

UNITED NATIONS
General Assembly
FORTY-FIFTH SESSION
Official Records

FIRST COMMITTEE
31st meeting
held on
8 November 1990
at 10 a.m.
New York

VERBATIM RECORD OF **THE** 31st MEETING

Chairman:

Mr. **RANA**

(Nepal)

CONTENTS

Consideration of and action on all disarmament agenda items **(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 DC2-750,
2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

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

Distr. GENERAL
A/C.1/45/PV.31
12 November 1990
ENGLISH

The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

AGENDA ITEMS 45 TO 66 AND 155 (**continued**)

CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION ON ALL **DISARMAMENT** AGENDA ITEMS

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the representative of Sweden, who will introduce the draft decision in document **A/C.1/45/L.8**.

Ms. THEORIN (Sweden): I have asked to speak on sub-item **(i)**, "Naval armaments and disarmament", of agenda item 56, entitled "General and complete disarmament".

My delegation has for many years followed developments in the naval field very closely. In the United Nations context, Sweden initially proposed, and subsequently took part in, the study on the naval arms race, which was submitted to the General Assembly in 1985. The Swedish delegation has also taken a keen interest in the consideration of naval armaments and disarmament in the United Nations Disarmament Commission, where the matter has been on the agenda for five consecutive substantive sessions.

While the Disarmament Commission has now concluded its consideration of the item, my Government would see merit in retaining it on the agenda of the General Assembly in the coming years. My delegation has therefore submitted the draft decision in document **A/C.1/45/L.8**, whereby an item entitled "General and complete disarmament: Naval armaments and disarmament" would be included in the draft agenda of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly. We commend the draft decision for adoption without a vote.

I take this opportunity to draw attention to the fact that, as requested, a memorandum under the item "General and complete disarmament", entitled "Naval armaments and disarmament: Memorandum by Sweden*", has just been circulated within the Committee. The memorandum is annexed to document **A/C.1/45/8**. Let me now merely mention a few of its highlights.

(Ma. Theorin, Sweden)

More than every fourth nuclear warhead, all in all approximately 15,000, is considered to be earmarked for deployment at sea. It is estimated that operational nuclear-capable platforms number approximately 3,500: some 350 surface vessels, 400 submarines and 2,750 aircraft.

The matter of naval nuclear weapons has global ramifications. This is why my delegation holds that it should be duly considered by the international community and, to begin with, would like to see it included in the agenda of the next session of **the** General Assembly.

Approximately one third, or about 5,000, of all sea-based nuclear weapons can be estimated to belong to the category "**substrategic**", comprising a variety of nuclear weapons intended for targets at sea, as well as nuclear-armed cruise missiles and other nuclear weapons intended for attacks against targets on land.

The great number of substrategic nuclear weapons on board warships is a cause of grave concern, which is accentuated by the policy pursued by nuclear-weapon States neither to confirm nor to deny the presence or absence of nuclear weapons on board any particular ship at any particular time. This practice has caused profound public concern in many countries, especially when warships from a nuclear-weapon State, claiming innocent passage, pass through the territorial waters of these countries, or when they call at their ports. The policy neither to confirm **nor** to deny does not build confidence between States; instead, it undermines confidence. Whatever its *raison d'être* may have been in the past, this practice is an anachronism; it is not only outdated, it is dangerous and should be abandoned.

Sweden whole-heartedly welcomed the achievement of the 1987 Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles (INF Treaty), which

(Ms. Theorin, Sweden)

provided for the complete elimination of land-based intermediate-range nuclear missiles, so that now approximately two thirds of these missiles have actually been destroyed.

My Government also welcomes recent progress in the bilateral Soviet-American negotiations on reductions of strategic nuclear weapons, be they land-based, airborne, or sea-based. We further note with satisfaction the proposal for new Soviet-American negotiations on reductions of shorter-range nuclear-weapon systems.

The fact remains, however, that substrategic naval ~~..uclear~~ nuclear weapons have yet to be properly addressed in disarmament negotiations. Sea-based nuclear weapons intended for targets on land pose special problems in relation to agreements involving land **and/or** air forces. Such agreements must not be circumvented by compensatory deployments at sea.

