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SECOND UNITED NATIONS PLEDGING CONFERENCE FOR THE WORLD DISARMAMENT CAMPAIGN

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 24 October 1984, at 3 p.m.

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

President: Mr. BUTLER (Australia)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

1. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT welcomed participants to the second United Nations Pledging Conference for the World Disarmament Campaign. He said that, for the second time in two years, the General Assembly had decided to hold such a pledging conference and had reiterated the call for contributions to all Member States. The event was again taking place during Disarmament Week. It would be recalled that already in 1978, at the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, there had been agreement on the necessity that people as well as Governments should recognize and understand the danger of the arms race.
 2. On the opening day of the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, it had been unanimously decided that a World Disarmament Campaign should be organized in order to generate public understanding and support for the objectives of the United Nations in the field of arms limitation and disarmament. The criteria governing the Campaign were, first, the qualitative criterion of providing for maximum objectivity of the information disseminated on disarmament, and, second, the quantitative criterion of providing for the balanced geographical distribution of the activities of the Campaign. Two years previously, Member States had accepted those criteria by consensus and had agreed to support the universality of the Campaign through their direct co-operation and participation and their contribution to the World Disarmament Campaign Voluntary Trust Fund.
 3. In keeping with the objective of universality, the United Nations had organized regional conferences and seminars in numerous countries in the past few years. Many publications and extensive information material had been produced and distributed world-wide. Additional activities were planned for 1985, depending on the availability of human and financial resources.
 4. The General Assembly, in establishing the World Disarmament Campaign, had decided that it should be financed from voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund. In 1983, 61 delegations had attended the first Pledging Conference and 37 pledges had been made by countries from all parts of the world. If those funds were to continue to be effectively utilized, the criterion of universality must also be applied to pledges. With sufficient resources, a decisive step could be taken towards focusing world public opinion on the concrete issues involved in the arms race and disarmament.
 5. The Temporary President declared open the Second United Nations Pledging Conference for the World Disarmament Campaign.
- ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (A/33/580, A/CONF.127/L.1)
6. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT proposed, pursuant to rule 9 of the rules of procedure, that a decision should be taken on the agenda for the Conference.
 7. The agenda was adopted.

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ELECTION OF OFFICERS

(a) PRESIDENT

8. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT said that, following consultations, it had been agreed that Mr. Butler (Australia) should be elected President.

9. Mr. Butler (Australia) was elected President by acclamation.

10. Mr. Butler (Australia) took the Chair.

11. The PRESIDENT thanked the members of the Conference for electing him. He recalled the goals of the Campaign, to which the Secretary-General had already referred, and said that, during its first year, the Campaign had fulfilled the role assigned to it by the General Assembly, for which purpose \$3.4 million had been available to it.

12. It was sometimes said that information was power. The power which currently worried many people around the world was that of modern weapons systems, both conventional and nuclear. It was necessary to support actions designed to make information on disarmament available to all the peoples of the world, which would give them the power needed to support peace through disarmament and thus achieve one of the key objectives of the United Nations, the maintenance of peace.

(b) VICE-PRESIDENTS

13. The PRESIDENT said that, under rule 5 of the rules of procedure of United Nations pledging conferences, the Conference was to elect a President and not more than four Vice-Presidents from among the representatives. Following consultations among regional groups, the following candidates had been proposed for the post of Vice-President: Mr. Irumba (Uganda) for the Group of African States; Mr. Mahboub (Iraq) for the Group of Asian States; Mr. Turbanski (Poland) for the Group of Eastern European States; and Mr. St. Aimée (Saint Lucia) for the Group of Latin American States.

14. Mr. Irumba (Uganda), Mr. Mahboub (Iraq), Mr. Turbanski (Poland) and Mr. St. Aimée (Saint Lucia) were elected Vice-Presidents by acclamation.

STATEMENTS REGARDING PLEDGES (A/CONF.127/L.3, A/39/492)

(a) ORAL STATEMENTS

15. The PRESIDENT said that, in accordance with rule 21 of the rules of procedure, the Secretary-General would in due course issue a list of pledges made or announced during and after the Conference. He also drew attention to rule 13, paragraph 1, of the rules of procedure according to which statements had to 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. Nevertheless, following the practice of the first Conference, he suggested that that rule should be waived.

