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Chairman: Mr. FAHMY (Egypt) (Vice-Chairman)

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In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Fahmy (Egypt), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.35 a.m.

AGENDA ITEMS 71, 72 and 73 (continued)

GENERAL DEBATE AND CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION ON DRAFT RESOLUTIONS ON INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ITEMS

Mr. AYALA LASSO (Ecuador) (interpretation from Spanish), When we the peoples of the world decided over 44 years ago to establish the United Nations we intended to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, and we agreed that that would be the Organization's primary purpose.

Since the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security was adopted the General Assembly has kept the subject under constant consideration, thus showing recognition that an atmosphere of peace and security is the essential basis for the dynamic and effective development of policies of co-operation and for putting into effect programmes designed to attain the general well-being of peoples.

Based on an idea already ma& obsolete by serious analysis and historical events, mankind went through a stage of believing that peace and security were directly related to military capacity. That that thfnkfnq was mistaken was shown when it resulted in an arms race , which clearly demonstrated the dramatic danger that mankind had created - that of destroying his own race because of a mistake or out of madness. Weapons, especially nuclear weapons, did not contribute to establishing the peace and security that were so much desired. Rather, they created yet more serious risks tc peace.

For that reason, the international community became convinced that increasing weapons also increased distr ust between nations, and that that trend needed ta be reversed, through general and complete disarmament. My delegation today bel ieves,

(Mr. Ayala Lasso, Ecuador)

more than ever, that international peace and security can he guaranteed only through general and complete disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament, under effective international control.

There is no doubt that this is springtime for the world, a time of very important and positive events, whose significance we cannot fail to mention. Effective agreements have been reached on disarmament issues; the major Powers have announced their willingness to reduce their military forces; international tensions are beginning to diminish; and we see the possibility of long-lasting conflicts being dealt with politically. The concept of armed peace is losing its influence. There the United Nations has played an important role. It was not for nothing that last year the Blue Helmets were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Dialogue, agreement, open-mindedness, tolerance and respect for the plurality of ideas are triumphing over distrust, dogmatism, ideological struggles and blocs. Little by little societies are freeing themselves of superficial prejudices and are noting that essentially all people are equal, that we have the sane aspirations for Progress and well-being and that we want to be happy and to live in peace and security.

(Mr. Ayala Lasso, Ecuador)

The basic responsibility of facing these new realities and adapting policies to the new aspirations that are becoming evident everywhere falls upon the world s leaders, who must not ignore or misinterpret the voices of their peoples. An awareness of human solidarity means also that collect ive peace and security cannot be achieved unless they are extended to all mankind, That in turn means that We must all - large, medium-sized and small alike - contribute to that end. No one can consider himself uninvolved; everyone must make a contribution.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, addressing this issue before the General Assembly, said that

> The lack of security in the world at large, and in Latin America in particular, has many deep-rooted cuaaes. Among them are the violence in the large urban centres; the difficult situation of the peasants; the deterioration of the environment and quality of lifer poor working conditions and low pay; the stifling practices of those who wield financial power; food imbalances and unmet health needs; and the lack of opportunity for the young to use their imagination and energy. They are also to be found in the failure to make the unfair international order more democra tic, and in lack of respect for human rights and the sovereignty of nations through unjustified interference. (A/44/PV. 7, pp. 81-82)

In fact, the new concept of international security for which we must work can no longer refer only to political and military aspects. There has been an unjust delay in meeting the social needs of the masses, who are aware of the injustice and inequality they have suffered throughout history. This could pose a threat to the modern world and create an increasingly deep and unmanageable crisis. The concept of security is thus increasingly linked to the economic, social and cultural realities of our world.

(Mr. Ayala Lasso, Ecuador)

Quite rightly, the majority of countries believed that disarmament should be viewed as closely linked with development. Today more than ever we must recognize that peace and security are inseparably linked with justice. We developing countries are deeply pleased and optimistic at the new political climate. We applaud the broadened possibilities of co-operation between East and West, but we cannot fail to fear that in practice the new events may deepen differences between Worth and South and delay in&finitely the realization of the developing world s legi timate aspirations.

The countries of Eastern Europe need, and should receive, assistance to enable them to resolve their serious problems, but that shouid not mean that Latin America and the developing world in general are again left on the sidelines.

