussion on disarmament unrestricted to one particular item at a time and of dealing with all the disarmament items at the same time. Those who have participated in the previous debates in which such an arrangement was adopted will recall that towards the end of the general debate resolutions on the different items began to emerge and there was a possibility for everybody to study what their effect would be.

We agree with the representative of Ethiopia that the question of a world disarmament conference is a very important one. In the meetings of the United Nations Disarmament Commission the Canadian delegation stated that our country accepted in principle the idea of a world disarmament conference but there was the condition that there would be careful preparatory work both in regard to who was to participate in that conference and in regard to the agenda
it would have, in order to ensure that such a conference would contribute significantly to progress in disarmament. The necessity for careful preparation applies also, we think, to the production of a resolution on this subject in this Committee. We feel that it is not something which can be dealt with hastily or done at the beginning of our consideration of the disarmament subject and then put aside as something which was finished with and which we could then perhaps leave to be developed by a committee to be appointed. In fact there have been some suggestions that all we need to do is adopt a simple resolution and then leave the details to a committee to be appointed. That would make the composition of such a committee a very important matter. I believe that no delegation here would wish to give carte blanche to any committee whose composition was not entirely satisfactory to it. We all know that the creation of a suitable committee is a matter which takes time and negotiation. This is only one of the questions which we feel should be the subject of prior negotiations before any resolution on a world disarmament conference is finally drafted.

There are also intricate questions, of which I need not remind the Committee, with regard to which countries -- "countries" is the word used in the resolution which was put forward by the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Commission -- should be invited and by whom the invitation is to be issued. Then the preparatory committee will have to produce an agenda and rules of procedure, but it should have general directions from the General Assembly on this matter. This is all to say that the consideration of this subject should not be hurried. The questions of time, place, duration and financing are all of course very important, if practical action is to be taken. All these points, we think, should be the subject of private exchanges or expressed in statements in a general debate in this Committee, and this negotiation necessarily, to be effective, would cover a period of some weeks.

In the opinion of my delegation, we should not simply produce a resolution regarding a world disarmament conference which would leave a great many loose ends. We should have in our minds, when we have finished our debate here, a fairly well developed and practical plan of organization and action. I would emphasize again that this will require a certain period for discussion, exchange of information and consultation between delegations before a useful resolution can be formulated.
Therefore I would suggest that we take up the disarmament items in the order proposed by the representative of Brazil but that all these items may be discussed in a general debate before any one of them is separated particularly in the consideration of a resolution that would give effect to what is to be done on the subject matter of this item.

Mr. BOUATTICURA (Algeria) (interpretation from French): My delegation would like to make its modest contribution to the present debate, which concerns the order of priority of the items on our agenda.

The first statements that we have heard in the General Assembly have eloquently shown that the major concern of all States large and small is the tragic arms race which the world has witnessed since the end of the Second World War. It would be useless for me to give at the present time all the reasons for that concern. My delegation believes that there are many reasons why our main concern in this important political committee should be the discussion of adequate means for putting an end to the arms race. My delegation thinks that the urgent convening of a world disarmament conference is of paramount importance.
On the agenda of the First Committee, which is to be found in document A/C.1/396, dated 27 September 1965, there are four items on disarmament: the first relates to the reports of the Geneva Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament; the second, to the convening of a conference for the purpose of signing a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear and thermo-nuclear weapons; the third, to the urgent need for suspension of nuclear and thermo-nuclear tests; and the fourth, to the convening of a world disarmament conference. In addition, a new item has been inscribed, relating to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Everything seems to point to the fact that, before the Committee takes up the question of convening a world disarmament conference, there will be very lengthy discussions on the other disarmament items on our agenda.

We are really not convinced that the question of Korea, for example, is so important and urgent that it has to be discussed before the question of convening a world disarmament conference. Furthermore, it may well be considered that items 1, 2 and 3 cannot seriously be discussed within their present framework and that, on the contrary, it is important and urgent to devise a new framework, a new working tool -- a forum where everyone can meet to discuss the vital question of disarmament; a forum, for example, where the People's Republic of China and France -- which are also nuclear Powers -- can make what we are certain will be an eminently positive contribution to our work.

