

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**
THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION
*Official Records**



COPY:
DO NOT REMOVE
FROM ROOM
1-201 (NW/PR)

FIRST COMMITTEE
31st meeting
held on
Thursday, 11 November 1982
at 11.30 a.m.
New York

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 31ST MEETING

Chairman: Mr. GBEHO (Ghana)

CONTENTS

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF MR. LEONID ILYICH BREZHNEV, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE SOVIET UNION, PRESIDENT OF THE PRESIDUM OF THE SUPREME SOVIET OF THE SOVIET UNION

DISARMAMENT ITEMS

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

Draft resolutions were introduced by:

- Mrs. Thorsson (Sweden) - A/C.1/37/L.17
- Mr. Thielicke (German Democratic Republic) - A/C.1/37/L.15

UN LIBRARY

NOV 16 1982

UN/SA COLLECTION

* 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.31
13 November 1982

ENGLISH

The meeting was called to order at 12 noon

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF MR. LEONID ILYICH BREZHNEV, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE
GENERAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE SOVIET UNION, PRESIDENT
OF THE PRESIDUM OF THE SUPREME SOVIET OF THE SOVIET UNION

The CHAIRMAN: It is with an overwhelming sense of loss that the international community has received the news of the passing away of the Soviet leader, Mr. Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

During his stewardship, which spanned two decades and covered a period punctuated by grave international crises as well as unprecedented developments, especially in the field of armaments and disarmament, Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev demonstrated an extraordinary wisdom, based on a remarkable understanding of human nature and a capacity for restraint, without which our uncertain world would probably have been worse off today than it actually is. Rarely has one leader contributed so much to détente as did Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev. I believe I speak for the international community in stating that we have indeed lost a world citizen and a leader whose tremendous impact on the international scene will be measured only in the fullness of time.

In extending our sincere condolences to the Government and people of the Soviet Union we wish to express our conviction that his great people, in continued co-operation with other world Powers, big and small, will labour tirelessly to build upon the foundations of détente until true peace is achieved for all mankind. That, we believe, will be a true tribute to all men of good will and a tribute that we can all pay to this great man. I would therefore like, on behalf of the First Committee of the General Assembly and its officers, as well as on my own behalf, to convey to the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics our heartfelt condolences on the death of his country's great leader, Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev.

(The Chairman)

I now request the members of the Committee to stand and observe a minute's silence in tribute to the memory of this great leader.

The representatives, standing, observed a minute's silence.

The CHAIRMAN: I call upon the representative of the United Kingdom, current Chairman of the Group of West European and Other States.

Mr. CROMARTIE (United Kingdom): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of West European and Other States. The members of our group learned with sorrow this morning of the death yesterday of Mr. Leonid Brezhnev, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union and General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. For 18 years President Brezhnev led his people, a people with whom all the members of my group have close and long-standing ties. He was a great figure on the world stage and he will be much missed. On behalf of the members of the Group of West European and Other States, I convey my group's sincere condolences to the delegation of the Soviet Union and to the Soviet people in their great loss.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call upon the representative of Argentina, the current Chairman of the Group of Latin American States.

Mr. CARASALES (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): I am speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin American States, of which my country is Chairman for the month of November. We learned with sincere sorrow of the death of the President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union and General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev.

This is not the time to embark on an eulogy of the personal qualities of the General Secretary of the Communist Party and President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev nor of the manner in which he has conducted the international relations of his country, one of the two world super-Powers, in the last two decades. There is no doubt that he was a dominate figure in the world arena and that his personality has left a strong imprint which only history will enable us to appreciate at its true value.

(Mr. Carasales, Argentina)

On this sad occasion I simply wish, on behalf of the Latin American countries and my own country, Argentina, in particular, to pay a tribute to the memory of President Brezhnev and to convey to the Government and people of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics our sincere condolences on his death.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the representative of Bulgaria, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States.

Mr. GARVALOV (Bulgaria) (interpretation from Russian): In my capacity as Acting Chairman of the Group of Eastern European States I wish on its behalf to convey to the delegations of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, and through them to the Government and people of the Soviet Union, our deep and heartfelt condolences over the death of the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev.

