Twenty-ninth Session
FIRST COMMITTEE

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE TWO THOUSAND AND SEVENTEENTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 12 November 1974, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. ORTIZ de ROZAS (Argentina)

- Reduction of the military budgets of States permanent members of the Security Council by 10 per cent and utilization of part of the funds thus saved to provide assistance to developing countries \(24\) (continued)
  
  (a) Report of the Special Committee on the Distribution of the Funds Released as a Result of the Reduction of Military Budgets;

  (b) Report of the Secretary-General

- Napalm and other incendiary weapons and all aspects of their possible use: report of the Secretary-General \(27\) (continued)

- Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons: report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament \(28\) (continued)

- Urgent need for cessation of nuclear and thermonuclear tests and conclusion of a treaty designed to achieve a comprehensive test ban: report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament \(29\) (continued)

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches in the other languages. This final text will be distributed as soon as possible.

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

74-71186/A
- Implementation of General Assembly resolution 3079 (XXVIII) concerning the signature and ratification of Additional Protocol II of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Treaty of Tlatelolco): report of the Secretary-General (continued)

- Implementation of the Declaration on the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace: report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean (continued)

- World Disarmament Conference: report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference (continued)

- General and complete disarmament: report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (continued)

- Implementation of General Assembly resolution 2286 (XXII) concerning the signature and ratification of Additional Protocol I of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Treaty of Tlatelolco) (continued)

- Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East (continued)

- Prohibition of action to influence the environment and climate for military and other purposes incompatible with the maintenance of international security, human well-being and health (continued)

- Declaration and establishment of a nuclear-free zone in South Asia (continued)
AGENDA ITEMS 24, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 34, 35, 100, 101, 103, 107 (continued)

REDUCTION OF THE MILITARY BUDGETS OF STATES PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL BY 10 PER CENT AND UTILIZATION OF PART OF THE FUNDS thus SAVED TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (A/9565, A/9713, A/9770, A/9800)
(a) REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE FUNDS RELEASED AS A RESULT OF THE REDUCTION OF MILITARY BUDGETS;
(b) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
HAPALM AND OTHER INCENDIARY WEAPONS AND ALL ASPECTS OF THEIR POSSIBLE USE:
REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/9726)
CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL (BACTERIOLOGICAL) WEAPONS: REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT (A/9708)
IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 3079 (XXVIII) CONCERNING THE SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION OF ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL II OF THE TREATY FOR THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN LATIN AMERICA (TREATY OF Tlatelolco):
REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/9713, A/9797; A/C.1/L.685)
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE:
REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN (A/9585, A/9629 and Addendum)
WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE: REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE (A/9590, A/9629, A/9656)
IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 2236 (XXII) CONCERNING THE SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION OF ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL I OF THE TREATY FOR THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN LATIN AMERICA (TREATY OF Tlatelolco) (A/9692; A/C.1/L.686)
ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE IN THE REGION OF THE MIDDLE EAST (A/9693 and Add.1-3)
PROHIBITION OF ACTION TO INFLUENCE THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE FOR MILITARY AND OTHER PURPOSES INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, HUMAN WELL-BEING AND HEALTH (A/9702 and Corr.1; A/C.1/L.675)
DECLARATION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE IN SOUTH ASIA (A/9706)
The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): It is my impression that we shall have a very short meeting today, since there are no names on the list of speakers.

It had been my firm intention to put to the vote today, so as to gain time, the draft resolution in the addendum to document A/9629, the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean. However, some delegations have expressed the wish that no vote be taken yet on that draft resolution. That being so, we shall postpone the vote on it. But may I once again draw the attention of the Committee to the fact that there are only 14 meetings left before 22 November. After this very brief meeting, only 13 meetings will be left for these items. The number of meetings cannot be increased, since I intend scrupulously to abide by the deadlines on which we have agreed. Accordingly, I would once again request that draft resolutions now being negotiated be officially submitted and introduced to the Committee as quickly as possible.

Since it seems that what I said yesterday was not sufficiently explicit, I should like to make a clarification. Any delegation may speak in the course of these meetings in reference to any of the draft resolutions that have been submitted to the First Committee on the disarmament items.

Since there would be only one speaker at the meeting scheduled for tomorrow morning namely, the representative of Pakistan, I think that if his delegation has no objection we could transfer his name to the list of speakers for tomorrow afternoon and cancel the meeting scheduled for tomorrow morning. If the delegation of Pakistan has no objection, and I see the representative of Pakistan is graciously indicating that it has none, we shall meet only once tomorrow, in the afternoon.

The sponsors of the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.675, on the prohibition of action to influence the environment and climate for military and other purposes incompatible with the maintenance of international security, human well-being and health, under agenda item 103, have indicated that they would be prepared for the Committee to proceed to the vote on that draft on the afternoon of Thursday, 14 November. Since the sponsors have made that request, I should like to advise the members of the Committee that, in order to make full use of our time, on Thursday afternoon we shall proceed to vote on that draft, to which many delegations have referred in the course of the general debate.
As I understand it, at tomorrow afternoon's meeting the representative of Mexico will introduce the draft resolutions in documents A/C.1/L.685 and L.686, both of which refer to the Tlatelolco Treaty though they differ from each other. That delegation has also stated that it would have no objection if the Committee were to proceed to vote on those drafts after the respective introductions have been made. I wanted to inform the Committee of that, so that it could be ready to vote on those two draft resolutions, either tomorrow afternoon or on Thursday.