At its recent session in New York, the Disarmament Commission adopted the resolution which is reproduced in document IV/224, dated 15 June 1965. In operative paragraph 2 of that resolution the Commission

"Recommends that the General Assembly give urgent consideration to the above-mentioned proposal" --
that is, the proposal for the convening of a world disarmament conference --
"at its twentieth session".
We are thus bound by a resolution of the United Nations which recommends that the Assembly give urgent consideration to this question. In giving priority to this item, we should therefore only be complying with the very clear recommendation of the Disarmament Commission.

Moreover, we believe that items 2, 3, 4 and 11 could be discussed in a manner much more profitable to the entire membership of the international community within the framework of a world disarmament conference.

That is why my delegation would request this Committee to grant priority to the discussion of the question of a world disarmament conference. From the wide support which the idea of such a conference has received, we are convinced that a priority discussion of the question will be very useful and will result in our Committee's being able to make interesting recommendations to the General Assembly.

As has been observed, important suggestions on those lines have already been made. During the general debate in the Assembly the representative of one of the great nuclear States has even proposed a date for the convening of a world disarmament conference. The Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union has mentioned the middle of 1966. Other suggestions will certainly be made during this Committee's discussions. Indeed, the idea of a world disarmament conference has aroused great hopes among peoples and Governments.

For those reasons, my delegation hopes that this Committee will give favourable consideration to the suggestion made by the representative of Ethiopia and will decide to grant priority to the agenda item entitled "Question of convening a world disarmament conference".
Mr. GEBRE-EGZY (Ethiopia): In my first statement I did not feel it necessary to present lengthy arguments in support of my proposal. However, in view of the position taken by the delegations of Brazil and Canada, I should like to explain why my delegation feels that the First Committee should follow the order that I have suggested in discussing its agenda items.

Mr. Bouattoua of Algeria has just referred to the significance of the resolution adopted by the Disarmament Commission. I think that that resolution is self-explanatory. It states that the General Assembly should give urgent consideration to the question of convening a world disarmament conference. That means, in my opinion, that the item in question must be considered very soon. If that were not done, we should not be respecting the decision of the Disarmament Commission -- which is, in fact, the same body as this Committee or the General Assembly; it merely meets under a different name.

Furthermore, the argument used by the representative of Canada seems to me to support our proposal. The first point that he made was that time was needed for consultations among delegations to work out all the modalities and make all the arrangements. I agree with him. I think that in presenting that consideration he was being kind to our proposal. We feel that the item in question should be considered first precisely because that will give us time to undertake the necessary consultations and negotiations. We agree with the representative of Canada that these consultations and negotiations must take place. This is a very delicate question. It cannot be dealt with hastily towards the middle or end of the session. Time is required, and I think that the item should be dealt with by the First Committee sooner rather than later. If the item were dealt with later, that might affect the desire of many delegations as regards the date of the convening of the conference. One Foreign Minister has suggested that the conference should be convened in 1966; other representatives may desire that it should be convened earlier.
In order to be able to work out all this and in order to enable those who are in a responsible position to make the necessary arrangements, time is needed.

Secondly, as the representative of Algeria has said, it is precisely because not much progress can be made on most of these items that a large Member of this Organization wishes to have a world conference. I think the logic and the necessity for it is quite clear, and if we attempt to solve some of these problems, I am afraid, although I do not wish it, that we will be in the same position we were in last year and the year before.

Therefore, if we are going to have a new approach, it is better first to have a hope for this. That does not mean that we are not going to consider the items or that we would not really give them the serious consideration they deserve. It simply means that, because of the difficulties we have encountered, we may have a chance or an opportunity if somehow we can succeed in holding a world conference. Then the leaders will take it upon themselves to cut the details and make a decision. If we are to do that, then I think that we must have this decision, which, as I said earlier, is really a procedural decision, first of all. Having done that, we can take time to discuss the details; even if we do not have a satisfactory decision on each one of them, I think we will be able to say in good conscience that we have done our best. We would then hand the remainder to those who are in a position to make a political decision, because ultimately in all these matters what is needed is a political decision.