Those fears must not be realized; to that end, developed countries must understand that they will have to make a sacrifice, which might in practice mean one luxury item less so that poor peoples can have one vital morsel of bread more.

In that context, the persistence of critically poor living conditions for the vast masses of the developing world is a soc ial injustice, an endemic ill that stands in stark contradition to respect for basic human rights and a cause of national and international instability.

The foreign debt that weighs on developing countries and that forces them to choose between a policy of paying social debts for the survival of their own peoples and one of servicing and paying bank debts, is another source of national and international instability.

It is therefore indispensable to link problems of peace and security with those of development and social justice. This, if approached with intelligence, responsibility and solidarity, could strengthen confidence-building measures among nations and entrench a climate of peace and security.

(Mr. Ayala Lasso, Ecuador)

We want a security encompassing all fields of international relations, both Political and social, since threats to peace can exist in the economic and scientific fields, in ecological imbalances, in cultural, technological, financial and commercial factors, in food- and energy-production, in the lack of freedom and in violations of human rights and democracy .

When the South sees that the North is showing the will to co-operate in solidarity to solve the problems of hunger, ignorance, poverty and illness, a new environment of co-operation will omerge among all nations, The democratic spring in Europe will then have become a universal springtime of freedom.

That is the true meaning and thrust of the commitment we assumed in 1945, to turn our canons into ploughshares. That is what mankind expects of us.

For its part, Ecuador, as a member of the Andean subregion, is working together with the other countries members of the Andean group in a commitment to Peace, security and co-operation towards the elimination of force as a means of settling disputes. We reiterate our joint determination to live and work in harmony; to work together to solve problems and meet shared aspirations, thus laying the foundation for an agreed policy based on the premise that progress for all is indispensable to progress for the individual. Ecuador is determined to make every contribution to the success of that initiative. That will be Ecuador s contribution to the efforts of Latin America and the Caribbean as a region and of the continent as a whole to build new relationships, as the Foreign Minister of Ecuador stated at the recent General Assembly of the Organisation of American States.

Mr. BAYART (Mongolia) (interpretation from Russian) : Nineteen years ago, at its twenty-f i fth sess ion, the General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security and the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

Adopted respectively on the initiative of the Un ion of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Polish People s Republic, those important Declarations both encourage the international community in its effort to strengthen international peace and security and develop mutual understanding and co-operation among States.

A principal ta& is to build up the role of the United Nations in general and to ensure the primacy of the principles and purposes of the Charter in that vital area. Some of the 27 operative paragraphs of the Declaration of International Security are devoted to increasing the effectiveness of the world Organisation and its Charter.

(Mr. Bayart, Mongolia)

The Declaration revealed, for the first time, the need for a multiple approach to the strengthening of international security. It confirmed the close link between international security and disarmament, the process of decolonization, economic development, full implementation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, the expansion of international co-operation in various fields, and so on.

Consideration of the course of implementation of the goals set forth in this important document helps States to assess their policy and their practical activities in regard to international security every year. It plays a role in creating a climate conducive to a new political order - developing trends away from confrontation to co-operation. More than ever before, the situation in the world today is favourable to the implementation of the aims and principles set forth in the Declaration. Describing this situation in his report on the work of the Organization for 1989, the Secretary-General stressed that peace had gained the dimension of a multi faceted endeavour. That conduces to an increase in the role of the United Nations as a centre for harmonizing the efforts of States to strengthen international peace and security in the economic, social and other fields.

My delegation would like to note the important role the United Nations is playing in the process of the decolonization of Namibia. We are happy to note that the long struggle of the Namibian people is being crowned with the organization of its own sovereign democratic State.

Among other positive changes resulting from the new political thinking is a realistic and reasonable approach towards events and the problems of world development. The international community is coming to understand more and more the fate of all global problems and the indivisible nature of its security.

(Mr. Bayart, Mongolia)

In his statement to the General Assembly, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Mongolian People s Republic, Mr. Gombosuren, stated,

> In our view, the present positive trend is likely to succeed and to become a continuous and irreversible process. The first stones of its foundation are being hewn from very solid elements, expressing a balance of the legitimate interests of the parties in the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations. (A/44/PV. 17, p. 58)

In this context, it would be difficult to overestimate the significance of the resolution recently adopted by the General Assembly on enhancing international Peace, security and international co-operation in all its aspects in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. The main advantage of this resolution, wh ich was adopted unan imous ly , lies in the fact that it reflects international consensus on the need to develop co-operation among all States in order to Strengthen international peace and security and to strengthen the role and effectiveness of the United Nations as a centre for harmonizing those efforts.

