DISARMAMENT COMMISSION
VERBATIM RECORD OF THE EIGHTY-THIRD MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 5 December 1984, at 11.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. GBEHO (Ghana)

- Election of the Chairman and other officers
- Review of the draft resolutions adopted by the First Committee at the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly relating to the Disarmament Commission
- Draft provisional agenda
- Other business
- Statement by the Chairman

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The meeting was called to order at 12 noon.

ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN AND OTHER OFFICERS

The CHAIRMAN: In accordance with the principle of rotation of the chairmanship of the Commission, the candidacy for the chairmanship for 1985 should come from the Group of Asian States. In that connection, I am pleased to repeat here that I have received a letter from the Chairman of the Group of Asian States informing me that the Group has endorsed Ambassador Mansur Ahmad of Pakistan as the candidate for the chairmanship.

I call on the representative of Ghana.

Mr. SIMPSON (Ghana): It is an honour and a privilege for me to nominate Ambassador Mansur Ahmad of Pakistan for the chairmanship of the Disarmament Commission.

Ambassador Ahmad was born on 1 August 1933. He holds a B.A. degree, two Masters degrees, one obtained from Punjab University in Lahore and the other from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Medford, United States of America. He has held various diplomatic posts in the Pakistan diplomatic service. These are: Tokyo, Jakarta, London, Ankara, Moscow and Bangkok. At the last post he served as Ambassador of Pakistan. He has also held various positions in the Pakistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as Director from 1965 to 1968 and as Director-General from 1972 to 1976. At present, Ambassador Mansur Ahmad is the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations and he has been in Geneva since January 1981. Ambassador Ahmad was Chairman of the Conference on Disarmament in July 1983.

As delegations will see from the brief record I have indicated, Mr. Mansur Ahmad is a very experienced diplomat. He is well versed in negotiations and I am glad to say that his country, Pakistan, has shown keen interest in disarmament issues and I am confident that his chairmanship will contribute to the work of the Disarmament Commission. I warmly commend him to this Commission for the post of Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Ghana for his introductory words.

Members of the Commission have heard the representative of Ghana, who nominated Ambassador Mansur Ahmad of Pakistan for the post of Chairman of the
(The Chairman)

Disarmament Commission for 1985. If I hear no comments, I will take it that it is
the Commission's wish that the representative of Pakistan, Ambassador Mansur Ahmad,
be elected Chairman of the Disarmament Commission for 1985, by acclamation.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: I now declare that the Ambassador of Pakistan,
Mr. Mansur Ahmad, is duly elected Chairman of the Disarmament Commission for 1985.
May I extend to him my warmest congratulations and wish him success in the conduct

I now call on the representative of Pakistan.

Mr. HUSAIN (Pakistan): In the absence of Ambassador Mansur Ahmad, who
had to return last week to his duties in Geneva, I have the pleasant duty of
expressing thanks on his behalf and on behalf of my delegation to the
representative of Ghana for nominating him to the post of Chairman of the
Disarmament Commission and also to members of the Asian Group for nominating
Ambassador Mansur Ahmad. I should also like, on his behalf, to thank the members
of the Disarmament Commission for electing him Chairman of the Commission for the
year 1985.

Ambassador Ahmad sincerely appreciates the trust and confidence placed in him
by the members of the Disarmament Commission and he will strive to perform his
duties as Chairman of the Commission to the best of his ability.

In view of the difficult task that lies ahead for the Disarmament Commission
next year, Ambassador Mansur Ahmad will need the co-operation of the Commission
members and he hopes and trusts that he can depend upon such co-operation to
facilitate his task.

Once again, I should like to thank the members of the Disarmament Commission
on behalf of Ambassador Mansur Ahmad for electing him Chairman of the Commission
for the year 1985.

The CHAIRMAN: Now I wish to proceed with the election of other officers
of the Commission, namely, the Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur for the year 1985. I
am informed, however, that the African Group is still in the process of
consultations and will make its candidates known to the Commission at a later
date. I wish to suggest, therefore, that the Commission go ahead with electing six
Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur at this meeting, leaving the two Vice-Chairmen from
(The Chairman)

the African Group to be elected during the first substantive meeting of the Disarmament Commission in the coming year.