This tragic loss to the Soviet people is shared by all those in the world who hold peace dear. Together with the Soviet people we mourn the loss of that great statesman, whose life and work were devoted to the well-being of the Soviet Union and to the happiness of people throughout the world. Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev was an outstanding statesman and leader of the Soviet State, a worthy successor to the great tradition of Lenin. Throughout his life he worked as a soldier and a statesman. During the 18 years that he headed the Soviet State and the Communist Party the Soviet Union achieved important success in all areas of life.

Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev was a great fighter for peace, co-operation and mutual understanding among peoples, and his achievements earned him the respect and tribute of all peoples of this planet. The ideas he advocated led to important processes promoting world development and peaceful progress in the world. His name will forever be linked with detente, the disarmament efforts and the development of wide-ranging mutually beneficial co-operation among all countries of the world.

(Mr. Garvalov, Bulgaria)

Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev will always be part of history as a great humanist who fought for peace and made a tremendous contribution to averting a horrible nuclear war and to ensuring peace and security throughout the world.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the representative of Democratic Yemen, who will speak on behalf of the Asian States.

Mr. AL-ALFI (Democratic Yemen) (interpretation from Arabic): On this very sad occasion, I wish, on behalf of the Asian Group of States in this Committee, to express our profound sorrow at the loss of Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

The world had lost a champion of peace, disarmament and understanding in the world, a man who worked for the right of peoples everywhere to enjoy prosperity in a climate of peace and security.

In conveying our sincere and heartfelt condolences to the delegation of the Soviet Union in this Committee, we wish also to express to the Soviet people our sorrow upon this great loss to the whole world and to affirm that the noble principles for which President Brezhnev struggled throughout his life will continue to be fought for by us in order to promote the complete fulfilment of his ideals.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the representative of Cuba.

Mr. NUNEZ MOSQUERA (Cuba) (interpretation from Spanish): I wish to convey to the delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics the sincere condolences of the Cuban delegation on the death of the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, Comrade Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev.

The passing of Comrade President Brezhnev is a great loss not only to the Soviet people and Government but also to the cause of disarmament and peace throughout the world. Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev was an indefatigable champion of peace in keeping with the Leninist principle of peaceful coexistence. His death fills us with sorrow, and our only consolation is that we are working in a field of activity to which he devoted his life and all his efforts: disarmament, peace and international security.

The CHAIRMAN: I call next on the representative of Morocco who will speak on behalf of the Arab Group in the First Committee.

Mr. RAHHALI (Morocco) (interpretation from Arabic): The Arab Group in the First Committee learned with great sorrow of the death of the late President Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, who presided over the affairs of the Soviet State and people for nearly two decades with great wisdom and perception.

On behalf of the Arab Group in the First Committee I wish to extend to the delegations of the Soviet Union, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic our most sincere and heartfelt condolences. The Arab delegations share this great loss of the people of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics upon the death of Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev, who devoted his entire life to the cause of his people and to the promotion of their well-being and that of other peoples of this planet.

(Mr. Rahhali, Morocco)

Over the last two decades when the late President presided over the affairs of his people, the Soviet Union made great progress and the role of the Soviet Union in consolidating friendly relations with countries in the international community broadened considerably. We too mourn the loss of this great man and we would request the Soviet delegation and the delegations of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic to convey to their Governments our most sincere condolences.

Mr. SREENIVASAN (India): India wishes to join the previous speakers in conveying to the delegation of the USSR and to the Government and people of the Soviet Union our heartfelt condolences and sympathy on the demise of President Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev.

President Brezhnev was not only a great architect of the Soviet Union and a beloved leader of the Soviet people, but also a great world statesman and an ardent champion of peace. We in the First Committee have a special reason to feel a sense of deep sorrow because of the great contributions that President Brezhnev has made to the cause of disarmament and international security. In a tribute to President Brezhnev paid earlier this morning, the Prime Minister of India, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, said the following:

"The world has lost an outstanding statesman, the Soviet Union a great architect and the people of India a valued friend. President Brezhnev's life was one of unusual dedication, tenacity and achievement. He directed the strength and creative spirit of the Soviet people towards peace and the task of ensuring a world where nations could live in amity. His initiatives towards détente enabled the community of nations to overcome many difficult crises. The history of the last two decades bears his impress.