Sweden **calls** upon all States to take unilateral measures and/or to initiate negotiations to ban all nuclear weapons on all ships and submarines other than those classes specifically designated by agreement, as an interim measure in anticipation of **the** complete denuclearisation of naval forces. All sea-launched cruise missiles with nuclear warheads should in this context be completely banned.

Such measures would conform with the express agreement between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and **the** United States of America to conduct bilateral negotiations which ultimately "should lead to the complete elimination of nuclear arms everywhere".

Sweden now proposes negotiations, bilaterally or multilaterally, on the prohibition of non-strategic nuclear weapons at sea.

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the representative **of Brazil**, who will introduce draft resolution **A/C.1/45/L.54**.

Mr. ARAUJO CASTRO (Brazil) (interpretation from Spanish): The Brazilian delegation has the honour of introducing draft resolution **A/C.1/45/L.54**, entitled "**United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, and United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean**". It is sponsored by Tunisia on behalf of the Group of African States, by **Brazil** on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, and by **China, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam and Yemen.**

The draft resolution is designed primarily to strengthen the important role of the regional centres **in** the attainment of the objectives **of** the World **Disarmament Campaign.**

The dramatic changes which have occurred in the international arena have **highlighted** the value of dialogue, understanding and co-operation as essential instruments in relations **among** States. **It is** precisely this spirit that for some time now has inspired the promoters of the **activities** of the regional centres.

(Mr. Araujo Castro, Brazil)

Their work constitutes an important element in promoting initiatives and **proposals** for confidence-building measures and mutual co-operation among the States of each region. **The** regional centres have thus become promoters of international peace and security by means of specific action at the regional level. **The** work of these bodies, which promote understanding and a narrowing of differences and open and frank discussion and which stimulate the commitment to peace of the States of the region, in itself deserves our gratitude.

This draft resolution contains, in the first preambular paragraph, a reference to the mandates conferred by the General Assembly on each of the regional centres. **Similarly**, in the preamble to the draft resolution, the General Assembly would express gratitude for the financial assistance received by the centres from States Members of this Organisation and also the contributions to their trust funds made by various international governmental and non-governmental organisations.

Furthermore, in the sixth presbular paragraph, reference is made to recent activities **of** the centres, which have been characterised by broad co-operation on the part of all the participants in the seminars, conferences and discussions that have **been** held, highlighting the clear commitment of the States of each region to **identify** solutions for the problems affecting their respective regions.

In the preamble the General Assembly would also take note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution **44/117 F**. **In** this regard, it is a particular pleasure to recognise the enthusiastic support of the Secretary-General for the work of the centres, **particularly** through the appointment this year of the Director of the Regional Centre **in Lomé** and **the** arrangements made for the appointment of Directors of the Centres in Lima and **Kathmandu** in the near future. We are sure that these measures

(Mr. Araujo Castro, Brazil)

will constitute an important factor in the efficiency with which the centres will carry out their future activities.

With regard to ~~the~~ operative part of the draft resolution, in paragraph 1 encouragement is given to the regional centres to continue to play their important role, by means of activities which have ~~the~~ mutual agreement and interest of the States of each region, within the broader context of the World Disarmament Campaign.

In paragraph 2 the Secretary-General is **commended** for his firm support of all ~~the~~ centres, and he is requested to continue his **efforts** to pursue the **full** implementation of the **provisions** of resolution **44/117 F**.

Paragraph 3 contains an appeal to **Member** States and also to international governmental and non-governmental organisations to continue to contribute to the trust funds of all the regional **centres** and thus to ensure the efficient **functioning** of those institutions.

As will **be** seen from a **reading** of the draft we are presenting to the **Committee** today, this **text**, sponsored by the Group of African States **and** the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States and by an impressive **number** of Asian States, should **naturally command a consensus**, and therefore we hope that it will be adopted **without** a vote.

~~The~~ **CHAIRMAN**: the representative of **Hungary**, who will introduce draft resolution **A/C.1/45/L.38**.

On. TOTI (Hungary): the delegations of Australia, Austria, **the Byelorussian SSR, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Germany, Hungary, Iran, the Netherlands, Sweden and the Ukrainian SSR**, I have the honour to introduce draft resolution **A/C.1/45/L.38**, untitled "Prohibition of attacks on nuclear facilities",

(Mr. Toth, Hungary)

The list of sponsors clearly indicates that the issue of **the** prohibition of attacks on nuclear facilities and the resulting massive release of radioactivity is a continuous source of concern for countries of different regions, of different size and with differing population density. **They** commonly share the belief that **the issue** of a ban on attacks on certain **nuclear** facilities is an **independent** problem, requiring an autonomous method of searching for solutions. In recent years numerous resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and the General Conference of the **International Atomic Energy Agency**, as well as documents of the Third and Fourth **Review Conferences** of the **States** Parties to the Treaty on **the** Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, have addressed the problem.

