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AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE REVIEW OF THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS
IN THE FIELD OF DISARMAMENT

Third session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 16th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York
on Tuesday, 7 September 1976, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mrs. THORSSON (Sweden)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.55 a.m.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The CHAIRMAN declared open the third session of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Review of the Role of the United Nations in the Field of Disarmament.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (A/AC.181/L.9)

2. The agenda was adopted.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

3. The CHAIRMAN said the Bureau believed that, in the short time available for the third session, it would be necessary to devote part of the session to informal consultations. The Bureau also believed that no useful purpose would be served by setting up a working group, which would merely duplicate the work of the plenary Committee. It would therefore be better to begin the consultations as soon as possible, the aim being to arrive at the broadest possible agreement on the format and content of the final report to be submitted to the General Assembly, including the Committee's final conclusions and proposals. After the consultations had been completed, the Committee could be formally reconvened in order to conclude its business.

4. If there was no objection, she would take it that the Committee adopted those suggestions.

5. It was so decided.

REVIEW OF THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE FIELD OF DISARMAMENT:

(a) PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS AND PROPOSALS OF THE SECOND SESSION AS WELL AS ALL OTHER PROPOSALS SUBMITTED AT THE SECOND SESSION;

(b) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF DOCUMENTS A/AC.181/L.5/Rev.1 AND Add.1 AND OF ALL OTHER WORKING PAPERS SUBMITTED AT THE SECOND SESSION;

(c) OTHER WORKING PAPERS SUBMITTED TO THE AD HOC COMMITTEE

6. Mr. BJORNERSTEDT (Director, Disarmament Affairs Division), introducing the Secretary-General's note on the administrative and financial implications of documents A/AC.181/L.5/Rev.1 and Add.1 and of all other working papers submitted at the second session of the Ad Hoc Committee (A/AC.181/4), drew attention to the omission of an existing P-2 post from the manning table of the Information and Research Service in annex II, which would be the subject of a corrigendum.

/...

(Mr. Bjornerstedt)

7. He noted that, of all the proposals submitted during the second session, only the working paper by Sweden (A/AC.181/L.5/Rev.1) and that submitted by Mexico (A/AC.181/L.7) required consideration from the standpoint of administrative and financial implications. The Secretary-General's note followed the order of the various proposals in the Swedish working paper.

8. With respect to paragraph 7 (c) of the Swedish working paper, the Secretary-General drew attention in paragraph 4 of his note to the increased workload of the Secretariat staff servicing the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (CCD) as a result both of the procedural decision taken by CCD as to the format and preparation of its report to the General Assembly and of the new types of services required by CCD from the Secretariat. In view of the new tasks envisaged for the Secretariat in the field of disarmament, it would no longer be possible for the Committee and Conference Services Section of the Disarmament Affairs Division to draw resources from the other units of the Division. For those reasons, a moderate strengthening of that Section was proposed.

9. In connexion with the proposals in paragraph 9 of the Swedish working paper and the Mexican amendment to paragraph 9 (b) of that paper, concerning collection, compilation and dissemination of information, the new tasks to be entrusted to the Secretariat could be carried out with only a moderate increase in staff. That estimate was based on an effort to ensure that a good part of the workload was absorbed within available resources. The cost of publishing the Yearbook and the Bulletin depended, *inter alia*, on the number of languages and the number of pages. In paragraph 24 of the Secretary-General's note, it was suggested that the publication of both the Yearbook and the Bulletin could be achieved in two stages. One possibility would be to begin preparation of the Yearbook in 1977 and of the Bulletin in 1978. The recruitment of staff could also take place in two stages. That approach was supported by the fact that some work of the type needed for the Yearbook was already undertaken by the Secretariat. Yearbook material could probably also in many cases be used as a basis for the preparation of the Bulletin. In conclusion, he drew attention to the total estimated costs, as set forth in paragraph 32 of the Secretary-General's note.

The meeting rose at 11.10 a.m.

