DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE TWENTY-SECOND MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 8 June 1979, at 7 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. VELLODI (India)

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

- Closing statements

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The meeting was called to order at 7.05 p.m.

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

Mr. MITINESCU (Romania) (interpretation from French): On behalf of the delegation of Romania I should like, at the end of our deliberations during this session of the Disarmament Commission, to make a few comments on the report we are about to adopt and on the ongoing work of elaborating and implementing the comprehensive programme of disarmament.

First of all, I should like to say that I am particularly happy to join with other delegations in commending you, Mr. Chairman, on the competence which has enabled you successfully to guide our work, and above all in paying a tribute to you for your personal contribution to pinpointing the common points of view expressed during the debate.

At the same time, we must highly commend the efforts and contribution made by the participants in this session towards defining the elements of a programme whose implementation could ensure a real process of disarmament and lead the international community to the final goal: general and complete disarmament under effective international control.

It is my delegation's opinion that the result of our efforts, although significant, is only a first step in the framework of the process which began at the special session devoted to disarmament. This first step must be developed and strengthened in the context of the efforts made by States and peoples to achieve a unified concept in the sphere of negotiations and to establish a more effective strategy to attain the goal of general and complete disarmament.

Of course, the document that has resulted from our discussions cannot be completely satisfactory since it has had to take account of the requirements of all States. While we understand that it would be difficult to reflect fully in the report the points of view of all the participants in this session, my delegation considers that the report should have reflected more appropriately some ideas that have been presented and supported by a large number of States -
ideases such as the complete prohibition of nuclear weapons, the simultaneous elimination of military blocs, the withdrawal of foreign troops, the elimination of weapons and other means of engaging in combat within national frontiers, and the dismantling of military bases; as well as other ideas which can in no circumstances be eliminated from the totality of measures designed to achieve the final aim of general and complete disarmament.
In this connexion we find it difficult to accept the arguments that such measures cannot be considered to be elements of a comprehensive programme because they are not reflected in the Final Document of the special session. As is known, the Programme of Action envisaged in the Final Document contains, above all, short-term measures, whereas the ideas I have just mentioned, and which many delegations have supported, are aimed at long-term measures which are so many necessary stages before we can achieve the goal we have set ourselves. Of course, like other delegations, we attach particular importance to the Final Document of the special session: it is and will be an important frame of reference and a valuable guideline in the efforts of States to achieve the vital demand of all peoples: general and complete disarmament.

At the same time, we consider it absolutely essential to take bolder steps - to go beyond the formulations of the Final Document: we should identify new ideas and measures which, while not appearing in that document, can help us attain our final goal more speedily. It is within this context that the Romanian delegation staunchly supports the solution whereby ideas not mentioned in the document elaborated during the present session, as well as replies of Governments concerning the elements of a comprehensive programme of disarmament, be transmitted through the proper channels so that they can be duly taken into consideration by the General Assembly and by the Committee on Disarmament. It goes without saying that the replies of Governments contain much food for thought and study and are the most authentic expression of the concerns of Member States on this crucial problem of general disarmament - in particular, nuclear disarmament.

This stand taken by my delegation stems from a fact generally admitted during our debates: that the comprehensive programmes should include all measures designed to contribute to general and complete disarmament, and that such programme should be in the form of a dynamic and flexible document, constantly brought up to date with new ideas and constructive proposals.
Mr. RIAZ (Pakistan): Mr. Chairman, first of all I should like to express the deep gratitude of my delegation for your remarkable and strenuous efforts in guiding our work and bringing about consensus on the document which is before us. This important document, which we will adopt this evening, is indeed an outstanding tribute to your experience, wisdom and resourceful leadership.

We also wish to thank the Rapporteur for his valuable contribution to the progress of our work.

We also take this opportunity to express our profound appreciation for the spirit of co-operation and compromise which has been shown by all delegations, thus ensuring success in our undertaking.

My delegation feels gratified that, in accordance with the mandate assigned to it in the Final Document of the special session on disarmament, the Disarmament Commission has been able to formulate its recommendations on identifying the elements of a comprehensive programme of disarmament for submission to the General Assembly and, through it, to the negotiating body - that is, the Committee on Disarmament. We are convinced that these recommendations, even though highly general in nature, will facilitate the work of that Committee in its negotiations on the elaboration of a realistic and action-oriented programme for comprehensive disarmament.

In the work of the Commission my delegation has been guided by a spirit of co-operation and the sincere desire that our collective deliberations should yield fruitful results. We had an open mind regarding new ideas, suggestions and principles which came up in the course of our discussions, but we also attached cardinal importance to the consideration that, while our work should be a step forward, we should not deviate in any manner from the letter and spirit of the Final Document of the tenth special session. In this connexion, we are assured by the acceptance in this document that the process outlined in the comprehensive programme of disarmament should be conceived and implemented in accordance with the fundamental principles enshrined in the Final Document.
In response to the Secretary-General's communication of 16 January 1979, my Government had conveyed its proposals regarding identification of the elements of a comprehensive programme of disarmament, which were distributed in document A/CN.10/1/Add.1. Those proposals had envisaged a step-by-step phased programme leading towards the goal of general and complete disarmament. In that approach, while emphasizing the central theme of nuclear disarmament, we also attached importance to the urgent adoption of those international and regional measures which not only are indispensable for the prevention of a further escalation of the arms race, but are also feasible in the existing international environment. Although a phased programme placing different measures in an appropriate time-frame appeared to be a more systematic approach, in the spirit of compromise we did not insist on this step-by-step approach. We agreed to the structure which has been accepted for the document.

However, as recognized in this document, it is imperative that progress in the efforts of States on multilateral, regional and bilateral levels continue unimpeded and be in fact accelerated for the adoption of global, regional and bilateral measures which enhance peace and security and make a contribution to the realization of general and complete disarmament.

Our opening statement at the seventeenth meeting of the Disarmament Commission had underlined our deep interest in certain specific areas, particularly the question of security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States and the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones. The position of my Government on these issues was contained in that statement, and we do not wish to reiterate it here because of the time constraint. Nevertheless, we should like to say that, while measures in respect of these issues have been duly enlisted as elements of a comprehensive programme of disarmament under the heading of "Nuclear weapons", we should have preferred that their importance and the need for their early realization be fully underlined. For the sake of achieving consensus, we have accepted the present formulation of these measures, on the understanding that the Committee on Disarmament will be able to negotiate and elaborate specific recommendations in respect of these measures, which could then be expeditiously implemented.
On the question of non-proliferation, the position of my delegation is well known. I must reiterate that our awareness of the danger posed by the existence and spread of nuclear weapons to the survival of mankind, and our commitment to their prohibition and the prevention of their spread, is second to none. Our concern in this regard is fully evident in our persistent and protracted efforts for the early establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in our region and for securing binding international guarantees to non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.
At the same time, however, we believe that the desire of the developing countries to acquire modern technology, including nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, is in no way contradictory to their commitment to non-proliferation. We, therefore, cannot accept any arrangement designed to deprive the developing countries of the benefits of advanced technology, including the peaceful uses of nuclear technology. In our view, the free flow of technology for socio-economic development is a basic element of the New International Economic Order, whose establishment and consolidation remain the cherished aspirations of all developing countries and to which references have been made in the consensus document before us. Therefore we attach special importance to the relevant provision in the chapter entitled "Disarmament and Development", as we do to the relevant paragraphs of the Final Document.

