DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-NINTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 30 May 1989, at 11.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. BAGBENI ADIITO NZENGEYA (Zaire)

- Report of the Disarmament Commission to the General Assembly at its
  forty-fourth session

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consolidated in a single corrigendum, to be issued shortly after the end of the
session.
The meeting was called to order at 11.35 a.m.

REPORT OF THE DISARMAMENT COMMISSION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS FORTY-FOURTH SESSION

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): In accordance with our work programme, we shall begin today the last stage of our session - that is, agenda item II - concerning the consideration and adoption of the reports of the subsidiary bodies on the various agenda items, as well as of the draft report of the Commission, as contained in documents A/CN.10/1989/CRP.2 to 9.

May I remind members that, in keeping with the work programme that has been adopted, final statements should be made immediately following the adoption of the Commission's report.

We shall now take up the consideration and adoption of the reports of the subsidiary bodies on the various agenda items. In so doing, I shall call on the Chairman of each group to introduce its report. We shall begin with the report of the Committee of the Whole on agenda item 4, contained in document A/CN.10/1989/CRP.3. The Committee of the Whole established a contact group which, after 12 meetings, formulated the recommendations annexed in the report. At the 2nd meeting of the Committee of the Whole - which was held this morning - the Commission adopted the report of the Committee on agenda item 4.

Does any member wish to comment on the report before us? If there are no comments, I shall take it that the Commission wishes to adopt the report of the Committee of the Whole on agenda item 4, contained in document A/CN.10/1989/CRP.3.

The report was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): Next, we shall take up the report of the Consultation Group on agenda item 5, "Reduction of military budgets", contained in document A/CN.10/1989/CRP.4. Since I was entrusted with this question at the 138th plenary meeting of the Commission, on 23 May, at the request of its...
Chairman, Mr. Valeriu Florean of Romania, allow me to introduce the report of the Consultation Group.

The Consultation Group on agenda item 5, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 43/73, held six meetings and also met several times in informal consultations under the chairmanship of Mr. Valeriu Florean, whom I wish to thank most sincerely for the way he carried out his functions as Chairman.

During the consultations, the Group continued its consideration of paragraph 7 of the principles that should govern further actions of States in the field of freezing and reduction of military budgets on the basis of the text discussed at the 1988 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission. The Group concentrated its work in particular on the last sentence of paragraph 7, for which a number of proposals had been advanced. Certain delegations requested that some paragraphs of the principles be considered at the same time as paragraph 7. Such an approach was not acceptable to the Consultation Group as a whole.

At the 138th plenary meeting, on 23 May, the Chairman of the Consultation Group introduced his progress report to the Disarmament Commission and requested the Chairman of the Disarmament Commission to conduct informal consultations, under his authority, with a view to facilitating the conclusion of the consideration of the agenda item.

As Chairman of the Commission, I undertook a series of informal consultations with a number of interested delegations. Two informal meetings of the Consultation Group were then held, under my chairmanship. However, differences of views remained and the Consultation Group was unable to reach agreement on a text for paragraph 7 as well as on the text of the principles as a whole. Hence, the Group recommended that agenda item 5 regarding reduction of military budgets be considered by the Disarmament Commission itself in order to conclude this item at the present session.
(The Chairman)

The report of the Consultation Group, in document A/CN.10/1989/CPI.4, contains a more detailed record of the discussions held on this subject.

Are there any comments on this report of the Consultation Group on item 5?
Mr. AKALOVSKY (United States of America): Mr. Chairman, I may be jumping ahead a bit, but it seems to my delegation that, given the situation as you described it, paragraph 8 of the draft report of the Commission itself will have to be considered at a later stage in our proceedings, once you have completed your informal consultations on agenda item 5.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): That statement is correct, and that procedure will be followed. If there are no further comments, may I take it that the Commission wishes to adopt the report of the Consultation Group on agenda item 5, Reduction of military budgets, as contained in conference room paper A/CN.10/1989/CRP.4?

The report was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): We shall now turn to the report of Working Group I on agenda item 6, the question of South Africa's nuclear capability, as contained in conference room paper A/CN.10/1989/CRP.5. I call upon the Chairman of the Working Group to introduce the report.

