DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE SIXTY-SECOND MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 14 October 1982, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. MATORF (Poland)
Temporary Chairman: Mr. HEPBURN (Bahamas)

- Statement by the Temporary Chairman
- Adoption of the agenda
- Organizational matters
- Adoption of the report of the Disarmament Commission to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session
- Statements by the representatives of the United Kingdom and Mexico

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The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

STATEMENT BY THE TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: I am presiding over this meeting because, as members of the Commission know, Ambassador Wyzner of Poland, who was elected to the chairmanship in 1982, has resigned in order to take up a new assignment.

I should like to bring to the attention of the Commission two factors that I consider to be very important. The first is that I am personally very proud to announce today that Ambassador Garcia Robles of Mexico, and Mrs. Alva Myrdal of Sweden have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. I know that all the members of the Commission know Ambassador Garcia Robles and have read the works of Mrs. Myrdal and are quite familiar with the contributions they have made to the cause of disarmament. I think anything that I can say today beyond congratulating them and expressing the joy of all the members, particularly of the First Committee, would be rather superfluous. However, I should like to bring this to the attention of the Commission and I think that at some more appropriate time recognition will be given them.

The second factor is different in note, as it is somewhat sad. Most members of the Commission are also familiar with Lord Philip Noel-Baker, who passed away earlier this week. He was a disarmament expert and he died at the age of 92. I remember being in the Chair at the second special session on disarmament when he delivered his statement and he did not even have any written words before him and more than anything I remember how brief, succinct and clear he was in presenting his views on disarmament. This was one of his last ventures. I have some information about him: he was a Member of the House of Commons and was recently a Member of the House of Lords; he was on the staff of the League of Nations and had been a Minister in the British Government; he was also the author of several books on disarmament. I am sure that members will join with me in extending condolences to the family of Lord Philip Noel-Baker and we shall always remember him because he contributed a great deal to the cause of peace and disarmament.
With regard to this afternoon's meeting, I am sure that I am speaking on behalf of the Commission when I say that we regret the resignation of Ambassador Wyzner, but I am sure that we shall all remember and appreciate his ability in handling the work of this Commission so calmly and skilfully. It was only a few months ago that he directed the very difficult task before this Commission as it met in May and June to prepare a report to the second special session devoted to disarmament. It completed the work in two weeks.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: The Commission has before it the provisional agenda for this session, in document A/CN.10/L.10. If I hear no objection I shall take it that the Commission agrees to adopt the agenda.

The agenda was adopted.

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: As has been the practice in similar cases, the Permanent Representative from the country of a former chairman is designated to succeed him. Accordingly, I have the pleasure to introduce Ambassador Natorf, the Permanent Representative of Poland to the United Nations.

I have had the privilege of meeting Ambassador Natorf and I am sure he will conduct the meetings with the same kind of skill as his predecessor. I wish to congratulate Ambassador Natorf as the successor of Ambassador Wyzner to serve as Chairman of the Commission for the remaining period of 1982. I am certain that we shall give Ambassador Natorf the same co-operation we have given to previous Chairmen of this very important Commission.

I take pleasure in asking Ambassador Natorf to take the Chair.

Ambassador Natorf (Poland) took the Chair.
The CHAIRMAN: I should like very much to thank Ambassador Hepburn for the kind words he addressed to me. I hope I shall live up to the expectations of the members, and I shall do my best to conduct the word of the Commission in the same manner as my predecessor.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE DISARMAMENT COMMISSION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION

The CHAIRMAN: We are meeting today to consider the report that the Commission has been requested to submit to the thirty-seventh session. In this regard, I wish to recall that, at its thirty-sixth session, the General Assembly, by resolution 36/92 B, requested the Disarmament Commission to submit a report to the second special session on disarmament and decided to inscribe the item entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission" in the provisional agenda of the thirty-seventh session. The Commission, as you know, had prepared and had submitted to the special session a report on its work since 1978. However, the special session had no opportunity to discuss the report and, consequently, no decision was taken regarding the recommendations contained therein. In the Concluding Document which was adopted by its decision S-12/24 of 10 July 1982, the General Assembly stated in paragraph 64 that:

"The other items on the agenda on which the special session has not reached decisions should be taken up at the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly for further consideration."

By a note dated 30 September 1982, as contained in document A/37/493, the Secretary-General recalled paragraph 64, and indicated further that the General Assembly would have before it the Concluding Document and all other documents related to the items transmitted to it by the twelfth special session.

Permit me to go back a little to 28 May 1982 when the Commission decided at its 61st meeting to hold a brief session in the autumn in order to consider and adopt the report of the Disarmament Commission to the Assembly at its thirty-seventh session. That decision can be found in document A/CN.10/PV.61.
In the light of the above, it was agreed at a meeting of the officers of the Commission held last week that the autumn session would be held on 14 October and, if necessary, the following day as well, with the agenda which we have already adopted, before the First Committee begins its work on 18 October. Furthermore, the Secretariat has prepared a draft report of the Commission, contained in document A/CN.10/1982/CRP.9, which was distributed earlier this week to all member States. The report is rather procedural in nature and will be transmitted to the current session the recommendations of the Commission contained in its report to the special session, so that they may be considered at the appropriate time by the First Committee, under the item entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission."

I hope that this will simplify the work of the Commission for this brief session and, at the same time, enable us to respond to the early request regarding the report to the thirty-seventh session.

Are there any comments or any remarks on this general approach to the preparation of our report? Are there any amendments or any additions to the draft report in document A/CN.10/1982/CRP.9?

I thank our colleagues and friends from the Secretariat for the very good job they have done, enabling us to finish our work expeditiously.

May I take it that the Commission wishes to adopt the text contained in document A/CN.10/1982/CRP.9 as its report to the thirty-seventh session?

The draft report was adopted.

STATEMENTS BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND MEXICO

Mr. THORNE (United Kingdom): I should like very briefly to thank the Chair for the kind words said earlier in this meeting on the death of Lord Philip Noel-Baker. At the time of his death, I do not believe that Lord Noel-Baker held any official position with the British Government but, as the Chair rightly pointed out, he did have a very long and very distinguished career, both in the service of his country and in the service of the international community.

I should like to thank the Chair and the members of the Commission for the kind words which have been spoken, and I undertake to pass them on to his family.
Mr. GONZALEZ CESAR (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): First, Mr. Chairman, I should like to congratulate you on your assumption of your office and wish you every success in the discharge of your duties.

Secondly, on behalf of my delegation I wish to thank those who have complimented Ambassador Garcia Robles of Mexico on his being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

The CHAIRMAN: As there are no other speakers, I declare the session of the Disarmament Commission closed.

The meeting rose at 3:40 p.m.