We wish to stress the unique fact that the resolution was adopted as a result of a joint initiative of the USSR and and the United States, for the first time in the history of the United Nations. The international community duly appreciates the fact that those two Powers were at the cradle of the United Nations, and this again confirms their dedication to the ideals of the world Organization. We hope that the spirit of increasing co-operation between the USSR and the United States will he further encouraged through the forthcoming meeting between General Secretary Mi khail Gorbachev and President George Bush.

Moreover, in the resolution, the General Assembly calls on all States to intensify their practical efforts towards ensuring international peace and security in all its aspects through co-operative means in accordance with the Charter of the Uni ted Na t ions.

(Mr. Bayart, Mongolia)

We should like to stress the phrase "to intensify their practical efforts". Such urgent efforts in accordance with the Charter are required for the speedy settlement of conflicts in the Middle East, in South and South-East Asia and in Central America. The international community has a right to expect that, from now on, there will be an end to measures that obstruct the political settlement of crisis situations in Palestine, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Cambodia, Nicaragua and Panama, in the interest of peace and security in those areas.

In the liqht of the stormy events in Europe, the need to maintain stability and strengthen security on the continent requires that all States act in conformity with the Charter and abstain from any action that runs counter to the interests of peace, democracy and soaial progress in Europe.

The general debate in the plenary Assembly and in the First Committee significantly enriched the arsenal of new ideas and proposals on matters relating to international co-operation to ensure security. We are happy to note that life confirms the timely topical nature of the question raised by socialist States concerning a complex, multifaceted approach to ensuring international security, and to working out a global concept of security on the basis of the purposes and Principles of the Charter.

The Chairman of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, Mr. Drnovsek, in his statement to the General Assembly stressed that:

> "The notion of security is not confined to its military component. Closely associated with disarmament are: the observance of the principles of the United Nations Char er; the peaceful settlement of disputes; economic development; and respect for all collective and individual human rights." (A/44/PV.5, p. 47)

(Mr. Bayart, Mongolia)

The former Prima Minister of Norway, Mrs. Gro Harlem Brundtland, declared that the concept of global security should include the concept of stable development, as well as the need to fight the unequal distribution of wealth and the worsening of the environment rind natural resources. Nuclear disarmament and the limitation of armaments are the main measures necessary to build a truly secure and non-violent world. Recent developments give us reason to hope that steps will soon be taken to bring about a signficant reduction in Soviet-American strategic offensive weapons, a comprehensive ban *on* chemical *weapons,* and the limitation of conventional armaments and armed forces in Europe.

At the same time, we must not forget that the process of development is much slower than is needed by the international community. The technological arms racer involving various types of armaments, is continuing and threatening the effectiveness of disarmament efforts. The reduction of nuclear missile armaments has not yet encompassed all States in possession of such weapons. In addition, the winds of change have not touched upon many important areas, among them international economic relations, where injustice, inequality and discrimination continue to dominate. My delegation shares the view that peace and security can be strengthened only if based on a just and solid economic foundation. That cannot be accomplished without the economic and social development of the international community as a whole.

(Mr. Bayart, Mongolia)

In other words, despite the obvious achievements in changing the world for the better, the international community still has many important and complex problems to solve. To a large extent their solution will dictate the road the world takes.

Being a f irm believer in the need to end confrontation and to develop international co-operation, Mongolia is making every effort to contribute to the democratization of international relations and increase mutual understanding and trust between Sta tes. Our delegation notes with satisfaction that the positive changes have not passed by the Asia-Pacific region. The spirit of the Vladivostok initiative is recognized and applied in relations between States in that part Of the world.

None the less, the situation generally remains complex and even contradictory in some aspects. There is still no large-scale political dialogue or practical consultations between States of the region on matters of concern to them. There is therefore a need for a more active search for ways to expand bilateral subreg ional and regional contacts and interaction.

Because it is convinced of that need, in August this year the Government of the Mongolian People s Republic proposed setting up machinery for regular dialogue and negotiations between States in the northern part of the Asia-Pacific region. That proposal was dictated by our desire to contribute as much as possible to expanding co-operation between the States of the subregion, including the Soviet Union, the People s Republic of China, Japan, the Democratic People s Republic of Korea, South Korea and Mongolia as well as the United States and Canada.

