DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE THIRTY-NINTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 5 June 1980, at 4.30 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. VELLODI (India)

Agenda item 3: (continued)

Preparation of the elements of a draft resolution entitled "Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade"

Agenda item 4: (continued)

(a) Consideration of various aspects of the arms race, particularly the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament, in order to expedite negotiations aimed at effective elimination of the danger of nuclear war

(b) Consideration of the agenda items contained in section II of resolution 33/71 H, with the aim of elaborating, within the framework and in accordance with the priorities established at the tenth special session, a general approach to negotiations on nuclear and conventional disarmament

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30-6.354
Agenda item 5: (continued)

(a) Harmonization of views on concrete steps to be undertaken by States regarding a gradual agreed reduction of military budgets and reallocation of resources now being used for military purposes to economic and social development, particularly for the benefit of the developing countries, noting the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly

(b) Examination and identification of effective ways and means of achieving agreements to freeze, reduce or otherwise restrain, in a balanced manner, military expenditures, including adequate measures of verification satisfactory to all concerned

Agenda item 8:

Adoption of the report of the Disarmament Commission to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session
The meeting was called to order at 5.50 p.m.

PREPARATION OF THE ELEMENTS OF A DRAFT RESOLUTION ENTITLED "DECLARATION OF THE 1980s AS THE SECOND DISARMAMENT DECADE"

AGENDA ITEM 4 (continued)

(a) CONSIDERATION OF VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE ARMS RACE, PARTICULARLY THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE AND NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT, IN ORDER TO EXPEDITE NEGOTIATIONS AIMED AT EFFECTIVE ELIMINATION OF THE DANGER OF NUCLEAR WAR

(b) CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA ITEMS CONTAINED IN SECTION II OF RESOLUTION 33/71 H, WITH THE AIM OF ELABORATING, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRIORITIES ESTABLISHED AT THE TENTH SPECIAL SESSION, A GENERAL APPROACH TO NEGOTIATIONS ON NUCLEAR AND CONVENTIONAL DISARMAMENT

AGENDA ITEM 5 (continued)

(a) HARMONIZATION OF VIEWS ON CONCRETE STEPS TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY STATES REGARDING A GRADUAL AGREED REDUCTION OF MILITARY BUDGETS AND REALLOCATION OF RESOURCES NOW BEING USED FOR MILITARY PURPOSES TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, PARTICULARLY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, NOTING THE RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(b) EXAMINATION AND IDENTIFICATION OF EFFECTIVE WAYS AND MEANS OF ACHIEVING AGREEMENTS TO FREEZE, REDUCE OR OTHERWISE RESTRAIN, IN A BALANCED MANNER, MILITARY EXPENDITURES, INCLUDING ADEQUATE MEASURES OF VERIFICATION SATISFACTORY TO ALL CONCERNED

AGENDA ITEM 8

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE DISARMAMENT COMMISSION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION
The CHAIRMAN: I must first of all apologize to delegations for the delay in starting our meeting this afternoon. I had announced that our meeting would start at 4.30 p.m., and I apologize to those delegations who have been waiting here since then. But I would like to inform them that the delay was due to the fact that informal consultations were taking place in an effort to resolve many of the problems that were still outstanding when we met this morning. I am happy to inform delegations that these informal consultations were very productive, and that in a spirit of understanding and co-operation the delegations participating in these discussions were able to resolve most of the issues that were before them. There are still a few points which need to be pursued further in informal consultations, and it is therefore my intention to continue with the informal consultations later this evening, at 8 o'clock.

I would suggest that at this meeting I give you an indication of the position as of now on agenda items 3, 4 and 5, pointing out to you where agreements have been reached, and also indicating the few points on which further consultations will be held in an effort to resolve those differences as well before we adopt our report tomorrow afternoon. It is my intention to leave tomorrow morning free, as I said yesterday, to allow the Secretariat to come out with clean copies of the report we will have to adopt tomorrow afternoon, and also to permit delegations to prepare the statements they may wish to make tomorrow afternoon. After I give an indication of the status of these three agenda items, I would also ask delegations to tell me whether they have any specific comments regarding the draft report that was circulated two days ago in document A/CH.10/CIRP.6/Rev.1. In any case, the final draft report will be before you tomorrow afternoon, and it is my hope that when we meet tomorrow at 3 o'clock - and I hope we can meet at 3 o'clock sharp - we can adopt the report and thereafter allow delegations to their statements. I expect there will be several statements, so we should plan to finish our work at about 6.30 or 7 p.m. tomorrow.
Having said that, I shall now turn to agenda item 3. Delegations will recall that after the representative of Nigeria, Ambassador Adeniji, had introduced the draft report of the Working Group contained in document A/CN.10/CRP.11, there were statements made indicating that some delegations had some difficulty, particularly with one paragraph of this draft report. I adjourned the plenary meeting at that time to permit me to have consultations with the delegations directly concerned and other interested delegations, in an effort to see whether one could find an acceptable text for the paragraph that appears at the top of page 2 of the draft report, and also to see whether some effort could be made to remove the square brackets that appear on pages 4, 5 and 6. That was the situation this morning, and during the consultations, in which a large number of delegations participated, and also as a result of informal consultations outside Conference Room II in which several delegations participated - here I would like to express special gratitude on behalf of the Chair to the representative of Yugoslavia - I am happy to inform the Commission that an agreed text has been achieved on the paragraph at the top of page 2.