In respect of measures to limit the conventional arms race, the leader of the Pakistan delegation enunciated four principles at the special session on disarmament. Those principles referred to the special responsibility of States which enjoy preponderant military positions to initiate arms limitation and the right of each State to protect its security. They also emphasized the need for adopting a balanced approach which ensures the maintenance of defensive capability, particularly among regional States, taking into account the respective levels of transfer and indigenous production of armaments. We also feel that, with restrictions on production of conventional weapons and with the strengthening of measures which ensure peace and security at global and regional levels, there would be an inevitable corresponding limitation on the transfer of conventional weapons. For these reasons we have agreed to the inclusion of paragraph 4 in section III A (iii), strictly in the context of the provision of paragraph 85 of the Final Document.

The proposals made by my Government, as well as our statement, have particularly emphasized the establishment of reliable procedures for the peaceful settlement of disputes and effective arrangements for the maintenance of peace in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter, as well as the central role that the United Nations should play in the formulation, adoption, implementation and review of the comprehensive programme of disarmament.
It is our earnest hope that the precepts, principles and measures identified in this regard will be elaborated in such a manner that progress towards the realization of the ultimate goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control is facilitated.

While we are conscious of the short-falls in the document, particularly the fact that agreement could not be reached on some vital issues related to disarmament, including prohibition of the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, there are other aspects which required strengthening or needed a more explicit reference; but we share with others a sense of satisfaction that the Commission has been able to reach a consensus on a document which is a step forward in our endeavours towards achieving genuine and complete disarmament. Once again allow me to say that the success in the accomplishment of this task owes a great deal, Mr. Chairman, to your dedicated efforts and guidance.

Miss Lopez (Venezuela) (interpretation from Spanish): At the beginning of our discussions, when we were exchanging views on the work before us, the delegation of Venezuela spoke optimistically, expressing the feeling that, given the spirit of the outcome of the tenth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, we would be taking firm steps towards the elaboration of a comprehensive disarmament programme, to include one of the most important aspects of disarmament, namely the nuclear aspect. We must recognize, Mr. Chairman, that, owing to your skill and that of our Rapporteur, we have concluded work on a document with which my delegation concurs in general, so that thanks to you we shall not end this session empty-handed.

Despite our general concurrence in regard to the document that we shall be transmitting to the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly, which includes expressions of concern shared by the delegation of Venezuela, for instance, in regard to the necessity to alert public opinion to the consequences of the arms race, we regret the reluctant attitude of some delegations which prevented the inclusion in the final document of any reference to the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons. We should have preferred more emphatic language concerning the responsibility of the nuclear Powers for the implementation of measures aimed at halting the arms race, qualitatively as well as quantitatively.
To our dismay, some countries have opposed a clear expression in the document of the imperative need to conclude international agreements aimed at prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. We cannot accept doctrines which attempt to justify precisely what we are trying to limit here, and designed to blur or underestimate the growing danger of uncontrollable competition in the nuclear field and to uphold positions which could only doom mankind to a fate more uncertain than ever.

We should also have preferred the inclusion in the text of a specific reference to the responsibility of the nuclear Powers and the militarily important countries for the halting of the conventional arms race and the bringing about of significant reductions in their military expenditures. However, we did not wish to obstruct the consensus.

I reiterate, Mr. Chairman, to you and to Mr. Otegui, our Rapporteur, as well as to the members of the Secretariat of the Commission the appreciation of the delegation of Venezuela for the work that has been done, thanks to which we are concluding our session today with a document adopted by consensus.

I do not wish to conclude these remarks without expressing my delegation's appreciation to Mr. Bjørnerstedt for his able work in the cause of disarmament over so many years and for his effective leadership of the Disarmament Centre of the United Nations.

Mr. GOONERATNE (Sri Lanka): On behalf of my delegation and those of the non-aligned countries, I should like to express our sincere appreciation to the officers of the Commission for their efforts in guiding our work to a successful conclusion. In particular we wish to express our sincere appreciation to you, Mr. Chairman, for your untiring efforts in trying to bring our disparate views into a tolerable compromise. We know that your long experience in this area was crucial in bringing us to this stage of maximum feasible accommodation. We also wish to express our sincere appreciation to the Rapporteur, who guided our work at an important stage of the negotiations in the Working Group and in the Drafting Group.
Several speakers, among them representatives of non-aligned countries, have expressed views on particular areas, and so I do not intend to go into them again, but I should like to make certain general observations on our exercise as a whole from the point of view of a non-aligned country.
The special session on disarmament held last year was, in a sense, a benchmark on the long road towards disarmament. As non-aligned countries, we take some pride in the fact that the special session on disarmament was held at the initiative of the non-aligned countries. I have seen an advertisement of a well-known passenger transport company in New York which says, "Leave the driving to us". This seems to typify how disarmament negotiations were conducted in past decades. But now the non-aligned countries are saying that disarmament is too important a task to leave solely to the two super-Powers, or militarily not insignificant countries, or big Powers, or classify them as you will. This is how we assess the significance of the special session on disarmament.

Other manifestations of this new active involvement of the non-aligned countries are reflected in the resuscitation of the Disarmament Commission and the enlargement of the membership of the Committee on Disarmament.

The non-aligned countries are aware of the full dimensions of the subject of disarmament and, to use a phrase used at some of our informal Working Group meetings, disarmament meetings are not going to be garden parties. The non-aligned countries are going to participate very actively. This might somewhat disturb the earlier methods and manners of disarmament talks.

This is how we view the innumerable problems that arose during our negotiations. It is, we feel, a healthy sign. The non-aligned countries actively contributed to the work of this session by submitting a working paper. Many non-aligned countries submitted specific views in writing to the Secretary-General and participated actively in the negotiations.

The "Leave the driving to us" type of thinking is still prevalent, but it is being actively challenged. We do speak of the special responsibilities of the drivers - be they described as countries with the largest military arsenals, nuclear Powers, super-Powers, or call them what you may, but the common cause of disarmament is appealed to in the phrase "all States" at different points in the document. The quicker we come to a realization that disarmament is a sincere concern of all of us, whether we possess nuclear arms or not, the better it will be for all of us. Also, in an unbalanced world - a totally unbalanced world
of armaments – to try to impose concepts of balance is to ignore the facts of the state of the armed world.

We are satisfied that several of the ideas proposed by us in our working paper have been found to be acceptable and are reflected in the comprehensive programme of disarmament. Not all of us are happy with the way they finally appear, but that is the soul of compromise.

I should like, however, to refer to subjects on which we could not agree, as they appear in section V, namely, prohibition of the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, and dissolution of military alliances and the dismantling of foreign military bases. Perhaps the non-aligned countries are a little ahead in analysing the causes of the existing international tension. This, I must say, has in many cases been the role of the non-aligned. The non-aligned group of countries have been in many areas the cutting edge. This is not "whistling in the wind", as some of our proposals have been characterized.

These two ideas are basic to the philosophy of non-aligned countries. We shall persevere in these our goals, and pursue them in other forums such as the General Assembly and the Committee on Disarmament, and here in the Disarmament Commission.

I should like now to turn to a paragraph that was of interest to my delegation, namely, paragraph 18. Among the proposals referred to in that section was one made by Sri Lanka for facilitating the disarmament process and ensuring implementation of disarmament agreements. As representatives will have noted, some of those proposals were not fully to the satisfaction of some militarily not insignificant countries, but in a spirit of compromise, my delegation and other delegations that had made proposals referred to therein, accepted the present formulation. I can assure members that as far as my delegation is concerned, these proposals were made in a very constructive spirit, in the hope that they could assist our ultimate goal of general and complete disarmament. But it appears that there are still some hesitations on some aspects of them. The proposals will be further examined in the Committee on Disarmament, as recommended in the comprehensive programme of disarmament which is being adopted by consensus.
Mr. ADENIJI (Nigeria): My delegation wishes to place on record its satisfaction at the completion of item 3 of the Commission's agenda. That it has completed its consideration of the elements of the comprehensive programme of disarmament confirms our view that, given the political will, a resuscitated Disarmament Commission can be an effective instrument of the United Nations, particularly in its deliberations on disarmament.