Mr. JAYASINGHE (Sri Lanka): The General Assembly, at its forty-third session, in resolution 43/71 B, of 7 December 1988 inter alia requested the Disarmament Commission to consider South Africa's nuclear capability as a matter of priority during its session in 1989.

Pursuant to that request the Disarmament Commission, at its 133rd meeting on 8 May 1989, decided to establish Working Group I to deal with agenda item 6 regarding the question of South Africa's nuclear capability and to make recommendations thereon to the Commission. In accordance with its mandate, the Group, at its first meeting, on 10 May, decided that the draft conclusions and recommendations on South Africa's nuclear capability contained in the Commission's report to the General Assembly at its fifteenth special session,
document A/S-15/3, should continue to serve as the basic document for consideration of item 6 of the Commission's agenda. The Group noted that it had reached agreement on 8 paragraphs of that text at earlier meetings held during past sessions of the Commission. It decided to continue its deliberations with a view to reaching agreement on the remaining 10 paragraphs of the text. The Group also agreed that after agreement was reached on all of the text it should review the text as a whole.

Pursuant to a general exchange of views and readings of the basic text, written proposals based on the discussions on the remaining paragraphs were submitted by the African Group of States and other interested delegations. At its formal and informal meetings the Group subjected those proposals to extensive consideration. Although great efforts were made by all delegations to reach consensus on the remaining text, the divergence of views on the main issues of substance contained in some of the paragraphs under consideration showed that such agreements were not possible at this stage. However, the extensive discussions that took place assisted us considerably in understanding each others' viewpoints and in narrowing the differences in certain areas. That positive aspect of the Group's deliberations will undoubtedly provide the basis for further harmonization of views on the remaining issues at the future meetings of the Group.

The announcement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of South Africa on 13 August 1988 at Vienna that his country has the capacity to produce the nuclear bomb if considered necessary should act as a major contributing factor in reaching agreement on these issues. As the Commission is aware, this has remained the central issue influencing the Group's deliberations for a considerable period. The acceptance of the existence of nuclear capacity by a responsible political
leadership of South Africa is a matter that the international community should consider with due seriousness.

At its last meeting the Working Group also adopted a proposal made by Nigeria, on behalf of the Group of African States, to incorporate new proposals for the basic text submitted by that Group. According to that decision, wherever there are alternative paragraphs in the basic text submitted by the African Group of States, those paragraphs will be replaced by the new paragraphs contained in the informal paper of 19 May submitted by the Group of African States. Where there are no alternative paragraphs submitted by that Group, in the basic text, the new insertions will become alternative paragraphs of the Group of African States. The Chairman's text and the alternative paragraphs submitted by other delegations in the basic document will remain unchanged. The basic text, which reflects the above changes, will form part of the Group's report and will be considered the basic text for future consideration.

In conclusion, I would like to place on record my sincere gratitude to all delegations for their understanding and for the valuable co-operation extended to me. Were it not for that understanding and co-operation my task would have been a difficult one. I would also like to place on record my appreciation of the efficient manner in which the Secretary of the Working Group, Mrs. Jenifer Mackby, functioned and assisted the Group. My sincere thanks go also to all those colleagues who worked behind the scenes, particularly to the interpreters and other officials of the Department of Conference Services.

Lastly, Mr. Chairman, may I say that it was a pleasure to work with you and with the Secretary of the Commission, Mr. Lin.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): If there are no comments, may I take it that the Commission wishes to adopt the report of Working Group I on
agenda item 6, concerning the question of South Africa's nuclear capability, as contained in conference room paper A/ CN.10/1989/CRP.5?

The report was adopted.

(The CHAIRMAN) (interpretation from French): The Commission will now turn to the report of Working Group II on agenda item 7, regarding the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament, as contained in conference room paper A/CN.10/1989/CRP.6. I call upon the Chairman of the Working Group to present the report.