Therefore, it is not that we run counter to the good suggestions from the representatives of Canada and Brazil, but rather that we feel we have to make progress, and we believe that the only way we can make this progress is on the lines which the Disarmament Commission has already indicated.

Mr. ACHKAR (Guinea) (interpretation from French): Since this is the first time that I have spoken in this Committee at this twentieth session, permit me, Mr. Chairman, to express our profound satisfaction at seeing you elected Chairman of this important Committee.
The Government of Guinea is particularly happy at your election because you are the Ambassador of Hungary, a friendly country that has the best of relations with my own. I am personally happy because I have known you for many years and I have been proud to count myself one of your friends. We were convinced that it was necessary, this year at least, for the representative of a socialist country of eastern Europe to be elected to conduct the business of this important Committee, where we all endeavour to arrive at decisions or methods of conciliation.

A few words will suffice to support the proposal made by the representative of Ethiopia and supported in turn by the representative of Algeria. In the course of the discussions of barely three months ago in the Disarmament Commission on this question of disarmament, we had occasion very carefully to consider most of the items at present on our agenda. At the end of the discussion in the Disarmament Commission, where we were all represented, we arrived at what my delegation considers the most important resolution, that concerning the convening of a world disarmament conference.

We believed then that perhaps the framework within which the disarmament discussions took place was perhaps not quite appropriate in the present circumstances and that it might be advisable to expand it. We also recognized that the absence of important countries in the discussions in Geneva was prejudicial to that task. Although it is true that the question of disarmament is for all of us one of the most important problems confronting us, it seemed to us that the search for the most adequate means to enable us to achieve the most acceptable solutions should take precedence over any other effort. We consider that the most effective and efficient means would be that of holding a world disarmament conference.

Incidentally, as has been so rightly pointed out by the representative of Ethiopia, the arguments advanced by those delegations which do not share our views would seem to prove that we should decide now to begin our discussion of this question of convening a world disarmament conference, in accordance with the resolution adopted by the overwhelming majority of the Member States of the Disarmament Commission.
Whereas it is true that the holding of such a world disarmament conference would necessitate a large number of negotiations for the efficient and effective organization of the conference, it is also true that it is obvious that the time has come to begin those discussions and to arrive at a unanimous decision which would enable us to start the negotiations. The representative of Canada spoke a few moments ago of the possibility of setting up a preparatory committee. Of course, this might be envisaged in a resolution, but that would not mean that after the resolution had been adopted the composition of the committee must be immediately announced. Once we agree on the principle of establishing such a committee, if that is the view of our Committee, then there will be time during the remainder of our session for negotiations to take place which will enable us to agree on the composition of the sub-committee in question.

For all these reasons, and for others that it would not be advisable to mention now, I hope that we will be able to come to an agreement and that we will be able to accept the proposal that item 8, as contained in document A/C.1/896 and Add.1 will be given top priority in our discussions.

As to the other proposals made by the representative of Brazil, my delegation has no objection to their being followed in the order suggested by him after the discussion of the question of the convening of a world disarmament conference.

Mr. OWONO NKOUDOU (Cameroon) (interpretation from French): I have no objections to the proposal made by the representative of Brazil or to the suggestions made by the preceding speakers, but I would like to speak on this question on the order of priority. I do not oppose this in principle, but I note that the questions of disarmament have been recognized as being of prime importance in view of the present situation, and in the discussions that are to take place I think it might be necessary to link together questions that are similar so as to enable us to have a general debate.
Thus, for example, it seems to me that the question of the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the question of the signing of an agreement on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons have obviously an interrelation. Similarly, I believe the question of general and complete disarmament and the question of the convening of a world conference on disarmament have a no less obvious relation to each other.