The present draft resolution is submitted in the hope that the question asked more and more frequently about **the** issue is not whether **there** is a need **for** such a prohibition but how it can be achieved. **The** draft sets this forth in a moderate and reasonable **manner** and **tries** to offer a way out of the existing impasse.

Up to now no substantial progress has been achieved, in multilateral **disarmament** negotiations, on the issue of the prohibition of attacks on nuclear facilities. Through long years of debate **the** Conference on Disarmament has not been able to work out more than a fragile framework of a convention, with no progress on **the** basic substantial **problems**. The parallel handling of both the **question** of radiological weapons in the traditional sense and **the** issue of the prohibition of attacks on nuclear facilities proved to **be** unsuccessful.

Some recent positive developments, however, raise our **expectations** that **prospects** for a prohibition of attacks on nuclear facilities might be changing favourably. **East-West confrontation is fading** away quickly, **giving way to** a **new** form of partnership and **co-operation**. The Convention on **Early** Notification of a **Nuclear** Accident and the Convention on **Assistance** in the Case of a Nuclear Accident

(Mr. Toth, Hungary)

or Radiological Emergency are ample proofs of the growing recognition of the **extreme** dangers posed by major releases of radioactive material. In **the** field Of disarmament, the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and **Shorter-Range** Missiles and the strategic arms reduction negotiations are politically important steps that hold out promising prospects. With an agreement on conventional armed forces in Europe soon in place and negotiations on tactical nuclear weapons in sight. the raison d'être for keeping some dreadful military options still open is **fast vanishing**. It is no mere accident, but a reflection of these positive trends, that the **question** of the prohibition of attacks **on** nuclear facilities has been dealt with in a forward-looking manner at **the** review conferences on the **non-proliferation Treaty**.

The draft resolution that is now **presented** builds upon the relevant achievements of the Fourth Review **Conference** of the Parties **to the Treaty** on the Non-Proliferation **of** Nuclear Weapons. Participants in **the** Conference reiterated **that** parties are both entitled to enjoy and obliged to respect the right to the peaceful **use** of nuclear energy. This provision and the responsibilities **of the** nuclear-weapon States towards those countries which have undertaken not to develop **nuclear** weapons imply the unhampered functioning of safeguarded nuclear facilities as well. Many **delegations** shared the view that providing such **assurances** to **the States** parties would **strengthen** the **régime** itself and **make** it more attractive for States not yet parties to that arrangement.

Despite the lack of agreement on a final declaration, the Conference witnessed **an** intensive debate on that issue. The general approach of the participating **States** was fairly receptive, which **indicates** the possibility of **further** progress. **The** draft of the final document addressed the issue **in** a forward-oriented and constructive manner, inter alia, by inviting the participants to consider the idea

(Mr. Toth, Hungary)

of a separate diplomatic conference in order to strengthen the existing regulations of international humanitarian law. It is worth recalling that there has been a consensus in favour of this part of the draft, a fact regarded by many as a significant development. We should like to preserve that consensus and make key elements of it more and more acceptable to countries which happened to be outside the framework of the Conference.

(Mr. Toth, Hungary)

On behalf of the sponsors let me express once again our commitment to the issue of the protection of nuclear facilities and reiterate the conviction that in the present circumstances the early solution of this question is both necessary and possible. We believe that the idea of an autonomous diplomatic conference, combined with such important steps as bilateral and multilateral confidence-building measures and the review of military policies should be given a chance to prove its timeliness. We also believe that a thorough consideration of this idea will open up hopeful prospects for finding appropriate solutions to the problem of prohibiting attacks on nuclear facilities which could lead to massive destruction because of the release of radioactivity.

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the representative of China to introduce draft resolutions **A/C.1/45/L.6** and L.7.