All States are interested in the development of co-operation in var ious areas, including the economic, scientific, technological, ecological, cultural and humanitarian areas. In mul tilateral dialogue and consultations consideration

(Mr. Bayar t , Mongol ia)

should be given to strengthening political détente and trust in international relations in the military field, security of international traneport and communica tions and so on.

We bel ieve that conditions are now more favourable for adoption of the idea put forward by the Mongolian People's Republic. Many States of the Asia-Pacific region - the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China, the Democratic People's Republic of Kor ea, Japan and South Korea - have recently put forward proposals to improve trust, dialogue and co-operation in the area. The Soviet proposal concerning the Aeia-Pacific regicn and the idea recently put forward by Japan, an initiative on international co-operation to strengthen international peace and development, to a certain extent coincide in their main ideas and objectives, though, as we understand it, the Japanese initiative covers a rather wider field.

The full normaliza t ion of rela t ions between the Soviet Un ion and China and the emerging development of mutual relations between the Soviet Union and the United States in our view create conditioner which foeter movement towarde the adoption of our idea. The activities of subregional organ izatione, such as the South Asian Associa tion for Reg ional Co-opera t ion (SAARC) and the Assoc ia t ion of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), can give much valuable information about approaches to implementing proposals such as the idea of creating negotiating machinery for the northern aubregion of the Asia-Pacific region.

We consider that implementation of our initiative would be an important component in an Asia-Pacific system of peaceful, mutually advantageous co-operation between all the States of the req ion. Such a sys tem, encompassing the four biggest Powers in the world, including three permanent members of the Security Council, would he decisively important for the creation of the foundations of a secure world.

(Mr. Bayart, Mongolia)

Finally, I wish to stress that the proposal put forward by the Mongolian People's Republic is closely linked to its *desire* to participate actively in the international division of labour and to be integrated more closely in economic relations in the area and the world as a whole, and to our policy of making an all-embracing contribution to the development of mutual understanding, trust and Co-operation between the States of the Asia-Pacific region.

Mr. TABB (Afghanistan): The maintenance of peace and security has been the main objective of the United Nations since it was established. The adoption of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security by the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session was an outstanding event during the Cold-war era. The Declaration stressed the principles in the United Nations Charter for the improvement of international relations, which still apply to the world's present situation.

Despite unfortunate episodes since the end of the Second World War, the United Nations achievement in carrying out its main purposes, enshrined in the Charter, is remarkable. The Republic of Afghanistan highly appreciates these efforts, and hopes that the joint and constructive endeavours of all Member States, in a Co-operative spirit, will contribute further to enhancing the Organisation's role, which is to build a secure world in which all nations, irrespective of their size, geographical location, level of development or political, economic and social systems, may live in peace based on justice.

We recognize that the problem of international security is complicated, and has various aspects, the solving of which requires hard work, with political determination by all States.

The present international atmosphere, which is marked by a transition from the cold-war period, creates favourahle conditions for international co-operation and

(Mr. Taeb, Afghaniatan)

mutual understanding, which could and must lead us towarde concrete outcomes on the common problems facing mankind.

My delegation believes that the problems of diaarmament, development and eecurity are globally linked. Therefore, measures to strengthen international security must be comprehensive and ehould address all aspects of the problem. We recognize that some questions relating to those interdependent problems continue to be discussed at various United Natione bodies and at multilateral, regional, subregional and bilateral levels outside the United Nations. We fully encourage all these activities and stress the view that the United Nations ehould play the central role for these purposes. Strengthening the United Na tions role is directly linked to the need to enhance the effeotiveneee of its principal bodies - the Security Council and the General Assembly - and United Nations peace-keeping operations.

In speaking about a comprehensive system of international peace and security, we mean a world without nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, without violence, domination, exploitation and superiority. Hence, we etronqly believe that the eecurity of one can be aaeured only through the security of all. genuine disarmament measures are the main factor for strengthening international peace and eecuri ty.

My delegation does not share the concept of security through a further escala t ion of the arms race. On the contrary, high levels of armaments, both quantitatively and qualitatively, put the world in a more catastrophic eituation. Needless to say, the present level af nuclear weapons in the world is enough to destroy our entire planet several times over.