I repeat that I have no objections in principle to the suggestions advanced by the representatives of Algeria, Guinea and Ethiopia, nor do I have any objections to the proposals of the representative of Brazil. But it seems to me that our debate would gain in value if we could take up together those questions that are related to each other in the way I have just indicated. In other words, I should like to propose that the question of general and complete disarmament and that of the convening of a world conference on disarmament be linked together, and that likewise the question of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons be linked to the question of convening a conference for the purpose of signing a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear and thermonuclear weapons. This procedure would enable us, in the general debate, to take up two closely related questions at the same time, and the draft resolutions presented in connexion with them would likewise take into account the clear relation between these questions.

Therefore, if the representative of Brazil has no objection to so proceeding, I make this proposal to the Committee.
Mr. P. DORENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Allow me first of all, to offer to our Chairman, Mr. Karoly Castorday our most cordial congratulations on the occasion of his election to his most important position as Chairman of the First Committee.

It goes without saying that we are especially gratified, Mr. Chairman, that you were elected unanimously to this very responsible post -- you, the representative of a sister country. Your very impressive experience, your wide knowledge, your great competence, and if I may be allowed to say so, your great linguistic ability are reasons for optimism and for the conviction that the First Committee, under your guidance, will achieve most productive work.

Allow me, Mr. Chairman, to wish you the greatest success.

The Soviet delegation is also most gratified at the election to the post of Vice-Chairman of our Committee of the Ambassador of Ecuador, Mr. Leopoldo Benites, whose remarkable competence is well known to all of us; and we are likewise pleased at the election of the Ambassador of a country most friendly to us, of Mr. Ismail Fanny, to the post of Rapporteur of this Committee. We wish them both full success.

May I now state our views concerning the order of priority of the items on the agenda of the First Committee.

The Soviet delegation, on its part, would like to support the proposal that priority be given to the discussion of the question of convening a world disarmament conference. In this connexion we share the views advanced a few minutes ago by the representative of Ethiopia, Mr. Gebre-Elgedy, the representative of Algeria, Mr. Bouattoura, and the representative of Guinea, Mr. Achkar.

There is no need to speak in detail of the importance of this question. It goes without saying that under present circumstances it is absolutely essential for all the principal States of the world to take part in such negotiations, including the nuclear Powers. The convening of a world disarmament conference with the participation of all States of the world is rendered necessary by the whole course of present-day events.
After the debate on the question of convening a world disarmament conference, in our opinion we could discuss a most important and urgent proposal, namely, that of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. In this connexion, the Soviet delegation has had occasion to speak on the substance of the matter in the plenary meetings of the General Assembly as well as during the debate in the General Committee. Then, one could pass on to a group of questions relating to disarmament.

The Soviet delegation would like to note that we deem it appropriate to have a separate and not a common discussion on the items inscribed in our agenda. These are very important and urgent matters which should be examined with all due attention and fully conscious of our responsibilities.

After the debate on disarmament questions, that is, question of general and complete disarmament: reports of the conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament, question of convening a conference for the purpose of signing a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear and thermo-nuclear weapons: reports of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament: urgent need for suspension of nuclear and thermo-nuclear tests: reports of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament -- it would be appropriate in our view to discuss the question of the inadmissibility of intervention in the domestic affairs of States and the protection of their independence and sovereignty. In this connexion, the Soviet delegation has stated its views in the speech made in the plenary meeting of the General Assembly, and I do not think that it is necessary to revert to it in detail.

Furthermore, we should examine the question of Cyprus and the question of actions on the regional level with a view to improving good-neighbourly relations among European States having different social and political systems, and the other items to be found on the agenda of our Committee.

These are the views of the Soviet delegation on the question of the order of priorities concerning the items on the agenda of the first Committee.
Mr. FOSTER (United States of America): First, Mr. Chairman, let me extend to you and to your colleagues on behalf of my delegation the congratulations on your unanimous election. Our delegation is confident that with the collective wisdom and experience, and the patient counsel of you and your colleagues, we shall be able to conduct our debates here in a way to lead most rapidly to constructive results.