Mr. HOU Zhitong (China) (interpretation from Chinese): **I** wish to introduce to the First Committee two draft resolutions submitted by the Chinese delegation - namely, draft resolution **A/C.1/45/L.7**, under agenda item 56 **(e)**, concerning nuclear disarmament: and draft resolution **A/C.1/45/L.6**, under agenda item 56 **(d)**, concerning conventional disarmament.

According to resolutions of the General Assembly and its special sessions **on** disarmament, while general and complete disarmament is the fundamental target of the international community, nuclear disarmament enjoys priority on the disarmament agenda, and conventional disarmament is also an important task in the field of disarmament. This is affirmed **and** emphasized once again in the draft Declaration of **the** 1990s as the Third Disarmament Decade, which was formulated by the United **Nations** Disarmament Commission this year and will soon be adopted by the current session of the General Assembly.

The Government of China has **all** along pursued an independent foreign policy **of** peace and has made, together with other members of the international community,

(Mr. **Hou Zhitona**, China)

unswerving efforts to seek general and complete disarmament and safeguard international peace and security. In order to promote the **realization** of nuclear and conventional disarmament, China has for four years running submitted draft resolutions concerning nuclear **and** conventional disarmament, which have been adopted by consensus by the General Assembly, thus reflecting the common aspiration of the international community on these two major issues. On behalf of the Chinese delegation, I wish to take this opportunity to express once again our sincere thanks to all other delegations for their support, co-operation and joint endeavours over the years.

At present the world is undergoing profound **and** tremendous changes and is faced with new challenges and **opportunities**. Since the last session of the General Assembly, and thanks to bilateral, regional and global endeavours, further progress has been made or is being made in the fields of nuclear and conventional disarmament. This is most welcome. At the same time, we should be aware of the fact **that** the world today **is** not tranquil and the arms race is far from being checked. In the field of disarmament, important tasks have yet to be fulfilled and the international community still has a long way to **go**. All this requires unrelenting efforts and further contributions by all Member States. As is correctly pointed out in the draft Declaration of the 1990s as the Third Disarmament Decade, in the new decade

"**In** the nuclear field, we must **continue** urgently to seek early reductions in, and the eventual elimination of, nuclear weapons" (A/45/42, para. 35, quoting para. 10.4)

an3

"**In** the **conventional** field, we must seek reductions in arms and armed forces in all areas of the world and, in particular, where levels of concentrations of armaments are highest." (ibid.)

(Mr. Hou Zhitou, China)

Therefore, this year China has decided to submit once again two draft resolutions concerning nuclear and conventional disarmament respectively. We sincerely hope, in concerted efforts with all other Member States and building upon what has been achieved, to try to maintain and further enhance the positive trend of disarmament and strive for more and greater progress.

In order to attain this common goal, the Chinese delegation has, in an active and practical manner and with a constructive and co-operative attitude, carried out extensive consultations with various countries. Long before submitting these two draft resolutions we had sought the opinions of various parties concerning them. We tried our best to accept all positive and reasonable suggestions. This has helped to make the content of these two draft resolutions positive and substantial, as well as balanced and practical, thereby better reflecting the actual progress and present situation in the field of disarmament. The two draft resolutions, namely, documents **A/C.1/45/L.6** and **A/C.1/45/L.7**, which are before representatives, are the result of repeated consultations between China and various parties.

It is clear that these two texts have many meritorious features. For example, both of them have been formulated on the basis of, and without substantial changes in, the two resolutions adopted by consensus at the last session of the General Assembly. Their purposes and themes are exactly the same as last year. Secondly, the new texts are in conformity with the principled position of the non-aligned States and the basic contents of the relevant draft resolutions submitted by them. The new drafts endorse the results achieved by the United Nations Disarmament Commission this year and adopt terms used in that Commission's consensus documents.

Furthermore, these draft **resolutions** give expression to the new changes in Soviet-United States and East-West relations, and take note of and welcome the further progress made in the bilateral negotiations on reduction of strategic weapons as well as in the negotiations on conventional disarmament in Europe. The

(Mr. Hou Zhitong, China)

wording of the operative part of **the draft** resolution on conventional disarmament is also improved.

I should like to state that in support of the efforts to reform and rationalise the work of the First Committee we shall consider, if circumstances permit in the future, staggering these two draft resolutions on a two-year basis. This is reflected in the last operative paragraphs in both texts now before the Committee.