"I have had the privilege of knowing him for many years. Indo-Soviet friendship and co-operation grew and achieved maturity during President Brezhnev's time. He showed consistent understanding of our problems and stood by us in our moments of need. He had a strong personality and was imbued with sturdy realism.

"To the Government and the people of the Soviet Union I offer profound sympathy and condolences from the Government and people of India."

Mr. KOROMA (Sierra Leone): I would, on behalf of the African Group, like to express our heartfelt condolences to the Soviet delegation on the passing away of President Brezhnev.

President Brezhnev, as we all know, was a tireless fighter in the cause of peace and in upholding the principles of the United Nations and détente. We in the African continent are particularly grateful to President Brezhnev and to the Soviet people for the enormous sacrifices they have made in the cause of African freedom.

On this sad occasion, I should again like to express to the Soviet delegation the African Group's heartfelt condolences in this their hour of loss.

Mr. ISSRAELYAN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): On behalf of the delegation of the Soviet Union, the delegation of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the delegation of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, I wish to express our great appreciation to you, Mr. Chairman, and to all those delegations and to my colleagues who have extended to us their condolences both here in this open meeting and in person over the death of the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev.

The many activities and great destiny of Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev are indissolubly linked with the most important stages in the history of our State. He played an extremely important role in the shaping and pursuit of our foreign policy, our policy of peace and peaceful coexistence, détente, disarmament, prevention of a nuclear catastrophe and rejection of a policy of aggression and war.

In this hour of loss the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, the Soviet State addressed a message to the Communist Party and the Soviet people which stated:

"The internal and external policy of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, drafted under the leadership of Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev, will continue to be pursued consistently and in a manner aimed at its true goals."
Once again, I would thank you.

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

Mrs. THORSSON (Sweden): Having served as the Chairman of the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development during its three years of work, 1978 to 1981, it is with great satisfaction that I now introduce draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.17 submitted by the delegations of Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Ireland, Iceland, Jamaica, Mexico, Norway, Pakistan, Romania, Sri Lanka, Venezuela and my own delegation. I am happy to announce that the delegations of Greece and Nepal have joined the list of sponsors.

I should like to start with some general remarks related to the subject which is now before this session of the General Assembly as agenda item 136.

It is a fact too well known to all of us that we experience an economic crisis that is worldwide and deepening. As The New York Times so aptly titled an editorial some weeks ago, "There is only one planet, one recession". And let me quote the New Republic of 8 November: "The man down the block who lost his job last week - he's global."

This crisis is plaguing the Europeans more than the Americans, the people of the third world infinitely more than the Europeans. It is, as the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Shridath Ramphal stated at a meeting in Tokyo some weeks ago, "a crisis of contraction", the symbols of which are deepening poverty, mounting unemployment, massive debts and payment deficits, collapsed commodity prices and a rising barricade of protectionism. And, as Sir Shridath concluded, its political fall-out could be an era of instability that alters the political geography of the world and unleashes tensions of apocalyptic dimensions. Not only our economic life but also our political structures will be convulsed if we do not face up as an international community to the urgent need for moving towards global management of the world economy and of its recovery.

These words of Shridath Rampal come close to one of the main conclusions of the report of the Group of Governmental Experts, and I quote:

"The co-operative management of interdependence can be in the economic and security interests of all States." (A/36/356, p. 161, para. 392)

(Mrs. Thorsson, Sweden)

It seems to me of the utmost importance that we identify the various factors behind the mounting world economic crises. The Group tried to do its part in these necessary efforts, stating that the world can either continue to pursue the arms race with characteristic vigour or it can move consciously towards a more sustainable international economic and political order. It cannot do both. Thus, the continued arms race and the ongoing world economic crisis move around in a vicious circle, closing in on each other with increasing firmness. The arms race is, in other words, one crucial factor behind the present crisis, affecting growth and productivity, employment and inflation, international trade and monetary systems and, thus, development.