16. It was so decided.

17. The representative of CANADA said that his Government had set up a Disarmament Fund, which stood at \$Can 700,000 for the current year and which helped interested non-governmental organizations, academic groups and individuals to produce publications on disarmament, to establish information centres and to prepare conferences, seminars and meetings. The Government had just announced a contribution of \$Can 150,000 to a coalition of 26 Canadian women's groups in support of a planned international conference which was to take place in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in June 1985 on the subject "The Urgency for True Security: Women's Alternatives for Negotiating Peace".
18. On 1 October 1984, the new Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security, established by Parliament in June through agreement by all the political parties, had held its inaugural meeting in Ottawa. The Institute had been allocated \$Can 1.5 million, which would increase to \$Can 5 million in five years' time. The Canadian Centre for Arms Control and Disarmament in Ottawa, which had been set up through private initiative and whose efforts complemented those of the Institute, received an annual government grant of \$Can 100,000.
19. Canada had been actively involved in the World Disarmament Campaign since its inception and in March 1983 had made a contribution of \$Can 100,000 towards attainment of its objectives. Of that amount, \$70,000 had been given for informational activities, specifically to reduce the cost of the United Nations Disarmament Yearbook, and \$30,000 had been given to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR).
20. He announced that Canada had decided to make a further contribution towards attaining the objectives of the Campaign in the amount of \$Can 100,000 to the World Disarmament Campaign Voluntary Trust Fund. In keeping with the recommendation in General Assembly resolution 38/73 D, Canada was not earmarking that contribution for specific activities.
21. Canada considered that more should be done to inform Member States about the use to which the Voluntary Trust Fund had been and would be put. In due course, Canada would want to know how its contribution to the Trust Fund had been spent and, for purposes of comparison, how the non-convertible currencies, which appeared to represent the major part of the \$3.4 million pledged to the Fund, had been used.
22. The representative of SWEDEN said that the great concern of peoples and Governments about the accelerating arms race was reflected in the growing involvement of the United Nations in disarmament questions. In that context, the objective of the World Disarmament Campaign was of fundamental importance. As an expression of its support for the Campaign, Sweden had made a substantial contribution two years previously. It was now pleased to announce a contribution of 180,000 Swedish kronor. Furthermore, her Government would invite the United Nations to arrange a regional conference within the framework of the World Disarmament Campaign at Jönköping, Sweden.
23. The representative of KUWAIT said that the participation of the State of Kuwait in the Conference was an expression of the importance it attached to disarmament and the dissemination of more information on the subject. Kuwait therefore announced a contribution of \$10,000 in support of international efforts to reactivate the Campaign.

24. The representative of the LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC said that his Government, out of deep respect for its policy of peace, and despite the many financial difficulties facing it, had decided to make a token contribution of \$500 to the Campaign.

25. The representative of the UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS said that from the outset his Government had supported the proclamation of a World Disarmament Campaign to limit and put an end to the arms race. The success of the Campaign would depend to a large extent on the contributions made by other Member States and international organizations. The USSR had been one of the first States to make a contribution to the Fund opened for the Campaign; it had been in the amount of 1.5 million roubles. The participants in the Conference had been able to note that many States which had considerable resources and affirmed their support for disarmament had contributed nothing to the Fund and had not even deigned to participate in the Conference, whereas the Soviet Union had acted as host to a regional conference and was financing a publication in Russian on disarmament.

26. The representative of NEW ZEALAND said that his country welcomed the opportunity to participate in the Conference, because it considered that the World Disarmament Campaign could make an important contribution to disarmament and arms limitation. In an effort to promote public awareness of disarmament issues in New Zealand, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had published in recent years a booklet on disarmament and arms control. In direct support of the Campaign, New Zealand had contributed the sum of \$US 10,000 in April 1984.

27. The representative of HUNGARY said that his Government fully agreed with the noble aims of the World Disarmament Campaign and from the outset had manifested its full support for it. He had pleasure in announcing a pledge of 100,000 forints to supplement its previous contribution.

28. The representative of AUSTRALIA said that her Government believed that there must be a free flow of information in order that the peoples of the world might have the greatest possible access to the widest range of facts and opinions. The involvement of the United Nations in the disarmament process was vital, and Australia supported the position that the World Disarmament Campaign should be carried out in all regions of the world in a balanced and objective manner.

29. In 1984, Australia was pleased to make available to the Campaign a total of 50,000 Australian dollars, 20,000 of which would once again be given to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research.

