Twenty-eighth Session
FIRST COMMITTEE

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE NINETEEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FOURTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 9 November 1973, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Borch (Denmark)
Rapporteur: Mr. de Soto (Peru)

- Economic and social consequences of the armaments race and its extremely harmful effects on world peace and security /29/ (continued)
- World Disarmament Conference: report of the Special Committee on the World Disarmament Conference /32/ (continued)
- General and complete disarmament: report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament /33/ (continued)
- Napalm and other incendiary weapons and all aspects of their possible use: report of the Secretary-General /34/ (continued)
- Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons: report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament /35/ (continued)

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The co-operation of delegations in strictly observing this time-limit would be greatly appreciated.

73-71166/A
- Urgent need for suspension of nuclear and thermonuclear tests (continued)
  (a) Report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament
  (b) Report of the Secretary-General

- Implementation of General Assembly resolution 2935 (XXVII) concerning the signature and ratification of Additional Protocol II of the Treaty of Tlatelolco: report of the Secretary-General (continued)

- Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace: report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean (continued)
AGENDA ITEMS 29, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37 AND 38 (continued)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE ARMAMENTS RACE AND ITS EXTREMELY HARMFUL EFFECTS ON WORLD PEACE AND SECURITY

WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE: REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEES ON THE WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE (A/8990 and Add.1, A/9033, A/9041, A/9228)


CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) WEAPONS: REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT (A/9141; A/C.1/L.653)


(a) REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT (A/9141);
(b) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/9208)


DECLARATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE: REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN (A/9029)

The CHAIRMAN: The First Committee has concluded the general debate on the disarmament items before it and will now begin consideration of the draft resolutions pertaining to them.

I should like to announce that Barbados has been added to the list of sponsors of the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.652.

There are at least two draft resolutions to be introduced this morning, namely, those in documents A/C.1/L.652, "Urgent need for suspension of nuclear and thermonuclear tests", and A/C.1/L.653, "Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons". During the course of this meeting, there might also be an introductory statement in regard to the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.651. I invite the representative of Yugoslavia to introduce the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.653.
Mr. BADURINA (Yugoslavia) (interpretation from French): I have the honour of presenting, on behalf of the twenty-eight sponsors, the draft resolution on the total prohibition of chemical weapons and their elimination from the arsenals of all States. The sponsors of the draft resolution are the following: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Cyprus, Cuba, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Lebanon, Malaysia, Morocco, Mauritius, Mexico, Niger, Pakistan, Peru, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire and Zambia.

Since the subject-matter of this draft resolution is well known and that quite a long debate on this problem has already taken place in our Committee, I shall be very brief in explaining the motives for and the objectives and background of the draft resolution.

First, I should like to stress that the General Assembly has repeatedly stated, in the past, its request that an urgent and complete prohibition be undertaken of all arms of mass destruction, including those employing chemical agents.

More recently, considerable efforts have been made to prohibit the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and to destroy all existing stocks. Several resolutions calling upon the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to prepare, as soon as possible, a draft agreement on this subject have been adopted.

The Convention on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of bacteriological (biological) or toxic weapons was adopted at the twenty-sixth session of the General Assembly. Many countries accepted this solution pending the adoption of urgent and determined measures for the total prohibition of all chemical weapons. The letter and the spirit of the Convention, and the resolutions adopted in recent years, clearly reflect these aspirations and wishes of the international community. However, we note with concern that the results hoped for have not been achieved in spite of the efforts made by both our Committee and the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament. In the meantime, the development of chemical weapons continues and so does the threat of their use. What is worse, chemical weapons have actually been used in recent years.
The purpose of this draft resolution is once again to draw attention to the dangers involved in the fact that chemical weapons continue to exist in the arsenals of certain armies and that certain countries have not yet acceded to the Geneva Protocol of 1925 or ratified it.

The draft resolution clearly and unequivocally demands the effective and total prohibition of chemical weapons, that is, the prohibition of their development, production and stockpiling, as well as the destruction of all existing stockpiles.