Having agreed during the special session to the language of paragraph 118 (a) of the Final Document, my delegation had then insisted during the thirty-third session of the General Assembly that if the role of the Disarmament Commission is to facilitate, not hinder, the elaboration of a comprehensive programme of disarmament, then the Commission should submit its recommendations to the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly for transmission to the Committee on Disarmament. Thanks to your leadership, Mr. Chairman - a very effective leadership - and to the spirit of co-operation of all delegations, the elements which the Commission was mandated to consider are now ready and about to be adopted.

The parameter to be encompassed by the comprehensive programme of disarmament is stated in paragraph 109 of the Final Document, which deals in part with "... all measures thought to be advisable in order to ensure that the goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control becomes a reality", and ends with a reference to "the new international economic order" (resolution S-10/2)

Nothing in that paragraph suggests that the comprehensive programme should be a carbon copy of or coterminus with the Programme of Action elaborated by the special session on disarmament. It is pertinent to recall that the introduction to the Programme of Action which was elaborated by the special session spoke of an enumeration of specific measures of disarmament which should be implemented over the next few years. My delegation therefore believes that we should not insist that the elements or the items of the comprehensive programme which will be elaborated have to be the same as the measures specifically mentioned in the Final Document.
While we accept that the comprehensive programme must be conceived and implemented in accordance with the fundamental principles enshrined in the Final Document, we do not believe that this precludes the inclusion in the comprehensive programme, of measures which, though not in the Final Document, are nevertheless thought to be necessary for the achievement of our objective of general and complete disarmament under effective international control. As a matter of fact, one reason why some other measures do not appear in the Final Document was the argument that the special session should not be over-ambitious in elaborating its programme of action. That same counsel, for modesty, cannot, in the view of my delegation, be pressed in the elaboration of the comprehensive programme which, we believe, should see us through to a world in which international peace and security prevail and in which the New International Economic Order is strengthened and consolidated.

My delegation would not wish to comment again on the various elements which are contained in the consensus document that we are about to adopt. Nevertheless, we would like to say that the lack of consensus on the three issues in part V, paragraph 19, does detract from the value of this consensus recommendation. Given the horror of nuclear weapons, we cannot understand why, prior to the achievement of nuclear disarmament, the international community cannot be spared the nightmare of the possible use of nuclear weapons.

If countries can consider the prohibition on the use of certain specific conventional weapons, we are at a loss to understand why there could be reluctance to consider the prohibition on the use of nuclear weapons, which are several times more destructive.

Military alliances are the offspring of a world of insecurity. They have no place in a world of general and complete disarmament. We cannot, therefore, conceive of a comprehensive programme which has no reference to the eventual dissolution of these military alliances and which makes no provision for consideration of ways and means of accomplishing this. As for the prohibition of the emergence of conventional weapons of great destructive power, my delegation believes that those who agree - and this was repeated several times during our deliberations - that a whole series of conventional weapons have
great destructive potential, cannot rightly claim ignorance of what is being referred to here. They have all the military research and development.

Notwithstanding these comments, my delegation wishes to reiterate its satisfaction at the emergence, under your guidance, Mr. Chairman, of a consensus set of recommendations which would be passed on to the General Assembly and, through it, to the Committee on Disarmament. We believe that the task of the Commission is to suggest broad headings. It is for the Committee on Disarmament to elaborate the detailed programme.

In conclusion, my delegation would like to pay you, Mr. Chairman, a well-deserved tribute on the excellent manner in which you conducted our deliberations. Much of the credit for the document we are about to adopt is due to your resourcefulness, a resourcefulness that seems to be unlimited. It is also due to your ability to reconcile seemingly irreconcilable positions. Our thanks also go to the Rapporteur who has rendered valuable service during the course of the work of this Commission.

My delegation, of course, would also like to convey its gratitude to the members of the Secretariat for their very useful support. And in this context we would join those delegations which have paid a tribute to the departing Assistant-Secretary-General in charge of the Centre for Disarmament, for the very fruitful collaboration which we have had with him over the years.

**Mr. Haffad** (Algeria) (interpretation from French): After four weeks of intense, sometimes animated but always useful debates, the Commission is about to conclude its work by adopting a document by consensus. This shows the extent of the task completed in a short space of time in spite of the complexity of the questions discussed and the diversity of points of view. We should therefore like to express our satisfaction at the result achieved. We are convinced, indeed, that the Commission has done useful work and that the document we have agreed on, to be referred by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session, to the Committee on Disarmament in the form of recommendations, even if it does not give us entire satisfaction, will be rightly appreciated when the Committee prepares the comprehensive programme of disarmament.
My delegation is fully aware of the compromises that have had to be made by all of us and without which our debates could not have been crowned with success. We nevertheless feel that the constructive spirit which constantly animated the non-aligned group and other delegations did not always meet with the response it deserved. As a result, our Commission's document has shortcomings and gaps which we could have spared ourselves. My delegation regrets, therefore, that certain considerations and attitudes not in keeping with the new dynamic approach that the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament seemed to initiate, should have prevailed, preventing the adoption of a better balanced text which would really have taken account of the legitimate concerns of the large majority of States. This is true of the prohibition on the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, the priority to be given to nuclear disarmament, and, finally, the dissolution of military alliances and the dismantling of foreign military bases.

We consider that these questions should have been given their proper place in a comprehensive programme of disarmament leading to general and complete disarmament under effective international control. My delegation earnestly hopes that in time the Disarmament Commission will give due consideration to these concerns as well.

Mr. Chairman, bearing in mind the time constraints we were faced with, we abstained, at various stages in our debate, from our expressing profound gratitude to you for your considerable efforts throughout this session of the Commission.

I would like now to pay a tribute to your devotion, Mr. Chairman, to the admirable way with which you have guided our work and helped us actively, on many occasions, to break the deadlock which we faced. We owe you much, Sir, and it would be unjust were I not to attribute our success to you, Mr. Chairman, and also to the Rapporteur, for the quality of his contribution, particularly when he had the onerous task of presiding over the Working Group and the Drafting Group, where he demonstrated his many talents. My gratitude likewise goes to the members of the Secretariat for the invaluable help they have consistently given us, without which our work could not have ended on a positive note.
Mr. CORDOVA (Ecuador) (interpretation from Spanish): The Disarmament Commission has begun to fulfil its mandate by completing its first substantive session. This has resulted in the document now before us for adoption, which includes the elements of a comprehensive programme of disarmament for consideration by the General Assembly at its forthcoming session in order that it may be transmitted to the Committee on Disarmament in accordance with paragraph 110 (a) of the Final Document adopted by consensus after the tenth special session of the General Assembly, which was devoted to disarmament.

Ecuador has constantly reiterated the importance of the Final Document as representing a concerted step by mankind towards disarmament and a political framework and basic strategy aimed at that essential objective. In that Final Document is set out in paragraphs 45 a system of priorities in the field of disarmament which cannot be disregarded. It is expressly stated that priority in disarmament negotiations shall be given to nuclear weapons, other weapons of mass destruction including chemical weapons, conventional weapons including those considered to be accessibly injurious or to have indiscriminate effects, and the reduction of armed forces. That is why my delegation is profoundly concerned by having heard during our debates the thesis according to which a balance should be established between nuclear disarmament - which must have the highest priority - and conventional disarmament. I reaffirm that we should not seek a balance between things which are on such different levels. These two forces are different in nature and have different quantitative and qualitative effects. Conventional weapons may violate international peace and security and wreak havoc among the peoples, but with nuclear weapons such disasters would attain the proportions of a universal holocaust.

