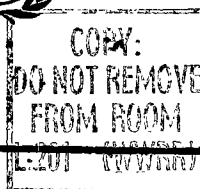


United Nations
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY
THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION
Official Records*



FIRST COMMITTEE
45th meeting
held on
Friday, 26 November 1982
at 3 p.m.
New York

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 45TH MEETING

Chairman: Mr. GBEHO (Ghana)

CONTENTS

DISARMAMENT ITEMS

AGENDA ITEMS 39 TO 57, 133, 136, 138 AND 139 (continued)

* This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room A-3550, 866 United Nations Plaza (Alcoa Building), and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate fascicle for each Committee.

Distr. GENERAL
A/C.1/37/PV.45
11 December 1982

ENGLISH

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

AGENDA ITEMS 39 to 57, 133, 136, 138 and 139 (continued)

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will continue its consideration of and action on draft resolutions under disarmament items.

We turn now to draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.49/Rev.1, under agenda item 45, entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon free zone in the region of the Middle East". The original draft resolution was submitted by Egypt and was introduced by the representative of Egypt at the 38th meeting of the First Committee on 19 November 1982.

Mr. MOUSSA (Egypt): The revised draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.49/Rev.1 reflects only minor changes from the original text, after the views of several interested delegations had been taken into consideration and in the light of the intensive consultations during the last few days, in view of the importance of the subject and the special situation prevailing in the region. The main change is to operative paragraph 1, in which we have resorted to the language in operative paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 35/147 to replace the first two operative paragraphs of the original draft resolution in A/C.1/37/L.49.

Subsequent to those consultations, the other change is to be made to the fifth preambular paragraph of the revised draft resolution. I shall read the paragraph as amended:

"Emphasizing further in this context the need for appropriate measures on the question of the prohibition of military attacks on nuclear facilities".

Having said that, I express the hope that the present revised draft resolution will obtain the consensus of the Committee and will be adopted without a vote.

The CHAIRMAN: The sponsor of this draft resolution has expressed the wish that it be adopted by the Committee without a vote.

Since I hear no objections, I shall take it that the Committee so decides.

Draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.49/Rev.1 as orally amended, was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: I shall now call on representatives wishing to state their position.

Mr. SARAN (India): While India has joined the consensus on draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.49/Rev.1, I should like to make it clear that the adoption of the draft resolution is entirely without prejudice to India's well-known stand concerning the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as well as the question of the application of full-scope safeguards.

Mr. de SOUZA E SILVA (Brazil): The delegation of Brazil has stated on several occasions its support for the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones and has accordingly signed and ratified the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which forbids nuclear weapons on the Latin American continent. Therefore, the delegation of Brazil had no difficulty in joining the consensus on draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.49/Rev.1. But in doing so we wish to state for the record that, had a separate vote been taken on operative paragraph 1 which refers to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, Brazil would have abstained.

Mr. TARI (Israel): Israel has studied draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.49/Rev.1 submitted by Egypt with great care and attention. There is no doubt that the subject matter is of the utmost importance to Israel and should be so to all Member States. The Middle East is a region characterized by conflict and tension. In such regional circumstances, nuclear non-proliferation cannot be achieved simply by unilateral acts and declarations. A lasting and effective non-proliferation régime can be established in such a volatile area only if each State is contractually assured by all the other States in the region of compliance with the commitment to abstain from introducing nuclear weapons into the region.

(Mr. Tari, Israel)

In Israel's opinion, the regional approach to non-proliferation should be the first step against the introduction of nuclear weapons into the Middle East. The regional approach would also contribute to the promotion of stability, mutual confidence and co-operation within the region and hence facilitate negotiations on some of the areas identified for universal action. Therefore, it can be regarded as an effective complement to global measures and an important constituent in the step-by-step approach to a global non-proliferation régime.

Israel has proposed the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East with the Tlatelolco Treaty of Latin America as a model. We are fully aware of the many political differences between the States of the Middle East. To be effective, the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and for the Middle East must be by the Middle East and of the Middle East.

Israel believes, first, that the initiative for the establishment of such a zone should originate with the States in the region. Secondly, the preliminary consultations necessary for reaching this aim should be carried out directly among them. Thirdly, the negotiations between the States in the region should address themselves to the modalities for the establishment of the zone, the obligations and rights of the contracting States, the machinery and procedures for ensuring the effective compliance of the States with the obligations undertaken by them and any other means for averting proliferation, as agreed by the negotiating States.

In the regional circumstances in the Middle East, free and direct negotiations between all States of the area offer the best hope for real progress towards the conclusion of a binding and effective convention which would establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in this region. Progress towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East would greatly enhance the cause of peace in the region and in the world. No credible or practical alternative to direct negotiations has yet been found as a way to securing agreement.

This is Israel's vision for a better future for the Middle East. Draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.49/Rev.1, though designed to attain the same aim, omits mention of the negotiating process without which, as I have stated, the treaty

(Mr. Tari, Israel)

for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East is unlikely to come about. Regrettably the Egyptian draft does not deal with a number of aspects of the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone as duly recommended by recognized leaders in the field of disarmament. Our serious reservation from past years as to the ways and means of arriving at the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone envisaged by the draft resolution before us remains in force. Indeed, they have been reinforced.

Nevertheless, because Israel wishes to signify its wholehearted support for the establishment of such a zone, we shall not break the consensus in favour of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.49/Rev.1. It goes without saying that this vote of ours does not indicate a change in our attitude to one of the resolutions recalled in the first preambular paragraph which we opposed last year.

Mr. CARSALES (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): The delegation of Argentina did not oppose the consensus whereby the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/37/L.49/Rev.1 was adopted because obviously we agree with the purposes underlying that draft and also because the author of the draft, to which we express our appreciation, made some changes in the text that made it less unacceptable to my delegation.

In any event, I wish to state for the record that this association, as it were, of ours with the consensus does not imply any change in the well-known position of my country in connexion with the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the application of IAEA safeguards to the nuclear installations of any country.

Further, in connexion with the fifth preambular paragraph, we believe that the addition at the last minute of the words "in this context" is not a very felicitous amendment, since we believe that the content of that paragraph should be applied without exception and not only in the context of the Middle East region.

Mr. AL-ATASSI (Syrian Arab Republic) (interpretation from Arabic):

If draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.49/Rev.1 had been put to the vote, my delegation would have adopted another position, not because we do not support the idea of establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones; on the contrary, the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic has supported and welcomed the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in many parts of the world and has always endeavoured to implement the recommendations of the Final Document of the tenth special session in 1978, which relates to such areas. Draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.49/Rev.1, which was adopted without a vote, is weak and unbalanced and does not meet the necessary requirements and objectives. It should have taken a step forward with regard to the draft resolutions adopted at previous sessions on the same issue and called matters by their name. It should have called upon Israel, the only party that owns nuclear weapons in the region, to refrain from possessing them and should have made a clear call to that entity to adhere to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty rather than inviting all countries of the region to adhere to the Treaty, because over half the Arab countries in the region have signed it, thus expressing their belief in the need to put an end to the arms race, especially the nuclear-weapon race.

There is another aspect that would have led us to adopt a different position had there been a vote on this draft resolution and that is what is contained in operative paragraph 2, which calls upon all countries of the region which have not done so to agree to place all their nuclear activities under the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards. It would have been preferable had that call been directed at Israel, which has always refused to place its nuclear installations under the IAEA safeguards. Most of the countries of the region do not carry out nuclear activities and those that have nuclear installations place them under the IAEA safeguards.

Israel is the only country possessing nuclear weapons in the region and it is the one that will not hesitate to use them under the claim of the defence of its security, although its real aim is aggression and expansion. Israel therefore must declare its adherence to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and allow the IAEA to inspect its nuclear installations. Unless this is done any draft resolution concerning the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East will fall short of its objective and lack balance.

(Mr. Al-Atassi, Syrian Arab Republic)

The important thing is not to proclaim the establishment of a nuclear-weapon free zone in the region of the Middle East; it is more important to declare one's positions and intentions,

Mr. NUÑEZ MOSQUERA (Cuba) (interpretation from Spanish): The Cuban delegation joined in the consensus on draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.49/Rev.1 because we fully share the objective of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and because the revised version of the draft resolution makes it more acceptable to my delegation. However, the fact that we joined the consensus in no way affects the Cuban position with respect to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

The CHAIRMAN: We have thus concluded our consideration of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.49/Rev.1.

Mr. HANDL (Czechoslovakia): In connection with draft resolutions A/C.1/37/L.54 and A/C.1/37/L.61, submitted under agenda item 54, "Chemical and bacteriological weapons", the delegations of Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Poland, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Viet Nam would like to make the following statement.

The aforementioned countries resolutely advocate that there should be no place left on earth for chemical weapons and they are prepared to agree without delay on the complete prohibition of such weapons and on the elimination of their stockpiles. As parties to the 1925 Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, as well to the 1975 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction, they strictly observe their obligations under these international agreements.

The aforementioned countries support all efforts aimed at an early conclusion of an international agreement which would once and for all exclude chemical weapons from the arsenals of States. They also favour making the obligations provided for in the aforementioned international instruments a genuinely universal rule of international law.

