1983 UNITED NATIONS PLEDGING CONFERENCE FOR THE WORLD DISARMAMENT CAMPAIGN

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 1ST MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 27 October 1983, at 3 p.m.

Temporary President: Mr. PEREZ DE CUÉLLAR (Secretary-General of the United Nations)

President: Mr. GARCIA ROBLES (Mexico)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

1. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT welcomed participants to the first United Nations Pledging Conference for the World Disarmament Campaign. It would be recalled that the Campaign had been launched on 7 June 1982 by the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. Its aims were to inform, to educate and to generate public understanding and support for the objectives of the United Nations in the field of arms limitation and disarmament. A report on the first year of the World Disarmament Campaign had been issued as document A/38/349.

2. The important role which a well-informed public opinion could play had been clearly recognized by the first special session of the General Assembly on disarmament in 1978. In its Final Document, the General Assembly had stated that it was essential that not only Governments but also the peoples of the world should recognize and understand the dangers of the arms race. The Assembly had therefore called upon Member States, governmental and intergovernmental organizations, and the United Nations and its specialized agencies, to increase their information activities with regard to the danger of the arms race and the efforts to achieve disarmament in order that an international conscience might develop and that world public opinion might exercise a positive influence. The launching of the Campaign represented a new effort of the Organization to focus the attention of world public opinion on the pressing need to halt and reverse the arms race.

3. To achieve its objectives, the Campaign must represent a collective effort based on co-operation between the United Nations, Member States, governmental and non-governmental organizations and private citizens. The effectiveness of the Campaign depended on the degree of such co-operation.

4. A specific task of the United Nations was to disseminate in all countries and regions of the world factual and objective information on all aspects of arms limitation and disarmament in order to promote world-wide public understanding of the imperative need to stop the arms race. To do that, the Organization needed adequate resources.

5. In line with the mandate laid down by the General Assembly in the Concluding Document of the second special session devoted to disarmament, which specified that the Campaign should be financed from voluntary contributions, a special trust fund had been set up in 1982 for the financing of the Campaign. Contributions had already been made by States, individuals and non-governmental organizations.

6. The preceding year, in resolution 37/100 I, the General Assembly had reiterated its invitation to all Member States that had not yet done so to make voluntary contributions and had decided to convene a pledging conference of Member States for the World Disarmament Campaign.

7. The Temporary President declared open the United Nations Pledging Conference.
ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

8. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT indicated that rule 9 of the rules of procedure for United Nations pledging conferences (A/33/580) contained the agenda of the Conference, which had been circulated as document A/CONF.123/L.3.

9. The agenda was adopted.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

(a) PRESIDENT

10. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT said that, following consultations, it had been agreed to elect Mr. García Robles (Mexico) President.

11. Mr. García Robles (Mexico) was elected President by acclamation.

12. Mr. García Robles (Mexico) took the Chair.

13. The PRESIDENT thanked the members of the Conference for having elected him. Quoting from the Secretary-General's most recent report on the work of the Organization, he said that world public opinion was increasingly reacting against the constant threat of extinction hanging over humanity. It would be recalled that the Secretary-General had urged all Members States to give their full support to the World Disarmament Campaign and emphasized that the Campaign would enable the Organization "to disseminate objective information world wide so as to provide a solid, factual basis for constructive public involvement and understanding".

14. The first Pledging Conference for the World Disarmament Campaign had been convened to further those objectives.

(b) VICE-PRESIDENTS

15. The PRESIDENT indicated that, in accordance with rule 5 of the rules of procedure for United Nations pledging conferences, the Conference was to elect a President and not more than four Vice-Presidents from among the representatives. Following consultations within the regional groups, there was agreement to elect as Vice-Presidents Mr. Slim (Tunisia) for the Group of African States, Mr. Al-Atassi (Syrian Arab Republic) for the Group of Asian States, Mr. Butler (Australia) for the Group of Western European and Other States, and Mr. Pashkevich (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) for the Group of Eastern European States.

16. Mr. Slim (Tunisia), Mr. Al-Atassi (Syrian Arab Republic), Mr. Butler (Australia) and Mr. Pashkevich (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) were elected Vice-Presidents by acclamation.
STATEMENTS REGARDING PLEDGES

17. The PRESIDENT drew the attention of the participants to the draft final act which had been prepared in accordance with rule 19 of the rules of procedure (A/CONF.123/L.1/Rev.1) and to the list of contributions pledged as at 30 September 1983 (A/CONF.123/L.2 and Corr.1). In accordance with rule 21 of the rules of procedure, the Secretary-General would maintain until 31 March 1984 a list of pledges made or announced before and after the Conference.