My delegation deplores the fact that a consensus was not achieved so that the document could expressly include the prohibition of the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. I believe that such an omission is contrary to the spirit of the Charter and to the principle embodied in Article 2 (4); that it weakens the political importance of the document to be adopted; that it reduces the overriding responsibility of countries regarding...
nuclear disarmament, and in particular that of the super-Powers; and that it may lead to pessimism concerning the general effectiveness of the disarmament process.

Ecuador makes these comments precisely because our country is deeply committed to peace; because it holds in the highest esteem the life of individuals and peoples and the inherent rights of human beings; because it believes that the use of force must be definitively proscribed and that the principle of the peaceful settlement of disputes in relations among States must be strengthened; because it believes in a fruitful new international order of justice in which disarmament, both militarily and psychologically, would become a universal reality.

Nevertheless, my country supports the document because of its positive elements. We hope that in the appropriate body, the Committee on Disarmament, due account will be taken of the comments made here and that at later stages the progress which has been foreshadowed at this stage will be achieved.

The delegation of Ecuador adds its voice to those which have expressed appreciation and congratulations to you, Mr. Chairman, and to your colleagues in the Bureau, in particular our Rapporteur, Mr. Ortegúi, the representative of Argentina, as well as to the members of the translation interpretation and other Secretariat services who have contributed to the effective conduct of our meetings.

Mr. BLOMBERG (Finland): I wish to express the gratitude of the delegation of Finland to you, Mr. Chairman, for the excellent and admirable leadership with which you have provided this Commission during the session which is now about to end. Without your skill, patience and untiring efforts we should not have been able to achieve the results that are incorporated in the report soon to be adopted. I should like equally like to thank Mr. Ortegúi, the Rapporteur of the Commission, for the important role that he played in facilitating the emergence of the text of our report.
I have only a few remarks to make. My delegation is pleased that the matters that proved difficult have been resolved. We believe that any other basis for our work than consensus would not be in the interest of the international community in its search for disarmament.

The Commission has now completed an important first step in carrying out the mandate that the special session on disarmament entrusted to it. The Commission has concentrated almost exclusively on considering the elements of a comprehensive programme of disarmament. By doing so and by avoiding a comprehensive general debate on disarmament issues the Commission, in the view of my Government, has gone a considerable way in clarifying its identity and role. The process aimed at achieving a comprehensive programme of disarmament has now begun, and it will continue in the General Assembly and the Committee on Disarmament.

The substantive views of my delegation on the elements of a comprehensive programme have been expressed in Finland's reply to the Secretary-General (A/CN.10/1, pp. 14-19), therefore I shall not dwell on them here. I should simply like to reiterate that my delegation attaches particular importance to such elements as the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons, the regional approach to disarmament, the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones and the creation of confidence-building measures.

My delegation notes with particular satisfaction that in its work the Commission was able to benefit greatly from the Final Document of the special session and on many points to draw on it by referring to, paraphrasing or quoting its text. The Commission has thus proved an important vehicle for maintaining the impetus created by the special session and manifested in the Final Document.

Before concluding, may I take this opportunity to pay a tribute to the Assistant Secretary-General, Mr. Bjornerstedt, since he is approaching the end of his term, although not his service, we hope, in the United Nations. Mr. Bjornerstedt has guided disarmament activities in the United Nations skilfully and smoothly throughout a decade of tremendous expansion. He has done so with a personal touch which has made co-operation with him most enjoyable. For that, my delegation wishes to express to him its deeply felt gratitude and to wish him equal success in his future activities.
Mr. LOKHAN (Nepal): Mr. Chairman, I should like first of all to pay a tribute to you for the effective and efficient manner in which you have guided the deliberations of this Commission. We also express our appreciation to the Rapporteur for his skill in presiding over the meetings of the Working Group and the Drafting Group. We are confident that the recommendations before us, the result of your efforts to reconcile divergent positions, will be adopted by consensus.

The concerns of my delegation have already been articulated by other members of the non-aligned group; we share those concerns and we shall not repeat them.

While expressing our hope that these recommendations will provide a useful framework for negotiations in the Committee on Disarmament, my delegation would like to place on record the following observations.

Under "Related Measures", my delegation in the informal drafting session had submitted an amendment to paragraph 14.A (vi) 4 which would read:

"The establishment of zones of peace, taking into account national and regional initiatives to this end".

The purpose of this amendment was to highlight the fact that initiatives in the past regarding the establishment of zones of peace had been taken at the national and regional levels. In fact, without such initiatives, the concept of zones of peace would not have been so popular. A comprehensive programme of disarmament encompassing all the elements essential to the strengthening of international peace and security could reasonably take note of such initiatives and encourage them by all means. We regret that our amendment could not be accommodated in the recommendations we shall soon adopt.

While expressing our grateful thanks to the delegations which supported our amendment, it is our hope that the Committee on Disarmament, entrusted with the elaboration of the comprehensive programme, will give due consideration to our proposal, which would clarify and strengthen the formulation in the recommendations that concerns the establishment of zones of peace.

Finally, we are happy to note that the section on disarmament and development is satisfactorily worded. It goes without saying that developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, attach considerable importance to the resources that disarmament measures could release for their social and economic development.
Mr. VALDERRAMA (Philippines): Mr. Chairman, I wish to put on record my delegation’s appreciation of the singular efforts made by you in the formulation of the recommendations for the elements of a comprehensive programme of disarmament under agenda item 3.

My delegation is aware of how delicate and difficult the negotiations have been, and that is why the consensus we are about to reach on the recommendations, as amended, is a tribute to the sense of high-mindedness and co-operation of the members of the Committee.

My delegation also wishes to thank the other officers of the Committee, in particular Mr. Otegui of Argentina, the Rapporteur of the Committee and Chairman of the Working Group. We are grateful to the Working Group and the Drafting Group, as well as the members of the non-aligned group and all those concerned who worked long and hard on the formulation of the elements of a comprehensive programme of disarmament. We thank them for their praiseworthy contributions to the elaboration of the elements of a comprehensive programme of disarmament.

We welcome with appreciation the participation in the work of the Commission of all the permanent members of the Security Council.

My delegation will join in the consensus on the recommendations we are about to adopt, as amended at our meeting this morning, mindful of the fact that they are the product of a compromise and therefore not entirely satisfactory and that they will have to be considered by the General Assembly and the Committee on Disarmament.

It now remains for us to express regret that no consensus could be reached on various fundamental issues. I refer to paragraph 19 of the recommendations, in particular subparagraph 1 on the prohibition of the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons and subparagraph 3 on the prohibition of weapons of great destructive power.

The recommendations may be considered as providing a feasible framework for a comprehensive programme of disarmament.

I cannot conclude without again expressing, on behalf of my delegation, our appreciation to you, Mr. Chairman, and the Secretariat, headed by Under-Secretary-General Björnerstedt of Sweden, who is leaving the United Nations Secretariat. We have
admired the Under-Secretary-General for his commitment to general and complete disarmament and for his concern that world public opinion should be brought to bear upon this vital issue of our times. We wish him well in his future endeavours. His services to our international Organization in the field of disarmament exemplify his country's consistent position on the question of general and complete disarmament under effective international control.

Mr. VUKOVIC (Yugoslavia): In the statement of the representative of Yugoslavia of 16 May, my delegation already had the opportunity to express its satisfaction at the initiation of the work of the United Nations Disarmament Commission and the beginning of the consideration of substantive disarmament problems. We conceive of the beginning of the work of the Commission as a new qualitative endeavour, as a strengthening of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament and, indeed, as a new opportunity offered to all Member States to contribute to the consideration and the resolution of the complex problems of disarmament.