I should now like to support strongly the proposal made by the representative of Brazil for the order of items on the agenda. My delegation also supports the suggestion made by the representative of Canada that the consideration of specific resolutions on these matters should follow a general discussion in which all the items could be considered. As I heard the comments of the representative of the Cameroons, I think that I can also agree partly with what he said and I do wish to study them in more detail.

I think it is clear that experience in this Committee has shown the wisdom of starting with a general debate. I think that the traditional practice is useful as a guide to us in considering the important and urgent questions with which we must deal.

Toward that end, I should like now to stress our own belief as to the importance of scheduling a debate on substantive disarmament items in our Committee in advance of the consideration of the question of a world disarmament conference. I think it is well known that my Government has strong doubts as to the advisability of seeking a decision now to hold such a world conference. The fact is that a decision to call a world disarmament conference could interfere with and delay negotiation on the urgent disarmament questions in which there has lately been a considerable amount of definite progress indicated, even if there have been no agreements achieved.

Quite apart from the considerations which have guided our position, I also want to recall to you that many of the supporters of the world disarmament conference have stressed their belief that the success of such a conference would depend largely on careful preparations and the selection of a suitable time for convening the conference. In considering these preparations it seems clear that many points still remain to be studied, for example, the auspices
under which a world conference would be convened, the agenda of a world conference as it would relate to the status of negotiations in the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament, and the question which has been referred to by the representative of Canada of the invitations to be extended on the one hand and the likely acceptances on the other.
Before entering into a discussion of this matter in the Committee, it would seem most useful to us, first, to see what are the prospects for progress on the substantive disarmament questions before us. It would also be advisable, before discussing in the Committee the question of a world conference, to hold the informal discussions which have been referred to, so that many of the points of disagreement might be eliminated. It seems to us that unless we proceed in this way, we could easily spend two or three weeks or more in a discussion of a world disarmament conference, which, if there were to be some informal preparation, might otherwise be disposed of in a week or so. In view of the extensive agenda of the Committee, we should do everything we can here to expedite the work.

I must say that I do not share the suggestion made by the representative of Algeria. He seemed to be saying that we should leave the urgent disarmament matters on our agenda to be discussed at a world disarmament conference. I feel certain that most representatives here will agree that the substantive disarmament items on our agenda are much too urgent to be put off for discussion by any undetermined world conference at an undetermined time. The question of preventing the spread of nuclear weapons, for example, has been acknowledged, I think, by almost everyone here to be a matter of great urgency. Surely we must take up this item as soon as possible in order to see what progress we can make here towards reaching an agreement which we have all discussed now for some time.

For these reasons we believe it advisable to schedule discussion of a world conference immediately following the consideration of our substantive disarmament items. A world conference could, if others wish it, then be considered as a separate matter. If we had the benefit of prior substantive discussions and concurrent informal talks, we believe that this would actually facilitate agreement.

**Mr. PONNAMBALAM (Ceylon):** I should like to join the representatives who have spoken before me in conveying to you, Mr. Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and the Rapporteur the congratulations of my delegation on your election to your respective offices. I sincerely trust that the paucity of my words will not detract from the depth of sincerity with which I express our felicitations to you.
In regard to the matter that is being discussed, I should like to view the question along the lines suggested by the representative of Canada. It strikes me that the convening of a world disarmament conference -- in regard to which I would state unequivocally the opinion of my delegation that we would welcome the convening of such a conference -- might confuse the means and the end. Frankly, I do not see why there should be any opposition or hesitation with regard to a discussion of the vital questions which are posited as items 1, 2 and 3 on the agenda -- which must obviously find a very high place on the agenda of a world disarmament conference after being discussed here -- along with the question of the convening of a world disarmament conference. It would be my submission that if the vital questions that may be discussed at such a conference -- which already apparently have been discussed at various other conferences and in regard to which there are reports available -- are placed freely and frankly before this Committee, I see no reason whatsoever why, after discussion embracing these various objectives, the means cannot be achieved.

Therefore, I should like to invite the representative of Canada to put forward his proposition that items 1, 2, 3 and 8 be taken together as a subject of general discussion, at the conclusion of which the Chairman could call for any one of these items to be taken up as a substantative motion before the Committee.