However, draft resolutions A/C.1/37/L.54 and A/C.1/37/L.61, far from meeting the goal of completely delivering mankind from the threat of chemical weapons and increasing the number of participants in the Geneva Protocol and in the Convention on the Prohibition of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction, constitute on the contrary an attempt to undermine the existing agreements and to revise them.

The said draft resolutions lead to the setting up of dubious mechanisms which would permit some to poison the far from simple atmosphere at the negotiations in the field of curbing the arms race and of disarmament, primarily in the field of chemical weapons. Moreover, recent experience shows that some countries would be readily prepared to employ such mechanisms as a smoke screen to conceal their unwillingness to conduct genuinely constructive negotiations on disarmament matters and further to effect a massive build-up of ever new quantities of and modifications to weapons, above all in the field of weapons of mass destruction.

(Mr. Handl, Czechoslovakia)

We cannot but be concerned about the precedent-setting revision of provisions of international treaties which were worked out on the basis of consensus through a vote in the General Assembly participation in which would not be limited to the parties to relevant international agreements. The draft resolutions suggest exactly this course of action.

The delegations that I have listed declare that the States that they represent are not likely to fail to take account of the above-mentioned factors while considering the question of their possible participation in the implementation, and incidentally, the financing, of this type of measure. Those delegations are hopeful that all the countries sincerely interested in the definitive delivery of mankind from the threat of chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons will not support these draft resolutions, which would not only make the achievement of this goal remote but undermine their efforts to this end.

The present international situation calls for intensified efforts to achieve new agreements in the field of arms limitation and disarmament. It has been demonstrated at the current session that many States approach this task in a responsible way and have submitted constructive and concrete proposals in the form of draft treaties and made various meaningful proposals to this end. The above-mentioned delegations gave their full support to draft resolution L.44.

However, resolutions L.54 and L.61 are directed towards the very opposite - to eroding and even, essentially, scrapping the few agreements in this field reached through the efforts of dozens of States, which have become the law of international life. Heavy is the responsibility of those who have taken this road.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will now take up draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.61, under agenda item 54, entitled "Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons".

This draft resolution, which has 10 sponsors, was introduced by the representative of Sweden at the Committee's 38th meeting on 19 November 1982.

I call on the Secretary of the Committee to read the list of sponsors of the draft resolution and to make a statement on its financial implications.

Mr. RATHORE (Secretary of the Committee): The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.61 are: Austria, Colombia, Ecuador, Ireland, Mexico, Pakistan, Sweden, Uruguay, Yugoslavia, and the Federal Republic of Germany.

I have been asked to make the following statement on behalf of the Secretary-General with regard to the financial implications of the draft resolution.

By the draft resolution the General Assembly would recommend that the States parties hold a special conference as soon as possible to establish a flexible, objective and non-discriminating procedure to deal with issues concerning compliance with the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction. In addition, the Secretary-General would be requested to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services, including summary records, as might be required for the special conference of States parties to the Convention.

It should be noted that, pursuant to operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, the special conference would be a conference of States parties to the Convention. As such, it would be similar, as far as financial arrangements are concerned, to review conferences of multilateral disarmament treaties - for example, the two Review Conferences of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held in 1975 and 1980 respectively; the Review Conference of the sea-bed Treaty, held in 1977; and the Review Conferences of the biological weapons Convention, held in 1980. Therefore, like those Conferences, the special conference of parties to the biological weapons Convention would be expected to make the financial arrangements for meeting the costs associated with the holding of the conference. Consequently, the Secretary-General considers that his mandate under the draft resolution to provide the necessary assistance and services for the special conference has no financial implications for the regular budget of the United Nations.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will now take action on draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.61.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Brazil, Burma, Burundi, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia

Against: Afghanistan, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Mozambique, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Viet Nam

Abstaining: Guinea, India

Draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.61 was adopted by 106 votes to 14, with 2 abstentions.

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the representative of the Soviet Union, who wishes to explain his vote after the vote.

Mr. ISSRAELYAN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The view of the Soviet delegation on draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.61 was set out in the statement by the representative of Czechoslovakia. I should like to reaffirm what my colleague from Czechoslovakia said.

In our view, the proposal to hold a conference to draft a procedure for considering matters relating to compliance with the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction is in no way justified and can serve no useful purpose. There can be no reason for any suggestion that the mechanism provided is inadequate or ineffective. If we start a review of separate provisions of the Convention, which in fact is what draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.61 calls for, that will probably lead to the complete undermining of this extremely important international agreement and do irreparable harm to it. Such developments could have very dangerous - indeed, lethal - implications for all international agreements relating to disarmament.

(Mr. Issraelyan, USSR)

We did not want at this point to pass judgement on the motives that guided the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.61. In consultations we told them quite frankly of our views on it. However, to speak forthrightly and be precise, we must say that some States are moving in the direction of undermining the authority of existing international agreements in the area of disarmament. We do not want to have anything to do with such actions.

We should like to say once again to all the sponsors that no votes can undermine the principle of consensus which exists in talks and negotiations on disarmament. We should like to tell them what we have already told them on many occasions: they have set forth on a most dangerous path and if the edifice represented by the Convention on bacteriological (biological) weapons is destroyed, they will be responsible for it and be recorded in the annals of disarmament negotiations as those that were guilty of destroying the first disarmament agreement in the history of mankind.

That is why the Soviet delegation voted against this draft resolution.

The CHAIRMAN: That concludes our consideration of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.61.

The Committee will next take up draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.63, under agenda item 55, "General and complete disarmament". It has four sponsors and was introduced by the representative of Egypt at the 38th meeting of the Committee, on 19 November 1982.

I call on the Secretary of the Committee, who will read out the list of sponsors.

Mr. RATHORE (Secretary of the Committee): The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.63 are: Ecuador, Egypt, Colombia and Sierra Leone.

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the representative of Egypt, who has asked to make a statement concerning this draft resolution.

Mr. MOUSSA (Egypt): In sponsoring this draft resolution we were moved by our wish to establish a link between what goes on in the Committee, in the United Nations, and what goes on outside this building, in the real world. We have been debating disarmament and the halting of the arms race while declarations have been made to the contrary by certain States that play a significant part in the arms race.

However, after intensive informal consultations, and since we also sponsored draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.36/Rev.1, introduced by the delegation of Yugoslavia, and adopted this morning, we believe that many of the ideas contained in our draft resolution have already been approved by the Committee. Therefore, we shall not insist on having draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.63 put to the vote at this thirty-seventh session.

The CHAIRMAN: May I take it that, in light of the statement just made by the representative of Egypt, the Committee agrees that draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.63 be withdrawn?

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will now take up draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.64/Rev.1 - under agenda item 57, "Conclusion of a treaty on the prohibition of the stationing of weapons of any kind in outer space" - entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space". It has 35 sponsors and was introduced by the representative of Sri Lanka at the 38th meeting of the Committee, on 19 November 1982.

I call on the Secretary of the Committee, who will read out the list of sponsors.

Mr. RATHORE (Secretary of the Committee): The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.64/Rev.1 are: Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Colombia, the Congo, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, Egypt, the German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Liberia, Maldives, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco,

(Mr. Rathore,
Secretary of the Committee)

Nigeria, Peru, Romania, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Venezuela, Viet Nam and Yugoslavia.

The CHAIRMAN: I understand that the delegation of Egypt wishes to make a brief statement on this draft resolution before the Committee takes a decision on it, and I now call on her.

Miss ABOUL NAGA (Egypt): I wish to make a minor correction to operative paragraph 2 of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.64/Rev.1. In the second line of that paragraph, the "s" in "objectives" and the word "the" between the words "of" and "general" following it should be deleted. Operative paragraph 2 would then read as follows:

"2. Declares that any use other than for exclusively peaceful purposes of outer space runs counter to the agreed objective of general and complete disarmament under effective international control".

The CHAIRMAN: I shall now call on those representatives who wish to explain their votes before the voting.

Mr. LIN Cheng (China) (interpretation from Chinese): The Chinese delegation will vote in favour of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.64/Rev.1.

I wish to point out that China has not acceded to the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, which is referred to in the draft resolution.

Mr. WAGENMAKERS (Netherlands): To its regret, the Netherlands will abstain in the vote on draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.64/Rev.1, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, which we welcome, as a clear expression of the growing interest in many countries in this important and very complex question. Despite lengthy consultations it did not prove possible to accommodate our fundamental views on this question. The Netherlands has problems in particular with the wording of paragraphs 1 and 2, because they touch on issues which simply cannot be solved by adopting a resolution by a majority vote. In order to contribute effectively to discussions on the prevention of an arms race in outer space it is a rational imperative to make a clear distinction between wishful thinking and present-day realities. in developments with respect to outer space.

I believe everyone will agree that with respect to outer space the basis for our work is the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies. Article IV of that Treaty is the heart of the matter. That article prohibits the placing in orbit around the earth of any objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction, installing such weapons on celestial bodies or stationing such weapons in outer space in any other manner. Only with respect to the moon and other celestial bodies, article IV provides that the moon and other celestial bodies shall be used by all States parties to the Treaty exclusively for peaceful purposes; therefore that Treaty leaves room for a variety of military activities in outer space.