(Mr. Hou Zhitong, China)

Pacts over the past few years have proved that China submits these two draft resolutions for the purpose **of** working with the international community to promote further progress on the two important issues of nuclear and conventional disarmament with a view to making new contributions to the maintenance of international peace and security in a joint effort. We hope that our good will and co-operative spirit will be met with full understanding and a positive response from various parties and that these two draft resolutions will enjoy continued support by all delegations this year and be adopted again by consensus by the Committee at the current session of the General Assembly so as to demonstrate the common aspiration and determination of the international community.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the representative of Yugoslavia to introduce draft resolutions **A/C.1/45/L.4** and **A/C.1/45/L.5**.

Mr. KOTEVSKI (Yugoslavia): It is my great pleasure, on behalf of the members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, to introduce two draft resolutions, entitled "Relationship between disarmament and development" (**A/C.1/45/L.4**) and '*Bilateral nuclear-arms negotiations*' (**A/C.1/45/L.5**).

The proposed draft resolution on the relationship between disarmament and development (**A/C.1/45/L.4**) is primarily **of** a procedural nature. **Its** purpose is to welcome the report of the Secretary-General and the actions taken in accordance with the Final Document **of** the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development and to request the Secretary-General to continue to take action aimed at implementing the action programme adopted at the Conference in 1987.

In the draft resolution the Secretary-General is requested to submit a report to **the** General Assembly at its forty-sixth session and to include this item in the provisional agenda of the next session.

(Mr. Kotevski, Yuaoslavia)

The non-aligned countries, **on** whose behalf I am introducing this draft resolution, attach exceptional importance to this issue, particularly in view of the current international circumstances, which provide realistic prospects for further implementation **of** the action programme adopted at the International Conference. In that context I would like to point out once again that the Heads of State **or** Government stressed in the Declaration **of** the ninth summit **of** non-aligned countries in Belgrade that

"The close relationship between disarmament and development must be seen as a contribution to the wider efforts to give precedence to economic development over the priorities imposed by the dangerous and irrational race for military might". (A/44/551, p. 10. para. 5)

Since this is an issue of exceptional importance, we earnestly hope that the Committee will adopt the proposed text without a vote.

In introducing the other draft resolution (**A/C.1/45/L.5**) related to the bilateral nuclear-arms negotiations between the Soviet Union and the United States, I should like to emphasize that this question has been at the centre of the attention of the non-aligned countries ever since the inception of our Movement. The great importance we have always attached to it is attested to by the fact that, as long ago as at their first summit **Conference** in Belgrade in the now-distant year of 1961, the non-aligned countries sent their first messages to Prime Minister Khrushchev and President Kennedy, in which they, inter alia, requested the Soviet Union and the United States to

"renew their negotiations so as to remove the danger of war **in** the world and enable mankind to embark upon the road of peace".

By the signing, ratification and implementation of the Treaty on the **Elimination** of Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles (**INF** Treaty), and by other steps they have taken in the field **of** bilateral disarmament, the Soviet Union

(Mr. Kotevski, Yugoslavia)

and the United States have demonstrated that they **have** indeed embarked **upon** that road. Their negotiations on disarmament should therefore be welcomed and commended.

In the draft resolution we place particular emphasis on **the** importance of the joint statement made by the Presidents of the Soviet Union and the United States on 1 **June** 1990, wherein they reiterated their resolve to conclude the START agreement as soon as possible. We also emphasise the importance **of** the signing and ratification of the Protocols to the 1974 and 1976 nuclear-test-ban Treaties.

The draft resolution deals also with the need for reaching **new** agreements in other fields of disarmament, particularly in connection with a nuclear-test ban and **the** prevention of an arms race in outer space.

At the same time, besides the indisputably positive effects those negotiations have on the overall process of disarmament, the non-aligned countries on whose behalf I am speaking wish at this time to point out again **the** inseparable link between bilateral and multilateral negotiations; they should be complementary and each **should** promote **the other**. In the opinion **of** the non-aligned countries, disarmament cannot be achieved unless all countries, irrespective **of** their size and might, are included in **this** process.

Bearing this in mind as well as the aforementioned facts, we call upon the Soviet Union and the United States, in addition to continuing the process that has been initiated, to inform other States Members of the United Nations regularly of all new substantive developments and breakthroughs in the process of bilateral disarmament.