Mr. FUENTALBA (Chile) (interpretation from Spanish): I also wish to associate myself most warmly with the words of congratulation addressed to you, Mr. Chairman, to the Vice-Chairman and the Rapporteur, on your respective elections and to say that we are convinced that your being placed in these posts is a guarantee of the success of our debates.

I should like now to state the views of my delegation in support of the suggestion made by the representative of Ethiopia, which was also supported by others.

We believe that the question of the convening of a world conference on disarmament is of the highest importance, and that this Committee should give it high priority, either on the lines proposed by the representative of Ethiopia,
or according to the suggestion made by the representative of Cameroon. The latter proposed that we should merge into a single item the question of general and complete disarmament with the question of convening a world conference on disarmament. Actually, I would prefer the direct approach such as that proposed by the representative of Ethiopia.

We believe that the question of convening a world conference on disarmament is a new idea which would give rise to a hope that, by such means, greater progress would be made along the road to general and complete disarmament. Such a conference would, without a doubt, provide the most adequate machinery and an appropriate occasion for the overwhelming manifestation of the aspiration of all peoples for the achievement of disarmament once and for all. Moreover, those countries that are more numerous but less powerful would be able legitimately to exert a kind of moral pressure on the great Powers, urging them, through the agreements concluded at such a conference, to achieve positive solutions for the benefit of world peace.
Moreover, we consider that the holding of such a conference offers the advantage that all countries of the world, we hope, will be able to attend, including some that cannot attend our deliberations here in the United Nations because they are not Member States. In other words, that conference, as I said earlier, would provide a forum for all those countries that are outside our Organization -- whether they have been excluded justly or unjustly is something I shall not dwell on now -- so that they may participate in the agreements and resolutions which, without their support, would be weak or inconsistent.

May I say that it seems to me that whatever objection may be raised can be met here since, obviously, if there is agreement on the holding of a World Disarmament Conference, all the necessary steps will be taken to have the conference held at the right time and organized in such a way as to guarantee its success.

The disarmament questions on the agenda have been debated at length and in great detail in this very hall, probably by many of the representatives who are here today, and I ask: Has any progress been achieved? Has any solution been arrived at? Must we again start from scratch? Why not hold a conference which will directly tackle the problem of disarmament with the participation and assistance of all the countries that should attend it? We think that this is the soundest and most logical method, the one that offers us the greatest chance of arriving at concrete agreements on so important a matter.

Finally, I should like to say that, as far as the rest of the agenda is concerned, we agree that the order of priorities suggested by the representative of Brazil should be followed. I must say, however, that I regret that the question of the inadmissibility of intervention in the domestic affairs of States did not command the unanimous acceptance necessary for giving it priority in our discussions. I express the hope that our exchange of views may make it possible for this item, which is so important to the small countries, to be given a preferential place in the agenda of our Committee.
Mr. LENIC (Yugoslavia): First of all, Mr. Chairman, may I congratulate you most heartily, on behalf of the Yugoslav delegation and in my own name, on your election to the post of Chairman of the Political Committee. My delegation is particularly gratified that this high office is held by a representative of a socialist country -- friendly, neighbouring Hungary. I am convinced that the well-known qualities and great experience of His Excellency Ambassador Csatornay will contribute to the successful and constructive development of the work of our Committee.

I also avail myself of this opportunity to convey our heartfelt congratulations to the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, the representative of Ecuador His Excellency Mr. Benites, and to the Rapporteur, Mr. Fahmy, the representative of the United Arab Republic.

This year, the First Committee has a rather heavy schedule, and no doubt all of us will have to exert great efforts in order to deal successfully with the items on our agenda. As far as the Yugoslav delegation is concerned, Mr. Chairman, I can assure you that it will spare no effort to contribute to the utmost to the successful work of our Committee.

As regards the order in which the various items on our agenda should be discussed, we feel, on the basis of contacts we have had with other delegations, that, if we are to try to arrange the priorities in a logical order, the questions of disarmament should be given priority on the agenda of the First Committee. In view of the importance and urgency of the problem of disarmament, there is, I think, a general consensus in this matter.

