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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 19th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 10 September 1976, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mrs. THORSSON (Sweden)

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The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (continued)

Draft report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Review of the Role of the United Nations in the Field of Disarmament (A/AC.181/L.10)

1. Mr. ALFARARGI (Egypt), Rapporteur, briefly presented the draft report of the Committee (A/AC.181/L.10). The introduction cited the provisions of General Assembly resolution 3484 B (XXX), the second part gave an account of the Committee's work following the chronological order of its sessions, the third part contained the Committee's agreed proposals in the order indicated by resolution 3484 B (XXX), and the last part reproduced the comments made by four delegations at the previous meeting. If the Committee's work had proved successful, that was due to the spirit of teamwork and co-operation which had prevailed during the current session and which he hoped would also mark the following session.
2. Mr. LOGAN (United Kingdom) said that since certain delegations, including his own, seemed to have some difficulties with regard to the draft report, it would be preferable to suspend the meeting in order to hold the necessary consultations.
3. The CHAIRMAN said that, in the absence of any objection, the meeting would be suspended for one hour.

The meeting was suspended at 11.10 a.m. and resumed at 12.15 p.m.

4. Mr. ALFARARGI (Egypt), Rapporteur, said that after consultations the members of the Committee had agreed on a new wording for paragraph 19, which would now read as follows: "The summary records of the 18th and 19th meetings of the Committee, containing delegations' interpretations of, and views and comments on, the agreed proposals of the Committee, appear in annex I."
5. The CHAIRMAN said she understood that the new paragraph 19 was to replace paragraphs 19-22, which would be annexed to the draft report. If there was no objection, she would take it that the paragraph was adopted.
6. It was so decided.
7. Mr. ELLIOTT (Belgium) wished to reaffirm the general reservation his delegation had expressed at the Committee's previous session concerning those proposals which might have financial implications.

(Mr. Elliott, Belgium)

8. Like several other delegations, his delegation felt that only genuine progress in the field which concerned the Committee would justify any increase in staff or expenditure. Such an increase would be acceptable only for tasks which were clearly defined and required actual work on the part of the Secretariat.

9. His delegation also wished to point out that the possible financial and administrative implications would in any case have to be considered at the appropriate level, namely, by the Fifth Committee and ACABQ.

10. Mr. ORTEGUI (Argentina), supported by Mr. CORREA (Mexico), said he wished to repeat that it should have been made clear, in paragraph 9 (b) of the section of the report relating to the Committee's proposals, that the official with the rank of Assistant Secretary-General who would head the United Nations Centre for Disarmament should be a national of a third world country.

11. Mrs. BEAGLE (New Zealand) was pleased that the Committee's recommendations had been adopted by consensus. She hoped that, in considering them, the appropriate United Nations bodies would take account of the fact that during the informal negotiations many delegations had stressed the need for careful examination of the financial and personnel implications of those recommendations.

12. Mr. KLEINPETER (German Democratic Republic) said that his Government's position had been put forward in its report to the Secretary-General and in the statements made by his delegation at the Committee's second session. In keeping with that position, his delegation felt that the suggestions contained in paragraph 7 (a) (iv) were not consistent with the desired goal, which was to enhance the political role and increase the weight of the United Nations; the suggestions in question were oriented to purely technical questions instead of encouraging all States to adopt a constructive attitude towards effective disarmament negotiations.

13. Mr. SOKALSKI (Poland) said it was no secret to anyone that his delegation had always questioned the advisability of calling into question the procedural and organizational aspects of disarmament negotiations. His country could not support the theory that it would be better to concentrate on procedural questions of minor importance rather than on the political will of States to make tangible progress in the field of disarmament and arms limitation. On the contrary, attempts to alter the tested machinery available to the United Nations in that field only diverted the international community's attention from the substance of the problem and hampered the efforts currently being made by existing bodies.

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(Mr. Sokalski, Poland)

14. It was in a spirit of conciliation and in order to permit a consensus to emerge that his delegation had accepted the document submitted by the Swedish delegation, but it still had some reservations in that regard. He recalled that his Government's point of view was set out in document A/AC.181/1 and expressed the hope that it would be duly reflected in the annex to the draft report.

15. Mr. VALDERRAMA (Philippines) was pleased that the Committee had been able to reach a compromise. He recalled, however, that at the previous meeting his delegation had advocated the publication of a periodical on disarmament; he hoped that action along those lines would be taken without delay so that public opinion would be properly informed of the progress made in that field.

16. Mr. NIEHE (Netherlands) expressed satisfaction at the successful outcome of the Committee's deliberations and stressed that the financial and administrative implications of the Committee's recommendations should be carefully considered in the appropriate bodies.

17. Mr. PLASEK (Czechoslovakia) said that his delegation would like paragraph 22, which was to appear in the annex to the Committee's report, to begin with the words "The delegations of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic ..." in order to make it clear that his delegation's views coincided with those of the Soviet delegation.

18. The CHAIRMAN said she took it that the amendment proposed by the Czechoslovak representative was acceptable to the Soviet representative.

19. Mr. JOZAN (Hungary) said that, in a spirit of conciliation, his delegation gave its endorsement to the draft report but it had some reservations regarding paragraph 7 (a) (iv).

20. Mr. GHELEV (Bulgaria) also expressed some reservations regarding paragraph 7 (a) (iv). He reaffirmed the position of principle adopted by his Government, which was fully reflected in paragraph 22, and the reservations and doubts his Government had expressed in the communication it had submitted in accordance with paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 3484 B (XXX).

21. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the draft report should be adopted section by section.

Introduction (paras. 1-4)

22. The introduction to the draft report was adopted.

Work of the Committee (paras. 5-18)

23. The section on the work of the Committee was adopted.

Agreed proposals (items I-IV, paras. 1-9)

24. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the section in question reproduced, word for word, the text approved by consensus the previous day.

25. The section on agreed proposals was adopted.

New paragraph 19

26. The CHAIRMAN noted that the new paragraph 19 replaced paragraphs 19-22, which were to be annexed to the report, and had already been adopted by the Committee.

27. The draft report of the Ad Hoc Committee, as a whole (A/AC.181/L.10), was adopted.

28. Mr. PASTINEN (Finland) expressed pleasure at the successful conclusion of the Committee's work and noted with satisfaction that there was a fair chance that added resources, in both money and manpower, would be placed at the disposal of the Secretariat - subject, of course, to approval by the General Assembly - for its work on behalf of disarmament.

29. He thanked the Chairman and the members of the Secretariat, who had made a substantial contribution to the success of the Committee's work, and also the Swedish delegation, whose efforts had made it possible to adopt recommendations which had every prospect of receiving broad support at the next session of the General Assembly.

30. The comments he had just made, taken in conjunction with the written reply of his Government and the previous statements of his delegation, foreshadowed the line of conduct which his Government would follow when the Committee's agreed proposals came up for action at the forthcoming session of the General Assembly.

CLOSING OF THE SESSION

31. The CHAIRMAN expressed satisfaction at the successful work of the Ad Hoc Committee, which had carried out the mission entrusted to it by the General Assembly, and declared the third session closed.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.

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