As the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Mr. Bradford Morse, said in his statement during the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament last summer, after having referred to the process during the 1970s of assembling a full picture of the total economic, social and environmental condition of our planet through a series of United Nations conferences and General Assembly special sessions:

"I submit that, with the report on disarmament and development now added to our knowledge, this special session closes the chapter of contemporary world history during which it could be claimed that we did not know enough to perceive what we were threatening to do with our precious heritage." (A/S-12/PV.24, p. 62)

Let me give just a few concrete examples of what the arms race means, in quantity and quality, to the way in which we use human and material resources for negative and destructive or for positive and constructive purposes. In doing so, I should first like, in reading a quotation, to pay homage to a champion for disarmament throughout an extraordinarily long lifetime, a man second to none in grasping the realities of the arms race, a man who was very much with us during the second special session devoted to disarmament, a man who died some weeks ago at the age of 92, Lord Noel-Baker. At a conference in London in January 1977, he said:

(Mrs. Thorsson, Sweden)

"There are more than a thousand million men and women in the world who cannot read or write or do the simplest sum. Their illiteracy helps all too powerfully to keep them poor. It prevents the rural proletariat from learning and applying the known agricultural techniques which would double their crops and change their lives. Illiteracy bars their path to social, cultural and political progress.

"Yet, if the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) were given a fund of \$200 million for a worldwide literacy campaign, it could free every nation from this evil handicap. \$200 million is approximately the price of two strategic bombers of the latest type."

And Lord Noel-Baker continued:

"The nations of the third world suffer grievously from diseases which have disappeared from the 'developed' West. Malaria still kills great numbers and weakens millions more so that their productive output is reduced. Trachoma is very simple to cure but, if untreated, it makes the victim blind, his life a burden to himself and him a burden to society. Leprosy makes its victims segregated social outcasts. Yaws, a diet-deficiency disease, covers the body with running sores, makes a man unfit for work or play and allows him no real rest.

"These four diseases impose a heavy load of economic loss and human suffering in the third world. Yet all of them are easily preventable. The World Health Organization (WHO) could eliminate them - wipe them out now and for the future - for an expenditure of \$500 million, about the cost of one aircraft carrier."

In considering these facts, we should keep in mind that the industrial countries are responsible for 95 per cent of military industrial production.

(Mrs. Thorsson, Sweden)

Furthermore, speaking of the way in which human resources are used in qualitative terms for military purposes, that is, in military research and development, it has been pointed out that the research budget of the Defense Department of the United States has been increased by 26 per cent, while that of the National Center for Health Services Research has been cut by 45 per cent. The enormous stake invested in military research and development, 90 per cent of which is done in just four industrialized countries, is of course bound to produce results. In the 1981 edition of World Military and Social Expenditures, Ruth Leger Sivard points out that

"The World War II submarine could sink only passing ships; now a single sub can destroy 160 cities as far away as 4,000 miles."

And let me, finally, refer to the fairly traditional but effective comparisons made between financial resources available for military purposes and financial resources available for international development co-operation, this time again through the words of the UNDP Administrator in his statement to the second special session devoted to disarmament:

"All the technical co-operation UNDP has been charged to provide to developing countries over the next five years will cost less than the sum that will be consumed in world armaments expenditures in the next four days. And the shortfall which I must currently project against that five-year target represents the equivalent of what will be consumed in armaments expenditures in the next 28 hours." (Supra., p. 61)

(Mrs. Thorsson, Sweden)

Is it not time for the international community, represented by the United Nations, to do its utmost to redress these grotesque imbalances? The facts are there, the analyses and the conclusions are there. In our view it is time to make decisions.

These decisions should first and foremost be made in order to ensure that the report on the relationship between disarmament and development will not become an individual and completed project. It must represent the start of a process leading up to an effective reallocation, in a disarmament situation, of resources from military to civilian purposes.