18. In accordance with paragraph 1 of rule 13 of the rules of procedure, statements should be made in the English alphabetical order of the names of the States participating, starting with the State seated first at the current session of the Assembly. However, some delegations had suggested that the Conference should waive that rule in accordance with rule 23, under which the Conference could suspend any of the rules of procedure.

19. Accordingly, it was decided to suspend paragraph 1 of rule 13 of the rules of procedure.

20. The CHAIRMAN observed that statements should concern only the pledges being announced. Delegations had an opportunity to express their views on disarmament in the First Committee, which dealt with that question.

21. Mr. ALFEN (Secretary of the Conference) read out the list of contributions pledged to the World Disarmament Campaign as at 30 September 1983 (A/CONF.123/L.2 and Corr.1).

22. The representative of AUSTRALIA reiterated his country's support for the aims of the Campaign. During the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, Australia had been an active member of the working group that had drawn up the guidelines for the Campaign. The Campaign was to be carried out in all regions of the world in a balanced, factual and objective manner. It should enable all informed peoples to express their strong wish to end the arms race, in particular the nuclear arms race. Australia believed that the United Nations had an essential role to play in ensuring the widest possible dissemination of information on that vital subject. His country therefore wished to pledge 30,000 Australian dollars, in addition to the 20,000 Australian dollars it would be allocating to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research.

23. The representative of JAPAN said that his country had contributed $US 50,000 to the World Disarmament Campaign. In accordance with the proposal made by the Japanese Prime Minister at the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, materials from Hiroshima and Nagasaki had also been contributed to the permanent United Nations Disarmament Exhibit. He expressed the hope that those contributions would deepen public understanding of the dangers of nuclear war and would help to promote disarmament.
24. The representative of SRI LANKA said that disarmament was a cardinal principle of his country's foreign policy. Sri Lanka had always maintained that the United Nations should take urgent action with a view to arms limitation and disarmament. Although it was the responsibility of Governments to adopt meaningful disarmament measures, the peoples of the world, who would be the ultimate victims of any nuclear holocaust, had a vital role to play in reducing the threat of war and promoting disarmament. As everyone knew, wars began in the minds of men. Unfortunately, the efforts made thus far to educate men's minds against war and in favour of disarmament had been insufficient. The United Nations must seek to increase mankind's awareness of the dangers of the arms race, particularly the nuclear arms race. His Government welcomed the launching of the World Disarmament Campaign and wished it every success. Despite its current economic and financial difficulties, Sri Lanka wished to pledge $US 5,000 to the World Disarmament Campaign.

25. The representative of SWEDEN said that his Government recognized the importance of mobilizing public opinion in support of disarmament and welcomed the launching of the World Disarmament Campaign. World public opinion genuinely felt that the rapidly growing arms race must be stopped. The primary task of the Campaign was to support that call for disarmament and to further mobilize world public opinion in favour of disarmament. The programme for 1983 contained a number of very important activities. The United Nations provided a full range of valuable information material for Governments, the media, non-governmental organizations, teachers and peace research institutes. In so doing, it enhanced knowledge about the dangers of the arms race as well as about disarmament efforts and negotiations on specific disarmament measures. Sweden also appreciated the regional seminars for non-governmental organizations organized by the Department for Disarmament Affairs. Those organizations could greatly influence public opinion and should therefore be given as much support as possible by the United Nations system. Sweden, which fully supported the Campaign, had already given half a million Swedish kronor and was not in a position to pledge any further contribution at the current stage. However, he called upon those countries which had not yet done so to contribute to that noble undertaking.

26. The representative of DENMARK said that his country had always supported the idea of a campaign to mobilize public opinion with regard to disarmament and pointed out that, for a number of years, his Government had issued an annual report on developments in disarmament negotiations. In addition, it continued to provide financing for the Danish United Nations Association and for other non-governmental organizations interested in disarmament. Furthermore, a Special Commission on Security and Disarmament Affairs had been established for the specific purpose of providing information about disarmament and supporting research and information in that field. That body commissioned various studies and published an annual report on security and disarmament issues. His Government had granted it an appropriation of 2 million Danish kroner (more than $US 200,000), for 1983, in addition to its normal budgetary allowance, and that appropriation was expected to continue in the next fiscal years. That example showed the importance Denmark attached to informing the public about disarmament issues. Accordingly, he was pleased to pledge an extraordinary contribution of $250,000 Danish kroner, subject to approval by the relevant budgetary authorities, to the World Disarmament Campaign.
27. The representative of FINLAND reiterated his country's support for the World Disarmament Campaign and for its objectives. In support of the Campaign the previous year, his Government had announced a contribution of 250,000 markkaa (or $US 50,000), subject to parliamentary approval. That contribution had already been paid. Finland would continue to make contributions and to promote activities directed towards fulfilling the objectives of the Campaign.