The task which at its tenth special session the General Assembly entrusted to the Commission, namely, to consider the elements of a comprehensive programme of disarmament and to adopt recommendations thereon, apart from the broader mandate it has been given, is a complex and challenging one. We should like to express with satisfaction our view that the Commission, under your able guidance, Mr. Chairman, has successfully accomplished this task. It has thus not only confirmed the importance and usefulness of its establishment but also its ability to resolve most complicated issues with which it may be faced in the field of disarmament and international security.

Together with other non-aligned countries Yugoslavia has approached the elaboration of the elements of a comprehensive programme of disarmament with the understanding that such a programme should encompass all measures thought to be necessary in order to ensure that the goals of general and complete disarmament under effective international control, the establishment of lasting international peace and security and the realization of the New International Economic Order is
achieved. The working paper submitted by the non-aligned countries, in the elaboration of which my delegation also contributed, has fully expressed such an approach. I wish on this occasion to express our satisfaction that the same approach has found wide support in the Commission and that it is fully reflected in the recommendations that we are about to adopt.
My delegation believes that the recommendations of the Commission represent a good basis for the elaboration of a comprehensive programme of disarmament in the Committee on Disarmament. We do not believe, however, that by the adoption of the recommendations the Commission has terminated its consideration of the matter. We are convinced that it will have an opportunity to take up the question again in the process of the elaboration of a comprehensive programme of disarmament by the Committee on Disarmament and make a further contribution to its adoption.

In expressing our satisfaction at the successful outcome of the first substantive session of the Commission as well as with the recommendations that have been accepted by consensus, I cannot avoid mentioning our regret at the fact that some important elements of the comprehensive programme of disarmament did not find their place in the recommendations. I have in mind the problems related to the prohibition of the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, the prohibition of the production and deployment of conventional weapons of great destructive power, the dissolution of military blocs, the dismantling of foreign military bases and the withdrawal of troops from foreign territories. My delegation requested the inclusion of those elements because we are firmly convinced that they should find their place in the comprehensive programme of disarmament and that they represent an inseparable part of general and complete disarmament. My delegation will continue its endeavours in the process of elaborating a comprehensive programme of disarmament in order to find a constructive solution to this problem.

Mr. Chairman, I cannot end my short statement without expressing once again the deep satisfaction of my delegation at the fact that we have been able to working under your able leadership and our gratitude to you personally for your untiring efforts and valuable contribution to the successful ending of this session. May I also express my gratitude to the Rapporteur, who made a valuable personal contribution to our success.
Mr. W. RAHMAN (Bangladesh): As the first session of the United Nations Disarmament Commission draws to a close, my delegation wishes to record its satisfaction at the adoption of the elements to be included in the comprehensive programme of disarmament. Although there are points on which my delegation has expressed reservations, we are nevertheless happy at the final outcome of the Commission's efforts.

Bangladesh was among those countries which supported the establishment of the United Nations Disarmament Commission as a deliberative body supplementary to the First Committee of the General Assembly. It has given all the Members of the United Nations a chance to discuss in greater detail matters of disarmament.

My delegation would like to express its gratification at the fact that this Commission, despite some hesitation and dithering, will be able to adopt recommendations on a comprehensive programme of disarmament; and I should like to join all the preceding speakers in expressing my sincerest and profound gratitude to you, Mr. Chairman, for the admirable way in which you have conducted the deliberations, and to our Rapporteur for his valuable efforts to ensure the success of this session. My delegation particularly appreciates the valuable initiatives that you, Mr. Chairman, have taken side by side with us to help us to arrive at this conclusion.

While my delegation looks forward to our next session in 1980, in New York, at the same time we are confident that the future negotiations in the Committee on Disarmament will receive the necessary shot in the arm from the present session as well as valuable guidance for further deliberations.

We recognize that the present recommendations are to a great extent in conformity with the position that we expressed in the general debate as well as in the paper that our Group submitted to the Commission. We note with satisfaction the section on disarmament and development which, as we have already underlined on various occasions, is of paramount importance to my delegation, as we believe that the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament recognized the close and indivisible relationship between disarmament and economic and social development and the establishment of a New International Economic Order.
We believe that peace and prosperity are indivisible. The acceleration of military expenditure not only absorbs considerable resources but also constitutes a basically destabilizing element throughout world economy. The recurring economic crises in recent years have served to highlight that fact. Since it is our firm belief that a viable international system must be based on the establishment of a link between disarmament and development, my delegation expresses its particular satisfaction at the improved formulation of the section as reflected in the consensus document.

Finally, for the attainment of our ultimate goal of general and complete disarmament, this session is an important and auspicious one. The momentum generated here in this Commission represents a step forward after the tenth special session of the General Assembly, and concrete efforts must be made by all concerned to sustain this spirit in all our future deliberations.

Mr. ERSUN (Turkey) (interpretation from French): Mr. Chairman, may I be allowed to tell you, not as an expression of mere common courtesy but as an expression of sincere conviction, of my delegation's profound gratitude for the tireless efforts that you, with the effective co-operation of the Rapporteur, have made to conclude the task entrusted to this Commission by the General Assembly. Your sincere devotion to the cause of disarmament, your great experience and your exceptional diplomatic talents have contributed much to the calm atmosphere of our deliberations and the successful conclusion of our work.

During this first session of the Disarmament Commission we felt that the main point was to find grounds for common agreement, a common denominator between the divergent interests and the sometimes contradictory approaches on various precise subjects, in order to maintain and consolidate the positive climate created by the tenth special session and to help to promote the disarmament process.

At the end of these four weeks that we have spent together, we can say that the work has been accomplished and we are delighted at that. However, while it is true that the main result of our work - I refer to the draft comprehensive programme of disarmament - is to a certain extent important progress, it is still modest in content and structure. However, it does represent concrete progress achieved on the basis of consensus, and my delegation is extremely happy to be able to say that.
As I said at the beginning of our work, in my first statement in the plenary Commission, we would have preferred a more systematic and clear document, drawn up on the basis of an integral and multidimensional approach, stressing first and foremost concrete measures in the fields of nuclear and conventional weapons - in a word, a document understandable and useful to the public at large and the man in the street.

I must say that the necessity of accepting compromise formulas on certain specific points, in order to preserve unity in this Commission, has sometimes deflected us considerably from our objective. That is true, for example, of the world community's great need for specialized international agencies, established under the aegis of the United Nations, which might be extremely useful in speeding up the disarmament process and ensuring the effective application of the agreements concluded. It is true, too, of the system for the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and even of the prohibition of nuclear tests.

Nevertheless, the Turkish delegation is still optimistic, because it thinks that we are at the beginning of a stage in which world public opinion is becoming generally aware of the grave dangers of an unbridled arms race. The Turkish delegation hopes that it will be possible in future to make further progress, thereby redressing the present shortcomings and ambiguities.