In this connection I have noted with great appreciation the Report on the Economic and Social Consequences of the Armaments Race and its Extremely Harmful Effects on World Peace and Security, submitted by the Secretary-General as document A/37/386. It represents a valuable further step in efforts by the United Nations to show to the peoples of the world how their human and material resources are used in a way which can only increase common insecurity.

The intention of the draft resolution now before this Committee is to ensure a continual follow-up. Its operative paragraphs are based on the set of recommendations unanimously submitted by the Group of Governmental Experts in the final chapter of their report. Its preambular paragraphs put on record the history of the report, including a reference to the working paper submitted by the Nordic countries to the second special session on disarmament in document A/S-12/8, and to the fact that the Assembly decided to place it as a separate item on its agenda.

The study on the relationship between disarmament and development was the most comprehensive study ever undertaken by the United Nations in the field of disarmament. The report is based upon 40 research projects conducted in 17 countries. In addition, the expert group drew on research undertaken by such institutions as the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). The group held hearings with a number of important non-governmental organizations and it also received valuable inputs from several international conferences and seminars, among them the Sandefjord Conference in Norway in May 1980, which had a wide international participation.

(Mrs. Thorsson, Sweden)

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 36/92 G, there has been wide distribution of the report. A popular version in English was published in connection with the second special session on disarmament. It was subsequently translated into several other languages.

In operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.17 the Secretary-General is requested to take appropriate administrative action in accordance with the relevant recommendations of the group.

Operative paragraph 2 would urge Governments of Member States to consider - I would like to add: in a positive spirit - measures they would be prepared to take in order to implement all relevant recommendations contained in the final chapter of the report.

Operative paragraph 3 would have the Assembly take a decision which I consider instrumental in order to ensure an effective follow-up process. According to this paragraph the issue of reconversion - through disarmament measures - of resources from military to civilian purposes should be placed on the agenda of the General Assembly at intervals to be decided upon, starting in the year 1985.

In operative paragraph 4 the draft resolution takes up a matter of great importance, the complexity and the controversial character of which unfortunately forced the Group of Governmental Experts to recommend that it be studied further. The matter is possible modalities of an international disarmament fund for development. The recommendation of the Group should now be acted upon by using the research resources of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) in consultation with other relevant international institutions.

Finally, according to operative paragraph 5, the Secretary-General is requested to report to the thirty-eighth Assembly session on measures taken to implement the resolution.

Having worked for many years now on the disarmament-development issue, I have acquired a firm conviction that - concomitantly with the decisive multilateral negotiations along political lines - the international community will have to

(Mrs. Thorsson, Sweden)

pursue with increasing vigour the efforts for widespread recognition of the inextricable link between disarmament and development opportunities. That is true for all countries, be they market, mixed or planned economies, be they industrialized or developing. All countries have a mutual and enlightened economic self-interest in disarmament.

Before concluding, I should like to announce, again with great appreciation, one more sponsor of the present resolution namely, the delegation of Colombia.

May I add a few words on a personal note. I have made this statement with some feelings of emotion because this is most probably the last time that I shall speak in the First Committee. Over the years that I have spent here and in the Committee on Disarmament in Geneva, there has been much hard work and few results, but still, for anyone devoted to disarmament and disarmament negotiations, this Committee and the Committee on Disarmament have been the places in which to be. I am happy to have been allowed to be there during eleven sessions of the Assembly and for nine years in the Committee on Disarmament.

The CHAIRMAN: May I take this opportunity, on behalf of the Committee as a whole, to express our deep gratitude to Mrs. Inga Thorsson, not only for representing Sweden so well, but for the effort that she has put into the study of the relationship between disarmament and development and for lifting the subject from its place of neglect to one of prominence in this Committee.

I am sure that we shall see her again from time to time; as they say in disarmament, we have a way of "recurring". Some of us look forward to meeting her again, perhaps not in this Committee but in other forums, contributing as efficiently and as vibrantly as always.

Mr. THIELICKE (German Democratic Republic) (interpretation from Russian): It was with a feeling of deep sorrow that the delegation of the German Democratic Republic learned of the death of the General-Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev.

