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

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 3RD MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Wednesday, 28 January 1976, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mrs. THORSSON (Sweden)

CONTENTS

Election of officers (continued)

Organization of work (continued)

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

ELECTION OF OFFICERS (continued)

1. Mr. MAMPUYA MUSUNGAYI-NKUEMBE (Zaire) nominated Mr. Alfarargi (Egypt) for the office of Rapporteur.
2. Mr. CEAUSU (Romania) seconded the nomination.
3. Mr. Alfarargi (Egypt) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK (A/AC.181/L.2) (continued)

4. Mr. PASTINEN (Finland) said that his delegation had listened with interest to the statements made by the Secretary-General and the Chairman at the beginning of the session. Those statements would have to be kept in mind, particularly when the Committee reached a more substantive stage in its work. In addition, his delegation fully supported the formula for decision making suggested by the Chairman at the previous meeting.
5. His delegation had taken note of the working paper contained in document A/AC.181/L.2, which would provide a more solid basis on which the Committee could plan its future work. With regard to the schedule, since the substantive part of the Committee's work would be done mostly at its summer session when the views and suggestions of Governments requested under paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 3484 B (XXX) would be available, the best course would be for the Committee to prepare at that time a draft report containing recommendations for further action. The report could be completed at the September session. As to the general framework of discussions, his delegation fully agreed that the Committee should not get involved in the substance of disarmament negotiations. Any other approach would be at variance with its terms of reference. In that connexion, he expressed some qualms about describing the review as "basic" since that seemed to suggest that there was something basically wrong at present. The wording of the item on the provisional agenda of the thirty-first session of the General Assembly, "Strengthening the role of the United Nations in the disarmament field", was more appropriate.
6. Recalling that the substance of the Committee's mandate was set forth in paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 3484 B (XXX), he said that subparagraph (a) thereof was the most complex and ambiguous. In the view of his delegation, the role of the United Nations in disarmament was not only central but organic. Consequently, the procedures and organization of work in the United Nations in the field of disarmament had been characterized by a pragmatic and flexible approach. That belief was borne out by the manifold organs that existed for discussion of the question, namely, the First Committee, the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (CCD), the special committees and study groups and the possible future world disarmament conference. Of course, the review which the

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(Mr. Pastinen, Finland)

Committee was about to undertake was not designed to interfere with the work of existing disarmament bodies in any way. Indeed, if reforms were needed the initiative should come from the organs themselves. None the less, his delegation welcomed the fact that the working paper before the Committee gave priority to the question of improving the methods of work of the First Committee.

7. The tasks outlined in paragraph 3 (b) and (c) seemed to lend themselves more easily to concrete action and recommendations. There was certainly room for considerable improvement in the collection, compilation and dissemination by the United Nations of information on disarmament, particularly in view of the rapid increase in the amount of information available and the heightened public interest in disarmament issues. In that context, the suggestion that the Secretary-General should be requested to apprise the Committee of his views in order to assist it in its task was of particular relevance. In a way, the adoption of General Assembly resolution 3484 D (XXX) enabling the Secretary-General to strengthen the staff of the Disarmament Affairs Division was a first step towards the realization of the Committee's tasks as spelled out in paragraph 3 (b) and (c) of resolution 3484 B (XXX).

8. In conclusion, he said that his remarks were preliminary and in no way prejudged the reply which his Government would convey in due course to the Secretary General in accordance with paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 3484 B (XXX).

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.