Governments are called upon to work towards the complete achievement of this objective. The Conference of the Committee on Disarmament is requested to continue, as a matter of priority, the preparation of an appropriate agreement. All Governments which have not yet done so are invited to accede to the Geneva Protocol of 1925 or to ratify it.
Many countries, particularly small and developing countries, have repeatedly stressed that any agreement that did not embrace all chemical weapons and all activities involved in the preparation and conduct of chemical warfare, would leave the door wide open for the use of chemical weapons in the future. It is for that reason that the fundamental demand of the draft resolution is for the total prohibition of all chemical weapons and the destruction of existing stockpiles.

Answers to almost all the questions which should form part of an agreement on the total prohibition and destruction of all chemical weapons have already been provided in the form of the various proposals and suggestions made in the last few years in this Committee and in the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament. It is high time for the obligations assumed and the results achieved during the examination of this highly important and urgent question to take the form of an international agreement, that would mark a genuine step forward towards disarmament and also deliver humanity from the terrible threat that continues to hang over it.

The draft resolution reflects the vital interests of many countries, interests that have been fully reflected in this Committee in the course of the debate both this year and in previous years. The draft resolution is also in keeping with the spirit of the positions taken by the non-aligned States at their summit conferences.

The co-sponsors of the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.653, which is before the Committee, hope that it will win the unanimous approval of the Committee, since it expresses the expectations of the international community and reflects its vital interests.

Mr. MOLTENI (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): The Argentine delegation is a co-sponsor, with 27 other delegations, of the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.653 on item 35 of the agenda, dealing with chemical and bacteriological weapons, just presented officially by the representative of Yugoslavia.
The effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of those weapons and the elimination of existing stockpiles from the arsenals of all States is the objective to which negotiations on this matter must lead. Operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution expressly states this. We have repeatedly stated that this type of weapon raises problems that affect all States since, because of their characteristics, they are accessible to many countries and, therefore, negotiations concerning their prohibition must not be considered as the privilege of any but rather as a joint effort of all States concerned. The achievement of the above-mentioned objective is therefore the responsibility of all nations.

The group of non-aligned States in the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament in Geneva submitted a working paper (CCD/400) on this very subject, and other States also have made constructive contributions. We are convinced that on the strength of those documents the Geneva Committee will be in a position to arrive at an agreement on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and their elimination from the arsenals of all States, in accordance with the terms of operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution we have just submitted (A/C.1/L.653). We commend that document for approval by the First Committee.

Mr. ZAIMI (Morocco) (interpretation from French): After the brilliant introduction by the representative of Yugoslavia and the statement of the representative of Argentina there really does not remain much to be said. However, since my delegation is a co-sponsor of the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.653, I should like to make some brief comments on it. The draft resolution refers in its fifth and sixth preambular paragraphs to the Geneva Protocol of 1925 for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare. The Moroccan delegation has always shared the view that any international convention on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and their destruction should not, because of its scope and content, constitute a step backwards compared with the Geneva Protocol. Indeed, we cannot conceive that in 1973 or 1974 humanity should be incapable of taking a step forward from the progress which had already been achieved by 1925.
With regard to the ninth preambular paragraph, I should like to remind the Committee that Morocco was among the 10 countries that presented to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament on 26 April 1973 a working paper on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and on their destruction. Furthermore, our delegation was among those which considered that it was important to prohibit even weapons of relatively low toxicity, which might constitute as great a danger as highly toxic chemical weapons.

In the view of the delegations that presented that working paper, a partial solution with regard to the scope of the activities to be proscribed, limited to the prohibition of the development and production of chemical weapons, would be particularly discriminatory and would be unacceptable.

On the problem of control and verification, Morocco was among the 10 non-aligned countries that expressed the view that a control system should be based on a combination of national and international measures and should embrace (a) control of States, including declarations on national activities concerning production and destruction of stocks; (b) national means of verification; and (c) international measures of verification to be carried out by an international body to be set up for that purpose, whose results would be made available to all parties automatically in the light of the facts established. That was our contribution to the search for agreement on an international convention on chemical weapons.

In operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution we ask the General Assembly to urge Governments to work towards the complete realization of the objective as set forth in the draft resolution, and we understand that as meaning that they should all present concrete draft resolutions towards that end.