May I also ask the delegation of New Zealand, which is representing the sponsors of the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.683, on the urgent need for cessation of nuclear and thermonuclear tests and the conclusion of a treaty designed to achieve a comprehensive test ban, whether there would be any objection to our proceeding to a vote on that draft, either tomorrow or on Thursday?

Mr. CRAW (New Zealand): So far as my delegation is concerned, there would be no objection. I cannot speak for all the sponsors, but I should be happy to see the draft put to the vote. There are, presumably, so many other draft resolutions coming up that it would be good to dispose of the one in document A/C.1/L.683. That would suit us.
The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): Unless any of the sponsors of the draft resolution expresses a contrary view, then I shall also take it that, in principle, we would be able to vote on this draft resolution, too, either tomorrow afternoon or on Thursday afternoon. This then would be the working plan, in principle, which I submit to the First Committee. Of course, I would be very willing to hear any comments so as to organize our work as best we can.

Mr. MARTIN (United States of America): Mr. Chairman, we are very sympathetic about your problems and we want to do all we can to expedite the matters in this Committee. I have a slight problem with regard to the possibility of a vote on environmental modification taking place on Thursday. I should like to reserve our right to request the Chair tomorrow to postpone that vote until a later date if we have been unable to get proper instructions by that time.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): The right to request a postponement is a right which every delegation has, but could I ask the representative of the United States if he could indicate any set date when he might proceed to the vote, because this draft resolution, it so happens, was the first that was submitted to the First Committee and it was submitted a long time ago. Given the speed of communications between New York and Washington, we really do not believe that, in principle, there should be any major impediments to his receiving instructions.

Mr. MARTIN (United States of America): Let me say that it is not always the speed of communications between New York and Washington which is determinative in these matters. We may possibly be prepared to vote on Thursday. I am not saying that we will not be. But I do think, quite frankly, that we do have to take very recent developments into account and that we have to make decisions as to what our actions will be. I merely raise this point because I did not want to mislead the Chair into thinking that we were unconditionally acquiescing in the choice of Thursday at this point.
The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): May I take the liberty of suggesting, in as friendly a way as possible, that the representative of the United States inform his authorities that it is the wish of the First Committee to carry out our work as effectively as possible. So that, if there is no major obstacle, it would be very useful if we could vote on Thursday afternoon; and I await the reply of the representative of the United States tomorrow.

Mr. CLARK (Nigeria): Mr. Chairman, I also propose, subject to your approval, to submit on behalf of your great country, India, Liberia, Nigeria, Romania, Sweden and Zaire, a draft resolution on the mid-term review of the Disarmament Decade. I wonder whether you could accommodate us in your timetable for tomorrow afternoon or Thursday morning?

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): If the delegation of Nigeria, on behalf of the sponsors, was prepared to introduce that draft resolution tomorrow afternoon, I think this would be most helpful in assisting us to make more use of our time.

Are there any other comments on the tentative ideas which I have put before the Committee?

Mr. YANGC (Philippines): Mr. Chairman, I am sorry if I came in a little bit late and you were already speaking when I came in. Please correct me if I am wrong, but my understanding is that you propose to have voting next Thursday on draft resolution A/C.1/L.675. If that is the situation, I should just like to say that my delegation is in the process of consulting with other delegations concerning some amendments which we should like to propose to this draft resolution. If those consultations reach their conclusions today or tomorrow, we will formally present those amendments. We hope that we shall be able to co-operate with you with regard to the vote on the draft resolution on Thursday afternoon; but if not, my delegation would appreciate it if it could be postponed to some later date. We will try our best to conclude our consultations so as to be able to present our amendments in time for your schedule.
The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I thank the representative of the Philippines for his co-operation and, if any delegation wishes to introduce amendments to this draft or to any other draft, I would urge them to do so as soon as possible, because amendments, in accordance with the rules of procedure, should be circulated 24 hours before the vote on the draft resolution in question. So, if there are any amendments, the sooner they can be presented the better it will be for our work.

Accordingly, to sum up, I will repeat that it would be a very good idea for those delegations which wish to make comments on draft resolutions that have been officially circulated and properly presented to the Committee, to put their names down as soon as possible for this purpose. I repeat, too, just in case it was not made sufficiently clear, that in their statements delegations may refer to one or more draft resolutions.

With reference to the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.675, in principle, we agree that it can be put to the vote on Thursday afternoon, unless those delegations which have expressed a desire for a possible postponement insist on having it. In any case, I want to make it clear that the postponement cannot be for too long.

If there is no objection, and this is the wish of the sponsors, we could vote on the draft resolutions in documents A/C.1/L.683, A/C.1/L.685 and A/C.1/L.686 either tomorrow afternoon or perhaps at the latest on Thursday afternoon.

If there are no further comments, the meeting is adjourned until tomorrow at 3 p.m.

The meeting rost at 3:50 p.m.