(Mr. Taeb, Afghanistan)

We are of the opinion that any step taken in the disarmament sphere, particularly in cutting military expenditures, should promote development. The financial, natural and technological resources now being devoted to military purposes should be reallocated to the eradication of the hunger, poverty and disease that destroy the lives of hundreds of thousands every year. That is an extremely important aspect of strengthening international security.

With the improvement of East-West relations and the emergence of conditions favourable to the achievement of notable progress in the process of nuclear disarmament, verification and the settlement of regional conflicts, a new era of hope has begun. Nevertheless, with regard to the regional conflicts the situation still remains tense in the Middle East, in Central America and in South-East and South-West Asia.

Respect for and strict observance of international law and its bases are essential for the strengthening of international security. A selective approach to the universally recognfzed principles of international law, based on the pursuit of selfish interests and on disregard of the interests of others, jeopardizes international peace and security.

After six years of negotiations the Geneva Agreements relating to Afghanistan were signed in April 1988 for the purpose of settling, through peaceful means, one of the regional conflicts in South-West Asia. Since the conclusion of the Geneva Agreements nearly 20 months have elapsed, but peace and security are still far from being eatablished in that region. The continued armed intervention and interference in the internal affairs of my country have acquired new dimensions. The new phenomenon of continuing the armed conflict in Afghanistan through the export of foreign national mercenaries as volunteers is fanning the flames of war.

(Mr. Taeb, Afghanistan)

The present situation is the result of the selective approach towards an international instrument - the Geneva Agreements - prepared and signed under the auspices of the United Nations. The other signatory to those Agreements is making futile attempts to limit the whole of the Agreements, which consist of four instruments, to a single phrase, namely, the phr ase relating to the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan. That is why, since 15 February 1989, at the United Nations and elsewhere, we have been witness to the negative reaction and insensitivity of the other party to calls for full implementation of the Geneva Agreements. The continued flagrant violation of the Geneva Agreements by Pakistan is an undeniable fact.

The recent explosion of an arms depot belonging to Afghan extremists in Qharam Chishma, in Pakistan, causing a number of deaths and injuries, is evidence of such violations. Indeed, that is but one of the many arms dspots that exist in Pakistan. Hence, Member States should fulfil their responsibility to contribute to the strengthening of international peace and security by concrete actions where they have the opportunity. For its part, the Republic of Afghanistan spares no effort in that regard.

The negative effects of political and military developments in our region on international peace and security are evident. We have signed the Geneva Agreements for the normalisation of the situation in and around Afghanistan. Further, owing to the difficulties existing in the req ion and in the country, the Republic of Afghanistan has made new proposals aimed at political solutions of the internal and external aspects of the problem. In or&r to achieve the settlement of the external aspects we have proposed the convening of an international conference with the participation of Afghanistan. Pakistan, Iran, India, China, the United States,

(Mr. Taeh, Afghanistan)

the Soviet Union, the Chairman of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and any other interested parties.

In an address to the ninth summit meeting of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries at Belgrade, His Excellency President Najibullah stated, with regard to the international conference relating to Afghanistan:

> That conference will, at the very outset, agree upon putting an end to the delivery of all types of weapons to the warring factions in order to support the cease-fire and will protect and guarantee the permanent neutral and demilitarised legal status of Afghanistan, which will be enshrined in the new constitution."

We attach great importance to the Mediterranean region, which has an important geographical location connecting three continents. The security of the Mediterranean region has a great effect on international security as a whole. My delegation fully supports the transformation of the Mediterranean region into a zone of peace, security and co-operation. We call for the withdrawal of all non-regional forces from that area. We hope that the Ministerial Meeting of the Mediterranean States members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the meeting of European and non-aligned Mediterranean States to be held next year in Algeria and Palma de Mallorca, respectively, will make significant contributions to the strengthening of confidence and security in the region.

Mr. BELONOGOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): For many years implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening Of International Security has been an important item on the agenda of our Organization. However, this year the discussion of that question acquires special significance in the light of the dynamics of world development, which emphasise the need to look at the provisions of the Declaration in today s context to see, above

(Mr. Belonogov, USSR)

all, how they are translated into the realities of international relationa and to determine specific steps to be taken to solve current urgent problems.

Influenced by new political thinking, the over-all international political Climate is perceptibly changing. Growing positive trends reflect the general need for a fundamentally new atability, ensured not through military deterrence but through political and legal means, on the basis of multilateral mechanisms. That involves building a world order free from the relics of the cold war and calls for calm, intelligent and responsible moves towards that period in international relations.