I should like to express the wish that the draft resolution will win maximum support from the members of this Committee.
The CHAIRMAN: As there are no further speakers, I now call upon
the representative of Canada for the purpose of introducing the draft resolution

Mr. BARTON (Canada): On behalf of the delegations of Australia,
Barbados, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, Fiji, Finland, Ghana, Iceland, Indonesia,
Japan, Liberia, Malaysia, Mauritius, New Zealand, Norway, the Philippines,
Sierra Leone, Sweden and Venezuela, I have the honour to introduce the
draft resolution concerning the cessation of nuclear tests, set out in

The draft resolution sets out what we regard as the essential
considerations which should be taken into account by the General Assembly,
namely:
- that there is an urgent need to halt all nuclear-weapon testing in
  all environments as an important contribution to the deceleration of the arms race;
- that 10 years after the signing of the partial test-ban Treaty, a
  number of States have yet to accede to it and testing continues unabated;
  tests are taking place in the atmosphere despite the concerns of many
  States about the danger of radio-active contamination, the elimination of
  which was a goal of the Treaty; and, moreover,
  - that tests continue to take place underground and there is as yet
    no sign of active negotiations to achieve a comprehensive test-ban treaty
    which would halt such tests, despite the intent expressed in the partial
    test-ban Treaty and the non-proliferation Treaty.

In the light of these considerations, the draft resolution asks the
General Assembly to emphasize its deep concern at the continuance of tests,
and to call upon all nuclear-weapon States to seek, as a matter of urgency,
to bring an end to all nuclear-weapon tests in all environments.

Because of the particular concerns associated with tests in the
atmosphere and the existence for ten years of a Treaty designed to end such
tests, the draft resolution expresses the insistence of the General Assembly
that such tests cease forthwith. Whatever may be the emissions of
radio-activity from particular tests, the uncertainties regarding their
long-term effects dictate that such tests should be halted immediately.
But our efforts to promote adherence to the existing partial test-ban Treaty must not detract from the importance of our general goal of bringing a halt to all nuclear testing by way of the conclusion of a comprehensive test ban. Consequently, the draft resolution reminds the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, and in particular the nuclear-weapon States members of that Committee, of their responsibility to see a treaty concluded which is designed to achieve the discontinuance of all test explosions of nuclear weapons in all environments.

It has been suggested by some that the draft resolution gives undue prominence to atmospheric tests and that to that extent it is discriminatory. This, I submit, is not the case. Of course, we have had to recognize in the text the distinction between calling for adherence by all nuclear Powers to an existing Treaty, and calling for the negotiation of a treaty which, in spite of our strong desire still does not exist. In other words, we want all nuclear Powers to cease testing in the atmosphere, in accordance with the purposes of the test-ban Treaty. We desire also that all nuclear Powers should cease to test underground, in accord with the comprehensive test-ban treaty. In our view, the onus rests equally on all the nuclear Powers to see progress made towards reducing and eventually eliminating the dangers arising out of the nuclear arms race.

There will be some delegations that may be critical of our choice of language in this draft resolution that may find it repetitions of many earlier appeals which have gone unheeded. While we have deliberately sought to speak in even tones to underline our earnestness, there should be no mistaking the seriousness of the intent of the co-sponsors to keep before all the nuclear Powers in this Assembly a firm reminder of our expectations until they are met.

Some representatives have asked us if our draft resolution is "competitive" with the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.651. This certainly is not the view of my delegation. Of course, we believe that it is desirable for the General Assembly to adopt as an expression of its judgement the formulation set out in our draft. Moreover, speaking for my own delegation only, we have some reservations about the provisions of
the draft in document A/C.1/L.651. But there are many roads to Rome, and we see nothing inconsistent with delegations' electing to vote for both resolutions as an expression of their opposition to continued testing and their desire for progress in the speedy negotiation of a comprehensive test-ban treaty.

On behalf of the co-sponsors, may I express our hope that the vote on this draft resolution will provide a convincing demonstration of the will of the General Assembly on this important issue.