We think it also logical that, among the questions relating to disarmament, the first to be dealt with should be that of a World Disarmament Conference, as suggested by the representatives of Ethiopia, Guinea, Algeria, the USSR and Chile. The Disarmament Commission has recommended that the General Assembly take up this problem as a matter of urgency. So far, it has emerged from the general debate that there is a broad agreement of principle concerning the need to convene a World Disarmament Conference. I therefore believe that agreement could be reached concerning the priority to be accorded to this question.

By its very nature, this question seems to be singled out for separate
consideration. The adoption, at the very outset, of positive recommendations with regard to a World Disarmament Conference would undoubtedly have a very favourable impact on the atmosphere prevailing in the Committee as well as on its further work, particularly as regards the consideration of other questions relating to disarmament.

I have limited my intervention to the question of the convening of a World Disarmament Conference, and I reserve the right to speak on the order of discussion of other items on our agenda at a later stage.

Sir Roger JACKLING (United Kingdom): May I first, Mr. Chairman, in company with the other delegations that have spoken, proffer the congratulations of my delegation to you on your unanimous election as Chairman of this Committee; to Ambassador Benites, of Ecuador, on his election as Vice-Chairman; and to the representative of the United Arab Republic, Mr. Fahmy, on his election as Rapporteur. We can be confident that you and your colleagues will, through your skill and experience, discharge your duties with distinction and impartiality and to the great benefit and value of the work of this Committee.
From the discussion so far there would seem to be broad agreement that we should take the disarmament items first, and the main problem before us would seem to relate to the order in which we deal with this section of our agenda.

My delegation agrees with the order proposed by the representative of Brazil. It seems to us logical that we should focus our attention in the first place on the reports of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament, listed as items 1, 2 and 3 in document A/C.1/896. That would provide us with a background for dealing with several of the related questions of disarmament.

We certainly agree, as was pointed out in the General Committee when the allocation of items was being discussed, that the question of non-dissemination of nuclear weapons was of great importance and urgency. Therefore, we should think it appropriate if the item inscribed by the Soviet delegation, listed as No. 11 on page 4 of document A/5591/Rev.1, were taken early in our discussion, provided, however, that it should be discussed in conjunction with that part of the report of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament which also deals with the non-dissemination of nuclear weapons.

We also think that, as has been the custom in the past, several items connected with disarmament could be discussed under the general heading of the report of the Eighteen-Nation Committee. I believe this would speed up our work and avoid the need for general debate on each of the disarmament items. Delegations could, in the course of the main discussion, address themselves to those aspects of disarmament in which they have special interest — and here I find myself generally in agreement with the suggestions made by the representative of Canada.

The question of convening a world disarmament conference — No. 8 on the list — is a new and important question, and every one of us knows that the problem has many ramifications. While certainly we should not like unduly to postpone the discussion of this subject, we think that progress is more likely to be achieved if some discussion takes place first outside the Committee. That is a point which several speakers before me have made. Therefore we should consider it unwise to begin our work with an item of this nature which might get us almost immediately into difficulties and divisions unless the ground has been very carefully prepared.
With regard to the order of the rest of the items, again we are in agreement with the proposals which were made by the representative of Brazil. However, since one or two variations in that order have already been proposed, I should like to say a word about why we especially welcome his suggestion that the item we have inscribed, on the peaceful settlement of disputes, should be taken relatively early in our discussions after the disarmament items have been dealt with and after the question of Cyprus has also been considered. As has already been made clear in the General Committee, my delegation considers that this subject is central to the whole work of the United Nations and that this twentieth anniversary year is an appropriate time to consider very seriously what more this Organization can be doing to ensure that disputes between countries are resolved in a peaceful manner. For that reason we consider it essential that adequate time be allocated for the full consideration of this item. We believe too that it should be dealt with as early as possible. That is why we welcome the position suggested for it by the representative of Brazil. We urge this because, as we have indicated, we envisage some inter-sessional procedure being put in hand following a general discussion in this Committee. We hope to have the benefit of the views of many delegations and we hope that their ideas can be intensively studied in the light of the debate here, to enable substantive decisions to be taken at the twenty-first session of the Assembly. That being the case, we see advantage in taking the item early, so that the decisions in the form of continuing study can be reached in good time and preparations can at once be started for the work necessary to ensure that the twenty-first session will be in a position to act on the results which the study will have defined.