We are convinced that the United Nations must play a leading role in building a new world based on democratic principles of justice, morality and humanism, for it is the world's focal point where the responsibilities of States for the survival of civilization meet.

In his statement at the forty-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, Eduard Shevardnadze, said:

> It is the mission of the United Nations to promote among the world s peoples the idea of the interdependence of national uspirations and the common good of mankind, and to encourage nations to behave responsibly."
>
> (A/44/PV.6, p. 33)

For us, it is evident that priority of universal human values assumes priority of world institutions.

(Mr. Belonogov, USSR)

The Soviet Union welcomes the process of renewal gaining momentum in the United Nations and the transformation of the Orqanization into a centre for harmonizing the actions of the members of the international. community in accordance rith the realities of the world in all its diversity. In our view, we should do everything to promote the trend emerging in the activities of the United Nations, combining a theoretical discussion of the ways and means of ensuring security in its various aspects with specific analyses of pressing problems calling for solutions through implementinq the provisions of the United Nations Charter.

Durinq the general debate in the plenary meetings at this General Assembly Session, there was an in-depth multilateral dialogue involvinq a large number of Heads of State or Government and Ministers for Foreign Affairs, which highlighted various aspects of the complex and multifaceted task of maintaining international peace and security for all States. Subsequently, in the General Assembly and its various Committes there have been persistent efforts to find practical approaches to the solution of specific political, economic, social, cultural and humanitarian Problems through improved international co-operation. We are happy in the knowledge that joint proposals by socialist countries, particularly those submitted to the United Nations, promoted the salutary process of improving international co-operation.

Joint efforts by many States have revived faith in the real peace-making potential of the United Nations and, in particular, the Security Council, the central link envisioned by the Charter in the system of collective security. The record of recent years shows an effective transition in that body from rhetoric to dialogue aimed at finding solutions to the most difficult problems. Credit for this, of course, goes not only to the members of the Council but to the Organization as a whole.

(Mr. Belonogov, USSR)

In that connection, it seems to us that renewed consideration by the Security Council of questions relating to enhancement of its effectiveness is an idea worthy of attention. Resolution of those questions could he facilitated through better interaction among Council members, improved consultation machinery, including the participation of the Secretary-General and, where necessary, the interested parties themselves, the convening of official closed meetings in specific instances, and the convening of periodic Security Council meetings at the level of Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

The General Assembly, of course, has considerable potential for ensuring international security. To realize that potential it is necessary to enhance the political and moral prestige of the universal body's decisions, particularly those reflecting a broad international consensus. We believe that expanaion of the Secretary-General's peace-making functions would play a special part in onhancinq the Organization's capabilities.

Underlyinq the joint Soviet-United States initiative to strengthen international peace and security and international co-operation in al.1 its aspects in accordance with the United Nations Charter, a resolution on which was adopted unanimously at the present session, is their commitment to promotinq new relations in the United Nations and securing a greater role and increased effectiveness for the Organization in the maintenance of international peace and security.

Today there is a real chance to focus the efforts of the United Nations and its Member States on practical action to seek, collectively, realistic solutions to specific international problems.

The process of disarmament, ahovo all nuclear disarmament, remains vital for international peace and security. The world is hecominq safer thanks to the elimination of Soviet and United States intermediate- and shorter-range missiles

(Mr. Belonogov, USSR)

and thanks to unilateral steps by the Soviet Union and its partners aimed at reducing the Level of military confrontation in Europe and Asia. We believe those measures will speed up the achievement of aqreed radical decisions in the framework of onqoinq disarmament negotiations.

In that context, the Soviet-United States dialogue still retains its fundamental significance. We should mention in that connection the importance of the coming meetinq, in the Mediterranean, between the Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, Mikhail Sergeiyevich Gorbachev, and the President of the United States, Georye Bush, which will undoubtedly prove to be a major political milestone in the promotion of tine positive trends that in recent years have gained momentum in Soviet-United States relations and are affecting so favourably the overall development of the world political climate.

Progress towards the noble goal of establishing a nuclear-free, non-violent and demilitarized world requires that other States, both nuclear and non-nuclear, engage more actively in the collective search for shortcuts on the path to disarmament. In that context, the Organisation could become a centre of openness, actively promoting confidence-building measures and A system of effective verification of compliance with multilateral disarmament aqreements.