28. The representative of CANADA said that, in March 1983, his country had contributed 100,000 Canadian dollars to the World Disarmament Campaign. His Government planned to make a second contribution but was awaiting the Secretary-General's report on the programme for the Campaign before taking a final decision. He reiterated his Government's commitment to the objectives of the Campaign, which should be universal in nature, which should be carried out in a balanced manner in all regions of the world, which should support the efforts of non-governmental organizations concerned with disarmament and which should not entail any additional financial burden for Member States. His Government endeavoured to inform the Canadian people in that regard, in particular by financing various research projects devoted to disarmament.

29. The representative of the FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY said that his Government had consistently supported the idea of a disarmament campaign for a long time. Not only Governments but also the peoples of the world must recognize and understand the problems of disarmament and security. Balanced and objective information on those questions should be given the widest possible dissemination, both world-wide and nationally. That approach required systematic and long-term efforts in the conceptual as well as the financial field.

30. The Federal Republic of Germany made substantial expenditures, which exceeded 10 million deutsche mark a year, for the purpose of informing the public about questions of disarmament. In that connection, he stressed that nearly 600,000 Deutsch marks were granted each year to the German Society for the United Nations, the bulk of that amount being spent for the dissemination of United Nations documents.

31. The Federal Government was conscious of the fact that it was particularly necessary to disseminate information on disarmament and connected problems in the third world. It therefore favoured the concept of reinforcing the Organization's information activities, for whose objectivity the Department for Disarmament Affairs was responsible. It had also supported some particularly salient international events, for example by inviting scholars from the United Nations programme of fellowships on disarmament and the Palme Commission to visit the country, by organizing a Workshop on Confidence-Building Measures and by planning to hold a seminar on chemical weapons agreement verification in 1984. It had also contributed towards the meetings of the Brandt Commission and the publication of the Commission's report.

32. His Government regretted that for budgetary reasons it could not announce a specific contribution to the World Disarmament Campaign; it would consider the possibility of doing so at a later stage. It would continue to support, as it had
in the past, the aims and objectives of the Campaign and intended, as an illustration of its support, to make available to the Department for Disarmament Affairs copies of a forthcoming publication containing the statements made at the Workshop on Confidence-Building Measures held near Bonn earlier during the year.

33. The representative of the NETHERLANDS said he felt that the objectives of the Campaign could be brought about relatively simply - particularly where information was concerned - through national authorities, non-governmental organizations and research institutes as well as action under United Nations auspices supported by the budget of the Organization.

34. In the Netherlands information was disseminated not only by the Government, which was concerned to make its views known, but also through teaching establishments at all levels which, although largely subsidized by the Government, had complete freedom under the Constitution to decide how they would go about educating the public.

35. It seemed useless to pledge a contribution to the Campaign when some States were trying to prevent it from getting off the ground. The object of the Campaign was to mobilize public opinion on behalf of disarmament. The United Nations felt disarmament was too important a question to be left as the prerogative of Governments and political parties without the involvement of public opinion. True, Governments that allowed their peoples freedom of thought, opinion and self-expression on security and disarmament matters - rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights - did not make things easier ...

36. The PRESIDENT, intervening on a point of order, said he thought he had made it clear at the beginning of the meeting that statements should deal exclusively with pledges. Representatives could of course give their countries' reasons for pledging or deferring their contributions, but without going into substantive issues, particularly controversial ones. There were other bodies for that, such as the First Committee, which was currently discussing the World Disarmament Campaign. He requested the representative of the Netherlands to continue his statement in the light of his remarks.

37. The representative of the NETHERLANDS said he would respect the President's request. He would confine himself to stressing that for his Government, the success of the Campaign depended not only on gathering the necessary funds but, much more important, on the free flow of information which it, for its part, undertook to guarantee unconditionally. It hoped that other participants in the Conference would do the same, for only thus would the World Campaign be a success. For the foregoing reasons, it would not make a contribution on the present occasion.