The CHAIRMAN: As there are no speakers who wish to address themselves to draft resolution A/C.1/L.652, I now call upon the representative of Mexico to introduce the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.651.
Mr. GARCIA ROBLES (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): As I announced in the statement I made last Monday when speaking on the item entitled "Urgent need for suspension of nuclear and thermonuclear tests", I should like today to add a few words in presenting to the Committee, on behalf of the delegations of Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mauritius, Panama, Venezuela, Yugoslavia and Mexico, the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/L.651.

This is a draft resolution to which we can apply the well-known expression that it is self-explanatory, and this will allow me to limit my statement to a very few comments.

The first preambular paragraph is almost identical with resolution 2934 (XXVII) adopted last year and it stresses the two main aspects of the pernicious effects on mankind of nuclear weapon tests, that is, to contribute to the speeding up of the arms race to the qualitative development of those ghastly instruments of mass destruction and of endangering the health of present and future generations, both biologically and, particularly, genetically.

The second preambular paragraph is, however, an innovation. We can no longer speak of 5 August 1973; that date has now slipped into the past. But we must bear in mind that, pursuant to the terms of article VIII of the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, in 1975 a Conference of the Parties is to be held in Geneva:

"... in order to review the operation of this Treaty with a view to assuring that the purposes of the Preamble and the provisions of the Treaty are being realized". (General Assembly resolution 2373 (XXII))

It should also be recalled that among those aims set forth in the non-proliferation Treaty a prominent place is given to the same concept that was included in the Moscow Treaty, namely, "the discontinuance of all test explosions of nuclear weapons for all time". (Ibid.)

With regard to the third preambular paragraph of the draft resolution, it is limited to making a brief listing of the resolutions which the General Assembly has thus far adopted on the matter of the cessation of nuclear weapon tests, from its tenth to its twenty-seventh sessions, that is, between 1955 and 1972. Since in that list we have given the general symbols used in United Nations documents and since in a number of cases two or more resolutions carry the same numerical designation -- which often bear the distinctive letters A, B or C --
the total number, already impressive in itself, of 20 in that paragraph, actually
covers a much larger number. In fact the General Assembly has thus far adopted
26 resolutions on the subject. It can therefore be stated without contradiction
that there are very few items on which there are as many unimplemented resolutions
of the organ most representative of the international community. This unhappy
distinction can be challenged only by the question of apartheid and a limited
number of other items.

With regard to the operative part, its three paragraphs are basically the
same as those contained in resolution 2954 C (XXVII).

In paragraph 1 we once again and with the utmost vigour reiterate the
condemnation of all nuclear weapon tests, a condemnation which the Assembly had
already adopted three times, namely, in 1962, 1971, and 1972. In paragraph 2
we again reaffirm "that, whatever may be the differences on the question of
verification, there is no valid reason for delaying the conclusion of a
comprehensive test ban". Finally, operative paragraph 3 reiterates the appeal
to Governments of nuclear-weapon States to bring to a halt without delay all
nuclear weapon tests "either through a permanent agreement or through unilateral
or agreed moratoria".

Before concluding I should merely like to stress that in order to assess
the valid basis of the statement made in operative paragraph 2 we could adduce
not dozens but hundreds of quotations from some of the most outstanding experts in
these matters. However, this does not seem to us to be either the place or the
time to do so. I shall merely recall as a single example the opinion of one of
these highly qualified experts. Dr. Henry R. Myers, among whose numerous
qualifications in the matter is included the fact that for six years he occupied
no less a post than that of Technical Adviser to the Control Organ for Armaments
and Disarmament of the United States, two years ago, in an article in a
prestigious magazine entitled "Scientific American", wrote the following
conclusions which can be considered the common denominator of the opinions of the
immense majority of his colleagues, and I quote:
"No foreseeable development of nuclear weapons, based on additional tests carried out either openly in the absence of any prohibition of such tests or clandestinely if such a prohibition is agreed to, would affect the capacity of either the United States of America or the Soviet Union to launch a substantial part of its strategic arsenal against the cities of the other."
And he goes on further in his article to state:

"To sum up, the progress already achieved in the development of nuclear weapons, the existence of immense arsenals of such weapons, and the power of dissuasion represented by the capacity to destroy, even if no more than a single city, are all indications that neither the continuation of nuclear weapons testing nor the cessation of such tests can affect the strategic position of one super-Power in relation to the other."