As fully reflected in the Declaration under discussion, a corner-stone of effective security is unqualified renunciation of the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political 'independence of any State. It is also clear that genuine security is incompatible with military confrontation. Soviet proposals to eliminate foreign military bases and military presence on foreign territory by the year 2000 are aimed, inter alia, at enhancing security.

Recent years have been marked by significant progress in finding effective political solutions to reqinnal hotbeds of tension, and conflicts and disputes

(Mr. Belonogov, USSR)

among States. Thanks to the efforts of the United Nations, the Security Council and the Secretary-General, a vigorous process has been launched aimed at solving regional problems through the use of the entire ranqe of political means. The expanding interaction between the United Nations and regional organizations, the Non-Aligned Movement and other authoritative international forums plays an important role here.

It is necessary to work to ensure the irreversibility of the settlement processes under way under United Nations auspices, including those involving Afghanistan, the Persian Gulf, Central America, Cyprus and so on. At the same time, it is necessary consistently to promote solutions to other problems of regional security, above all the Middle East problem. The free and democratic elections held in Namibia, in which the United Nations participated directly, have a historic significance not only for the Namibian people. They constitute a milestone in the elimination of the remnants of colonialism and open up prospects for advancement towards lasting peace in southern Africa.

United Nations peace-keeping operations play an important role in the settlement of regional conflicts. Increasingly, their significance is going beyond the limited task of containing hotbeds of tension and is reaching a qualitatively new level, that of ensuring international and regional security. In general, the present peace-making system, even though it has its share of difficulties, justifies itself. Questions relating to the creative use of the vast potential of United Nations operations and to revealing ways to enhance their effectiveness need to be discussed constructively in the framework of the Organisation.

(Mr. Belonogov, USSR)

We believe that in order to ensure the continuity of the useful experience accumulated to date, it is advisable to undertake an imaginative search for answers to the challenges of today and tomorrow, when the Organization will, increasingly, be called upon to function as the guarantor of international peace and security. Today, it is important as never before to focus our efforts on revealinq more fully the Organization's potential in preventing the emergence of hotbeds of tension.

Guided by that approach, the Soviet Union submitted to the General Assembly at its current session its views, contained in our aide-memoire on that question in document A/44/602, on enhancing the preventive functions of the United Nations. We Proposed the practical implementation of the entire arsenal of preventive measures at the disposal of the Security Council, the General Assembly, the International Court of Justice, the Economic and Social Council, and the Secretary-General of the United Nations. In that connection, the Soviet Union favours enhancing the Potential of the United Nations for gathering timely and objective information on the situation in conflict areas.

Generally speaking, we are prepared to engage most actively in a dialogue on ways to enhance the preventive role of the Organizstion and to create on that basis an effective system for the early detection and warning of crises and conflicts of various kinds. In our opinion, the proposal to establish a multilateral military risk-reduction centre under the aegis of the United Nations is a promising area in which to strengthen those functions of the Orqanization.

The edifice of international security must be built on a solid legal foundation. In that connection, the significance of legal means to settle disputes Peacefully - including those contained in the charters of international organizations and in international agreements - is on the increase.

(Mr. Relonogov, USSR)

Genuine security is inconceivable without economic security and without the active involvement of all States in shaping the present-lay international division of labour, scientific and technological exchanges, trade and co-operation, and their integration into the world economy on an equitable and mutually advantageous basis. Environmental problems have reached global Proportions. They call for early multilateral solutions, primarily within the framework of the United Nations, through the elaboration of a co-ordinated approach, the universal principles of man's relationship to nature, and the preservation of the environment.

The need for effective international security adequate to the Post-confrontation era call for multifaceted approaches and, of course, for more substance in the activities of the various bodies of the United Nations and of its specialized agencies. It is important that the international community become ever more convinced that enhanced security requires intense, consistent and broad-based co-operation and interaction from all the Members of the Organization.

We are pleased to note the progress made in translating into practical political terms the provisions of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security. We must now channel our joint efforts into identifying problems confronting the United Nations as they emerge, and to focus our efforts on finding the most effective means to defuse existing and warding off new volatile situations.