38. The representative of CZECHOSLOVAKIA commented that his country had supported the decision to proclaim a World Disarmament Campaign. His Government had set aside 300,000 koruny for activities during the Campaign in support of action by the United Nations to avert the threat of nuclear war, strengthen international peace and promote progress in disarmament. The money had been given to the Czechoslovak Peace Committee.

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39. The representative of CUBA said that during the current period of heightened tension the World Disarmament Campaign was of special importance. Disarmament negotiations were being abandoned in favour of pointless speeches, combined with a policy of force, that, far from contributing to peace, made it more precarious. The Campaign and the support it was receiving from public opinion were one of the few encouraging features of the situation.

40. In keeping with its people's and Government's desire for peace, duly enshrined in the Constitution, his country had decided to make a modest contribution of 5,000 Cuban pesos in token of its support for any action to ensure the survival of mankind. By informing public opinion, the Campaign was bringing about growing awareness of the need for effective disarmament measures. It was imperative for all Governments to contribute to it, and for measures to build confidence among States, an important element in practical disarmament, to be buttressed with regard to the principles of self-determination, national sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs and the non-use of force.

41. The representative of NORWAY said that his Government had supported the World Disarmament Campaign from the outset; it was convinced that the United Nations had a cardinal role to play in the balanced and effective dissemination of information in all parts of the world. A data base as large as possible was needed; his Government had therefore decided in April 1983 to allocate 25,000 dollars to the promotion of research activities within the United Nations system, so as to further the accomplishment of the Campaign's objectives. The Secretary-General had already been informed of the decision and of how the contribution should be used.

42. The representative of the UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS pointed out that his country had, at the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly, pledged a contribution of 1.5 million roubles to the fund established for the Campaign. It had also suggested holding a regional seminar in the Soviet Union in February 1984 on disarmament issues, for non-governmental organizations. It was conducting many activities in connection with the Campaign, in which millions of Soviet citizens were engaged. The Campaign would reinforce efforts by all peace-loving peoples that wished to avert the spectre of war, particularly nuclear war, and put an end to the arms race, especially in the nuclear area. His country noted with great satisfaction the rapid development of a mass movement for disarmament, which it was the duty of the United Nations to support.

43. The representative of EGYPT said that the amount of his country's contribution in local currency would be announced later. His country attached great importance to the disarmament Campaign, which would make public opinion aware of the deteriorating international situation and the accelerating arms race. It was convinced that the objectives of the Campaign would be reached.

44. The representative of the UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC said that his Government had, at the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly, pledged a contribution of 200,000 roubles to the fund for the World Disarmament Campaign. It would be organizing many mass activities in connection with the Campaign. Recently in Kiev, more than 100,000 people had discussed means of checking the arms race and
promoting disarmament. The Campaign could be a powerful mechanism for mobilizing all those who wished to avert the nuclear threat and end the arms race. It should be conducted in strict conformity with the objectives set forth in the Concluding Document of the second special session devoted to disarmament.

45. The representative of VENEZUELA said that her country had strongly supported, on a number of occasions, all measures designed to increase awareness of the arms race and its numerous implications. Her Government therefore attached importance to mobilizing international public opinion in support of disarmament, an objective which the Campaign should help to achieve. For reasons of a financial nature known to all, Venezuela was unable to pledge a contribution to the Campaign; nevertheless, it wished to point out that it had hosted a regional seminar on disarmament for teachers in the American continent, held at Caracas from 4 to 7 October 1983. The seminar, organized by the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs in co-operation with UNESCO, had achieved very encouraging results and the news media had given it wide coverage. Other States would perhaps wish to collaborate in that way to promote the success of the Campaign.

46. The representative of NIGERIA said that the decision to launch a world disarmament campaign demonstrated the belief that public opinion, informed of the harm caused by the arms race, could induce Governments to work in favour of disarmament. It was the peoples of the world who ultimately benefited from or were the victims of the consequences of the policies adopted by their Governments. His Government felt that, although the main protagonists in the arms race had a special responsibility with regard to disarmament, that responsibility was equally binding on all countries. For that reason, his Government encouraged the population to discuss the effects of the arms race on the socio-economic aspirations of nations, the survival of mankind, and civilization. It was hoped that the message conveyed by the Campaign, which was that the arms race was incompatible with development, national and international security and peace, would be heard in the most remote corners of the world. To that end, his delegation pledged a contribution of $14,500 payable in local currency.