If we look at press release No. DC/1144, published yesterday by the press services of the United Nations, we see that at the beginning of next week a group of experts will be meeting in Geneva to study a draft whose aim is to establish a specialized agency, under the aegis of the United Nations, to assist States in effectively implementing disarmament agreements. Turkey was one of the sponsors of that draft. However, present-day realities made it impossible for us to mention specifically the four important concrete drafts appearing in document CRP.1 of 5 June 1979, drawn up by you, Mr. Chairman, and in paragraph 18 of the draft comprehensive programme of disarmament, and we therefore confined ourselves to referring to paragraph 125 of the Final Document of the special session. But this vague and veiled formula is meant to reflect the world community's urgent need for the establishment of certain specialized agencies within the United Nations system. I should like to make it clear that for my delegation the only possible interpretation of paragraph 18 is the one I have just briefly described.
Having made that clarification, I should like to conclude my statement on a positive note which better reflects the feelings of my delegation. The head of the Turkish Government stated at the special session that Turkey's foreign policy had three principal, closely interdependent aims: the establishment of a just and equitable international economic order, the strengthening and consolidation of the process of détente, and the ensuring of constant progress towards world disarmament and lasting peace. My delegation is thus particularly happy to see in this draft of a comprehensive programme of disarmament a special chapter devoted to the existing relationships between disarmament and development.

Mr. PEREZ (Cuba) (interpretation from Spanish): I shall make a very brief statement, but I cannot refrain from saying that you, Mr. Chairman, with your customary efficiency, have provided us with a document which it seems will be adopted by consensus, although some clarifications on certain points are in order.

I must admit that there was a time when I felt some confusion about whether we were working in a negotiating body or a deliberating body. But in the final analysis, what is important is that we are putting the final touches on a document containing the recommendations of the Disarmament Commission, to be transmitted to the General Assembly so that they can be used by the Committee on Disarmament in Geneva as a basis for its work.

I must express regret at the fact that it has been necessary to include a chapter V, containing points on which it has not been possible to reach a consensus. In expressing that regret, I think I reflect the feelings of most of the developing countries, since the three basic points in chapter V affect them very directly. Obviously, the prohibition of the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is of the utmost interest to our countries. This is true equally of the dissolution of military alliances and the dismantling of foreign military bases. My delegation, we would repeat, sees no reason why such a measure should not be included in the comprehensive programme of disarmament.
Furthermore, as we have stated earlier, we cannot conceive of a comprehensive programme of disarmament that does not include the question of foreign military bases. I think we are expressing the feelings of a large number of countries when we recall the existence of bases such as Guantánamo and Diego García, and others, which are a source of threat to and constant pressure on the countries involved, preventing them from following a path of independent development.

Finally, I wish to refer to point 3, on the prohibition of the development, production and deployment of conventional weapons of great destructive power. Efforts have been made here to minimize the importance of the development, production and deployment of conventional weapons of great destructive power. The aim of this is to ensure that these types of weapons are not given their due weight.

I must truly deplore the fact that these elements contained in chapter V are not given the value they deserve in this document. Nevertheless, we believe that there will be time and new opportunities to raise these problems affecting the developing countries, during the next session of the General Assembly and in the Committee on Disarmament in Geneva.

My delegation makes a positive assessment of the document which we are about to adopt by consensus, and we wish to express again, Mr. Chairman, our appreciation for the excellent work which you, your colleagues on the Bureau, and the secretariat have done.

Mr. DUMEVI (Ghana): In stating our position on the draft report, we shall confine ourselves to general remarks.

In our view, this report represents an encouraging attempt to identify areas in which the Geneva Committee can start work. The fact that this Commission will be able to adopt a report by consensus - albeit without the three measures listed in paragraph 19 - is in itself a significant achievement.

Having said that, I would add that we are not unaware of the regrets expressed in connexion with some sections of the report by several representatives who have already spoken.
In our view, what is essential is not so much what has been left out of the report as maximum political support by States Members for the basic elements which we have agreed upon. It is the hope of my delegation that the necessary political support will be forthcoming.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, my delegation would like to place on record its appreciation for your effective leadership, and in particular your skill which has enabled you to harmonize the positions of delegations into the consensus document before us. We would also like to convey our gratitude to the Rapporteur for his efforts during the important drafting stage of this document. Last but not least, we wish to put on record our appreciation for the untiring efforts of the Secretariat, without which the Commission would not have finished its work on schedule.

Mr. BERG (Belgium) (interpretation from French): Allow me first, Mr. Chairman, to say that my delegation associates itself with the many speakers who have preceded me in thanking you for the way in which you have conducted the debates in our Commission. Your savoir faire and your experience have considerably helped in the results obtained. We would also like to thank our Rapporteur, Mr. Otegui, for the work he has done as Chairman of the Drafting Group. Our thanks go also to all the members of the Secretariat who have ensured the smooth running of our work.

We are happy with the result of our work to the extent that it can be attributed to the spirit that has prevailed. The consensus is the fruit of tolerance, and in its practice we see a sign of the development of the spirit of international co-operation.

Having said that, I would add that the consensus that we shall be joining this evening does not mean that my delegation approves of all the words and thoughts in the document to be adopted. On non-proliferation, for example, we regret the fact that the Non-Proliferation Treaty was not mentioned. We have said in the past that, while we are aware of the shortcomings of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, it is still a universal instrument. We do not think that that thought is adequately expressed in the document before us.
With regard to the reduction of military expenditures, we regret that there is no reference in the text to the problem of comparability.

As for the questions under paragraph 19, my delegation endorses the explanations already given by other delegations, which show - without its being necessary to revert to them in detail - the reasons for the difficulties that my delegation also has with regard to those questions.

We are gratified to find mention of the regional dimension of security problems both in the introduction and in the section on measures, where there is reference to nuclear-free zones, which constitutes an excellent illustration of the possible result of the concept of a regional approach in the nuclear field, as well as in point 2 of the section devoted to conventional weapons. This seems to us to confirm that the regional concept merits mention, and my country is resolved to pursue its initiative concerning the systematic exploration of the possibilities it may offer.

I would not wish to finish my brief statement without paying tribute to Mr. Bjornerstedt who is about to relinquish his present post and to leave us. We should like to thank him for the work he has done within the United Nations for the cause of disarmament and, therefore, of peace.

Mr. RAHHALLI (Morocco) (interpretation from French): Mr. Chairman, permit me first of all to convey to you my delegation's appreciation of the efforts you have made to enable our Commission to prepare recommendations on the elements of a comprehensive programme of disarmament. Thanks to your skills, your patience and your qualifications as an able diplomat, the Commission has completed the task assigned to it by the General Assembly. Our appreciation and our gratitude are addressed also to Mr. Otegui our Rapporteur for his efforts, particularly in the conduct of the Working Group and its Drafting Committee.

The adoption of recommendations by consensus only strengthens our resolve to see to it that the deliberative body plays an effective role in this new international effort of the international community towards the achievement of the noble objectives we set for ourselves in the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.
My delegation would like to make some brief remarks on some parts of the recommendations we are to transmit to the General Assembly and, through it, to the Committee on Disarmament in Geneva.

First of all, my delegation regrets that some proposals contained in the document submitted by the non-aligned group, in particular the three questions currently included in chapter V of the recommendations, have not been accepted. Among those proposals we find the one on the prohibition of the threat or use of nuclear weapons. The non-inclusion of that proposal in the recommendations is taking a step back, in our view, when compared with the results of the special session of the General Assembly and paragraph 58 of the Final Document. It is also a step back if we take into account General Assembly resolution 33/71 B, adopted last year by a large majority, in which the General Assembly states specifically that the use of nuclear weapons will be a crime against humanity. We voice the hope that at the next session of the General Assembly those who opposed the inclusion of this proposal will adopt a more flexible attitude.

My delegation has only regrets to express. We are satisfied with some of the elements in the text we are transmitting to the General Assembly. On the one hand, there is the question of effective international arrangements for giving guarantees to non-nuclear weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. For my delegation and for my country effective international arrangements mean international instruments of legally binding force.

