DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE TWENTIETH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 8 June 1979, at 11.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. VELLODI (India)

Adoption of the report of the Disarmament Commission to the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly

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79-70357
The meeting was called to order at 12:25 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE DISARMAMENT COMMISSION TO THE THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The CHAIRMAN: I request the Rapporteur to introduce the draft report of the Commission to the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly, which is before members in document A/CN.10/II/CRP.2.

Mr. OTEGUI (Argentina), Rapporteur of the Commission (interpretation from Spanish): Mr. Chairman, I have the honour to submit for the consideration of the Commission the draft report to the General Assembly which is contained in the document you have mentioned.

The draft report has been drafted along eminently, factual and descriptive lines and is divided into four sections.

Section I is entitled "Introduction" and includes paragraphs 1 to 6, in which an account is given of the General Assembly resolutions relevant to the work of the Disarmament Commission, both those that define its terms of reference and those specifically that transmit and recommend certain specific tasks.

In section II, entitled "Organization and work of the first substantive session", a factual account is given of the activities of the Commission from 14 May 1979 to date, including a complete statement of its agenda.

In section III, entitled "Documentation", subsection A refers to the reports and other documents by the Secretary-General, while subsection B refers to documents submitted by Member States. Naturally, among the documents mentioned in subsection A, in paragraph 13, reference is made to the replies received from Member States by the Secretary-General, containing their opinions and suggestions on the comprehensive programme of disarmament.

In section IV entitled "Recommendations" - which I must now orally amend - paragraph 18 will contain the text which is being proposed to the Assembly concerning item 3 of the Commission's agenda. Included therein will be what appears in document A/CN.10/II/CRP.1/Rev.1 as amended during the last informal meeting of the Commission, held today.
In paragraph 18 as it appears in the draft text we are now considering, an addition should be made after the words "for transmission to the Committee on Disarmament" in the fourth line, as follows: "together with the annexes to this report". The text would then continue: "pursuant to paragraph 118 (a)" and so on. The purpose of this addition is to make it clear that to the main body of the Commission's report we would annex the documents containing the replies received from Member States, that is, documents A/CN.10/1 and Add.1-4, the documents submitted by Member States listed in paragraph 17 of the draft report and also the verbatim records of this session of the Commission.
After including the recommendations concerning item 3 of the agenda in paragraph 18, a new paragraph 19 will have to be added, which would read approximately as follows:

"Some delegations expressed reservations concerning the contents of the above recommendations."

These are the recommendations that will appear in paragraph 18.

"These reservations are to be found in the verbatim records of the session."

The present paragraph 19 of the report would now become paragraph 20.

In view of the short time available, I do not believe that it is necessary for me to go into further detail.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the Rapporteur for the draft report that he has prepared and also for his introductory remarks. In particular I should like to refer to paragraph 18, which is the substantive part of the draft report. Delegations have heard the suggestions made by the Rapporteur concerning changes in the text of paragraph 18 and the addition of another paragraph relating to reservations expressed by certain delegations. I should like to submit for the consideration of the Commission one or two points.

First, I feel it would be useful for us to indicate that the recommendations were adopted by the Commission by consensus. I think it is an important part of our work and since we have succeeded, or we hope to succeed, in adopting it by consensus, it might be useful to indicate that in some formulation.

The other suggestion made by the Rapporteur concerning paragraph 18 related to the fact that along with this draft report we shall send to the General Assembly the documentation that we have before us, namely, the replies received from Member States to the Secretary-General's communication contained in document A/CN.10/1 and Add. 1-4, plus the documents referred to in paragraph 17 of the draft report, as well as the verbatim records of the plenary meetings of this session of the Commission.
The Rapporteur has also suggested the addition of a new paragraph concerning the reservations made by delegations. Perhaps instead of saying "reservations concerning the contents of the above recommendations", we might indicate that these were reservations concerning certain parts of the recommendations, and not give the impression that there were reservations to the whole document.

I shall now ask for the observations of delegations on the draft report before us in document A/CN.10/II/CRP.2.
Mr. ADENIJI (Nigeria): I wish to thank the Rapporteur for the draft report which he has submitted. I share with you, Mr. Chairman, the view that the addition to paragraph 18, which the Rapporteur suggested, should perhaps be couched in such terms as not to detract from the consensus by which we hope to adopt the recommendations. I therefore believe that the wording should state specifically that reservations made by delegations relate to specific parts of the document, and not to give the impression that they relate to the whole document.

Secondly, I noticed, in paragraph 19, that the Rapporteur indicated that the Disarmament Commission was unable to consider in detail items 4 and 5 of its agenda. In looking through the report, I notice that there is no reference at all to items 6 and 7. I wonder if this was an omission on the part of the Rapporteur, in which case I would suggest that we add those two items to those which the Commission did not have the time to discuss. If it was a deliberate omission, then I would like the Rapporteur to please give me some explanation.

The CHAIRMAN: I think that the last point made by the representative of Nigeria is relevant. Since we have items 6 and 7 on the agenda, it seems to me that it would be appropriate to include those items also in paragraph 19. But I shall give the floor to the Rapporteur to reply to the point made by the representative of Nigeria. I repeat that it concerns items 6 and 7 of the agenda. The specific point was whether these should not also be included while we make a reference in paragraph 19 to agenda items which were not considered in detail.

Mr. OTEGUI (Argentina), Rapporteur of the Commission (interpretation from Spanish): I completely agree with the suggestion of the representative of Nigeria. I must say that it was an error on my part.
Mr. PFEIFFER (Federal Republic of Germany): May I also express my delegation's appreciation for the work done by the Rapporteur in introducing the final report this morning.