47. The representative of the BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC confirmed the contribution of 100,000 roubles to the Campaign Fund already announced at the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly. The Campaign should strive to achieve the objectives set forth in the Final Document of the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. It must stimulate action on the part of all peace-loving peoples in support of halting the arms race and preventing a nuclear catastrophe. In the Byelorussian SSR more than five million persons - over half the population - had participated at the beginning of 1983 in demonstrations against war.

48. The representative of VIET NAM said that the World Disarmament Campaign was an extremely important event in the efforts of the international community in support of disarmament and peace. The Vietnamese people, victims of long wars of aggression, had a profound desire to live in peace in order to be able to devote all their energy and resources to rebuilding their devastated country. For that reason, it had supported the Campaign through various concrete activities.
(The representative of Viet Nam)

49. In 1982, immediately after the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, a national campaign for peace and disarmament, which had collected 15 million signatures of members of political parties, religious and professional organizations, and urban and rural workers, had been organized in Viet Nam. In 1983 a Vietnamese delegation representing various social strata had participated in the "World Assembly for Peace and Life, and against Nuclear War", held at Prague in 1983. Furthermore, thousands of demonstrations, meetings, seminars and talks on various aspects of disarmament had made it possible to inform the population of the dangers of the arms race, particularly with regard to nuclear arms, and to mobilize it in support of disarmament, peace and security in the world.

50. His Government had decided to contribute to the Campaign the sum of 50,000 dong, representing just over $4,000. Although that was a modest contribution, it represented a substantial effort on the part of a country which was currently in a difficult situation.

51. The representative of Uganda recalled that his country had always supported a campaign designed to inform the public of United Nations disarmament objectives. Uganda was convinced that United Nations efforts should be supplemented by the efforts of Governments and non-governmental organizations; considering that the promotion of the activities planned should be encouraged, particularly in developing countries, he pledged a contribution of 300,000 Uganda shillings.

52. The representative of Poland said that the promotion of the World Disarmament Campaign should serve the cause of improving relations among the peoples of the world and thus contribute to strengthening international peace and security. His delegation welcomed the convening of the current Conference at a time when the international situation was particularly tense, and supported the Campaign, whose objective was to inform public opinion of the dangers posed by the arms race, the problems concerning disarmament, and the means of averting a thermonuclear war. His Government therefore pledged to contribute 100,000 zloty to the World Disarmament Campaign Fund.

53. The representative of Tunisia said that his country had supported, from the very beginning, the idea of a world disarmament campaign and had welcomed its official launching on the day of the opening of the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. He also expressed satisfaction at the holding of the current Conference, which would permit the Campaign to enter the active phase of its work. The Campaign, which was designed to inform the public and secure its commitment to United Nations disarmament objectives, would also bring the aspirations of peoples for peace and for economic and social development to the attention of those who were particularly responsible for the arms race. The Campaign should be conducted in all regions of the world. For that reason, at a meeting held in Tunis in June 1983 in order to strengthen co-operation between the League of Arab States and the United Nations, it had been recommended that a seminar on the theme "Disarmament and Development" should be organized in the Arab region. In that same spirit, his Government had decided to earmark for the Campaign a sum in Tunisian dinars amounting to $10,000.
54. The representative of Greece recalled that his country had always shown its support for the cause of disarmament. At the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Greece had already announced his country's participation in the World Disarmament Campaign. Despite austerity measures and budgetary restrictions, the Greek Government had decided to contribute the sum of $10,000 to the Campaign. He stressed how much his Government appreciated the activities carried out by the Department for Disarmament Affairs in its field of competence.

55. The representative of Mongolia said that his country had, from the outset, actively supported the idea of launching a world disarmament campaign. The Campaign should be a very effective instrument for mobilizing public opinion in support of the current priority objective — that of averting the threat of a nuclear war and halting the arms race. It would be recalled that Disarmament Week had been proclaimed on the initiative of his country at the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. His Government confirmed the symbolic contribution of $1,000 in national currency which it had announced at the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

56. The representative of Libya said that his country, which had suffered from the effects of two world wars and had been the theatre of major military operations, particularly during the Second World War, firmly supported United Nations efforts to promote peace and believed in the importance of the World Disarmament Campaign, which sought to make public opinion more aware of the dangers inherent in the arms race. His Government would inform the Secretary-General in due course of the amount of its pledge to the Campaign.

