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DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE TWENTY-THIRD MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 13 December 1979, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman:

Mr. VELLODI

(India)

- Opening of the session
- Adoption of the agenda

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The meeting was called to order at 11.10 a.m.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

The CHAIRMAN: Permit me to begin by conveying to all of you my sincere greetings and my assurance that, being fully aware of the fact that all of you have had a trying and strenuous time during these past three months and that the session of the General Assembly is not yet over, the Chair will certainly do its best to ensure that this organizational session of the Commission is not an unduly long one.

As all members are aware, we are meeting today to consider essentially two matters, both organizational, relating to the work of the Commission during 1980. Paragraph 10 of the report of the Disarmament Commission to the thirty-third session of the General Assembly stated:

"The Commission recommends that the present Bureau should serve in office until the end of the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly. The Commission also recommends that an organizational meeting be held in December 1979 before the conclusion of the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly for the purpose, inter alia, of electing the Bureau for 1980". (A/33/42, para.10)

Thus the election of the Bureau of the Commission for 1980 is one of our tasks at this session.

Members will recall that a similar organizational session was held a year ago, not to elect the Bureau of the Commission for 1979, because that had already been done at the first meeting of the Commission held in October 1979, but rather to review the decisions taken at the thirty-third session of the General Assembly which might have a bearing on the agenda of the 1979 substantive session- the first substantive session of the Commission. We are, in a sense, following that useful precedent, and this session of the Commission might, if members agree, review the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session which have bearing on the work of the Disarmament Commission.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The CHAIRMAN: In the light of the considerations to which I have just referred, a draft provisional agenda for this organizational session of the Disarmament Commission has been circulated in document A/CN.10/L.4. May I therefore, now that the opening of the session has been completed, refer to item 2 of the draft provisional agenda and ask if any members wish to comment on it.

I should like to add, because I think it is appropriate at this point, that as far as item 3 of the provisional agenda is concerned I have been informed that some regional groups wish to have meetings this morning to consider the question of the Bureau for 1980. Since a request in that sense has been made, I have no alternative but to adjourn the present meeting after the formal adoption of our agenda and thus allow those regional groups time to meet for that purpose. The Commission itself will meet again this afternoon at 3 o'clock.

I thought that I should mention that before asking whether any representatives have comments on the provisional agenda itself.

May I take it that the provisional agenda as contained in A/CN.10/L.4 is adopted?

The agenda was adopted.

The meeting rose at 11.15 a.m.