The changes are few in number, and I shall therefore indicate them so that delegations may note them on the copy of the document before them. The changes are as follows: in the fourth line, the phrase 'on the one hand' is deleted; in the sixth line, the phrase 'of States and foreign territories' is deleted; in the seventh line, the word 'and' appearing after 'internal affairs of States' is deleted; in the eighth line, beginning 'self-determination of peoples,' after the word 'domination' there will be a comma and the word 'and' will be deleted; at the beginning of the ninth line, the phrase 'on the other' will be deleted. In other words, the sentence would read as follows:

International peace and security are threatened by the use or threat of use of force against sovereignty, national independence and territorial integrity of States, military intervention and occupation, hegemonism, interference in the internal affairs of States, the denial of the right of self-determination of peoples and nations under colonial
and alien domination, by the further escalation of the arms race and efforts to achieve military superiority."

These are the changes suggested. They have resulted in an agreed text within the group working in Conference Room 11, that is, those who participated in the informal consultations.
We have attempted to remove the square brackets on pages 4, 5 and 6. Various suggestions have been made, but so far it has not been possible to remove any of them. However, it is certainly my hope, and one that I am sure is shared by those who participated in the consultations, that perhaps one more determined effort on our part may help to remove some of them. As for the square brackets in paragraph (v), on page 6, the representative of Nigeria has informed us that the phrase they contained has been deleted, which means that the square brackets also will disappear. That is the situation as far as item 3 is concerned. Although I cannot promise that the consultations this evening will help us, I can say that I and other interested delegations will make every effort to see whether some or all of the remaining brackets can be removed by the time the report is adopted tomorrow.

With regard to item 4, I should like to explain the position in relation to the revised paper I had prepared, which is contained in document A/CN.10/CRP.8/Rev.1.

Paragraph 2 will remain as it is. In paragraph 2 we will - as I believe I am correct in saying we had agreed - insert, after the first sentence, ending "prospects of even further intensification of the arms race", the corresponding portion, as now accepted by many delegations, from the report on item 3. In other words, the sentence beginning "International peace and security" will be replaced by the sentences that appear in the corresponding part of the paragraph at the top of page 2 of document A/CN.10/CRP.11.

There is no change in paragraph 3. In paragraph 4 we have not yet been able to resolve a problem relating to the resumption of the talks that have been interrupted, referred to in lines 6 and 7. The consultations that will take place later today may help us to find some acceptable language for this.

The only other change that we shall have to incorporate will be in the last lines in paragraph 4, in the phrase "and, more specifically, the measures proposed in - of this Report, in connexion with the Second Disarmament Decade."
If we succeed in removing the square brackets that appear in the action part of the draft declaration relating to the decade, then we shall be able to put in the appropriate reference. However, if the square brackets remain on some of the measures proposed for the decade, we may have to replace the last phrase by the words: 'the measures to be agreed upon in connexion with the Second Disarmament Decade'. Parenthetically I may say that is the hope of all of us that, even if some brackets still remain in the paper on the decade and we are not able to remove them at this session of the Disarmament Commission, future consultations will result in their removal either before or during the course of the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly, so that the General Assembly will be able to adopt the Declaration on the 1980s.

In paragraph 5 we still have a problem relating to the last sentence. That last sentence is the one point, together with the question on paragraph 4, that will require further consultation, and I hope to be able to inform the Commission tomorrow of the final result on it.

There are no changes in paragraphs 6 and 7. As a result of intensive negotiations and consultations, the new version of paragraph 8 will be as follows:

"The Commission would recommend that urgent action should be taken to prevent the further spiralling of the nuclear arms race. The Commission expressed the view that the Committee on Disarmament should fully discharge its responsibilities in the field of disarmament and should therefore continue its efforts to undertake negotiations with a view to the cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament in conformity with its mandate in order to achieve the objectives specified in paragraph 50 and other relevant paragraphs of the Final Document."
As regards paragraph 9, we had in the informal consultation considerable discussion concerning the phrase, "particularly between the two major alliances systems". Several amendments were proposed and considered. Unfortunately it was not possible to reach agreement on any of them. However, I am happy to inform the Commission that the delegation of Yugoslavia, which had advocated the inclusion of this phrase, has agreed in a spirit of co-operation not to press for its retention.

Therefore, the second sentence of paragraph 9 would read:
"The Commission also noted that in the conventional field, as in the nuclear field, the major responsibility rests on those States with the largest military arsenals and that progress in conventional disarmament would constitute a significant step in strengthening peace and security in the world."

With regard to paragraph 10 again there were some suggestions which were considered during the informal meetings which we had, and I should like to read out the text which has finally emerged from these consultations.