With regard to the addition he has proposed of a new paragraph, taking into account the remarks and reservations which may be made afterwards, I would certainly support what you have said, Mr. Chairman, that it should be given a rather positive note by indicating that these recommendations were adopted by consensus.

Then we propose to continue with remarks and reservations with regard to the recommendations; not only as regards the reservations, but also that there should be remarks stating that we are very satisfied - and some may even feel completely happy - with certain formulations.

Thus we would give delegations a chance to mention particularly what they are supporting in the recommendations. Therefore, my proposal would be to start the sentence with: "The remarks and reservations with regard to the recommendations by delegations are to be found" - as was said by the Rapporteur - "in the records of the ...". Then I propose to insert the numbers of the meetings we are going to have - the two or three plenary meetings. If we then indicate the number of the meetings, then it will be easier to find the relevant verbatim records which are part of the annex.

Mr. FISHER (United States of America): We did take a decision to welcome the non-governmental organizations to our plenary meetings to participate as observers and to pass out information as they saw fit. I am wondering if a reference to that could be made in our report. We are living in an increasingly open society and a reference to the fact that the non-governmental organizations were welcomed to the plenary meetings - we were, frankly, ambiguous about the non-plenary meetings - would, I think, be welcome in establishing our relationships with one of the few constituencies which we in this room have.
The CHAIRMAN: I am most grateful to the representative of the United States for drawing our attention to the need to include a reference in our draft report to the association of the non-governmental organizations with our work during this session. I am quite certain that all delegations will support this.

Mr. IAMAN (Kuwait): Mr. Chairman, with regard to paragraph 18, you said that you would include the word "consensus". If we do that, it would really be inadvisable to speak of reservations. I would suggest that we confine ourselves to saying: "A number of delegations made statements expressing their views on some parts of the recommendations concerning item 3." We thus avoid giving the impression that reservations were made on a consensus, which would seem somewhat inappropriate.

Mr. ERSUN (Turkey) (interpretation from French): I do not know whether there are any reservations, but as regards my delegation, I have no reservations. The wording that we found in paragraph 18 was so vague that it could be interpreted in any way. So I have no reservations, but I have a point of clarification. In order to make compromises, we sacrificed the whole specific thrust of the proposals. The wording of paragraph 18 is too vague. My delegation does not have any reservations, but we would like a point of clarification to be recorded.

My delegation, as other delegations, understands the paragraph as referring to certain concrete proposals for institutionalization on a world level, under the aegis of the United Nations, to promote the disarmament process; and I regret the fact that the proposals have not been mentioned in this paragraph.

The CHAIRMAN: Delegations will have occasion, during the statements that they will be making in the course of this afternoon's meeting and the evening meeting, to express their views on the document, any reservations which any of them might have, or any clarifications which they might wish to submit.
Mr. Marinescu (Romania): I also wish to thank the Rapporteur for the draft report he has submitted.

I should like to make use of this opportunity to refer to some other points in the draft report: to point 7 in paragraph 9 of section II entitled "Organization and Work of the First Substantive Session", and to paragraph 16 of section III entitled "Documentation". I would like to say that a letter dated 26 March of this year has been addressed by the Permanent Representative of Romania to the Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid, and to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and has been circulated as a document of the Security Council.
In that document the Romanian representative drew attention to the fact that the Report of the United Nations Seminar on Nuclear Collaboration with South Africa contained the allegation that Romanian participants had attended the international conference on nuclear technology held in 1978 in South Africa. The Romanian representative stressed "that the above-mentioned allegation in that Report is totally groundless", and reaffirmed that "the Socialist Republic of Romania has not any kind of links or contacts with South Africa and thoroughly abides by the General Assembly and the Security Council resolutions concerning the South African racist régime." (S/13195)

My delegation would like that statement to be reflected in the verbatim record of this Commission.

Mr. NAZARKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): In the light of the proposal made by the representative of Kuwait to replace the word "reservations" by the word "statements" I should like to say the following: We think that the report should clearly reflect the real situation that has prevailed in the Commission. I hope it is a fact that we shall convene to adopt the report by consensus. At the same time, it is a fact also that in any case our delegation intends to enter reservations on many of the recommendations in the report that we shall be adopting by consensus. Therefore, we consider that all this should be clearly and faithfully reflected in the report.

I do not have any objection to the addition proposed by the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany saying that "Remarks and reservations were made". This wording "remarks and reservations" covers all possible degrees of reservations and remarks. I should like to emphasize most vigorously, therefore, that the Soviet delegation lays great stress on the fact that the report should point out to the General Assembly that certain reservations were entered on certain points.
The CHAIRMAN: Concerning reservations, it is my understanding that the adoption by consensus of any document does not preclude the possibility of delegations making reservations. In fact, the two very often go together in the sense that delegations, when they accept a report which is not wholly satisfactory to them, have to make certain reservations. That is understood. We shall try to find suitable language. The report itself will have to be formally adopted, and I am sure that the Rapporteur will take into account the views that have been expressed here.

If there are no other observations at this stage, I should like to make a suggestion. We are approaching 1 o'clock, and I would propose that we adjourn and meet here again promptly at 3 p.m. Although it may be a somewhat unusual procedure, in view of the time constraint and certain practical considerations we shall begin the afternoon meeting by listening to statements. Certain suggestions have been made about changing the draft report in paragraph 18, inserting an additional paragraph 19, and so on. These will be incorporated, and a new text will be made available to delegations before we finally adopt the report. On that understanding, I shall now adjourn the meeting until 3 p.m.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.