Mr. ENGDO (Cameroon): The report of Working Group II, in paper A/ CN.10/1989/CRP.6, is simply presented. Basically, it is in two parts. The first part gives a formal account of the Working Group's programme of work.
It will be observed that the documentation listed in last year's report remains virtually the same, and that all documents and proposals made had been placed before the Commission and none was treated with any particular bias, but was dealt with purely according to convenience. Some of the documents were treated as focusing on certain of the main issues, but this was not done in any spirit of attaching priority or importance to any one particular issue more than to others. The only addition to the work of the Group is a new text of the report by the Chairman, which forms the second part of the report. This text was intended, not to produce a new basis for negotiation, but to try to avoid losing the details of the work done during the present session. It was generally agreed that such a document must reflect two things: first, the fact that the negotiating effort is a continuing process; and secondly, that in the process no bias is to be attached to any existing documentation. But the Chairman's text does no more than attempt to bring up to date the nature of the discussions that have taken place.

This leads me to a few comments on the Chairman's text. In the first place, the text was prepared as a result of intensive informal consultations during most of the present session. In fact, the Working Group did not meet in formal session more than three times in all, since it was felt that we should not indulge in a lengthy general debate, giving the impression that we were starting a new subject. It is a continuing process and it was considered preferable to begin and end by furthering the work commenced in previous sessions. Basically, the Chairman's report outlines the areas discussed that relate to the political aspects on the one hand, and aspects dealing with the machinery on the other. Annexed to the report you will find a series of proposals that reflect the type of suggestions made in the process. You will find the names of countries attached to them, but I would like to emphasize, as shown in the report, that many of the proposals were made in the process of trying to achieve a consensus. Therefore, a delegation that makes a
(Mr. Engo, Cameroon)

proposal does not necessarily do so from a country position but rather in the process of trying to reconcile opposing positions. This shows the dedication of the members in trying to resolve the very difficult and delicate matters that remain. It is important to underline this fact, and also the fact that most of the suggestions in the document were made in written form, for easy reference. This does not mean that we did not have mountains and hills of verbal suggestions and proposals as well, which the delegations did not insist on having in writing. It is to be hoped that as the work continues, all of the suggestions will be taken into consideration and that in the future our work will advance in the same spirit. In that process I would like to single out the valuable contribution of the Nigerian Ambassador, Mr. Adeyemi, who helped co-ordinate the work during my absence. I have had occasion to praise his dedication in the past, in the Working Group itself, but I would like to place on record my profound sense of gratitude for his dedication and co-operation, along with the efforts of the other members of the Working Group. I hope that the example he has set will be copied at all levels of our work here.

Finally, I would like to refer to the first paragraph, which shows that we have been requested to continue "consideration of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament", not only as a matter of priority, but with a view to elaborating "concrete recommendations and proposals, as appropriate, taking into account, inter alia, the views and suggestions of Member States as well as the documents on the subject listed in the resolution". As a consequence, as will be seen from paragraph 9 of its report, the Working Group decided to recommend that:

"The Disarmament Commission transmits the text contained in annex ... of its report to the General Assembly for its consideration, bearing in mind that it was not agreed, with a view to the elaboration of concrete recommendations and proposals, as appropriate, taking into account, inter alia, the views
and suggestions of Member States as well as the aforementioned documents on
the subject."

We sincerely hope that the recommendation will be adopted because it is the
means by which we will advance our work. I do not need to go further into detail,
as the document is very simple and concise. I think it has been prepared in a way
that will help future negotiations on the subject.

I must also express my deep appreciation, as Chairman, to all the delegations
on Working Group II for the spirit of sacrifice, dedication and commitment to our
mandate that they have continued to show with such enthusiasm. I would like also
to refer to the great contribution of the Secretary to the Working Group,
Mr. Sammy Kum Bu, without whose help it would have been extremely difficult to
co-ordinate our efforts, and through him to express our gratitude to
Mr. Yasushi Akashi, the Under-Secretary General for Disarmament Affairs, who has
always been willing and able to meet our requirements and give advice where
necessary. Sir, I would also like to thank you as Chairman of the Disarmament
Commission for your fraternal and helpful attitude towards our efforts, and once
again to thank Ambassador Adeyemi for his personal help to me in my task.
The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): If there are no comments, I shall take it that the Commission wishes to adopt the report of Working Group II on agenda item 7, concerning consideration of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament, as it appears in conference room paper A/CN.10/1989/CRP.6.