Although it is indisputable that further measures should be taken to prevent an arms race in outer space, as is laid down also in paragraph 80 of the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly on disarmament, none the less one has to consider which measures should be taken first. I should like to recall that the question of the prevention of an arms race in outer space has come to the fore rather recently, because of disturbing developments in the field of anti-satellite weapon systems.

(Mr. Wagenmakers, Netherlands)

In resolution A/C.1/37/L.41, which was adopted earlier and of which the Netherlands was a sponsor, priority is rightly given to the threat posed by anti-satellite weapons, because of their destabilizing effects for international peace and security. However, this draft resolution is not confined to the question of anti-satellite weapons alone but provides also for the consideration of further agreements. Why do we have to be cautious and why could we not straightforwardly advocate the complete demilitarization of outer space, as is actually implied in paragraphs 1 and 2? The simple answer is that outer space plays an important role in the maintenance of international peace and security. Military satellites for communications, monitoring arms control agreements and for early warning against the possibility of nuclear attack are the answers. These types of military satellites enhance international peace and security and could contribute effectively to the process towards general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control. It is the firm conviction of the Netherlands that for the foreseeable future the complete demilitarization of outer space which would result from the exclusively peaceful use of outer space is not a realistic objective for our present-day labours.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will now proceed to vote on draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.64/Rev.1.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland,

India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia

Against: United States of America

Abstaining: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Israel, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Niger, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*

Draft resolution A/C.1/37/64/Rev.1 was adopted by 118 votes to 1, with 8 abstentions.*

The CHAIRMAN: I shall now call on those representatives who wish to explain their vote after the vote.

* Subsequently the delegation of Niger advised the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.

Mr. DE MOHR (Italy) (interpretation from French): When draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.41, concerning the prevention of an arms race in outer space, adopted this morning by the Committee, was introduced, my delegation emphasized the importance that it has always attached to any effort aimed at the attainment of that objective. At the same time it expressed the opinion that a wide measure of agreement had emerged from the various draft resolutions submitted on the subject, despite the clear difference in their approaches, in particular with respect to the order of priority to be given to the preventive measures in question. For that reason my delegation voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.64/Rev.1.

By supporting that text, the intentions and objectives of which we share to a very large degree, my delegation sought yet again to give expression to the importance it attaches to the elaboration of new measures for the preservation of outer space as a peaceful environment, while we remain partisans of our approach as defined in draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.41, which, as I have just recalled, was adopted this morning.

(Mr. De Mohr, Italy)

With respect to draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.64/Rev.1, just adopted, my delegation must make some observations and reservations, the most important of which relate to the wording of operative paragraph 6.

My delegation is convinced that the establishment of an ad hoc working group within the Committee on Disarmament might be the most effective way of thoroughly considering measures to prevent an arms race in outer space. However, we must recall that any decision relating to the organization of the work of the Committee on Disarmament, as well as to any mandate that might be entrusted to its subsidiary bodies, falls squarely within the competence of the Committee itself. Therefore, my delegation would point out that such a decision concerning the possible establishment of an ad hoc working group on outer space will be taken in Geneva by consensus and can in no way be prejudged by a resolution of the General Assembly.

Secondly, and in the same context, we are not convinced of the wisdom of mentioning, as is done in the last preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.64/Rev.1, the view "of the overwhelming majority of members of the Committee on Disarmament".

The Committee in Geneva works rigorously on the basis of the consensus rule. Therefore it would not appear desirable or in keeping with the practice of the Committee to state in a resolution of the General Assembly the positions of member States of the Geneva Committee, whether the majority or the minority view.

Thirdly, we consider that the use in draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.64/Rev.1 of the qualifying adverb "exclusively" before the words "for peaceful purposes" introduces a thoroughly superfluous concept which does not faithfully reflect the formulas on this subject embodied in existing agreements, and lends itself to ambiguities or even to interpretations that have already given rise to controversy in other bodies.

In conclusion, I wish to express the hope that the spirit underlying the two draft resolutions adopted by this Committee today on the prevention of an arms race in outer space will facilitate the efforts of the Committee on Disarmament to achieve the necessary solutions and decisions on the subject by consensus. Indeed, the need for that is recognized by all States, as is its importance and urgency.

Mr. OKAWA (Japan): My delegation voted in favour of the draft resolution just adopted, in the hope that our affirmative votes on the two draft resolutions on the subject - A/C.1/37/L.64/Rev.1 and L.41 - will contribute to the progress of future discussions on the question of the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

My delegation, one of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.41, adopted this morning, has no difficulty in finding points in draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.64/Rev.1 which are also to be found in draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.41 - namely, that activities related to the exploration and use of outer space should be for peaceful purposes and that they should be carried on for the benefit of all peoples, irrespective of the degree of their economic and scientific development.

Furthermore, we share the concern about the danger posed to all mankind by an arms race in outer space. We recognize the necessity for the international community to adopt further effective measures to prevent such an arms race, as well as the role the Committee on Disarmament can play in this regard. However, my delegation's affirmative vote on the draft resolution just adopted should not be construed as meaning that we are in agreement with the language of the seventeenth preambular paragraph and operative paragraph 6.

We recall that, in spite of the intensive discussions held on this subject at informal and formal meetings or informal consultations during the 1982 session of the Committee on Disarmament, we were not able to reach a consensus on the proposal to set up a working group. Therefore, my delegation does not feel that the seventeenth preambular paragraph fully reflects the discussions in the Committee on Disarmament.

Similarly, what is requested in operative paragraph 6 does not seem to correspond to the latest situation on this subject in the Committee on Disarmament. In the light of divergent views on the question of setting up a working group dealing with this subject, my delegation is of the view that the Committee on Disarmament - being, of course, master of its own affairs - should continue its discussions, taking into account draft resolutions A/C.1/37/L.41 and L.64/Rev.1, with a view to narrowing down existing differences as soon as possible before taking a decision regarding the establishment of a working group and its mandate.

(Mr. Okawa, Japan)

Finally, my delegation would like to point out that the peaceful uses of outer space, which will provide infinite opportunities for mankind, could cover various areas, including those which will help to promote disarmament measures, confidence-building measures and the maintenance of peace and security.

Mr. de LA GORCE (France) (interpretation from French): The French delegation voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.64/Rev.1 despite some difficulties which the text presented to us. I should like to refer to them.

On the one hand, we note in the last preambular paragraph a reference to "the overwhelming majority of members of the Committee on Disarmament". That reference does not seem appropriate to us in a draft resolution of the General Assembly, or in a preamble relating to the work of a negotiating body that functions on the basis of consensus and where the very notion of majority has no meaning.

Moreover, as to operative paragraph 1, the French delegation has some doubts as to the propriety of the language used and the interpretations that could be lent to the expression "used exclusively for peaceful purposes". In our view, that language is a somewhat cursory and debatable presentation of the facts on a most complex problem, and does not follow the language used in the outer space Treaty. It does, however, lend itself to various interpretations. What matters to us is the finality of the expression "peaceful purposes".

Lastly, as to operative paragraph 6, we renew the reservation that we express whenever we find ourselves confronted with a draft resolution - even one we support - that takes a position on decisions to be taken by the Committee on Disarmament in respect of its working methods. The establishment of an ad hoc working group and the mandate of that group - be it to negotiate or to perform other work - are within the exclusive competence of the Committee on Disarmament, and we do not feel it appropriate to set forth in a resolution of the General Assembly a recommendation in the matter.

In spite of the comments and criticisms that I have just made, the French delegation decided to vote in favour of that draft resolution, both in a spirit of compromise and in order to take account of the very substantial common features that we perceive among the purposes and concerns of the sponsors of the two draft resolutions submitted to the Committee on this subject.

Mr. WEGENER (Federal Republic of Germany): My delegation, which is one of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.41 on the prevention of an arms race in outer space and prohibition of anti-satellite systems, has also supported draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.64/Rev.1 so as to underline our great interest in the problems of outer space.

While my delegation strongly supports the general thrust of the draft resolution and looks forward to the work that the Committee on Disarmament will continue to do in this field, there are some formulations in both its preambular and operative parts which are in need of interpretation by my delegation.

My first observation relates to operative paragraph 6 which requests the Committee on Disarmament to take specific organizational action. In the view of my delegation, the Committee on Disarmament, an autonomous international body, must be left to determine its working methods by sovereign decision. As is well known, its own rules of procedure provide for the consensus rule to govern such decisions.

By the same token, the reference to an "overwhelming majority" of the members of the Committee, in the last preambular paragraph, is out of place, since no legal significance attaches to any majority in the Committee short of a consensus.

Operative paragraph 1 introduces the formula "exclusively for peaceful purposes", thus adding the word "exclusively" to a term which has proved to be particularly laden with ambiguity in the course of previous attempts by the international community to regulate outer space. My delegation would like to maintain its reservation on the use of that term. Our doubts about its introduction here are compounded by the additional word "exclusively". However, the operative paragraph in question is acceptable to the extent that it expresses the resolve of this Committee to promote rapid and effective steps towards further disarmament measures relating to outer space.