57. The representative of Bangladesh recalled his country's well-known commitment to general and complete disarmament. His country had participated, at the highest level, in the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament and was convinced that the World Disarmament Campaign would succeed in mobilizing public opinion in support of that objective. Bangladesh, being one of the least developed countries, had little room for manoeuvre but was determined to participate in the World Disarmament Campaign and to demonstrate its devotion to that cause by making a symbolic contribution of 25,000 taka.

58. The representative of Peru said that, during the general debate in the First Committee of the General Assembly, his country had already made known its view on the question of disarmament. He hoped that the current Conference would be successful, as it would indicate the willingness of States to contribute effectively to the attainment of the main objective, that of the World Disarmament Campaign. Peru, which was currently in a difficult economic situation, aggravated by a series of natural disasters, could not, unfortunately, make a major financial contribution to the Campaign, but his Government intended to make a symbolic contribution and, in response to the appeal made in General Assembly resolution 37/100, would strive, to the fullest extent possible, to promote the objectives of the World Disarmament Campaign.
59. The representative of BULGARIA stressed that his country had, from the outset, fully supported the launching and organization of a world disarmament campaign, as it was convinced of the need to mobilize international public opinion in support of peace and disarmament. It was gratifying to note that such a campaign was gaining ground, that it was progressing favourably and that it was exerting an increasingly positive influence on world public opinion in support of peace and the promotion of specific measures aimed at ending the arms race and averting the threat of a nuclear catastrophe. There was considerable scope for action in that sphere. Thus, Bulgaria had recently taken the initiative in launching a world campaign aimed at gathering signatures in support of peace and disarmament. In November 1982, Bulgaria had announced a pledge of 20,000 leva to the World Disarmament Campaign, which it now confirmed.

60. The representative of INDIA reiterated his country's full support for the World Disarmament Campaign. His Government was gratified that the first Regional Conference on the World Disarmament Campaign for Asia and the Pacific had been organized in New Delhi in 1983 by the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs, as part of the Campaign. India's contribution would be 1 million rupees, the equivalent of $US 100,000.

61. The representative of the GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC noted with satisfaction that the movement for peace and disarmament was the most important movement of public opinion at the current time and that it occupied an important place in the work of the United Nations. The activities undertaken as part of the World Disarmament Campaign were, in that connection, extremely valuable. The German Democratic Republic had been one of the first countries to pledge a contribution to the Campaign, and it reaffirmed its commitment in the amount of 100,000 marks. A large number of activities were being organized in the German Democratic Republic to support the objectives of the Campaign, and his Government intended to co-operate with the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs to ensure that the funds received for the Campaign were used efficiently.

62. The representative of COLOMBIA stressed the importance which her country attached to the World Disarmament Campaign and to efforts to promote disarmament. In view of the restrictions imposed by the budget currently under consideration, her Government was not able to announce a financial contribution, but hoped to be able to do so shortly. All countries had the duty to alert public opinion and to inform it of the dangers inherent in the arms race and the possibility of a nuclear catastrophe. Should Colombia be unable to make a financial contribution, it was willing to use the news media at its disposal to promote the objectives of the Campaign.

63. The PRESIDENT said that before the opening of the Conference 18 pledges had been announced amounting to the equivalent of $US 3,000,899. Twelve new pledges had been made during the Conference, amounting to $US 102,617. The total amount of pledges announced before and during the Conference was thus equivalent to $US 3,103,516.
ADOPTION OF THE FINAL ACT

64. The Final Act was adopted.

CLOSURE OF THE CONFERENCE

65. In conclusion the PRESIDENT stressed once again the importance of the World Disarmament Campaign, the aim of which was to inform public opinion throughout the world and to mobilize it in support of the fundamental objectives of disarmament. It was to be hoped that the voices of hundreds of millions of human beings would ultimately acquire greater persuasive force than they had so far, and that the moral weight of those voices would give rise within States to the political will which was the critical element in achieving the objective of disarmament.

66. To understand better what the $3 million which had been obtained for the World Disarmament Campaign represented it was of interest to compare that amount with the sums devoted to military expenditure, which, according to the most conservative estimates, amounted to $1.2 million per minute. In other words, the funds collected for the Campaign represented less than the amount spent throughout the world on arms in three minutes. In view of that enormous disparity, and to enable the Campaign to attain its objectives, it was anticipated that, at the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly, a new pledging conference for the World Disarmament Campaign would be convened, with the participation not merely of the 61 countries which had been present at the current Conference, but of all 158 States Members of the United Nations.


The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.