The CHAIRMAN: As there are no other representatives who wish to speak on the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.651, may I recall that yesterday I announced the possibility of a vote being taken today on the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.654. However, I have received requests from various members not to put that draft resolution to the vote today but to wait until Monday or Tuesday and since, as I said yesterday, it is not my intention to embarrass anyone by a hasty vote on any of the draft resolutions before us, I have acceded to those requests.

I have not received any up-to-date information since I made my remarks yesterday with regard to the draft resolutions still outstanding. In order to avoid any misunderstanding, however, may I make it clear that it is, of course, my sincere wish that the Committee might conclude its debate on all the disarmament items by the 13th or the 14th. Hence, my mentioning the possibility of an adjournment in connexion with one or two items should in no way be taken as encouraging such an adjournment, and if those who are working actively on the one or two outstanding draft resolutions can possibly get them ready for presentation by Monday, I am sure that we shall all be very grateful.
EXPRESSIONS OF FAREWELL TO MRS. ALVA MYRDAL

The CHAIRMAN: I should like to ask the Committee to join me in paying a tribute to the representative of Sweden, the Minister of State, Mrs. Alva Myrdal. As representatives know, Alva Myrdal has recently relinquished her post in the Swedish Cabinet in which, among other tasks, she was responsible for the formulation of Swedish policy on disarmament questions. I have been informed that, in consequence, today's meeting will be the last at which she will be representing her country in this Committee.

Since the inception of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament or, as it was originally named, the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee -- that is, since 1962 -- Mrs. Alva Myrdal has represented Sweden on that body. Moreover, she has participated in the deliberations of the First Committee whenever items relating to disarmament were on our agenda.

But her activities have not been restricted to the CCD or the United Nations: as we know, her unfailing dedication to the cause of disarmament has also manifested itself in persistent and highly successful efforts -- in speech and in writing -- to enlist the support of world public opinion for our common concern. Hers has been not only a voice of faith in and dedication to the cause of disarmament, but also a voice of reason based on an unusually high intellectual calibre.

I am sure that many of us -- at least I have to include myself -- have experienced her remarkable, even uncanny, skill at raising questions, both simple and poignant, as well as learned, in relation to positions ordinarily considered self-evident, thus obliging us to think again and undertake fresh approaches. This experience may at first have been quite unpleasant for the individual caught up in traditional or even stale thinking, but it has invariably been followed by a sense of admiration for her rare questioning mind.

We have from time to time had different evaluations of the CCD. In my defence I assert that a body that allows of the educative performance and influence of Alva Myrdal does have considerable merit. That the post-war debate on disarmament has on the whole been kept at an elevated intellectual level is due not least to her lucid contribution.
(The Chairman)

To this Alva Myrdal has added not only determination and perseverance -- with a touch of impatience when needed -- but also a highly-developed sense of the realities of our present-day world and a shred awareness of the room for compromise. We have witnessed her practise of these rare qualities once again in her two remarkable statements before this Committee this year and in her handling of the issue relating to napalm and other incendiary weapons. While her voice may not be heard again in this conference room, the records abound with reports and proposals stamped by her searching mind, and they afford a source to be drawn upon in the future.

Moreover, I am convinced that she will find other ways of presenting her views on the issues before us. We may thus rest assured that we shall be continually reminded of the obligations which our era, in its quite particular way, imposes on us.

Now, this may have been an unusual procedure, but the person to whom the tribute is being paid is also unusual.

I may say that several members of the Committee have asked to be allowed to join me in this tribute, thus confirming that it reflects the whole membership.

**Mr. IMAM (Kuwait):** Mrs. Myrdal has for many years been making commendable efforts in the field of disarmament. Her intellectual and humane qualities, her dedication and perseverance and her expertise on questions of disarmament are well known to all of us. All those who have participated in the work of the First Committee and those who follow the proceedings of the CCD know the outstanding stature that Mrs. Myrdal has attained in the field of disarmament. Mrs. Myrdal has collaborated very closely with the non-aligned members of the CCD, who seek to reconcile the viewpoints of the big Powers and make the voice of the small countries heard in international disarmament bodies.
Over the years Mrs. Myrdal's call for disarmament has been identified with the aspirations of peace-loving peoples all over the world for a stable structure of international security free from super-Power ascendancy in which the interests of all nations would be fully protected.