Finally, my delegation believes that, since the multilateral process in this field is now well launched, it should be left to the parties to former bilateral discussions to weigh the merits and timeliness of embarking on further bilateral endeavours supplementary to multilateral efforts.

Mr. NOIRFALISSE (Belgium) (interpretation from French): Belgium abstained in the vote on draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.64/Rev.1. In this case, as in other areas - and this is something that we have often said - we feel that the General Assembly should not take a position on the working methods of the Committee on Disarmament.

The working group concept is not as important as it is made out to be in New York or Geneva. Working groups are only one of the Committee on Disarmament's tools. The Committee should be free to make use of it if the negotiation process and the consent of all the participants allow it to do so. Procedural formulas should not be predetermined here. On this particular question of outer space, there are various problems and pitfalls that await us, one being the complexity of the subject which has still to be clearly defined.

Certain concepts reflected in draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.64/Rev.1 do not take account of all the factors affecting the security of States and collective security. That is the danger in trying to draw up here, in the General Assembly, negotiating mandates that affect the course of potential negotiations.

Belgium, like any other country, -is aware of the need to prevent an arms race in outer space, but we wish the task entrusted to the Committee on Disarmament to be carried out as methodically as possible. This could have been done had a single draft resolution that allowed everyone's position to be taken into consideration been adopted by consensus.

Having said that, we greatly appreciate the spirit of co-operation shown by a large number of delegations, in particular of the non-aligned group, during this debate.

Mr. SIBAY (Turkey): We have voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.64/Rev.1 because we agree with its main thrust. However, we feel that we must place on record our reservations on its operative paragraphs 1 and 2 for reasons so eloquently expressed by the representative of the Netherlands.

Mr. MILTON (United States of America): My delegation wishes very briefly to explain its vote against draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.64/Rev.1.

We realize the great deal of effort on the part of a number of delegations, motivated by sincere concerns, went into the drafting of that resolution. The United States shares the concerns of many for possible destabilizing, aggressive, military use of outer space, and we will co-operate with practical efforts to stop and prevent such use. As Mr. Eugene B. Rostow said before this Committee on 27 October, the United States has moved forward studying the feasibility of imposing further limits on the military uses of outer space.

The Committee will also have noted the support of my delegation for draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.41 earlier today. The United States has a positive attitude and is hopeful that the fears of aggression from outer space can be assuaged. We cannot, however, support impractical or one-sided resolutions that we believe might actually discourage progress on constructive initiatives here or in the Committee on Disarmament.

The unfortunate focus of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.64/Rev.1 on the term "militarization", taking it to require an overly simplistic ban on any and all military devices in outer space, is a major reason that my delegation could not support it. The question is one of use - aggressive, military use of space through the use of any device. What may appear to be the most benign satellite may have important military applications. At the same time, many military devices in space are defensive and serve vital stabilizing purposes - quite the opposite results that draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.64/Rev.1 contemplates coming from military uses of space. The issue, again, is the use of outer space, not the devices therein.

(Mr. Milton, United States)

Finally, I ask the Committee to recall that only one country has tested and deployed an operational anti-satellite system which could destroy any satellite which it may deem objectionable, and there is no international instrument to prevent such activity. Only one country has a space programme that is predominately military in direction and orientation. That country is not the United States. On the contrary, this morning's New York Times informs us that American space technology is even applied to the archaeology and prehistoric geology of the Sahara. The thrust of the United States space programme is towards the maintenance of peace and the promotion of scientific achievement, goals that I believe all of us living together on this planet should share.

Mr. RATHORE (Secretary of the Committee): Before we turn to the next draft resolution, I should like to point out to the members of the Committee that in the financial implication paper A/C.1/37/L.70, the figures in the last line should read "\$73,300" instead of "\$94,700".

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will now consider draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.22/Rev.2, under agenda item 40, entitled "Reduction of military budgets". This draft resolution has 23 sponsors and was introduced by the representative of Sweden at the 34th meeting of the First Committee on 16 November 1982.

I call on the Secretary of the Committee to read out the list of sponsors.

Mr. RATHORE (Secretary of the Committee): The sponsors are: Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Finland, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Romania, Rwanda, Sudan, Sweden and Uruguay.

The CHAIRMAN: I call on those representatives who wish to explain their vote before the vote.

Mr. NAZARKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The Soviet Union has always spoken in support of the reduction of military expenditures. We regard this question as an integral part of the principled policy which we follow in favour of the limitation of armaments and of disarmament.

As far back as 1973, the Soviet Union took the initiative in a resolution adopted by the General Assembly relating to the reduction of military budgets, General Assembly resolution 3093 (XXVIII), on the Reduction of the military budgets of States permanent members of the Security Council by 10 per cent and allocation of part of the funds thus saved to the development of the developing countries. That resolution established a sound basis for the solution of the problem of the increase in military budgets. Moreover, we were prepared to agree on the amounts that would be earmarked for the economic development of the developing countries by each of the States which was ready to reduce its military budgets and expenditures.

Over the past years, the Soviet Union has proposed several variants of that resolution and has proved its readiness to seek flexible and mutually acceptable solutions. We are ready today to tackle the preparation of specific reduction measures either in percentages or in absolute terms without delay, as a first step, for the three coming years or for any other initial period of time. We could also begin by freezing military budgets.

(Mr. Nazarkin, USSR)

The realization of a practical agreement relating to the reduction of military budgets would not require much time if the Member States of the Organization evinced the necessary political will and desire for a rapid solution of this urgent and exceptionally important problem. However, progress has not been achieved on the question of reduction of military budgets. A number of States refuse to accept practical agreements and seek to establish a control system over military budgets and their comparison with a system of standardized reporting in order to mask their refusal to accept a reduction in military budgets. That is also the thrust of the draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.22/Rev.2 before the Committee at present, wherein particular appreciation is expressed at the organization of an international conference for the comparison of military expenditures of different countries. The aim of this proposal is to depart from the reduction of military budgets and divert attention from the increase in military budgets as such.

In our view, draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.22/Rev.2 would have the effect of bringing the question of the reduction of military budgets to an impasse. For that reason, the Soviet delegation will vote against the draft resolution.

Mr. de SOUZA E SILVA (Brazil): As I stated in explaining the vote of my delegation on another resolution on the same item, Brazil believes that it is incumbent on the nuclear-weapon Powers first and foremost to take concrete measures for the reduction of their military budgets, since those Powers bear a special responsibility for disarmament and in view of the fact that their expenditure on armaments accounts for nearly 90 per cent of the global total. It is thus for the nuclear-weapon Powers and other militarily significant States to take the lead in making use of the reporting instruments and participating in the exercise proposed in the draft resolution, so demonstrating their willingness to reduce their expenditure on armaments.

Furthermore, bearing in mind the impressive financial implications that such a step would require - over \$2 million - my delegation will not be in a position to support draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.22/Rev.2.

The CHAIRMAN: The voting procedure on draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.22/Rev.2, the financial implications of which can be found in document A/C.1/37/L.70, will now begin.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Burundi, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire

Against: Afghanistan, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Viet Nam

Abstaining: Angola, Argentina, Brazil, China, Ghana, India, Mozambique, Zambia

Draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.22/Rev.2 was adopted by 98 votes to 13, with 8 abstentions.

The CHAIRMAN: I shall now call on those representatives who wish to explain their vote after the vote.

Mr. WAGENMAKERS (Netherlands): The Netherlands had chosen not to stand in the way of consensus and has therefore voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.22/Rev.2. We have done so, however, with mixed feelings. The Netherlands still shares the view that the gradual reduction of military budgets on a mutually agreed basis is an objective that merits serious consideration as one possible measure, among others, towards general and complete disarmament under strict and effective control. For such a measure to be meaningful, however, it should be adequately verifiable. Agreed measures on the reduction of military expenditures should not easily be open to circumvention by one State through a simple bookkeeping operation that would pass unnoticed within the overall budget of that State.

It is for this reason that the Netherlands has always made a constructive contribution to the efforts of Sweden and others to promote the creation of a system that would make the comparison of military budgets easier and thereby lay the foundation for any attempts to verify agreed measures to reduce military expenditures in the future. The establishment of such a system would at the same time constitute an important confidence-building measure in that it would provide transparency and avoid mutual misconceptions between States about their security-related intentions. At the same time, however, all should realize that we are dealing here with a very rough possible instrument of arms limitation or disarmament. By its very nature, the sort of measure envisaged cannot focus on the weapons systems that are the most destabilizing and threatening, be it on a regional or world-wide scale. We therefore consider "Reduction of military budgets" not to be an item of immediate urgency.

In view of this consideration, my authorities feel that a review of this entire exercise is timely at a juncture at which it has become clear that a particular group of States does not take this exercise seriously and that they have refused to carry out the recommendation made in resolution 35/142 B to report their military expenditures. Consequently, the Netherlands has not wished to sponsor a call for further study in this field as contained in draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.22/Rev.2. By the same token, the Netherlands will

(Mr. Wagenmakers, Netherlands)

not be able to continue to support the kind of draft resolution initiated by Romania as now contained in document A/C.1/37/L.20 if confidence in the sincerity of those who seem to be encouraging the idea of the reduction of military budgets is not fundamentally restored between now and the thirty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

We regret to note that the negative vote on draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.22/Rev.2 cast by the group of countries concerned leaves little hope that our profound desire to the contrary will be fulfilled.