30. The representative of INDIA said that her Government attached great importance to the idea and potentialities of the World Disarmament Campaign, which had held its Asian Regional Seminar in New Delhi in August 1983, with promising results.

31. Since the previous Pledging Conference, in 1983, the Government of India had made a second contribution of \$US 100,000 to the Campaign. Since India was one of the largest contributors to the Campaign, it was encouraging to see that some more countries had pledged contributions at the Conference.

32. The representative of MEXICO recalled that his country, which had taken the initiative for the Campaign in 1980, had in 1983 contributed \$US 50,000. On the current occasion, despite the difficulties facing the country, it would contribute \$US 5,000, a sum of which, although arithmetically lower was higher in relative terms. He agreed with the Secretary-General that the criterion of universality should apply not only to the Campaign itself but also to pledges, which should be in proportion with expenditure for military purposes. Mexico was satisfied with the manner in which the funds of the Campaign were spent and did not request further details from the Secretariat.
33. The representative of INDONESIA said that his country attached great importance to the World Disarmament Campaign. The Government of Indonesia would maintain its modest contribution to the Fund for the Campaign and announced a pledge of \$US 5,000.
34. The representative of AUSTRIA said he was confident that the Conference would help to promote the objectives of the World Disarmament Campaign, which assumed greater significance in the current international atmosphere, since the support of world public opinion was an essential prerequisite to the success of measures for general and complete disarmament. Austria firmly believed that the Campaign would make an important contribution towards promoting disarmament and, in consequence, pledged a contribution of \$US 10,000, payable at the beginning of 1986 and announced that it intended to pledge a similar amount at the next Pledging Conference, to be held in 1985. Those contributions would be subject to parliamentary approval.
35. The representative of IRELAND expressed his delegation's satisfaction with the implementation of the programme of activities of the Campaign under the direction of the Department for Disarmament Affairs. As a token of its recognition of the value of the activities already carried out and to emphasize its belief in the contribution the Campaign could make towards informing public opinion on United Nations disarmament objectives, Ireland pledged a contribution to the Campaign of 5,000 Irish pounds for 1984 activities.
36. The representative of VENEZUELA reiterated his Government's firm support for the activities planned under the World Disarmament Campaign. Venezuela attached particular importance to efforts directed towards wider dissemination of information on the dangers of the arms race and on United Nations disarmament efforts. However, Venezuela faced an economic crisis and had been making a series of reductions to its annual budget in order to cope with that crisis. Currently, therefore, it was unable to respond to the General Assembly's appeal in resolution 38/73.
37. The representative of CHINA said that since the launching of the Campaign all United Nations organs had done good informational work, making public opinion aware of the dangers of the arms race and of the need to strive for disarmament. China pledged a contribution to the Campaign of 40,000 yuan renminbi.

38. The representative of NORWAY reaffirmed his Government's support for the World Disarmament Campaign and its trust in the role of the United Nations in disseminating information on disarmament. His Government had decided to contribute \$US 15,000 to the objectives of the Campaign in addition to the \$US 25,000 it had contributed to the Campaign in the previous year, and wished to announce that it also devoted considerable resources to disarmament information in Norway.

39. The representative of CAMEROON reaffirmed his Government's unequivocal support for the Campaign and emphasized the need for all peoples of the world to be informed of the great dangers of the arms race. Cameroon believed that regionalization gave good results in terms of costs, and hoped that the proposal to establish an African regional office to encourage disarmament research would succeed. Cameroon pledged a contribution of 800,000 CFA francs to the Campaign.

40. The representative of YUGOSLAVIA reaffirmed his Government's support for the Campaign and announced that it would make a contribution payable in national currency, the exact amount of which would be announced when the necessary formalities had been complied with.

(b) ANNOUNCEMENT OF WRITTEN PLEDGES

41. The PRESIDENT said that during the Conference 14 new pledges totalling \$US 209,192 had been made. In addition, some delegations had indicated in writing their intention to make contributions, the amounts of which would be specified later.

ADOPTION OF THE FINAL ACT

42. The Final Act of the Conference was adopted.

CLOSURE OF THE CONFERENCE (A/CONF.127/L.2)

43. The President declared closed the Second United Nations Pledging Conference for the World Disarmament Campaign.

The meeting rose at 5 p.m.