Mrs. Myrdal is also closely associated with the demands of the developing countries for reducing armament expenditures and for channelling the resources thus released towards accelerating the pace of development in the developing countries.

It is indeed a great privilege for my delegation to pay a tribute to Mrs. Myrdal, and I am speaking today on behalf of the Asian Group, which is composed of countries that have particular reasons for appreciating her efforts in the field of disarmament. We shall always follow the work of Mrs. Myrdal with interest because we know that she will never fail or falter in her efforts to make the concept of disarmament a living reality.

Mr. Barton (Canada): Mr. Chairman, I know that you are anxious to keep down the number of speakers in terms of groups. I am speaking on behalf of those countries in the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, apart from the co-Chairmen who extend beyond the 70° N latitude. The Swedish delegation in the CND is called non-aligned, and Canada is aligned, but we incline towards each other and have for many years.

Not so much on behalf of myself and my Government, but also on behalf of my predecessors, General Burns and Mr. Ignatieff, I should like to pay a sincere tribute to Mrs. Myrdal as a "tiger for peace" if that is not an inconsistency.

Mr. Fuschin (USSR and Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The Soviet Union is Chairman of the Socialist Group for this month and on behalf of this group we should like to express our profound appreciation to Mrs. Myrdal on the occasion of her concluding her active participation as the official representative of Sweden in the field of international co-operation within the United Nations on questions of limiting the arms race, disarmament, strengthening international security and the development of international understanding among States.
We had the pleasure of witnessing and participating in co-operative activities with Mrs. Myrdal in this area from 1962 onwards. From that time until now Mrs. Myrdal has taken a direct part in the activities of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, that is, from the very beginning of the work of that Committee. During those years she has unfailingly participated in the discussions on this question in United Nations organs, at sessions of the General Assembly and in other forums. Throughout those years, which constitute a whole epoch of international co-operation in the field of disarmament and the strengthening of international peace and security, Mrs. Myrdal has unfailingly taken a direct, useful and concerned part in the discussions and the work of the CCD as a whole.

We have not always agreed with the proposals that Mrs. Myrdal has put forward or with her ideas and arguments both in the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament and in the General Assembly, but we have always realized that her contribution as a whole, in considering the problems of disarmament has been extremely useful and effective and that her statements have always been thorough, carefully prepared and well organized. Her participation has contributed to the activities of many international forums on these questions.

We should like to express our sincere appreciation to her and extend to her our best wishes for success and happiness in her future work. We wish her good health and prosperity in her personal life and her activities. We believe that Mrs. Myrdal's interest in matters of international security, the strengthening of peace and disarmament will not diminish and that we shall be hearing about her future successful activities in these areas.

Mr. MARTIN (United States of America): This is indeed a sad day for all of us. It would be impossible within the limits of any time the Chairman might allow for me to pay adequate tribute to the talent and charm of this lovely lady. I have had the privilege of working with Mrs. Myrdal for over two years and I bear many scars which testify to her effectiveness. But although we have often disagreed, I have come away from each of our contests with fresh respect for her skill, her fairness and her dedication to the cause of peace and disarmament.
While we speak of her retirement, I am happy in the belief that she will never retire. I think she is merely shifting her base of operations and I am certain that she will continue her good work.

We, for our part, wish her all happiness and success in the future.

Mrs. Alva Myrdal has been our leader; she will continue to be our inspiration.

Mr. GUVERN (Turkey) (interpretation from French): I should like to speak on behalf of the Western Group of countries to express our congratulations to Mrs. Myrdal for her admirable accomplishments in the field of disarmament. Mrs. Myrdal has linked competence to wisdom and has proved her human qualifications and diplomatic talent. It is a great honour today to address her and to speak in this Committee for the first time in paying a tribute to an outstanding personality whose abilities are recognized throughout the world.

We are deeply saddened by her departure, which will leave a void that will be difficult to fill both in our Committee and in the international bodies dealing with disarmament.