Finally, having studied the contents of document A/C.1/37/L.70, the Netherlands delegation reserves its position on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/37/L.22/Rev.2.

Mr. CROMARTIE (United Kingdom): My delegation voted in favour of the draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.22/Rev.2. We also joined the consensus on the related draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.20, which was adopted, but without a vote, in this Committee on 22 November. I should like to explain briefly the basis on which we did so.

Draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.20 requested the Disarmament Commission to continue its consideration of the reduction of military budgets with a view to identifying and elaborating the principles which should govern the further action of States in this field. Whilst my delegation has participated in these efforts, we are firmly of the view that principles alone cannot build confidence. For this reason we have consistently supported the work of the Ad Hoc Panel on Military Budgets, which has been testing a reporting matrix. We believe that a systematic reporting of military budgets can do much to strengthen international confidence by contributing to greater transparency in military matters and that, indeed, without a generally accepted procedure for the comparison of military expenditures, it would be most difficult to arrive at balanced and verifiable agreements to restrain and reduce such expenditures. It is primarily for this reason that my delegation voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.22/Rev.2, concerning the reporting instrument.

My delegation welcomed the report of the Ad Hoc Panel on Military Budgets which was submitted to the second special session on disarmament in document A/S-12/7 and notes that draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.22/Rev.2 pursues many of

(Mr. Cromartie, United Kingdom)

the recommendations contained in that report. In particular, my delegation welcomes the emphasis given both in the report and in operative paragraph 1 of this draft resolution for the need of the reporting instrument to be used by an ever-increasing number of States from different geographical regions and with different budgetary and accounting systems. The United Kingdom has consistently stressed the importance of this and has noted with disappointment that so far no party to the Warsaw Pact has contributed by sending a representative sample to the Secretary-General for the test. Because of this, my delegation has reservations with regard to the study proposed in operative paragraph 5. My delegation believes that further work on the question of comparing and verifying military expenditures is necessary. However, unless there is wider and more balanced participation in reporting than hitherto, it would be difficult to justify carrying out the proposed study on the scale indicated by the statement of financial implications contained in document A/C.1/37/L.70.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee has thus completed its consideration of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.22/Rev.2.

The Committee will now begin consideration of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.28, the financial implications of which are contained in document A/C.1/37/L.71. The draft resolution is under agenda item 49, "World disarmament conference". This draft resolution has eight sponsors and was introduced by the representative of Sri Lanka. I now call on the Secretary of the Committee to read out the list of sponsors.

Mr. RATHORE: (Secretary of the Committee): The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.28 are; Burundi, Mali, Mongolia, Peru, Poland, Qatar, Spain and Sri Lanka.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will now vote on draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.28. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal,

Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia

Against: None.

Abstaining: None.

Draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.28 was adopted by 125 votes to none.*

The CHAIRMAN: I shall now call on those representatives who wish to explain their vote after the vote.

Mr. FIELDS (United States of America): My delegation joined the consensus on this draft resolution. For such a Conference, however, to have any chance of success, it must take place in a propitious international environment. An unsuccessful or inconclusive conference would serve no useful purpose and could create impediments to efforts to achieve concrete and verifiable disarmament measures. The United States believes that at present there is insufficient political agreement on fundamental disarmament issues that would be central to such a conference and therefore it is premature to contemplate the convening of a world disarmament conference. In addition, we view this idea as especially redundant and unnecessary at the present time, in the light of two special sessions on disarmament that have been held in the past four years.

* Subsequently the delegations of Cyprus and Rwanda advised the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour.

Mr. THORNE (United Kingdom): My delegation was not expecting to see a vote on this draft resolution, which traditionally passes by consensus. We chose to vote in favour of the draft resolution because we note that the effect is rather similar to that of a consensus vote. However, I would draw the attention of the Committee to the submissions which my delegation regularly makes to the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference in which we explain our fundamental attitude to the concept and timing of convening such a conference.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee has thus concluded its consideration of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.28.

I now call on the Secretary of the Committee to make an announcement.

Mr. RATHORE (Secretary of the Committee): With respect to the next section of the work of the Committee, I should like to bring to the attention of members that there is a correction to paragraph 6, line 10 of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.72 concerning financial implications. Instead of "L.54" it should read "L.52".

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will now begin consideration of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.50, under agenda item 133 (d), "Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the twelfth special session of the General Assembly", again on "World Disarmament Campaign". This draft resolution has eight sponsors and was introduced by the representative of Mexico. I now call on the Secretary of the Committee to read out the list of sponsors.

Mr. RATHORE (Secretary of the Committee): The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.50 are: Bangladesh, Colombia, India, Mexico, Romania, Sri Lanka, Sweden and Yugoslavia.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will now vote on draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.50. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia

Against: None.

Abstaining: None.

Draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.50 was adopted by 129 votes to none.

The CHAIRMAN: I call on those representatives who wish to explain their vote after the vote.

Mr. MICHAELSEN (Denmark): I should like to give the following explanation of vote on behalf of the Ten member States of the European Community.

The Ten joined the consensus on draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.50. The Ten have already had the opportunity to state their view on the World Disarmament Campaign in the First Committee's general debate. However, I should like to emphasize once again our satisfaction that common ground was found on the launching of the Campaign at the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament this summer. The Ten find it particularly satisfactory that at that session the General Assembly agreed upon a set of general guidelines for the Campaign which in our view form a good basis for further elaboration.

We specifically welcome the emphasis in the guidelines on the universality of the Campaign and the stress laid on unimpeded access for all sections of the public in all countries to a broad range of information and opinions on disarmament issues. We hope that non-governmental organizations and research institution will also have a role to play in achieving the objectives of the Campaign.

In the light of the agreement to which I have just referred, we would have hoped that it would be possible to agree unanimously on a single resolution on this topic.

Mr. KOMIVES (Hungary): As my delegation has already said several times, in our view the most important task of our day is to remove the danger of a nuclear war threatening the very existence of mankind. Consequently, Hungary supports every proposal and initiative likely to promote the achievement of this goal.

(Mr. Komives, Hungary)

My delegation considers that the World Disarmament Campaign represents an appropriate means of mobilizing all the peace-loving forces on our globe, and that its main goals - to inform and educate and to promote understanding and support on the part of world public opinion and society - will be in aid of attaining the goals of the United Nations, of curbing the arms race and of achieving disarmament.

Against that background, my delegation joined the consensus on the draft resolution that we have just adopted and also supported draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.34, because we believe that launching world-wide action to collect signatures in support of measures to prevent nuclear war and to curb the arms race and in favour of disarmament is one of the important, specific areas of activity within the framework of the World Disarmament Campaign.

Finally, as one of the proofs of our support for those goals, I should like to announce that Hungary is making a voluntary financial contribution by pledging 250,000 forints, which can be used in various ways to finance the Campaign.

Mr. WAGENMAKERS (Netherlands): The Netherlands delegation fully endorses the statement that the representative of Denmark has just made on behalf of the Ten member States of the European Community. However, I wish to add some observations on behalf of my delegation.

The delegation of the Netherlands voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.50, but it would like to state for the record that it takes a dim view of the fact that in the first preambular paragraph a somewhat selective quotation from paragraph 99 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly has been made. I refer to the words:

"the importance of mobilizing world public opinion on behalf of disarmament".

We should have preferred the sponsors to use the words of Annex V of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly, document A/S-12/32.

(Mr. Wagenmakers, Netherlands)

In Annex V it is clearly stated that the World Disarmament Campaign is intended to promote public interest in, and support for, the goals of the Campaign, and that the Campaign has three primary purposes: to inform, to educate and to generate public understanding and support.

In this context, we also want to stress the importance of the provision that, as was agreed in paragraph 14 of Annex V:

"the Centre for Disarmament should provide the central guidance in co-ordinating the Campaign activities within the United Nations system". (A/S-12/32, annex V, para. 14)

We should also like to enter a reservation about operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution. In conformity with our consistent policies in this regard, we do not want to prejudge the desirability of a pledging conference. We think that the parameters of the financial implications of the Campaign, as set out in paragraph 21 of Annex V of the Concluding Document give enough guidance and direction.

Mr. de LA GORCE (France) (interpretation from French): The French delegation voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.50. We give our fullest support to the World Disarmament Campaign and consider that the guidelines set by the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament last July are useful and will enable the Campaign to develop in the conditions that we regard as necessary.

However, my delegation has some remarks to make about the text that we have just adopted.

First, with regard to the preamble, we consider that the fourth preambular paragraph -- which says that the General Assembly bears in mind that it defined in general terms the objectives, contents, modalities and financial implications of the Campaign -- does not correspond exactly with what we believe was decided at the special session. We consider that the guidelines referred to were not defined in general terms, but, rather, were precise.

(Mr. de La Gorce, France)

Further, we believe that rather than keep the guidelines in mind it would be preferable for the General Assembly to reaffirm them, because they remain valid. They are not simply a series of guidelines that we must bear in mind; they should guide our action for the Campaign.

Lastly with regard to the preamble, we believe that the reference to financial implications on the same level as the objectives and modalities does not correspond with what was adopted by consensus at the special session.