The report was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): We shall now consider the report of the Consultation Group on agenda item 8, concerning naval armaments and disarmament, as contained in conference room paper A/CN.10/1989/CRP.7. I should like to remind you that the Commission decided that, as last year, the Chairman of the Commission would report on this question in consultation with the Co-ordinator of the Consultation Group and the delegations concerned. Following the Commission's decision, I had the report drawn up which is contained in the above-mentioned document. A report on the substantive consideration of the subject by the Consultation Group will be found in document A/CN.10/134.

I now call upon Mr. Sutresna (Indonesia), Co-ordinator of the Consultation Group.

Mr. SUTRESNA (Indonesia): Sir, you have delegated to me the actual conduct of the substantive open-ended consultation on agenda item 8, on naval armaments and disarmament, following the established practice of previous years. I have, under your responsibility, conducted those consultations in the course of seven meetings.

In addition to last year's documentation, the Consultation Group had before it five documents, comprising the Chairman's paper contained in document A/CN.10/113 and four other working papers submitted by the delegations of Bulgaria, the German Democratic Republic and the Soviet Union, contained in document A/CN.10/119; by Sweden in document A/CN.10/121; by Sweden in document A/CN.10/129; and by Finland, Indonesia and Sweden in document A/CN.10/130.
It was agreed that the papers submitted during the course of discussions held in 1986, 1987 and 1988, documents A/CN.10/83, A/CN.10/102 and A/CN.10/113 respectively, remain valid and provide a good basis for further consideration of the subject.

The consultation resulted in a number of substantive findings and recommendations formulated in consensus language that met the consent of all participating delegations. These are contained in the Chairman's paper now before the Commission in document A/CN.10/134.

During the course of its consultations, the Group fully subscribed to the general approach of retaining and consolidating elements and principles that had been accepted previously. The substantive and open-ended consultations on the subject led the Group to agree on the retention of paragraphs 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11 and 13 of last year's Chairman's paper.

Meanwhile, the extensive consultation on the subject, which was generally acknowledged to be complex and sensitive, resulted in the incorporation of several new and important elements and principles.

Consequently, paragraph 9 of this year's Chairman's paper covered rules guiding naval activities when in conflict with civilian activities and steps to ensure the rights of vessels belonging to States neutral to a conflict.


Paragraph 14 incorporated a proposal that a United Nations naval force should be established as a means to secure the freedom of navigation and that, as an initial step towards such establishment, a special study could be carried out by the Military Staff Committee.
A new, separate paragraph on the abandonment of the principle of neither confirming nor denying the presence or absence of nuclear weapons on board any particular ship at any particular time is placed under paragraph 15.

Paragraph 16 deals with a new idea concerning verification and openness in the naval sphere.

Paragraph 17 is also new and concerns a suggestion to update the United Nations study on naval problems.

All participating delegations showed a very high degree of co-operation, and a constructive atmosphere prevailed throughout the course of the consultations. However, given the very complex nature of the subject, the Group was unable to marshal convergences of view on some of those new and substantive elements and principles, as was reflected in paragraphs 9, 12, 14, 15, 16 and 17. In consequence, the Group is not in a position at this time to agree on concrete recommendations. The only recommendation agreed upon was that the subject should be considered again by the Commission at its 1990 substantive session, as contained in paragraph 18. In that connection, I sincerely hope that next year's session will further build upon the progress achieved during this session.

It now remains for me to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your thoughtful guidance and all the delegations for their understanding, serious participation and kind co-operation in navigating such a difficult subject.

On behalf of the Consultation Group, I should not fail to thank the Secretary and Deputy-Secretary of the Group, Mr. Lin Kuo-Chung and Mr. Jack Gerardi-Siebert respectively, from the Department for Disarmament Affairs, for the excellent service they rendered to the Group.
The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): I now call upon the representative of the United States, who wishes to make a comment.

Mr. AKALOVSKY (United States): I regret to have to raise the same point I raised at our 137th meeting, on 17 May of this year.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation certainly has no objection to your informing us, through the Co-ordinator designated by you, of the consultations you had undertaken under your own responsibility regarding agenda item 8.