I am happy to report, therefore, that the following regional groups have selected candidates for Vice-Chairman: Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Western European and Other States. As far as the Asian States are concerned, they have nominated the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Group of Eastern European States has nominated the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and the German Democratic Republic. The Group of Latin American States has selected the Bahamas and Mexico. The Group of Western European and Other States has selected Greece.

If I hear no comment, I shall take it that the Commission wishes to elect the representatives of the above-mentioned countries as Vice-Chairmen of the Commission for 1985, by acclamation.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: As to the election of a Rapporteur, I understand that agreement regarding the candidacy has been reached among the regional groups. I shall now call on the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany, Ambassador Wegener, to say a few words.

Mr. WEGENER (Federal Republic of Germany): At this time my delegation holds the chairmanship of the Group of Western European and Other States, and I am speaking in that capacity.

I am honoured to propose, for the important office of Rapporteur, Mr. Arturo Laclaustra from the delegation of Spain. Mr. Laclaustra is well known to many of us and the reasons for that become apparent when we look at his curriculum vitae. Mr. Laclaustra is a lawyer from Madrid, a member of the Madrid Bar Association, but he also holds a diploma from the Diplomatic School in Madrid. Equipped with these credentials, he entered the Spanish foreign service in 1974. He has held many and varied posts. For us it is of particular significance that he has been with us here in New York for a long time. He is at present Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of his country to the United Nations. He has been a member of the Spanish delegation at the last four sessions of the General Assembly. He actively co-operated in the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament and, apart from his role in the work of the First Committee, he has also been a member of the Spanish delegation to the United Nations Conference on Disarmament over these years.
In addition, Mr. Laclaustra has held the post of Rapporteur before, as Rapporteur of the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference.

It can easily be gathered from this **curriculum vitae** that Mr. Laclaustra is particularly well suited to the post, and we propose his candidature with great pride, knowing that he will make an excellent contribution to the work of the Commission.

I know that I speak on behalf of all the members of the Group of Western European and Other States when I take this early opportunity to congratulate Ambassador Ahmad, of the Pakistan delegation, on his election as Chairman. He is an outstanding representative of his country. I, who do most of my work in Geneva, can testify to that. We can be extremely gratified to have him as our Chairman and can be confident that he will bring to the Commission's work the same standards of brilliance as you yourself, Sir, have displayed over the past year. My warm congratulations go to Ambassador Ahmad.

May I also take this opportunity to congratulate the other officers that we have already elected. I hope that I may be allowed to single out — since he is a member of the Group for which I speak — my worthy and distinguished friend, Ambassador Stephanou, of Greece, who in the past year has already made an excellent contribution to the Commission's work.

**The CHAIRMAN:** If there are no other nominations, I shall declare Mr. Laclaustra of Spain elected Rapporteur.

**It was so decided.**

**The CHAIRMAN:** I wish to express my warm congratulations to Mr. Laclaustra on his election. I believe the Commission has made a very wise decision in electing him as its Rapporteur.

**Mr. LACLAUSTRA** (Spain) ([interpretation from Spanish]): Thank you very much for your congratulations, Mr. Chairman. Please allow me to express my thanks to Ambassador Wegener, of the Federal Republic of Germany, who will be Vice-Chairman on behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States, for his presentation of my candidacy for the post of Rapporteur and for his kind words about me. At the same time, I should like to thank all the other members of the Commission for the confidence they have expressed in me in electing me to that post. I assure them that I shall perform my task with due seriousness and commitment.
I should also like to congratulate the representative of Pakistan on his election as Chairman of the Commission and to congratulate the other officers already elected. I assure them of my whole-hearted co-operation in the work ahead of us.

The CHAIRMAN: We have thus concluded the election of officers for today. As I said earlier, two other Vice-Chairmen, from the African Group, will be elected at the first meeting of the next substantive session, in 1985.