In conclusion, I should like to point out that we are continuing intensive consultations with **the** group of countries sponsoring draft resolution **A/C.1/45/L.35** and other interested delegations. We hope that **our** further joint **efforts** will bear fruit and that we shall be able to agree this **year** on a single text, **for we** believe

(Mr. Kotevski. Yugoslavia)

that in the **present** international **circumstances** and in view of the comprehensive changes, the international community ought to have a joint position on such an important issue as the bilateral nuclear-arms negotiations.

The CHAIRMAN: I call now on the representative of Peru, who will introduce draft decision **A/C.1/45/L.48.**

Mr. BELLINA (Peru) (interpretation **from** Spanish): My delegation has the honour of submitting **to** the First Committee draft decision **A/C.1/45/L.48**, entitled "Conventional disarmament on a regional scale".

The international community has, we believe, honoured Peru by explicitly **recognizing**, on various occasions, my country's peace-loving nature, and in particular Peruvian initiatives to promote regional disarmament. These fall within the purview **of** the deeply held commitment of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to the principles and norms of the Charter of the United Nations and the firm will of the Latin Americans to eliminate **for** ever the use or the threat of the use of force, which disrupts relations between States.

This has been **demonstrated** by important milestones, such as the Ayacucho Declaration **of** 1974, the Esquipulas Agreements, the Acapulco Commitment, the Galapagos Declaration, and the Machupicchu **Act** of the Presidents of the **Andean** countries.

Our region is not **among** the most armed. We can say with pride that in Latin America and the Caribbean there are no sophisticated instruments of mass destruction and death that have brought mankind to the brink of annihilation. Our problems are of a different nature.

Hence, it is unacceptable that while we Latin Americans are struggling to **provide** our peoples with a decent life, powerful weapons **of mass** destruction are being developed and perfected in other parts of the world, swallowing up the

(Mr. Bellina, Peru)

financial **resources** necessary to the **development** and well-being of all **peoples**. Development, peace, well-being and **security are** diametrically **opposed** to the dangerous arms race. This **is** a contradiction that **knows** no **limits**, and it would be **an** error to try to restrict it to a **single region in** a closely interdependent world.

That is why we view with **deep satisfaction** the special recognition accorded recently to **the** processes of regional **disarmament**. It **is** this recognition that has enabled **my** delegation to **work** closely with **the** delegation of Belgium in preparing the **text** that has been **issued** as document A/C.1/45/L.44. We **believe** that **this** effort restates our goal of greater co-operation and joint activities in the future.

(Mr. Bellina, Peru)

Similarly, and on the basis of the principles and objectives that have been mentioned, my country is co-sponsoring the draft resolution contained in document **A/C.1/45/L.51**. That draft resolution was submitted by the delegation of Pakistan, a country with which Peru has on many occasions had the honour **of** making common cause, particularly in the **field** of regional disarmament.

It is in this context that Peru is submitting the draft decision contained in document **A/C.1/45/L.48**, which is designed to keep the topic of conventional disarmament at the regional level on the provisional agenda for the next session of the General Assembly. We have taken into consideration the important developments that have occurred in this field and the **growing** possibility of this item's being dealt **with** at the next session of the Disarmament Commission. This would enable us to formulate the relevant document on the basis **of** that progress.

Similarly, by this draft decision the General Assembly **would** welcome the report of the Secretary-General containing the views that various States have **expressed on** the item, and would invite those States that had not yet done so to convey their **views** to the Secretary-General. It would be very helpful to this Committee in its work, as well as to the Disarmament Commission in the work that it is doing, if this item were included on the agenda for 1991.

My delegation is convinced of the importance **of** the views **of all** Member States in this connection as an essential element in the international community's efforts to give well-balanced and fair consideration to all aspects of conventional disarmament in the regional process.

As the Committee can see, the text that my delegation is submitting is procedural in nature. **Therefore**, we hope that it will be adopted without a vote. **We** intend next year to assume the same sincere and respectful attitude in working with **other** delegations on the preparation of a **text** that will reflect the broadest **possible** participation.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the representative of Iraq to introduce the draft resolution contained in document **A/C.1/45/L.11.**

Mr. MALIK (Iraq) (interpretation from Arabic): Under item 58 (c) of the agenda - Prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of radiological weapons, it is **my** privilege to introduce, on behalf of the delegations of Jordan, Yemen and Iraq, the draft resolution contained in document **A/C.1/45/L.11.**

Although man began to identify the dangers of radioactivity, through exposure to its effects, since the **d.**discovery of X-rays - long before the beginning of the atomic age in 1938 and the resultant awareness **of** the phenomenon **of** radioactivity - awareness of those dangers to man and the environment increased tremendously with the rise in radioactivity following the rush to conduct nuclear tests in the atmosphere in most parts of the globe.