As regards the operative part of the draft resolution, we also have some doubts about paragraph 4, which says that the General Assembly decides to hold a pledging conference of contributions of Member States at each of its regular sessions. We believe that that provision is a little too formal, and that instead of deciding permanently to hold a pledging conference each year it would be better to recognize that it is simpler if States announce their decision on the matter, and that it is preferable to leave to their generosity the possibility of their making such announcements whenever the occasion arises, rather than at a pledging conference.

(Mr. de La Gorce, France)

Lastly, and still with regard to the financial implications, we note that the General Assembly is not always in a position to obtain dependable information on how, under the aegis of the Disarmament Centre or Department, co-ordination efforts can be conducted within the context of the Campaign by the Organization itself or its specialized agencies. Our objective here is to obtain assurances concerning the use of existing resources within these organizations and agencies which might be useful for the purposes of the Campaign.

We have already had occasion to mention the very substantial resources devoted by the United Nations, Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to programmes which, we believe, goes beyond its mandate. This leads us to ask what we can do to avoid duplication and unjustified expenditures.

Hence we do not feel that we are in a position to consider the possibility of a special contribution for the Campaign, so long as the French Government has not received the information requested by its delegation to the second special session on disarmament with respect, first, to co-ordination relating to activities connected with the Campaign between the Centre for Disarmament and the other international organizations taking part in it -- in particular, UNESCO -- and secondly, the question of duplication and overlapping between programmes.

Our attitude on this question is prompted by a desire to co-operate and to ensure the greatest effectiveness and success for the Campaign.

Mr. WEGENER (Federal Republic of Germany): My delegation gladly participated in the consensus on this draft resolution and the reasons why it did so were explained by the delegation of Denmark.

However, some doubts, especially as regards the financial parts of the draft resolution, persist. My delegation would like to point to the statements just made by the Netherlands and France as also expressing their own doubts.

The CHAIRMAN: That concludes our consideration of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.50.

The Committee will now turn its attention to draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.57, under agenda item 55, "General and complete disarmament", entitled, "Review conference of the Convention on the prohibition of Military or Any other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques". It has 17 sponsors and was introduced by the representative of Finland at the 37th meeting of the Committee on 19 November 1982.

I call on the Secretary of the Committee, who will read out the list of sponsors.

Mr. RATHORE (Secretary of the Committee): The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.57 are: Bangladesh, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, the German Democratic Republic, Italy, Japan, Malawi, Norway, Sao Tome and Principe, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

The CHAIRMAN: I call again on the Secretary of the Committee to make a statement on the financial implications of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.57.

Mr. RATHORE (Secretary of the Committee): I should like to make this statement, on behalf of the Secretary-General, with regard to the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/37/L.57, concerning the holding of a review conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques.

(Mr. Rathore, Secretary of the Committee)

By that draft resolution the General Assembly, bearing in mind that the Convention will have been in force for five years on 5 October 1983, would note that the Secretary-General, as depositary of the Convention, intends to convene the review conference called for in the Convention at the earliest practicable time after 5 October 1983. In addition, the Secretary-General would be requested to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services, including summary records, as may be required for the review conference and its preparation.

It should be noted that the review conference is a conference of States Parties to the Convention like other review conferences of multilateral disarmament treaties held in the past, for example, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Sea-Bed Treaty and the biological weapons Convention. Like those conferences, the review conference would be expected to make the financial arrangements for meeting the costs of the conference and its preparation, as indicated in the last operative paragraph of the draft resolution. Consequently, the Secretary-General considers that his mandate under the draft resolution to provide the necessary assistance and services for the preparation and holding of the review conference has no financial implications for the regular budget of the United Nations.

The CHAIRMAN: I call on those representatives who wish to explain their vote before the vote.

Mr. GARCIA ROBLES (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): On 10 December 1976, almost six years ago, the delegation of Mexico voted against draft resolution A/31/382, which had been submitted to the plenary of the General Assembly by the First Committee and was to become resolution 31/72, to which was annexed the Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques, which was referred to all States for their consideration, signature and ratification.

(Mr. Garcia Robles, Mexico)

That is the resolution which is recalled in the first preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.57, to be put to the vote shortly in the First Committee and on which, given its antecedents we shall be compelled to abstain, although our abstention does not in any way whatsoever imply a change in our earlier position, since, were this not purely a procedural aspect but, rather, a substantive one, we would again have to cast a negative vote, as we did on the occasion I have just recalled.

Since the majority of the representatives taking part in the work of the Committee this year - 1982 - are not the same who took part in the Committee's proceedings in 1976, I believe that it is worth while mentioning two basic documents on the subject, whose perusal is most enlightening about the main reasons which, in our view, explain why, although more than five years have elapsed since the Convention was opened to signature, the number of ratifications is barely higher than the rather small number of 20 ratifications provided for in article IX for its entry into force.

The first of those documents is the report of the Rapporteur of the First Committee, dated 9 December 1976, under the symbol A/31/382. A summarized historical account is given therein of the procedural strategems which, unfortunately, were resorted to by some delegations in order to prevent the First Committee from taking a decision on the draft resolution which a number of delegations, Mexico among them, had put forward in order to enable all Member States to consider the draft resolution which had been received from the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament with the thoroughness its contents deserved.

(Mr. Garcia Robles, Mexico)

The second document bears the symbol A/C.1/31/8 and is dated 16 November 1976. It reproduces in its entirety the text of the working paper submitted by the delegation of Mexico to the First Committee wherein, with an abundance of historical and legal arguments, it gave the reasons why the Mexican Government considered that the wording of article I of the draft convention was "totally unacceptable" to it. Those reasons could be summarized by saying that the wording of that article is tantamount to legitimizing such monstrous actions as, "the deliberate manipulation of natural processes to produce earthquakes, tidal waves, cyclones of different types and hurrican-style storms or to modify the ozone layer or the ionosphere and the ocean currents, provided that they do not have widespread, long-lasting or serious effects". This is all the more incomprehensible and alarming if we bear in mind that among the effects of environmental war techniques which would thus be permitted because they would not be regarded as being sufficiently widespread there would be, as was explained by the two sponsors of the draft convention, those encompassing an area smaller than "several hundreds of square kilometres", and among those similarly tolerated because they do not fall into the category of lasting effects as defined in the Convention there would be those whose duration does not extend to "several months or approximately a season".

My delegation trusts that participation at the review conference referred to in draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.57 would not be confined to the States parties to the Convention in question but would also be open to the largest possible number of Member States of the United Nations which, in keeping with the established practice for similar cases, would no doubt have a right to put forward their views and would endeavour to obtain a modification of the aforementioned article I, so as to remove the very serious limitation which the present text contains, thus making it possible for paragraph 1 of the article in question to be drafted as follows:

"Each State Party to this Convention undertakes not to engage in military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques ... as the means of destruction, damage or injury to any other State Party".

(General Assembly resolution 31/72, annex)

(Mr. Garcia Robles, Mexico)

We are convinced that this highly justified modification is the only way to give the Convention the scope and effectiveness which appear to be so desirable in the area at which it is aimed. That is why we take the liberty of recommending to all delegations here that when they report to their respective Governments on the deliberations of the Assembly on this question they send to their Governments copies of the two documents I mentioned earlier, namely, the report of the Rapporteur of the First Committee (A/31/382) dated 9 November 1976 and the working paper of the Mexican delegation (A/C.1/31/8) of 16 November 1976.

In the meantime, my delegation, as I said earlier, will abstain in the vote on the draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.57.

Mr. CARASALES (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): When the General Assembly adopted resolution 31/72, which is mentioned in the first preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.57 now under consideration, the delegation of Argentina abstained in the vote on that resolution and we maintain that position because we had and still have an important reservation on the wording of article I of the Convention to which this draft resolution refers. That article deals with the scope of the Convention. I shall not dwell on the subject, because the representative of Mexico has just most eloquently expressed relevant views on the subject. We would have wished the draft resolution before us to have included in its preambular part a paragraph similar to the fifth preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.56 which was adopted, I believe, last Wednesday and which deals with a similar question connected with the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil thereof. The fifth preambular paragraph of that draft resolution speaks about the need to take into account all the relevant paragraphs of the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. A similar paragraph would have been desirable in this draft resolution and we are thinking in particular of paragraph 78 of the Final Document.

(Mr. Carasales, Argentina)

Having made that clarification, and in view of the procedural nature of this draft resolution, my delegation would have had no objection to participating in a consensus. However, since a vote is to be taken, it will be compelled to abstain.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will now proceed to vote on draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.57.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Angola, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Central Africa Republic, Chad, Chile, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Cameroon, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia

Against: None

Abstaining: Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama,
Peru

Draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.57 was adopted by 117 votes to none, with
7 abstentions.*

* Subsequently the delegation of Venezuela advised the Secretariat that it had intended to abstain.

The CHAIRMAN: That concludes the Committee's consideration of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.57.

The Committee will now turn its attention to draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.40/Rev.1, under agenda item 43, 'Implementation of General Assembly resolution 36/85'. Its title is: "Urgent need for a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty". This draft resolution has 27 sponsors and was introduced by the representative of Australia at the 38th meeting of the First Committee on 19 November 1982.