There is also the question of the creation of nuclear-free zones. My country, as an African country and as an Arab country, attaches great importance to the application of the Declaration of the Organization of African Unity and to the implementation of the various resolutions of the General Assembly on the denuclearization of Africa. It also attaches great importance to the establishment in the Middle East of a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

My delegation also expresses satisfaction concerning the section on disarmament and development. We are pleased to see in that section a reaffirmation
of the link between disarmament and development and the inclusion in it of the question of promoting international co-operation in the field of the peaceful uses of nuclear power for the benefit of the social and economic development, particularly in developing countries.

Before I conclude, I should like to express my thanks and appreciation to the Secretariat and to all those who have contributed to the success of the work of our Commission.
Mr. KABIA (Sierra Leone): Mr. Chairman, the Sierra Leone delegation would like to express its appreciation for the tremendous effort you have personally expended in helping us in this United Nations Disarmament Commission to have a document which will soon be adopted by consensus.

Our congratulations go also to our Rapporteur, Mr. Otegui, of Argentina, for his tireless efforts in presiding over the Drafting Group and the Working Group.

The Sierra Leone delegation ardently supports the position of the non-aligned group and is particularly pleased at the acceptance of the position delineated in the section entitled disarmament and development and also the inclusion of the establishment of zones of peace. We hope that the General Assembly will accept the recommendations that this Commission will present to it for transmission to the Commission on Disarmament in Geneva. My delegation feels that this is a step forward towards disarming the world of its hideous accumulation of weapons.

The CHAIRMAN: We have now completed all the statements, and I do wish to thank all of you most sincerely for your co-operation to help us to complete this part of our work on schedule.

The next part of our work will be the adoption of our report. First, I call on the Rapporteur, who wishes to introduce what is contained now in document A/CN.10/II/CRP.2/Rev.1, which covers certain additions and amendments to the draft report which we considered this morning (A/CN.10/II/CRP.2).
Mr. CTECUI (Argentina), Rapporteur of the Commission (interpretation from Spanish): Document A/CN.10/II/CRP.2/Rev.1 contains several paragraphs which represent an attempt to reflect the suggestions made by some delegations this morning, when we began consideration of the draft report to the General Assembly. Paragraph (a) includes a new paragraph 13, which is an attempt to reflect a suggestion of the delegation of the United States.

Paragraph (c) embodies a new draft of what would now be paragraphs 19, 20 and 21.

Paragraph 19 contains a typographical error in the first line, which should be corrected to read:
"At its ___ meeting, on 8 June," instead of "9 June". The fourth line should begin with the words:
"the General Assembly for examination and transmission to ...".
The rest of the paragraph reflects the changes and suggestions which were proposed this morning.

Paragraph 20 is a new draft, which was also suggested this morning, and the basic change in paragraph 21 is the inclusion of a reference to items 6 and 7 of the Commission agenda, which by mistake had not been included earlier.

The CHAIRMAN: We have now before us the two documents, A/CN.10/II/CRP.2 and CRP.2/Rev.1. The Rapporteur has explained to us the relevance of the changes contained in CRP.2/Rev.1 and has indicated a typographical error.

As regards recommendations for the elements of a comprehensive programme of disarmament, which are the substantive part of paragraph 19, we have had, as delegations are aware, detailed discussions on that, on the basis of a paper that had been prepared earlier by the Chair. That paper now appears as document A/CN.10/II/CRP.1/Rev.2 and I think most, if not all, delegations have it before them. I should like to ask delegations whether they wish to make any comments either on the draft report contained in documents A/CN.10/II/CRP.2 and CRP.2/Rev.1 or on the substantive part of paragraph 19, which is contained in document A/CN.10/II/CRP.1/Rev.2.
Mr. de la GORCE (France) (interpretation from French): Paragraph 20 of document A/CN.10/II/CRP.2/Rev.1 reads:

(spoke in English)

"Some delegations expressed views and reservations on some parts of the recommendations contained in paragraph 19, which are reflected in the verbatim records of the 21st and 22nd plenary meetings."

(continued in French)

I should like to know what this "paragraph 19" is. I suppose it is not paragraph 19 of document A/CN.10/II/CRP.1/Rev.1, which contains items on which consensus was not achieved, because, obviously, we could not talk of recommendations concerning the items in paragraph 19 of document A/CN.10/II/CRP.1/Rev.1. So I should like to know what exactly is meant by this "paragraph 19" that is mentioned in paragraph 20 of document A/CN.10/II/CRP.2/Rev.1.

The CHAIRMAN: May I indicate that document A/CN.10/II/CRP.1/Rev.2 will be incorporated in the draft report we have before us - that is, document A/CN.10/II/CRP.2. In other words, document A/CN.10/II/CRP.1/Rev.2 is no longer a separate document but is incorporated in document A/CN.10/II/CRP.2/Rev.1. Therefore, the reference in paragraph 20 to paragraph 19 relates to the preceding paragraph of document A/CN.10/II/CRP.2/Rev.1 itself, where the recommendations regarding item number 3 will be totally and fully reproduced. So when we refer to "paragraph 19", we are referring to the paragraph 19 in document A/CN.10/II/CRP.2/Rev.1, because that document is the draft report which when adopted will go to the General Assembly. I trust that the position is clear.
Mr. IMAM (Kuwait): I should like to have some clarifications. In document A/CN.10/II/CRP.2/Rev.1, the new paragraph 13 states:
"Non-Governmental Organizations attended the plenary meetings of the Disarmament Commission ...".
That would make it seem as if all non-governmental organizations attended. Actually I do not see many of them here.
Then paragraph 21 says:
"Since the Disarmament Commission was unable to consider in detail items 4 to 7 ...".
Did we really consider items 4 to 7? Should the report not reflect what actually took place?
Finally, the second line of paragraph 21 says that the Disarmament Commission "recommends that those items be included in the agenda of the Commission's session in 1980".
To whom does it recommend?

The CHAIRMAN: I think I can answer the three questions put by the representative of Kuwait. I fully agree with him that perhaps some additional word is necessary at the beginning of paragraph 13. We could say, "Some non-governmental organizations ...".
As far as paragraph 21 is concerned, he asked a question about the consideration of items 4 to 7. It is my recollection that in the initial general exchange of views some delegations - not many, but some - did make reference to one or two of those items. I recall very clearly that some delegations made reference to item 7 in particular. What we are saying essentially is that we did not have time to discuss those items in detail.
As regards the recommendation to include them in the agenda for the Commission's session in 1980, that is a recommendation to the General Assembly. Our recommendations are addressed to the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly, and it is for the General Assembly to consider this when it takes up our report at that session.
Mr. IMAM (Kuwait): There is one final point. This session was really a distinguished session, because most of it was in the form of negotiations, but the beginning we had a long debate which was a repetition of what takes place in the First Committee, and today we had very long meetings in which delegations spoke at length. Probably what encourages representatives to speak at length is the fact that we have verbatim records. So at this stage we might consider the question of whether we really need verbatim records or whether, in order to ensure a more efficient procedure in the future, we might dispense with them and be content with summary records. After all, this is not exactly the First Committee of the General Assembly, and I believe that summary records might serve our purpose sufficiently well in the future.

The CHAIRMAN: The representative of Kuwait has raised a relevant point, but I would suggest that the appropriate time for us to consider the procedure for our work for next year would be when we take up the report of the Disarmament Commission in the General Assembly, because at that time presumably there will be a resolution relating to the work of the Disarmament Commission for 1980 and the Secretariat will be required, as is the normal practice, to submit a paper on the financial implications. At that time it would be very relevant for the delegation of Kuwait and others to consider the question of whether verbatim records are desirable or necessary.

Mr. BLOMBERG (Finland): On a point of clarification. Will there be a title to the substantive part of our report, and if the answer is yes, what is it going to be?