That increasing concern **over** the effects **c#** radioactivity on the health of **man** and on the safety of the environment was one of the important factors that led to the prohibition of nuclear testing in the atmosphere.

The efforts of the international community in that respect did not stop at that. They included the quest, in the context of multilateral negotiations in the **Confer**ence on Disarmament and in the United Nations, to conclude an **international convention** to prohibit the development, production, stockpiling and use of radiological weapons as such weapons are **extremely** injurious and non-discriminatory instruments of **mass** destruction.

Those efforts **were** coupled with the increasing awareness that such a convention would be incomplete if it were not to take into account the prohibition of military attacks against operational nuclear facilities that contain radioactive nuclear materials, as such attacks, inevitably, would **cause** the release into the atmosphere of huge amounts of radioactive material and thus cause a situation that

(Mr. Malik. Iraq)

would be similar to the consequences of a nuclear war, even if the attack were made with conventional weapons.

Sweden has **crystallized** this international conviction in the proposal, submitted at the Conference on Disarmament in 1980, in which it called for widening **of the framework of the** Geneva Protocol of 1977, annexed to the Geneva Convention of 1949, to include ~~the~~ prohibition of attacks on nuclear facilities, ~~on~~ the grounds that **such attacks would result** in the release of dangerous materials.

In the aftermath of the military attack by Israel against the Tammuz reactor in 1981, the group of experts appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General presented their report in 1983. In that report they stated the following:

"intentional destruction, by either conventional or nuclear weapons, of nuclear power plants and some other kinds of nuclear installations might cause the release into the environment of huge amounts of radioactive material and **may result** in radioactive **contamination** of large areas.

"**An** attack on nuclear facilities could have grave consequences not only for the State subjected to ~~such~~ an attack, but also for neighbouring States, **since** the radioactive material released by an attack might travel far beyond the borders of the State attacked." (A/38/337, p. 32)

The draft resolution contained in document **A/C.1/45/L.11** is very similar to that which was adopted by the First Committee last year. The fact that the same issue is being put forward again this year **is** an indication of our serious concern over the lack of progress at the Conference on Disarmament towards the prohibition of military attacks against nuclear facilities. We hope that this concern will be **reflected in the First Committee by adoption of** this draft resolution.

Operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution reaffirms that armed attacks of any kind against nuclear facilities are tantamount to the use of radiological

(~~Mr. Malik, Iraq~~)

weapons. **This** is a fact that became **crystal** clear after **the deplorable incident at Chernobyl**. **On that** occasion, **the** whole world experienced **the transboundary effects** of environmental pollution in varying **degrees**,

Operative **paragraph 2 once again requests** the Conference on Disarmament to **intensify further** its efforts to conclude at the earliest possible date **an** agreement prohibiting **armed** attacks **against** nuclear facilities.

(Mr. Malik, Iraq)

Operative paragraph 3 requests again the International Atomic **Energy Agency** to provide the Conference on Disarmament with the technical studies that could facilitate the conclusion of such an agreement.

The International Atomic Energy Agency is the body that is technically qualified to present such studies. It has wide experience and expertise as a result of the role it has played in following up the different nuclear incidents **that have taken** place in numerous parts of the industrialised world. After the Chernobyl incident it was able to formulate two international conventions in record **time - that is, the convention** on early notification **of** nuclear accidents and the convention on the provision of assistance in the case of a nuclear accident or radiological **emergency**. Therefore, it would be unreasonable not to use such **valuable expertise to help** the work of the Conference on Disarmament.

The **CHAIRMAN**: I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. **KHERADI** (Secretary of the Committee): I wish to inform the Committee that the following countries have become sponsors of the following draft resolutions: **A/C.1/45/L.15**, Costa Rica; **L.46**, Singapore; L.49, Costa Rica; **L.51**, Turkey and Norway; L.53, Portugal; and L.54, New Zealand.

The meeting rose at 11.35 a.m.