I call on the Secretary of the Committee to read out the list of sponsors.

Mr. Rathore (Secretary of the First Committee): The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.40/Rev.1 are: Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Ecuador, Fiji, Finland, Ireland, Japan, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Thailand and Uruguay.

The CHAIRMAN: I shall now call on those representatives who wish to explain their votes before the voting on draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.40/Rev.1.

Mr. THIELICKE (German Democratic Republic): Like the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.40/Rev.1, the delegation of the German Democratic Republic is convinced that a comprehensive nuclear-test ban is a matter of the greatest urgency and highest priority. This, as well as other aspects of the draft, has the support of my delegation.

At the same time, we cannot but raise serious doubts with regard to the approach to comprehensive test-ban negotiations as envisaged in document A/C.1/37/L.40/Rev.1. In particular, we cannot subscribe to the request contained in operative paragraph 7 that the nuclear-test-ban working group of the Committee on Disarmament should continue to work under

(Mr. Thielicke, German Democratic Republic)

its present limited mandate. The group should, rather, proceed to actual comprehensive test-ban negotiations. Therefore, my delegation will abstain in the voting on draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.40/Rev.1.

Our approach to this question was adequately reflected in draft resolutions A/C.1/37/L.6 and L.32/Rev.1, which were supported by my delegation.

Mr. NUNEZ MOSQUERA (Cuba) (interpretation from Spanish): The Cuban delegation will abstain in the voting on draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.40/Rev.1 for the following reasons.

Firstly, we voted in favour of the other draft resolutions on the prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests, in which the Committee on Disarmament is clearly requested to undertake forthwith urgent negotiations on the drafting of a treaty on the prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests.

Draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.40/Rev.1, however, is restrictive in comparison with the resolution I have just mentioned because it asks the Committee on Disarmament to continue its consideration of the verification and compliance aspects of the proposed treaty. We are convinced that the effect will be to postpone the negotiating work of the Committee indefinitely, we cannot vote for a draft resolution that requests the Committee on Disarmament to undertake different actions on one and the same subject.

Secondly, draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.40/Rev.1 disregards the fact that the verification aspects of a nuclear-weapon test-ban treaty are no longer an obstacle to the drafting of such an instrument, as demonstrated by the Group of Experts, presided over by the late Swedish scientist Mr. Ericson, to whom we wish to pay a tribute. Consequently, my delegation considers that insisting on the point is merely to put up a smoke screen over the negotiations on a nuclear-weapon test-ban treaty.

Lastly, I wish to place on record that my delegation will abstain in the voting on this draft because we construe operative paragraph 7 as meaning that the substantive negotiations to which it refers will begin at the spring 1983 session of the Committee on Disarmament. Were we to interpret that paragraph differently, my delegation would vote against the draft resolution.

Mr. GARCIA ROBLES (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): Before draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.40/Rev.1 was distributed, draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.40 was before the Committee. If we had had to vote on that draft, my delegation would have been obliged to vote against it, since operative paragraph 4 completely nullified the mandate that had been given to the ad hoc working group on the prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests.

In draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.40/Rev.1 that problem has been remedied, since operative paragraph 4, together with operative paragraph 5, now provides an appropriate description of that mandate. However, the difficulty remains that the wording of operative paragraph 7 is not satisfactory to my delegation. In our view, we should follow the wording of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.32/Rev.1, co-sponsored by my delegation and adopted by an overwhelming majority, and urge the Committee on Disarmament:

"To assign to the ad hoc working group on item 1 of the Committee's agenda, a mandate which should provide for the multilateral negotiation of a treaty for the prohibition of all nuclear-weapon tests, to be initiated immediately after the 1983 session of the Committee has begun".
(A/C.1/37/L.32/Rev.1, para. 5 (b))

That is the wording which faithfully reflects the position of my delegation. Therefore, in view of the fact that the alternative wording of operative paragraph 7 of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.40/Rev.1 is not, as I say, satisfactory to us, we shall be obliged to abstain in the voting on that draft.

Mr. CARSALES (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): Last Tuesday my delegation voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.32/Rev.1. The draft now before us in document A/C.1/37/L.40/Rev.1 covers exactly the same ground, but in a less satisfactory manner, as far as my delegation is concerned.

(Mr. Carasales, Argentina)

My delegation understands that this draft resolution, to some extent, takes a different approach to the same subject; moreover, in our view, it presents difficulties for the development and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

For this reason the Argentine delegation will abstain in the vote on this draft resolution. In addition, in our view we believe it is not logical to adopt two draft resolutions on exactly the same subject but which reflect rather different views.

Mr. SARAN (India): India has consistently held that a treaty on a nuclear test ban should aim at the general and complete cessation of the testing of nuclear weapons by all States in all environments for all time. This is precisely the scope that the partial test-ban Treaty of 1963 clearly spells out, and the draft to be voted upon itself recalls this in its third preambular paragraph. However, its operative paragraph 2 runs counter to the generally accepted scope of a treaty on a nuclear-test ban. For this reason, India will abstain in the vote on draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.40/Rev.1.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will now begin the voting procedure on draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.40/Rev.1.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Algeria, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Burma, Burundi, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica,

Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, Uruguay, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia

Against: United States of America

Abstaining: Afghanistan, Angola, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Chile, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, France, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, India, Israel, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, Poland, Sao Tome and Principe, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam

Draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.40/Rev.1 was adopted by 92 votes to 1, with 34 abstentions.

The CHAIRMAN: I shall now call on those representatives who wish to explain their vote after the vote.

Mr. de LA GORCE (France)(interpretation from French): The French delegation abstained in the vote on draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.40/Rev.1 for the same reasons that led us earlier to abstain in the draft on L.32/Rev.1 on which the Committee voted a few days ago. In draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.40/Rev.1, specifically its operative paragraphs 7 and 8, France is called upon to participate in work and negotiations designed to draft a treaty to which it could not subscribe because the conditions that would enable it to do so have not been met.

Mr. AHMAD (Pakistan): Earlier this week the Pakistan delegation voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.32/Rev.1, which deals with the same subject as draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.40/Rev.1. Pakistan has also voted in favour of L.40/Rev.1. We remain convinced that the conclusion of a comprehensive nuclear test-ban treaty has the highest priority in nuclear disarmament. We therefore encourage and support all initiatives in this direction.

However, the Pakistan delegation would like to state for the record that it has difficulties with some aspects of draft resolution L.40/Rev.1 - for example, its operative paragraph 2 which, in our view, is not in line with the consensus on the subject reflected in the Final Document of the first special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament. Indeed, the language of operative paragraph 2 is different from that used in a similar resolution submitted last year on this subject.

Mr. MOUSSAOUI (Algeria)(interpretation from French): The Algerian delegation voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.40/Rev.1 because it contains a number of positive elements. However, I should like to say for the record that our positive vote does not change our substantive position on this matter reflected in our statement on disarmament in the Group of 21 and in draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.32/Rev.1 which this Committee has already adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee has concluded its consideration of draft resolution A/C.1/37/40/Rev.1. It will now consider draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.52, the review and supplement of the comprehensive study on the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all its aspects, under agenda item 55, entitled "General and complete disarmament". This draft resolution has 15 sponsors and was introduced by the representative of Finland at the 37th meeting of the First Committee on 19 November 1982.

I call on the Secretary of the Committee to give the list of sponsors.

Mr. RATHORE (Secretary of the Committee): The 15 sponsors are: Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, France, Ghana, Greece, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Sweden and Uruguay.

Mr. RAJAKOSKI (Finland): On behalf of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.52, namely, Egypt, France, Greece, Mexico, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Sweden and Finland, I have the honour of making the following statement.

After some last-minute consultations, in order to accommodate all the views of all delegations in this Committee, and to arrive at a consensus text, we are ready to accept, and indeed to propose, the following amendment: at the end of operative paragraph 2, after the words "thirty-ninth session", add ", bearing in mind the savings that might be made within existing budgetary appropriations". The paragraph, as amended, would therefore read:

"Requests the Secretary-General, with the assistance of an ad hoc group of qualified governmental experts, to carry out the study and to submit it to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session, bearing in mind the savings that might be made within existing budgetary appropriations".

It is my delegation's understanding that, with the oral amendment just made, the draft resolution can be adopted by consensus and, therefore, should not, I think, be put to a vote.

The CHAIRMAN : I call on the representative of India who wishes to explain his vote before the vote.

Mr. SARAN (India): The Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament stated that the process of establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones in different parts of the world should be encouraged:

"... with the ultimate objective of achieving a world entirely free of nuclear weapons." (A/S.10/4, para. 61)

In recent years it has become crystal clear that while the setting-up of nuclear-weapon-free zones in certain parts of the world is being encouraged, the quantitative accumulation and qualitative refinement of nuclear-weapon arsenals deployed in certain other regions of the world have been escalating at an ever increasing pace. The phenomenon of the nuclear arms race, both in its quantitative and qualitative aspects, is fundamentally incompatible with the concept of creating nuclear-weapon-free zones.