We express the hope that we shall find her again among us at another time so that we shall continue to benefit from her outstanding competence and wisdom.
Mr. GARCIA ROBLES (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): We would prefer to believe that this is not the last meeting at which the First Committee will be able to benefit from the presence of the representative of Sweden, Mrs. Alva Myrdal. Even though it appears to be so, and it seems that it may be her last meeting at this session of the General Assembly, Mrs. Myrdal had devoted her life to just causes and also as a Minister of State for Sweden for Disarmament Questions. She has striven indefatigably, both in her own country and in the United Nations and its specialized agencies, to achieve a social and international order in which, as you yourself Mr. Chairman, very cogently put it a few moments ago, reason will prevail.

It would be impossible now to draw up a balance sheet of her many and well-known achievements. Yet, I must take advantage of this opportunity to pay a sincere tribute to her and to express our admiration for one who has given us the privilege of watching the invaluable contribution that she has made to the noble undertakings of disarmament in so many international bodies, and particularly in the General Assembly and in the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament.

To conclude my brief tribute and to end as I began, I would merely add that my delegation, when wishing that every success will crown Mrs. Myrdal's endeavours in her new activities, refuses to say farewell to her. We will merely say a very affectionate au revoir.

Mr. NISHIBORI (Japan): I am joining the previous tributes to Mrs. Myrdal today with a mixed feeling. I am very proud that I have had the privilege in recent years of being one of her colleagues, during these few years in this Committee, as well as at the Geneva Disarmament Conference. I also feel a keen regret that she is leaving the General Assembly in the next few days and that we shall no longer have the inspiration of her presence in our continuous efforts to achieve a balanced reduction and regulation of armaments and, above all, to free the world from the threat of nuclear weapons.

Not merely the nuclear-weapon States, but all the industrial Powers have experts who have devoted their careers to this supremely important undertaking.
But I think I am correct in saying that Mrs. Myrdal has had a longer history of continuous association with disarmament than any other official of cabinet rank in the post-war world.

We are aware of her unflagging efforts, as a representative to the General Assembly, to keep herself informed of all developments, both technical and political, and to put forward new and striking methods of overcoming obstacles to the achievement of her supreme goal: a disarmed world. We should recognize her today as the conscience of the entire disarmament movement.

Having said this, I wish her the best of luck.

Mr. GUERREIRO (Brazil): Long before I met Mrs. Myrdal, I read about her as the head of the United Nations Division in the early 1960s and as head of the Department of International Relations Organizations in the late 1960s, and I always admired her for the competence which her statements usually evidenced, and the really stimulating role that the Swedish delegation, under her leadership, obviously exerted.

When I met her, I came to appreciate her other personal qualities, that are really extraordinary. She is truly an admirable human being, besides being a leader of great efficacy. We all owe her much for her efforts at the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, and particularly at the Group of 12. We learned a lot from her and we hope that in the future, in other capacities, she will still contribute, as in the past, to dealing with this very difficult question of disarmament and to the strengthening of peace and security.

Mr. NKUNDABAGENZI (Rwanda) (interpretation from French): My delegation and other African delegations would fail in our duty were we not to associate ourselves with the tribute that has been paid here, quite justifiably, to the great personality of Mrs. Myrdal. Those of us who have known her -- some for a long time; some for the entire time that she has endeavoured to promote the cause of peace and to defend the cause of disarmament -- have learned to admire her dynamism, her sagacity, but, more especially, her devotion to the cause of peace and her determination.
She will be leaving us, but we know how enriching her contribution has been to this Organization, and that contribution will remain with us and we will be able to draw from it during the remainder of our work. She has very effectively encouraged and promoted disarmament. She has made useful suggestions. Africa is grateful to her, and all those who have spoken here attest to this unanimous conviction that she has been a great apostle of peace and a champion of the cause of peace. She is leaving us, but she may be sure that we will watch her and always gain experience from what she has left us.

Mr. ORTIZ de ROZAS (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): There are few people who have so consistently and constantly and successfully struggled toward disarmament as Mrs. Myrdal has done. Today, when the First Committee is paying a just and well earned tribute to this most worthy representative of a country like Sweden, that has always been in the van of those championing the cause of peace and disarmament, Argentina wishes to endorse what has been said and to express our admiration and respect for Mrs. Myrdal.