Another important question before the Committee that is part and parcel of: the global challenge of ensuring international security is the question of strengthening security and co-operation in the Mediterranean. One special feature of the Mediterranean is that it is the link between continents. During his visit to Yugoslavia in March 1908, Mikhail S. Gorbachev observed that:

"Perhaps nowhere else as here are the common destinies of peoples and the interdependence and wholeness of the modern world felt so strongly."

(Mr. Belonogov, USSR)

Positive developments in Europe and in the world in general, in particular the successful conclusion of the Vienna meeting and the initiation of the talks on conventional armed forces and confidence- and security-building measures in Europe, as well as progress in the settlement of regional conflicts, create more favourable conditions for enhancing stability and security in the Mediterranean.

We regard the strengthening of security in that region as an integrated process comprising parallel steps to settle conflict situationa, eliminate hotbeds of tension in the region, bring down the level of military confrontation, build confidence among Mediterranean States, and promote fruitful regional co-operation in the political, economic, environmental, scientific, humanitarian and other fields. The Soviet Union is ready to co-operate extensively and without any preconditions on questions that can be resolved today.

The Soviet Union advanced a series of specific proposals to reduce military confrontation and build confidence in the military field in the Mediterranean that were reflected in our response to the relevant request by the United Nations Secretary-General. Some of them are future-oriented, they define future objectives and ways to reach them; others, in particular those relating to confidence-building measures in the Mediterranean, the freeze and limits on the Soviet and United States navies, could be implemented as early as today.

WC attach great importance to the provisions relating to security and co-operation in the Mediterranean contained in the documents adopted within the framework of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. We believe that they create certain possibilities for joint action with a view to improving the situation in that region.

At the same time, we must welcome the constructive initiatives of various States aimed at improving the situation in the region, in particular the recant

(Mr. Relonogov, USSR)

proposals by Malta, Cyprus, Yugoslavia and Spain. The contribution of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries to the enhancement of security and the promotion of co-operation in the Mediterranean should also be given due recognition.

Of course, the United Nations is called upon to play an important role in solving the urgent problems in the Mediterranean. The resolutions of the General Assembly on the otrengtheninq of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean undoubtedly provide a positive basis for progress towards improving the situation in the region. We hope that such an approach will serve as a basis for the draft resolution on that question that will he submitted this year in the First Committee.

EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY ON THE DEATH OF AHMED ABDALLAH ABDEREMANE, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE COMOROS

The CHAIRMAN: It is with great sadness that the members Of the First Committee have learned of the death of His Excellency Ahmed Abdallah Abderemane, Head of State of the Comoros. President Abdallah will be remembered for the distinguished leadership he has given to his country and for the support he extended to the quest for peace and justice in the world. On behalf of the members of the First Committee I should like to extend our deepest condolences to the Government and to the people of the Comoros, as well as to the bereaved family.

Mr. KOLANE (Lesotho): Last week my delegation had the unhappy task of conveying to the Assembly the African message of condolences on the untimely death of the President of Lebanon, Mr. Rend Moawad. A week has not passed and my delegation has again to repeat the ordeal of conveying yet another meeeage of condolences on behalf of the African Group regarding the unfortunate death of His Excellency Ahmed Abddallah Abde remane, the Head of State of the Republic Of the Comoros.

On behalf of the African Group and on behalf of my country, I wish to eay that we have learned with a great sense of shock and dismay that the Head of State met his violent and untimely death during what seems to have been an attempt to effect a coup d'état.

President Abdallah first became Head of State of the Comoros in 1975, but was overthrown later that year and lived in exile until 1978. He came to power again and became President of the Republic of the Comoro8 in May 1978. He also held the portfolios of President of the Politico-Military Directory, Minister of Defence, and Minister of Justice and the civil Service, and he overhauled the structure of his Government in February 1982.

It is cause for concern that internal political differences would warrant the assassination of those holding opposing views on issues. The African Group views

(Mr. Kolane, Lesotho)

this action on the part of those who perpetrated it as an unwarranted and cowardly waste of valuable life. We ask ourselves why peaceful means were not adopted to resolve whatever problem or problems existed, means that would appeal to all Peace-loving people who cherish ideals of democracy.

Africa mourns this loss of an African Leader and shares that grief with the Government and the people of the Republic of the Comoros. We remember the immediate members of the family and the next of kin of the late Head of State and those who died with him. To them we convey our sincere sympathy and condolences.

May his soul and the souls of those who died with him rest in peace.

The meeting roee at 11.45 a.m.