General Assembly

DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE NINETY-SECOND MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 17 May 1985, at 3 p.m.

Chairman:

Mr. AHMAD
(Pakistan)

- Organization of work

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The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The CHAIRMAN: The purpose of this meeting is to organize the work of the Commission on agenda items 7, 8 and 9, which still await consideration by this body.

As a result of my consultations with the groups concerned, I am happy to report that agreement has been reached on the way the three remaining items should be considered.

On the basis of those consultations and the arrangements that have resulted from them, it is proposed that a working group, which will be Working Group III, be established to consider agenda item 7, regarding the review of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament. It is proposed that that Working Group be chaired by Ambassador Engo of Cameroon.

It is proposed that agenda items 8 and 9, concerning, respectively, the curbing of the naval arms race and the review of the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade, be considered first in the plenary, following which the Chairman would undertake the preparation of reports on the two items in consultation with friends of the Chairman and interested delegations.

If there is no objection, I shall take it that the Commission agrees to that programme.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: In order that we may formulate an idea about the organization of our work for next week, when plenary meetings are planned for Monday and Tuesday, it would be most helpful if delegations would advise the secretariat of the item they wish to address. This should be done as soon as possible, but in any case, by the end of today for item 8 and by 12 noon on Monday for item 9. Once the number of speakers has been more or less determined, the secretariat will be able to distribute on Monday a timetable of all the meetings for the week.

Since we shall devote most of next week to items 7, 8 and 9, some arrangements will have to be made to allow the Working Groups on items 4, 5 and 6 to conclude their work and, it is hoped, adopt their reports. Such arrangements will be agreed on and announced in the Journal in due course, as necessary.

I should like to ask the Chairmen of Working Groups I and II, on the freezing and reduction of military budgets and the nuclear capability of South Africa,
respectively, to make oral progress reports on the work of their Groups to the plenary Commission at its meeting scheduled for Monday afternoon. I shall report on the progress that we have made with regard to item 4, which was left to the Committee of the Whole and is now under being discussed in a contact group.

Mr. PAVLOVSKY (Czechoslovakia): Mr. Chairman, could we not set the same deadline for inscription on the list of speakers for both items?

Mr. KONSTANTINOV (Bulgaria): I, too, would like to ask that the deadline for item 8 be extended to noon on Monday.

The CHAIRMAN: If that is the Commission's wish, it can certainly be done, but I would still appeal to delegations which can do so to put their names on the list this evening or as early as possible on Monday so that we can begin our work on Monday morning.

Mr. ENGO (Cameroon): I feel I should seize this opportunity to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on the able manner in which you have carried out consultations and on the way you have been able to resolve the problems. My delegation always feels that any subject raised by a sovereign State ought to be considered important and that the fact that priority is accorded to some subjects does not mean that others are not important. We therefore deeply appreciate the co-operation of all the delegations that have taken part in your consultations, which has enabled us to focus on the great problems that are before us.

I wish also to thank you, Mr. Chairman, and the other officers of the Commission for according me the great privilege of being asked to preside over Working Group III. I feel sure that I can count on your expertise and advice, as well as on the co-operation of the members of the Commission, in ensuring that the work of that Group, which we consider to be important, is successfully concluded.

Having said that, I wish to give notice that, following the plenary meeting on Monday, I should like to consult as many representatives as possible on the work of Working Group III. While you may intend to announce this on Monday, I wish to give notice of it now in the hope that all those who are interested will commence their contribution by attending that meeting.

The meeting rose at 3.35 p.m.