My delegation wishes to point out, however, that the Consultation Group is not a subsidiary body of the Commission. As stated last year and in the draft report of the Commission for this year, you decided to follow last year's course of action to hold such consultations under your own responsibility.

In the draft report, you report on your consultations. It states in paragraph 3 that at its 133rd meeting, on 8 May 1989, the Disarmament Commission decided to follow last year's course of action. That is incorrect. It is at variance not only with what was stated in last year's report but, as I have just indicated, also with paragraph 11 of the draft report of the Commission for this year.
Of course, my delegation did not participate in the development or adoption - if there was such - of the report of the Chairman on the consultations that the Chairman had conducted under his own responsibility. However, my delegation finds it necessary to point out the inconsistency, which I hope will be corrected.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): In paragraph 3 of the report of the Consultation Group contained in conference room paper A/CN.10/1989/CRP.7, the words "the Chairman of the" should be added before the words "Disarmament Commission", so that it would then read:

"At its 133rd meeting, on 8 May 1989, the Chairman of the Disarmament Commission decided to follow last year's course of action ..."

That would then be consistent with paragraph 11 of the report of the Commission contained in conference room paper A/CN.10/1989/CRP.2, which says:

"... at the same plenary meeting, the Chairman of the Disarmament Commission decided to follow last year's course of action and to hold, under his responsibility, substantive and open-ended consultations on agenda item 8 ..."

That correction will therefore be made in order to make the two texts consistent with each other.

May I then take it that the report contained in conference room paper A/CN.10/1989/CRP.7 does not give rise to any other objection from any other delegation?

Mr. de la Baume (France) (interpretation from French): In connection with paragraph 10 of document A/CN.10/134, it was understood - and the Chairman of the Consultation Group confirmed this a short while ago - that paragraph 10 would be the same as paragraph 10 of last year's report, contained in document A/CN.10/113. If we compare the two texts we see that the last sentence of that
paragraph in last year's report, contained in document A/CN.10/113, does not appear at the end of this year's document. I think this is just an omission that needs to be corrected.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): The Secretariat will take due note of that addition and the amendment to paragraph 10 of the report contained in document A/CN.10/134.

Mr. AKALOVSKY (United States of America): I do not have any objection provided that I understood you correctly, Mr. Chairman. As I understood you, the first sentence in paragraph 3 of the report just read out by Ambassador Sutresna, in his capacity as co-ordinator, would conform exactly to the sentence in last year's report and in the proposed paragraph 11 for this year's report of the Commission. Am I correct? In other words, "the Chairman of" would precede the words "the Disarmament Commission", and the words "under his responsibility" would be added in the appropriate place after the word "hold".

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): I think I did repeat that paragraph 3 of the report in A/CN.10/1989/CRP.7 - and I read it out twice - would read as follows:

"At its 133rd meeting, on 8 May 1989, the Chairman of the Disarmament Commission decided to follow last year's course of action and hold substantive and open-ended consultations on the subject."

Then, of course, if we look at paragraph 11 of conference room paper A/CN.10/1989/CRP.2, we see that it says:

"... at the same plenary meeting, the Chairman of the Disarmament Commission decided to follow last year's course of action and to hold, under his responsibility, ..."
(The Chairman)

We will include that term, "under his responsibility", and complete paragraph 3 of the report on this question as contained in A/CN.10/1989/CRP.7. Accordingly, the Secretariat will add the words "under his responsibility" immediately after the word "hold", so that paragraph 3 will then read:

"... the Chairman of the Disarmament Commission decided to follow last year's course of action and hold, under his responsibility, substantive and open-ended consultations on the subject."

The Secretariat will therefore proceed accordingly.

The English text would then read as follows:

(spoke in English)

"At its 133rd meeting, on 8 May 1989, the Chairman of the Disarmament Commission decided to follow last year's course of action and hold, under his responsibility, substantive and open-ended consultations on the subject."

(continued in French)

I think that will satisfy the representative of the United States of America and that we may consider the report of the Consultation Group in conference room paper A/CN.10/989/CRP.7 adopted.