Mr. STEPHANOU (Greece): I, too, should like to congratulate the new Chairman of our Commission, Ambassador Mansur Ahmad, because I know him a little from Geneva and I know that he will contribute greatly to the success of our work. I wish also to take this opportunity, Mr. Chairman, to thank you for the way in which you directed our work this year and to congratulate you on it. I had the privilege to represent Greece as a Vice-Chairman under your direction. I should like also to thank Ambassador Wegener for his kind words about me and to express my regret that this year we shall not have his very valuable contribution as Vice-Chairman.

REVIEW OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE FIRST COMMITTEE AT THE THIRTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY RELATING TO THE DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

The CHAIRMAN: As the Commission is aware, during the current session the First Committee has adopted seven draft resolutions that have direct relevance to the Commission's work in 1985. They are to be adopted at a plenary meeting of the General Assembly soon.

At our last meeting, on 3 December, we reviewed draft resolutions relating to the Commission's substantive work. I wish now to stress the importance of draft resolution A/C.1/39/L.70, adopted by the First Committee under agenda item 59 (a) entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission", which concerns the Commission's mandate.

Paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of the draft resolution read as follows:

"3. Requests the Disarmament Commission to continue its work in accordance with its mandate, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament, and with paragraph 3 of resolution 37/78 H, and to that end to make every effort to achieve specific recommendations, at its next substantive session, on the outstanding items on
its agenda for that session, taking into account the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly as well as the results of its 1984 substantive session;

"4. Requests the Disarmament Commission to meet for a period not exceeding four weeks during 1985 and to submit a substantive report, containing specific recommendations on the items inscribed on its agenda, to the General Assembly at its fortieth session;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Disarmament Commission the report of the Conference on Disarmament, together with all the official records of the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly relating to disarmament matters, and to render all assistance that the Commission may require for implementing the present resolution".
(The Chairman)

In particular, operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution requests the Disarmament Commission to make every effort to achieve specific recommendations on the outstanding items on its agenda. In light of the heavy work-load for the forthcoming session in 1985, the Commission should devote its utmost effort to the conclusion of certain agenda items that have been included for many years on the agenda of the Disarmament Commission so that the Commission can consider at future sessions other important and urgent issues in the field of disarmament.

DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The CHAIRMAN: At the last meeting we had a useful discussion of the draft provisional agenda for the 1985 session. Taking into account the comments made by certain delegations, the Secretariat has prepared a revised version of the draft provisional agenda, which is contained in document A/CN.10/1984/CRP.8/Rev.1. I believe that the document has been circulated. I trust that the draft provisional agenda as revised meets the concerns of members of the Commission.

OTHER BUSINESS

The CHAIRMAN: I understand that the next substantive session of the Commission will be from 6 to 31 May 1985. The usual consultations will take place prior to the convening of the meetings of the Disarmament Commission in May next year. The Commission has thus concluded its business for this session.

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN: Since this is the last meeting for the current year — and certainly the last for me as Chairman — I should like to take this opportunity to thank each and every delegation here for the co-operation that I have enjoyed from you during the period that I have served as your Chairman.

I am grateful to all delegations, and I wish to record the gratitude of my country, Ghana, for the honour that you did it. I am particularly indebted to the officers of the Commission for the services that they rendered, for the advice that they constantly gave me and for the efforts that they put in to achieve as much as we did.
I am grateful to those who served as chairmen of the various working groups during our summer session, and even though the results of that session were not exactly what we had hoped for, I am sure that the outcome was inversely proportional to the efforts put into our meetings during May of this year.

I said at our previous meeting - and certainly I have done so elsewhere - that the Disarmament Commission is constructed in such a way that it mirrors the international situation as far as disarmament issues are concerned. Our inability to achieve much at the session of the Commission earlier this year was only a reflection of the difficulties that have befuddled the international community as far as disarmament is concerned. I hope, therefore, that each and every one of us can devote our attention in the future not only to the discussion of the specific items on the agenda of the Disarmament Commission but also, generally and severally, to trying to improve the international situation and the relations between countries, especially between the super-Powers. It is only when those relations are on a proper footing that we can hope to register any progress at all in the Disarmament Commission.

May I once again thank you all very much for the effort that you put into your work and for the co-operation which you so kindly extended to the Chair. I personally have profited from this service, and I hope to be in your service for as long as I can.

I declare the organizational session of the Disarmament Commission closed.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.