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CONFERENCE OF NON-NUCLEAR-WEAPON STATES

Geneva, 1968

GENERAL COMMITTEE

SUMMARY RECORDS OF THE FIRST AND SECOND MEETINGS

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
from 2-16 September 1968

The list of representatives attending the Conference is found in the document containing the summary records of the plenary meetings (A/CONF.35/SR.1-20).

Chairman:

Mr. Arshad HUSAIN

President of the Conference

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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIRST MEETING
held on Monday, 2 September 1968, at 5.55 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Arshad HUSAIN President of the Conference

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Provisional agenda item 8)

The CHAIRMAN read to the Committee the text of the proposed agenda for the Conference, as drafted in informal discussion.^{1/} The text he had read out superseded items 11-16 of the provisional agenda (A/CONF.35/L.2).

Mr. MACOVESCO (Romania) said that his delegation could accept the proposed agenda. It hoped that those questions which, in informal discussion, had proved controversial would be examined in the spirit which had prevailed in the negotiation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (General Assembly resolution 2373 (XXII)).

Mr. HAYMERLE (Austria) said that the proposed agenda was acceptable to his delegation. During the informal discussions, his delegation had proposed the deletion of the words "to an international agency" from item 13, sub-item (b). For technical, practical, financial and budgetary reasons, the Conference's endeavours to halt the proliferation of nuclear weapons must not be allowed to result in the proliferation of international agencies. However, his delegation had the Chairman's assurance that the wording of the agenda item would in no way pre-judge the question of establishing an international agency.

Mr. VINCI (Italy) said that discussion on specific problems of disarmament, particularly those referred to in item 13, sub-items (c) and (d), would duplicate work being done elsewhere and might impede the progress of the Conference, whose time was limited. Nevertheless, his delegation would accept the proposed agenda.

Mr. BELOVSKI (Yugoslavia) said that, during the informal discussion of the agenda for the Conference, his delegation had proposed that in item 13, after the words "nuclear disarmament", the following phrase should be inserted: "and general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control". Those words were taken from article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. That amendment had failed. On the understanding, however, that the wording adopted for item 13 would impose no limitation on the Conference's discussions, his delegation could accept the proposed agenda.

Mr. SEATON (United Republic of Tanzania) said that the spirit in which the General Committee had approached its work augured well for the success of the Conference.

The Committee decided to recommend to the Conference the adoption of the draft agenda read out by the Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should recommend items 11-13 of that agenda for allocation to Committee One, item 14 for allocation to Committee Two, and item 15 for allocation to the plenary Conference.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.

^{1/} Subsequently adopted and reproduced as document A/CONF.35/2.

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SECOND MEETING
held on Monday, 16 September 1968, at 10.25 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Arshad HUSAIN President of the Conference

APPOINTMENT OF THE MEMBERS OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE

The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to make proposals concerning the membership of the Drafting Committee to be set up under rule 47 of the rules of procedure of the Conference (A/CONF.35/1).

Mr. de LAIGLESIA (Spain), supported by Mr. MARTINEZ COBO (Ecuador) proposed that the balance established between the various regional groups in the General Committee should be retained in the membership of the Drafting Committee.

Mr. BELOVKSI (Yugoslavia) proposed that the membership of the Drafting Committee should be the same as that of the General Committee or that some members of the latter should be appointed members of the Drafting Committee.

Mr. SEATON (United Republic of Tanzania) said he could not support the Yugoslav representative's proposal, as delegations not represented in the General Committee might gain the impression that the latter intended to set itself up as an oligarchy. The other members of the different groups should be given an opportunity of being represented in the Drafting Committee.

Mr. KHALLAF (United Arab Republic) said he thought that it would be useful for the different groups to consult among themselves concerning the appointment of the Drafting Committee.

After an exchange of views, in which Mr. AKWEI (Ghana), Mr. VINCI (Italy) and Mr. MARTINEZ COBO (Ecuador) took part, the CHAIRMAN suggested that the meeting should be suspended to enable members of the General Committee to hold consultations with members of their own group and other groups.

The meeting was suspended at 10.45 a.m. and resumed at 11.20 a.m.

Mr. VINCI (Italy) said that after consultations between the different groups, it had been decided that the Drafting Committee should exactly reflect the geographical and numerical composition of the General Committee. The Drafting Committee would therefore be composed of fifteen members, of whom three would be from the Western group, three from the Asian group, four from the African group, three from the Latin-American groups and two from the Eastern European group. The Western group had decided to appoint Canada, Italy and Switzerland as members of the Drafting Committee.

The Drafting Committee might perhaps be divided into two working groups in which all the geographical regions would be represented.

Mr. GROSESPIELL (Uruguay) said that the Latin-American group had decided to appoint Argentina, Brazil and Mexico as members of the Drafting Committee.

Mr. NABWERA (Kenya) said that the African group had decided to appoint Algeria, Ghana, Nigeria and Zambia as members of the Drafting Committee.

Mr. OGISO (Japan) said that the Asian group had decided to appoint India, Japan and Pakistan as members of the Drafting Committee.

Mr. ECOBESCU (Romania) requested that the meeting should be suspended to enable him to consult the members of his group.

The meeting was suspended at 11.30 a.m. and resumed at 11.40 a.m.

Mr. ECOBESCU (Romania) said that the group of socialist countries had decided to appoint Poland and Romania as members of the Drafting Committee.

The CHAIRMAN announced that the Drafting Committee would be composed of the following fifteen countries:

Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Ghana, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Switzerland and Zambia.

Mr. M. A. HUSAIN (India), referring to the Italian proposal that the Drafting Committee should be divided into two working groups, said it was for the Drafting Committee to decide on its methods of work.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the terms of reference of the Drafting Committee were defined in rule 47 of the rules of procedure.

Mr. VINCI (Italy) said he thought that the Drafting Committee might perhaps decide to divide into two working groups for the study of certain questions.

The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.