The report was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): We will now move on to the report of Working Group III on agenda item 9, concerning conventional disarmament, contained in conference room paper A/CN.10/1989/CRP.8.

I now call on the Chairman of that Group, Ambassador Skjold Mellbin, the representative of Denmark, who will introduce the report.

Mr. MELLBIN (Denmark): I have the honour to introduce to the Disarmament Commission the report of Working Group III, as contained in A/CN.10/1989/CRP.8.

The report was adopted by consensus at the Group's meeting on 26 May.
In my statements in the Commission on 16 and 23 May I had occasion to report on the progress in the Group's work up to those dates. At its four meetings since then, the Group continued its work with a view to drafting a substantive report on the basis of the draft report I had presented to it on 16 May and to which a number of amendments were proposed by delegations. It was not possible to carry this drafting exercise to its conclusion. The report before the Commission therefore states that:

"It proved not possible to find agreement on the substantive content of the draft report."
However, it needs to be emphasized that this rather laconic statement does not show the fact that some worthwhile progress was made. As a matter of fact, the Group was able to register tentative agreement on some substantive paragraphs in the draft, dealing with such subjects as priorities in disarmament, principles that provide the perspective on, and address the subjects of, the conventional arms race and conventional disarmament, and the historical background and recent developments, special reference being made to events in Europe and Central America.

Tentative agreement was also established on the structure of the report. After the paragraphs, the main content of which I have just described, the remaining - and I must say the larger - part of the report will be devoted to the identification of a number of issues and possible measures in the field of conventional arms reductions and disarmament, beginning with general guidelines, followed by paragraphs on various thematic subjects, such as confidence-building measures, verification, technological innovation, expenditure and use of other resources, and arms transfers.

In respect of general guidelines, an in-depth discussion took place allowing, in my opinion, for a better perspective on where to search for agreement when the work continues next year, as recommended by the Working Group.

The Group had an extensive discussion of the problems pertaining to arms transfers, but no conclusion was reached. The other thematic subjects have yet to be discussed.

Against the background I have thus described, I recommend that the Commission act in accordance with paragraph 7 of the report of Working Group III and recommend to the General Assembly that this Commission should continue its work on conventional disarmament at its next substantive session, in 1990.
Before I conclude, I should like to thank all delegations, the Secretary of the Working Group and other members of the United Nations Secretariat, and indeed all United Nations staff, who, through their efforts, have contributed to the results achieved in the Working Group.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): As there are no comments on the report of Working Group III on agenda item 9 regarding conventional disarmament, as contained in conference room paper A/CN.10/1989/CRP.8, I shall take it that the Commission wishes to adopt the report.

The report was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): The Commission will now consider the report of Working Group IV on agenda item 10, entitled "Consideration of the declaration of the 1990s as the Third Disarmament Decade", as contained in conference room paper A/CN.10/1989/CRP.9. I call on the Chairman of Working Group IV, Ambassador Roger Ravix, the representative of Haiti, to introduce the report.

Mr. RAVIX (Haiti) (interpretation from French): I have the honour to introduce the report of Working Group IV regarding agenda item 10, entitled "Consideration of the Declaration of the 1990s as the Third Disarmament Decade", as contained in conference room paper A/CN.10/1989/CRP.9. The report was adopted by consensus at our last meeting, on 26 May.

I should like first to take this opportunity to thank all members for the honour that they have bestowed on me and my country, Haiti, in entrusting me with the task of dealing with a subject that will influence the coming decade and set the course of the next century. The fact that we were unable to deliver results on our mandate does not at all reflect the earnest efforts that were made nor does it cast doubt on the rightness of our task.
Secondly, I must commend the selfless dedication, earnest co-operation and balanced judgement with which Ambassador Douglas Roche of Canada assisted me in chairing the contact group and in bringing the work of our Working Group to a close. Without his loyal support our task would have been impossible.

As members will see from the report before them, our consensus lies in the fact that we have agreed to disagree. We have not been able to make any recommendations on the elements to be included in a draft declaration of the 1990s as the Third Disarmament Decade. Those members who were present at the third special session on disarmament last year will understand that the wide divisions that exist in the international community over arms limitation and disarmament issues cannot be bridged overnight. What we are trying to do is to prevent the divisions from becoming a chasm separating us all.