With our brothers, the Soviet people, we mourn the passing of this great statesman, whose life and work were devoted to the well-being of the Soviet people and the happiness of people throughout the world. His name will forever be indissolubly linked with the struggle to preserve peace, friendship and mutual understanding between peoples. His historic initiatives have made an indelible mark on the work of our Organization.

The people of the German Democratic Republic have lost a good friend in Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev. We should like to extend to the Soviet delegation, the delegations of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and to all Soviet comrades and friends, our deepest condolences.

(spoke in English)

I should like to introduce, also on behalf of the delegations of Afghanistan, Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, the Lao Peoples' Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Poland, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and Viet Nam, the draft resolution entitled Prohibition of Chemical and Bacteriological Weapons, contained in document A/C.1/37/L.15.

(Mr. Thielicke, German Democratic Republic)

During the debate we have had in the last few weeks in this Committee, many delegations have stressed the importance of disarmament in the field of chemical weapons. Therefore I shall confine myself to some explanations regarding the text before us. As early as 5 November, the delegation of the German Democratic Republic referred to the basic approach outlined in this draft resolution.

The sponsors of this draft resolution resolutely favour a speedy course of negotiations on a complete prohibition of chemical weapons. They support all steps aimed at a quick and successful conclusion of those negotiations.

Therefore measures should be envisaged which in a comprehensive and effective manner would promote the conclusion of a convention. This also includes refraining from any action which could escalate the chemical-arms race and undermine the negotiations in the Committee on Disarmament. At the same time the geographical spread of chemical weapons should be stopped.

These considerations are reflected in the draft resolution submitted today. In our view, it is the duty of the United Nations to examine and use any possibility of improving conditions for a comprehensive solution of the problem and of speeding up the conclusion of a convention on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and on their destruction.

From this point of view I should like to stress the following aspects of the draft resolution.

It is based on resolution 36/96 B, adopted last year. It proceeds from paragraph 75 of the Final Document of the first special session on disarmament, which is recalled in the first preambular paragraph. Furthermore, the preamble underlines the need for the speediest possible conclusion of a convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons.

Operative paragraphs 1 to 5 refer to the negotiations themselves. Just as in resolution 36/96 B, which I have just mentioned, all States are called upon to facilitate the conclusion of such a convention and to refrain from any action which could impede the corresponding negotiations. The Committee on Disarmament is urged to intensify the negotiations in the Ad Hoc Working Group on Chemical Weapons on the basis of its new mandate adopted on 18 February of this year. Furthermore, the conviction is reaffirmed that the resumption and the successful conclusion of the Soviet-American negotiations on the prohibition of chemical weapons would foster the multilateral negotiating process.

(Mr. Thielicke, German Democratic Republic)

Operative paragraphs 7 to 8 are aimed at regional measures in the interest of a complete prohibition of chemical weapons. On 5 November my delegation already explained the reasons for submitting the proposal on the establishment of chemical-weapon-free zones. Paragraph 6 appeals to all States "to consider the establishment of zones free from chemical weapons".

Thus no prefabricated solutions are in any way offered nor are positions of States prejudged. The latter are rather invited to examine this question thoroughly and to make their views known. In this connection it should always be taken into account that such collateral measures are suitable for speeding up a complete prohibition of chemical weapons.

The establishment of such zones would be up to the interested States. They themselves have to agree on the specific modalities of such a zone, that is, the determination of the geographical scope of the zone, the way to implement the project and verification measures. The Palme Commission proposed, for instance, that a chemical-weapon-free zone should be established in Europe, beginning with Central Europe.

In the view of my delegation the draft resolution before us corresponds to the interest of all States with regard to the speedy achievement of a complete prohibition of chemical weapons. Therefore we hope that it will find general support.

The CHAIRMAN: I should like to take this opportunity to once again address an appeal to all delegations that intend to submit draft resolutions to do so as soon as possible. They should be handed to the Secretariat in order to allow for an orderly introduction and for consultations and action upon them. We have 17 draft resolutions so far and we expect that there will be about 60. The Committee will therefore understand that there are many more to come and if we are to keep to our programme of work these draft resolutions should be submitted as quickly as possible so that we can deal with them.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.