Those of us who had the privilege of working with her at the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, in the First Committee, and in any body where this complex question has been debated, have felt enriched by that work and have learned from the way in which Mrs. Myrdal has defended the causes of peace with love and dedication.
As I stated, I wish most sincerely to express our appreciation and pay our tribute, and assure her of our constant admiration for her. We shall follow her wherever she may be, since we know that although she is leaving us, she is only leaving us as far as public service is concerned. But she is not abandoning the cause of disarmament which we all embrace.

Mr. HAINWORTH (United Kingdom): The representative of Turkey has already spoken on behalf of the Western Group, but I hope you will allow me two or three words as the representative of a delegation which has had long associations with Mrs. Myrdal in Geneva.

It is not usually considered very polite to address a lady as a veteran. But if I use the term "a veteran of disarmament" of Mrs. Myrdal, I use it with the greatest respect and admiration. Like my Russian and American colleagues, my predecessors and I also bear some scars of debate with Mrs. Myrdal, scars that will not leave a long mark. And I would like to say that not only have we had battles, but we have had close collaboration, particularly on the subject of seismic research, a subject dear to Mrs. Myrdal because it moves towards the cessation of nuclear tests.

We have admired all she has done. As you said, Mr. Chairman, she stimulates thought, and she will remain in our thoughts. She has all our good wishes. And if I may be allowed to change slightly the refrain of a fairly well-known song, I would say we shall remember her well.

Mrs. MYRDAL (Sweden): I am, of course, very grateful and even moved when I humbly accept the kind words -- all too kind I think -- which you, Mr. Chairman, and other representatives today and on some previous occasions have addressed to me when I now give up my official duties in the service of disarmament.

The Swedish delegation has for so many years been conscious of what every minute of debate costs in the United Nations, in terms of time for the representatives and in financial terms for the services, and we have, as a principle, always cut out statements of congratulations and praise. But when you yourself now have allotted time for this, remarks which are somewhat
extraneous to our real work, I must be allowed also to express our appreciation and even admiration for your way of conducting the work of the First Committee. Your endeavours are worthy of great success, also in regard to substance.

Now when I leave with a strong sense of the work being unsolved, I can only promise that the voice of Sweden will not be silenced. It will continue to be raised also in the future; it must be raised, sometimes using rather strong words, to defend the interests of peace and progress of the less powerful countries, representing the majority of mankind. I have tried to represent many of them in the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, the Scandinavian countries, and to the best of my ability, even some European non-aligned countries that are not present there; but in general, all non-aligned countries and, even more generally, all the poor countries of the world, which I advisedly call the underprivileged ones. And they are the ones who have most to gain from disarmament, both in terms of economic gains, in terms of truer independence, and in terms of less fear.

My country will always remain conscious of our duty to defend these interests. Yes, I recognize it as a special duty for Sweden as being, at one and the same time, non-aligned and technologically advanced -- a privileged nation, in other words.

But both my country and all the lesser Powers know that we have very little of real power to set against the major ones, the super Powers. Really, we only have the forces of rationality and morality upon which to rely, and so we must mobilize more and more these very forces, and never tire of demanding in the name of morality and reason that real steps toward disarmament should be taken. We must also stop the arms race, and soon.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I am sure that we all went to thank Mrs. Myrdal for her statement.

That concludes this morning's meeting. There are no further speakers on my list. There are none inscribed for this afternoon's meeting. I believe that none of the draft resolutions yet to be introduced will be ready for introduction this afternoon. I wonder, therefore, if there is no great urgency to speak for those already introduced, whether we might not dispense with this afternoon's meeting. This would have to be on the understanding that we
would be ready to pursue our debate on Monday, with voting on the various resolutions without necessarily having new, prolonged debates, because otherwise we shall not have sufficient time. If this seems to be agreeable I think we can dispense with this afternoon's meeting. We will then meet on Monday at 10.30 a.m. for final decisions on the draft resolutions introduced.

The meeting rose at 12 noon