To sum up, therefore, we consider that our work should begin with consideration of the reports of the Eighteen-Nation Committee. We think there would be no objection to referring to other related disarmament questions and to the other disarmament questions inscribed on the Committee's agenda in the course of the general debate on the first item. We agree that the Soviet item on non-dissemination should be taken early in our proceedings, together with the relevant part of the report of the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee, and that the remainder of the items before the Committee should be considered in the order proposed by the representative of Brazil.
The CHAIRMAN: We still have seven speakers inscribed on the list. In view of the hour, I wonder whether delegations wish to continue with this debate now or defer it until another day.

Mr. NISHRA (India): I think the Committee would benefit by hearing the statements of the further eight or nine speakers inscribed on the list. At the same time, there is no doubt that we have heard significant views on this subject which require further consultations in a more informal fashion than is possible at this formal meeting. Therefore I would propose that we should not proceed to a further discussion of voting today on this particular subject but we should rather adjourn our discussion, under rules 117 and 120 of our rules of procedure, until either Friday or Monday, whichever is convenient and whichever you, Mr. Chairman, decide to be more suitable.

The CHAIRMAN: We now have a proposal by the representative of India to adjourn the debate until Friday or Monday. However, I should call the attention of representatives to the fact that plenary meetings are scheduled for those days, so that there would have to be parallel action. However, in the circumstances I am ready to arrange a meeting for Friday afternoon or Monday if it would be agreeable to the representatives and if those representatives who have inscribed their names on my list are willing to participate in the debate at a later stage.

Mr. PRADITH (Laos) (interpretation from French): I should like to say a few words on the proposal made by the representative of India. As you know, the debate on the agenda items has not been concluded this afternoon. How could we conclude the debate on all these items on the agenda in two months? We have only two months, without counting Saturdays and Sundays. Therefore I should like to make an amendment to the proposal of the representative of India and suggest that we meet tomorrow afternoon if possible.
The CHAIRMAN: The representative of Laos has proposed that the Committee meet tomorrow afternoon. However, the secretariat has informed me that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has scheduled two meetings for tomorrow, and that it would therefore be difficult to have a meeting of the First Committee tomorrow afternoon.

That leaves the solution proposed by the representative of India. I understand that a meeting of the First Committee on Friday would create no difficulties.

Mr. BARNES (Liberia): I should like to support the proposal of the representative of India that we should adjourn our meeting at this time. The question we have been discussing this afternoon is of a highly important and sensitive nature, and more time is required for consultations.

A meeting on Friday afternoon will be very satisfactory to my delegation, and I support the proposal that the First Committee should at that time resume its discussion of the important matter of priorities.

The CHAIRMAN: I regret to say that I have now been informed by the secretariat that the schedule of meetings for Friday is also very heavy. Thus, the earliest possibility for continuing the present discussion is Monday afternoon.

Mr. ACHKAR (Guinea) (interpretation from French): Is there no plenary meeting of the Assembly scheduled for Monday afternoon?

The CHAIRMAN: There is no information on that point at present, but it is quite possible that there will be a plenary meeting of the Assembly on Friday afternoon. The fact is that so long as the general debate continues in the Assembly we shall encounter these difficulties.
Mr. MISHRA (India): Subject to the concurrence of the representative of Liberia, I should like to amend my proposal in the following way. In view of the fact that the Chairman himself is interested in convening a meeting of this Committee as soon as possible, I propose that we adjourn at this time and leave it to the Chairman to call a meeting at the earliest opportunity.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the Committee for its confidence in me, and I shall indeed fix the next meeting of the First Committee as soon as possible.

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.