AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE

Seventh session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 36th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 14 July 1976, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. HOVEYDA (Iran)

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The meeting was called to order at 11.20 a.m.

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE (A/AC.167/L.9 and Add.1) (continued)

1. **Mr. Scalabre** (France) said that his delegation had no difficulty with the draft report. France's position on the matter had not changed, and his country continued to favour the convening of a world disarmament conference, which should, however, be well prepared, with all major Powers participating.

2. **Mr. Ovinnikov** (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the question of preparing for and convening a world disarmament conference was the most important element of a matter to which his country attached the greatest importance. One of the main directions of Soviet foreign policy, as could be seen from the decisions of the Twenty-fifth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, was and remained the struggle to end the arms race and bring about disarmament. In an effort to broaden and strengthen favourable trends in international relations, it was vital that political détente should be supplemented by military détente. The arms race, spurred on by aggressive imperialist circles, consumed enormous financial and material resources, and its continuation kept alive the danger of war. The recent Berlin Conference of the communist and workers' parties of Europe had shown the determination of the Soviet Union, other socialist countries and the communist workers' parties of the European continent to do all in their power to end the arms race and achieve disarmament. In the final document of the Conference, a number of specific tasks had been set out, the foremost of which was to undertake effective measures to achieve disarmament. On 2 June 1976, the World Peace Council had adopted a new Stockholm Appeal for the end of the arms race and the achievement of disarmament. In addition, the appeal had called for a joint struggle to ban nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction and for the immediate convening of a world disarmament conference.

3. His delegation had read with interest the draft report prepared by the Working Group and hoped that it would prove acceptable as the report of the Ad Hoc Committee. The draft report was in general well balanced, and it correctly noted that an overwhelming majority of Governments favoured the immediate convening of the world conference with the participation of all nuclear and military significant States after the necessary preparation had been undertaken. The draft could be strengthened, however, by including in the section on conclusions and recommendations a statement on the need for specific measures to prepare for the world conference. His delegation was convinced that the matter of active measures to prepare for the convening of the conference was one of the most urgent tasks in the disarmament area. The holding of the conference would strengthen the efforts to find ways of achieving the common goal of general and complete disarmament and would give a new and very important impetus to disarmament negotiations in all forums. His delegation therefore supported the draft report.

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4. Mr. LOGAN (United Kingdom) welcomed the comprehensive and balanced nature of the draft report and said that his delegation had no difficulties with it. The draft report accurately represented the views of his Government which were that the conference might provide an impulse to the important task of reaching concrete agreement on disarmament. The attendance at the conference of all significant military States and all nuclear Powers would be essential for its success.

5. The CHAIRMAN said that there seemed to be a general consensus in the Committee that the draft report was acceptable and could be adopted. He suggested that the Committee should adopt the draft report, with the provision that the Yugoslav delegation accepted it ad referendum and maintained the right to inform him personally in due time of the position of its Government. The Secretariat would delay reproduction of the report until he had informed it that the conditions just referred to had been met.

6. Mr. BRANKOVIC (Yugoslavia) said that, in view of the consensus which appeared to exist in the Committee, he would accept the Chairman's suggestion.

7. It was so decided.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

8. The CHAIRMAN said that in view of the adoption of the report, the Committee could close the current session earlier than expected and would not in fact need to hold its eighth session in September, thus effecting significant savings for the Organization.

9. Ms. SEGARRA (Secretary of the Committee), commenting on the matter of savings, said that they would be difficult to evaluate precisely, since the expenses of the Committee's session were covered by the regular budget of the Department of Conference Services. As the September session would, however, have coincided with the coming session of the Conference on the Law of the Sea, that would have led to an overburdening of the Department of Conference Services and would have required overtime hours on the part of the Secretariat. The cost of holding a single meeting had been estimated at $5,000; the savings for the 25 meetings would thus be $125,000. These savings were theoretical, however, and the real benefit resulting from the Committee's success in completing its work early would be the avoidance of any conflict with the Conference on the Law of the Sea.

10. The CHAIRMAN said that significant savings would also be achieved by avoiding the need for overtime hours in preparing the Committee's report in September. The report could now be reproduced at a time when the Secretariat was not overburdened. He hoped that the example of the Committee's work would be followed by other committees. It proved, in his view, that, with some co-operation and effort outside the regular meetings, it was possible to arrive at a solution to all problems. In addition, the Committee's report would now be available to bodies dealing with similar matters that would be meeting in the near future. The question of disarmament was of vital interest to world public opinion, and he hoped that the Committee's success would be an omen for future success in the disarmament area.
CLOSURE OF SESSION

11. After an exchange of courtesies, the CHAIRMAN declared closed the seventh session of the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference.

The meeting rose at 11.55 a.m.