While reiterating the relevant provisions in the Final Document for the need to resolutely pursue agreements or other measures on a bilateral, regional and multilateral basis with the aim of strengthening peace and security at lower levels of military potential by the limitation and reduction of armed forces and conventional weapons, the Commission also stressed that, in keeping with the provisions of the Final Document, the adoption of conventional disarmament measures should take place in an equitable and balanced manner taking into account the right of each State to protect its security and to defend its independence and territorial integrity as well as the inalienable right to self-determination and independence of peoples under colonial or foreign domination."
While a substantial degree of agreement has been reached on paragraph 11, there are one or two minor points which we hope to sort out during the informal consultations that we planned for later today, but I wish to assure the Commission that the Chair does not expect any serious difficulty as regards this paragraph.

Having said this and having once again thanked all the representatives and particularly those who had difficulty with regard to this paragraph in the report of the Working Group on item 3 - for their understanding and co-operation, I should like once again to inform the Commission that we shall make one more attempt with regard to the points on which agreement has not been reached. In the meantime I am asking the Secretariat to prepare the documents for consideration tomorrow. The Secretariat will need some time to get these documents ready. If we are able to incorporate in the documents agreed wording for the portions at present in square brackets, this will be done. Otherwise, we shall have to consider the situation tomorrow afternoon when we have the draft report before us.

I should like to say a few words also on item 5. Members will recall the brief discussion on this item in which some delegations participated. The discussions were concentrated mainly on the draft recommendation on items 5(a) and 5(b) contained in document A/CN.10/CND.10/ADD.1.

The situation as I understand it is that it has not yet been possible to agree on a generally acceptable text for the recommendation and that as of now the square brackets are still there. Here again it is my hope that at informal consultations later today or perhaps even tomorrow morning on this, it might be possible for the delegations directly concerned to try to find acceptable wording for the first paragraph of the draft recommendation.
Having said this, and in view of the fact that we are planning to meet again for informal consultations this evening, I wish to remind the members that we shall not be meeting in plenary again today.

I should now like to ask delegations whether they wish at this stage to make any observations on any of the points that I have made. If not, I should like delegations to refer to the draft of the report which the Rapporteur has prepared and which we have before us in document A/C.10/CRP.9.
Any comments that delegations may have on this will certainly help the Secretariat and the Rapporteur to put the finishing touches to it so that the report may appear in the form of a final draft by tomorrow afternoon.

The inclusion of the result of our discussions on agenda items 3, 4 and 5 will require further consideration. It is clear that, in the case of item 3, on which we have the report of the Working Group, it might be in the nature of a draft declaration annexed to the report. In the body of the report there will be a reference to the work of the Working Group and its results. While I feel that the draft declaration might best be issued as an annex, it could also be issued as a paragraph of the report. We will be able to decide on this when we have the final draft report before us.

I should like to note that we shall ensure that all the views submitted by delegations are included in the section on documentation.

I would appeal to delegations to try to be present tomorrow afternoon punctually at three o’clock since the meeting may be a long one in view of the fact that members have still not seen the final drafts on the various items on which I have given explanations.

I should like to ask the Secretary of the Commission whether the draft report can be made available a little before three o’clock so that delegations may pick up their copies before the afternoon meeting.

Mr. ALEVI (Secretary of the Disarmament Commission): The first part of the report, on the organization of work of the Commission, has already been submitted for advance translation with the understanding that any changes made in it by the Commission or any comments on it would subsequently be reflected in the final version of the report.

The CHAIRMAN: It is my hope that the final drafts on items 3, 4 and 5 will also be available as soon as possible and, in any case, before we meet again tomorrow afternoon. I am sure that the Secretariat will do its best to have these documents ready in time.

MR. NORDBERG (Sweden): As many delegations will be involved in the consultations which will take place tonight on items 3 and 4, might it not be useful for those directly interested in item 5 to meet tomorrow morning for informal consultations?
The CHAIRMAN: I understand that the delegation of Sweden would prefer the informal consultations on item 5 to be held not this evening but tomorrow morning. I certainly see no difficulty with that.

Mr. ADHUMI (Nigeria): I note that on page 4 of the draft report of the Commission there is a reference to the decision taken during the organizational session that the present Bureau should continue in office during 1980 with the understanding that a principle of rotation should apply as from 1981 as regards the chairmanship of the Commission. I suggest that this needs to be clarified. To start with, I think we should indicate what kind of rotation. Is it the usual principle of geographical rotation? If so, I suggest that this be specified in the report.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Nigeria for drawing my attention to this. I shall certainly look through the records of the meetings of the Disarmament Commission which took place last December and see to it that the report conforms to whatever understanding was reached on this point at that time.
Mr. PFLEIPPER (Federal Republic of Germany): Can you please indicate, Mr. Chairman, whether you have a certain sequence of events in mind for our talks tonight?

Do you intend to examine anything other than items 3 and 4 then, or will you leave the matter open to be decided in the course of the discussion?

The CHAIRMAN: It is my intention to take up items 3 and 4 this evening during the informal consultations. The informal consultations on item 5 referred to by the representative of Sweden will take place at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

We shall meet in plenary session at 3 p.m. tomorrow, and I would appeal to members to be here on time.

The meeting rose at 6.35 p.m.