Coming into the United Nations Disarmament Commission right after a special session on disarmament that had not been very successful, members brought this wide divide with them. We opened our discussion on an encouraging note and I was hopeful throughout that we would be able to thrash out some agreement, especially when the papers presented were received so well. But at the last meeting of the contact group on Thursday, 25 May, I am informed that it finally became apparent, when Ambassador Roche introduced his paper, A/CN.10/1989/WG.IV/CG/CRP.2, that members were not ready to agree on this subject at this time within the period allotted.
This became clear at our last meeting, on Friday, 26 May, particularly when we were unable to reach consensus on Ambassador Roche's recommendation that we annex the contact group paper (A/CN.10/1989/WG.IV/CG/CRP.2) to the report, or to agree on the recommendation that the Disarmament Commission recommend to the General Assembly that the Commission continue its work on the preparation of elements of a draft resolution to be entitled "Declaration of the 1990s as the Third Disarmament Decade" at its next substantive session in 1990, with a view to submitting them to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session for consideration and adoption.

The contact group paper was commended highly by most representatives; it was a truly collective effort inasmuch as it reflected the views of many delegations and clearly delineated the aspirations of all mankind.

Although we were unable to reach agreement on annexing that excellent document to our report, Ambassador Roche, in a spirit of co-operation and responding to the generally favourable reception given to the paper, re-presented the document as a working paper submitted by Canada; it is now available as document A/CN.10/135. It had been hoped that it could have been used as the basis for a draft resolution and, with certain modifications, find consensus. Instead, we are now recommending the following text:

"The Disarmament Commission informs the General Assembly that the work to be accomplished under General Assembly resolution 43/78 L of 7 December 1988 was not completed and invites the General Assembly to give consideration to further action that might be taken on this matter", (A/CN.10/1989/CRP.9, para. 11)

in the hope that the General Assembly may be better able to resolve the issues and complete a draft declaration of the 1990s as the Third Disarmament Decade at its forty-fourth session.
In closing, I should like to express my warm appreciation to all representatives for their kind support and co-operation in the preparation of our report, and to express my sincere thanks to the Secretariat staff who assisted me throughout our work.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): I should like to thank His Excellency Ambassador Douglas Roche for his efforts to bring about progress in the work of Working Group IV.

If there are no comments, I shall take it that the Commission wishes to adopt the report of Working Group IV on agenda item 10, concerning the declaration of the 1990s as the Third Disarmament Decade as contained in conference room paper A/CN.10/1989/CRP.9.

The report was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): The Commission has thus adopted the reports of all its subsidiary bodies. I thank the Chairmen of those bodies for their efforts and co-operation in carrying out the tasks entrusted to the Commission by the General Assembly. I wish also to thank the Secretaries of the groups, who were of great assistance in the successful completion of the tasks assigned to those groups.

As indicated in its report, the Consultation Group on agenda item 5, concerning the reduction of military budgets, was unable to complete its work. On its recommendation it is the Commission that will consider the outstanding problems with a view to concluding the consideration of this item at the present session. Informal consultations are being held under my chairmanship, and I hope to be able to present a positive report on our results at the next plenary meeting of the Commission.
Since consultations on that subject are continuing, we shall be unable to consider the draft report of the Disarmament Commission as a whole until the consideration of all substantive items on our agenda has been completed. Therefore, at its next plenary meeting the Commission will resume consideration of its draft report with a view to adopting it.

Mr. NGO (Cameroon): I should like to draw the attention of the Secretariat to paragraph 10 of the draft report of the Disarmament Commission contained in conference room paper A/CN.10/1989/CRP.2. In order to avoid making a mountain out of a molehill, I suggest that this paragraph be brought into conformity with paragraphs 4 and 5 of the report of Working Group II, A/CN.10/1989/CRP.6. There appear to be some inconsistencies both in language and in content. I should be glad to assist the Secretariat if necessary.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): The Secretariat has taken note of Ambassador Ngolo's comment.

The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.