In the age of nuclear weapons, which are weapons of mass destruction, the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones in certain selected areas of the world gives only an illusion of security to the participants in such a zone. The Final Document itself recognizes that in the event of a nuclear war both belligerents and non-belligerents alike would suffer its devastating results. In the use of nuclear weapons there would be no recognition of national or regional boundaries. The existence of nuclear weapons poses a threat to the very survival of mankind.

We should also not ignore the fact that the nuclear-weapon States are deploying and moving nuclear weapons in various regions of the world. There are military bases maintained by the major Powers in almost all the corners of the globe either already equipped with nuclear weapons or capable of being used for the deployment and launching of nuclear weapons.

(Mr. Saran, India)

After a careful consideration of all these facts, the Government of India has become convinced that the nuclear-weapon-free zone idea has become both impractical and unrealistic. What is even more important in this respect for India is the question of principle. We cannot subscribe to the legitimization of the possession of nuclear weapons by a few Powers by agreeing to live under their professed benign protection in the guise of a nuclear-weapon-free zone. Peace is indivisible; so is nuclear disarmament. It cannot be piecemeal in terms of geographical extent. India, therefore, believes that the whole world should be free of nuclear weapons.

In view of what I have said, it should be patently obvious that India is not in a position to support the proposal in draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.52. We are of the firm view that no useful purpose would be served in undertaking a study to review and supplement the comprehensive study of the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones undertaken in 1975. Experience which has accumulated since 1975 clearly demonstrates that the concept itself has become entirely obsolete.

The delegation of India therefore proposes to vote against draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.52.

The CHAIRMAN: The financial implications of this draft resolution are to be found in document A/C.1/37/L.72.

We shall now vote on the draft resolution entitled "Review and supplement of the comprehensive study on the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all its aspects".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba,

Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia

Against: India

Abstaining: Guyana, United States of America

Draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.52 was adopted by 125 votes to 1, with 2 abstentions.

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the representative of the Soviet Union who wishes to explain his vote after the vote.

Mr. NAZARKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The Soviet delegation voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.52. At the same time we should like to state that our attitude towards this draft resolution should not be interpreted as a change of position by the Soviet Union on General Assembly resolution 3472 B (XXX) of 11 December 1975, to which the preamble to draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.52 refers.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee has concluded its consideration of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.52.

Representatives will have noticed from the list of resolutions given before today that there are still some more resolutions to deal with. However, I am obliged to defer consideration of draft resolutions A/C.1/37/L.54 and L.62, as the Committee awaits information on their financial implications. We must also defer consideration of the report on the Indian Ocean and we have yet to receive the report on chemical and bacteriological weapons. I hope that we shall be in a position to take action on these items on Monday afternoon, 29 November 1982.

(The Chairman)

With the exception of those four decisions therefore, we have practically concluded consideration of the disarmament items, and I wish to take this opportunity to thank and highly to commend the Committee for the efficiency with which it has handled its work so far.

Mr. GURINOVICH (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I should like to say a few words on the question of the financial implications of the draft resolutions that were adopted on disarmament questions. We note that the documents of the United Nations Secretariat on financial implications were submitted only today and delegations have not had enough time to study them. Furthermore, in a number of cases those documents or amendments to them were read out during the voting process and such a situation can in no way be called justifiable. If the Committee sets up deadlines for the submission of draft resolutions, then apparently we should do the same thing as regards documents dealing with financial implications. However, even a quick glance at the documents that have been submitted gives rise to a number of preliminary comments.

First, the last sentence in paragraph 7 of document A/C.1/37/L.68 and also paragraph 9 of that document clearly diverge from the state of affairs which was approved in draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.67.

Secondly, we continue to have doubts, as we already stated in the Committee on 19 November this year, regarding the need for two additional Secretariat posts, as proposed in document A/C.1/37/L.69 in connection with the increase of five in the number of fellowships for disarmament.

Thirdly, today the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.22/Rev.2 on reduction of military budgets. We voted against the adoption of that draft resolution as not being in keeping with steps taken in that area. And now, as proposed in document A/C.1/37/L.70, instead of a reduction in military expenditures what we get is a rather stiff increase by \$2.4 million in expenditures for the United Nations. We believe that this is unfounded and we object to such expenditures. We assume that Member States could more usefully make use of these means to solve economic and social development problems in their own countries.

(Mr. Gurinovich, Byelorussian SSR)

Fourthly, it would seem to us that in terms of the volume of expenditures the calculations in document A/C.1/37/L.71 and A/C.1/37/L.72 have been carried out without duly taking into account the principles of effecting economies and of making full use of available resources. In that connection, we welcome the amendment just made by the representative of Finland to draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.52 and we assume that the appropriate documents will be submitted.

Fifthly, in connection with the often repeated statement made in documents dealing with financial implications to the effect that at the end of the session there will be submitted a summary document regarding the needs for servicing of conferences, we hope that, indeed, strenuous efforts will be made to ensure that such expenditures will, to the greatest degree possible, be compensated through the use of available resources - and mention was made of this in the relevant United Nations documents - and in any event will not lead to an increase in United Nations expenditures.

In conclusion we hope that our comments will be taken into account by the United Nations Secretariat before the question of financial implications is sent to the Fifth Committee, where we naturally will take an appropriate position.

Mr. de La GORCE (France) (interpretation from French): The French delegation notes with regret that the vote on draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.54 on provisional arrangements maintaining the authority of the Geneva Protocol has been postponed until Monday. This draft resolution was on the list of those draft resolutions we voted on last Tuesday. This is then the second postponement. It was introduced on 17 November and the Secretariat had the necessary time to prepare the report on its financial implications which are, incidentally, very modest. We think this postponement is surprising and we see no justification for it.

After consultations with the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.54, introduced on 19 November by the French delegation, as representing the depositary State of the Geneva Protocol on banning the use of chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons, it was decided to give a title to this draft resolution and we should like due note to be taken of this. The title is the following: "Provisional procedure to uphold the authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol".

(Mr. de La Gorce, France)

The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.54 believe that it is necessary to establish these provisional procedures while awaiting the conclusion of formal provisions included in a treaty, for example, the treaty on chemical disarmament being negotiated in Geneva. We believe that these solutions aimed at solving the same problem, first provisionally and then finally by means of a treaty, are not incompatible since they should succeed each other.

(Mr. de La Gorce, France)

The same concern to uphold the authority of the Treaty moved the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.61, which was voted on a moment ago. Its purpose is, by means of a treaty, to ensure compliance with the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction by appropriate procedures negotiated by the parties to the Convention. Thus we were surprised a moment ago to hear the statement read by the representative of Czechoslovakia on behalf of a group of delegations. The authors of the statement say that they are against draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.54 and against draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.61. They are thus rejecting both provisional solutions and those reached through conventions. They are thus opposed to the very notion of verification in the case of both the treaties in question. The most surprising thing is that they stated that the solutions proposed in order to ensure compliance with these two treaties would in fact have the effect of weakening and even destroying them. We hope that members of the Committee will draw the appropriate conclusions.

Mr. WAGENMAKERS (Netherlands): The Netherlands delegation wishes to endorse and support the important statement made a moment ago by the representative of France. The Netherlands delegation likewise is a little surprised that the vote on draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.54 has once again been delayed and to the same extent as the representative of France outlined a moment ago, we are also rather perplexed at the reasoning which was just offered to us by the representative of Czechoslovakia.

Mr. ISSRAELYAN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): First of all we should like to associate ourselves with the statement made by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Byelorussia regarding the order of work of the Committee and the timely submission of documents involving financial implications. Unfortunately, since these documents were not submitted in time, we have been forced to defer voting on certain draft resolutions, in particular on draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.54. As regards the surprise which was expressed by the delegations of France and of the Netherlands regarding the statement of the representative of Czechoslovakia, we can only say in our turn that we are astonished and surprised by the action undertaken, as was correctly described by the delegation of Czechoslovakia, and we would

(Mr. Issraelyan, USSR)

once again request that there should be a thoughtful reading of the statement of the delegation of Czechoslovakia and that we should return to this question on Monday, when we shall be considering draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.54.

The CHAIRMAN: In view of the repeated expressions of disappointment by members at the fact that we are not voting on draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.54 at this meeting, I should like to take this opportunity to apologize to those delegations which have expressly informed us of their concern and to the Committee at large for our inability to take up draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.54 at this meeting. I think that the complaint voiced by the representative of France and echoed by other delegations here is well founded. However, as Chairman and as the person caught in between this Committee and a heavily-laden Secretariat, I think it is my duty to explain that the Budget Division of the Secretariat has been burdened for quite some time now with work for this Committee, as well as for other committees and other bodies in the area of financial implications. They have tried their best to make what is possible available to us and I have been promised that the rest will be here early next week. Whilst I agree that the documents involving financial implications should have been here much earlier, I am also constrained to point out that every human effort depends on the resources available and that it is not any discourtesy to this Committee nor any unwillingness to assist this Committee that has led to this delay. I hope that therefore representatives will exercise some patience and I trust that early next week we shall dispose of the rest of the draft resolutions.

I should like to announce that the list of speakers for the three agenda items on international peace and security will close at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, 30 November. As there are no objections to this proposal, I take it that that is the decision of the Committee.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 6.30 p.m.