The CHAIRMAN: As I understand it, the suggestion made by the Rapporteur in his report is contained in document A/CN.10/II/CRP.2/Rev.1, where he has used the title "Elements of a Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament". Under that what is now contained in document A/CN.10/II/CRP.1/Rev.2 will be reproduced.
Mr. Mosharraf HAKIM (Bangladesh): With regard to document A/CH.10/II/CRP.1/Rev.2, this morning we suggested a small addition of one word to paragraph 15, "Role of the United Nations". It now states under (a), "The United Nations should play a central role in the consideration and adoption ...".

In the second sentence we might add the word, "also", so that it would read, "It must also play an adequate role in its implementation." I think that would be in keeping with the spirit of this recommendation, and it would sound better.

The CHAIRMAN: I sincerely hope that we shall not have to start a debate on document A/CH.10/II/CRP.1/Rev.2. However, since the representative of Bangladesh has raised the point, I should like to ask whether there is any objection to his suggestion to include the word "also". As I hear no objection, it is agreed.

We have now come to the conclusion of our work, and at this stage if there is no objection, I would declare that our report to the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly, as contained in documents A/CH.10/II/CRP.2 and Rev.1, with the incorporation of the full text of document A/CH.10/II/CRP.1/Rev.2 but without the heading "Chairman's Paper on item 3 of the agenda", is adopted.

It was so decided.

CLOSING STATEMENTS

The CHAIRMAN: We have now come more or less to the end of the session. I should like to make a few observations before we conclude, but first I should like, on my own behalf, to express our very deep appreciation to the Assistant Secretary-General, Mr. Bjornerstedt, who will be giving up his present assignment after an outstanding tenure as an international civil servant.

I have known Rolf Bjornerstedt for more than 11 years. We worked as colleagues in the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs, and I have always had the greatest admiration for him, perhaps not so much because of his expertise or his familiarity with disarmament issues as because he was a true international civil servant and a genuine human being. It was
during Mr. Björnerstedt's tenure in the United Nations Secretariat that the Centre for Disarmament came into being, and I think all of us have seen his contribution to the development and strengthening of the Centre. We shall all miss him, but, from my own experience, I can well understand his desire to go back to serve his country. On my own behalf, and on behalf of all who are present in this room, I should like to wish him well in his new assignment.

I now call on Mr. Björnerstedt, who has asked for permission to say a few words.

**Mr. BJÖRNERSTEDT** (Assistant Secretary-General, Centre for Disarmament): I wish to express my warmest thanks to the delegations that have addressed such kind words to me. On leaving the United Nations, I also wish to take the opportunity in my turn to express my thanks for the very helpful co-operation that I have always received in fulfilling my duties as a Secretariat member. There has always been a forthcoming attitude among delegations towards solving the various problems that have to be solved in the work of the United Nations with the Secretariat, and I wish to express my deep appreciation for that attitude.
Finally, Mr. Chairman, you have already referred to something which to me is more than a coincidence, namely, the fact that you represent to me the alpha and omega of a quite important period of my life. I very much appreciated the help and guidance that you gave me when I first joined the United Nations Secretariat and I have certainly also enjoyed very much working with you during this period of the Disarmament Commission.

The CHAIRMAN: Before we conclude the first substantive session of the Disarmament Commission, I should like to say a few words. Let me begin by thanking the representatives who have expressed, sometimes in over-generous terms, their appreciation of my contribution to the work of this session. If we have succeeded in coming out with a satisfactory document, and that by consensus, it could not have happened through the efforts of any single individual, but only through the co-operation and understanding of all the delegations participating in this session of the Commission. For this I should like to thank all members.

I think we have reason to be satisfied with the results of our deliberations during the past four weeks. Admittedly, the recommendations on the elements of the comprehensive programme of disarmament, the only item we were able to deal with substantively, are not entirely satisfactory to any of the delegations present here. That is not surprising, since we were all the time striving to adopt our recommendations by consensus. However, considering the complexity of the problem and the time constraint, it is my view that we have succeeded in reaching the highest degree of consensus, given the various problems in which we have serious divergencies.

During the statements made this afternoon, some delegations expressed the view that adequate time was not provided for discussing some of the measures listed in the document. I cannot wholly share that view because, in my opinion, the discussions that we have had in the Commission itself, in the Working Group and in the Drafting Group, have been fairly detailed and quite adequate if we bear in mind that our mandate was only to consider the elements of the comprehensive programme and not to elaborate them.
Moreover, it is envisaged in the document we have adopted that in a sense the Disarmament Commission will continue to be seized of this problem and I feel certain that we shall have occasion in future meetings of the Commission to engage in more detailed and in-depth consideration of specific measures of disarmament.

We have a long way to go and as we go along we shall have to deal with many difficult problems. But I feel confident that given the importance of the problem in relation to the future of mankind, we shall in this Commission, even though some of us may not be here in the years to come, continue to strive hard to bring about meaningful progress in this field.

I should also like to take this opportunity to express the hope that the Committee on Disarmament will give the highest priority to the elaboration of the comprehensive programme.

I cannot single out any part of the document we have adopted, but when I look at the document as a whole, particularly from the point of view of the world public opinion, it would seem to me that the most striking part of the document is the reference in it to measures aimed at encouraging public awareness of the dangers of the arms race, particularly the nuclear arms race. In this field not only Governments of the world, but perhaps even more importantly the peoples of the world, have a crucial role to play. It is in this context that I greatly value the contribution of the non-governmental organizations. I should like to express the sincere hope that these non-governmental organizations will continue with their efforts in even greater measure to mobilize public opinion, which will undoubtedly help, however marginal it might seem at times, in generating the necessary political will about which we are reminded all the time.

This was the first substantive session of the Disarmament Commission. I sincerely hope that this session and future sessions of the Commission will establish the credibility of this Commission and that we can, working closely with the Committee on Disarmament, contribute to the process of disarmament.
I have now the pleasant duty to thank everyone who has assisted me in conducting the work of this session of our Commission. First of all, I should like to express my deep gratitude to the members of the Bureau and, in particular, to our Rapporteur, my good friend José Otegui, without whose advice, counsel and co-operation I would not have been able to do justice to my position as Chairman of this Commission. The officers and staff of the United Nations Disarmament Centre, particularly Mr. Corradini, Mr. Alem and their associates, gave me invaluable assistance. I wish to thank them for this and also to tell them how much I regret the inconvenience caused by their having to spend long hours into the night to ensure that documents were available promptly to the delegations. They have done a remarkable job for which they deserve our thanks.

I should also like to take this opportunity to thank the Under-Secretary-General and his deputy in the Department of Conference Services and all the staff of the Conference Services for the excellent facilities they have provided for the conduct of our work.

We have now come to the end of our work. Once again I thank all of you for your co-operation and understanding. For me personally it has been a great experience and I am happy that perhaps in a small measure I have been able to justify the confidence that you entrusted in me when you elected me to serve as your Chairman for this year.

We have come to the conclusion of our work. As most members are aware, we had recommended to the General Assembly at the thirty-third session, as contained in document No. A/33/42 of the thirty-third session, that we might have an organizational meeting in December 1979 for the purpose, as stated in that document, inter alia, of electing the Bureau for 1980. It is my sincere hope that the organizational meeting can also consider the agenda for the substantive session in 1980. The date for the organizational meeting will be decided by the Secretariat, keeping in mind the conference schedules during December 1979. But I understand that in all probability that meeting will take place immediately after the conclusion of the meetings of the First Committee, which was done in 1978.

Once again I wish to thank all of you and I declare the first substantive session of the Disarmament Commission closed.

The meeting rose at 9.10 p.m.