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Chairman: Mr. Agha SHAHI (Pakistan).

Opening statement by the Chairman

1. The CHAIRMAN: Before we take up the items on the agenda for today's meeting, I should like, first of all, to express my gratitude to all delegations for my unanimous election. I am conscious that it is a tribute to the country which I have the honour to represent at the United Nations.

2. I am sure that in expecting from me the impartiality which I unreservedly pledge to you, you had in mind the policy of my country. It is a policy of promoting friendly relations with all countries and, as far as the major Powers are concerned, so consolidating these friendly relations with all of them as not to cause detriment to our relations with any. It is a policy which conforms to the principles of non-alignment and approaches all issues of international peace and security in accordance with the purposes and principles of our Charter. I take it as my duty to be impartial not only between different members or groups of members, but also between the different items on the agenda. To me, as your Chairman, all the items on the agenda are of equal importance.

3. I wish to convey in particular my profound thanks to Ambassador Vinci of Italy, Ambassador Tsuruoka of Japan and Ambassador Touré of Guinea for being kind enough to propose and second my nomination. The statements they made concerning me were exceedingly kind and generous. In return, I can only hope that I shall so conduct myself in this office as to give them the feeling that they were not wholly mistaken in obtaining my election.

4. My particular tribute is due to Mr. Vinci as my predecessor in this office. His conduct of the Committee's work at the last session was characterized by those varied qualities, both moral and intellectual, for which he has won the admiration of all his colleagues at the United Nations and, if he would permit me to say so, their affection. Even before he assumed the chairmanship of this Committee last year, he had already, in the year before, demonstrated his outstanding gifts of conciliation and brought about an

agreement that led to a very fruitful decision. Of course, in preceding me in the occupancy of this Chair, he also set exacting standards for me. I am not sure that I shall be able fully to rise to the level which he maintained, but I can assure him that I shall not spare the effort.

5. Representatives know very well how heavy is the programme before the Committee. Numerically, the items on our agenda are fewer than those on the agendas of the other Committees, excepting one. However, each question that we are called upon to consider at this session is both comprehensive and of central importance to peace and security. Each will demand a full discussion. One deals explicitly with the question of strengthening international security in a comprehensive manner. Considering the shortness of time, however, I appeal to all delegations to adapt the content of these discussions to the imperative need for the efficient and orderly dispatch of our business. I look for co-operation from the whole Committee in avoiding the duplication of any discussion which would be more appropriate in the general or other debates in the plenary meetings of the General Assembly.

6. To speak in general of our agenda, it should be a matter of satisfaction to us that we are taking up some items which, in one way or another, encompass the expanding horizons before mankind. The peaceful uses of outer space, the reservation exclusively for peaceful purposes of the sea-bed and the ocean floor beyond the limits of present national jurisdiction, the establishment of an international service for nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes under appropriate international control, and the contributions of nuclear technology to the economic and scientific advancement of the developing countries—in all these questions the United Nations is entering, as my predecessor Mr. Vinci so felicitously said, new and most challenging domains.

7. The implementation of the results of the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States, which is one of the items on our agenda, symbolizes the need to reconcile the possession of nuclear materials and technology by some with the requirements of security and progress for all.

8. The question of general and complete disarmament and other questions related to it are viewed as the perennial items on the agenda of this Committee. Yet, new aspects of these questions continuously present themselves for careful examination. New urgencies reveal themselves. Current reports indicate that the First Committee might have to consider at this session a draft treaty banning nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction from the sea-bed and the ocean floor. The political will to reach agreement on this matter that has been demonstrated by the United States and the Soviet Union deserves due recognition from all of us.

9. The Committee will also consider the prohibition of the use, production, development and stockpiling of chemical and bacteriological weapons. The very fact that such a treaty and a prohibition convention should come before us for consideration shows that efforts are being made for at least circumscribing the dimensions of the arms race. On nuclear arms control and nuclear disarmament, there is a growing awareness of the urgency of bringing about the participation of two nuclear Powers in the negotiations if real progress is to be achieved in devising viable solutions to the problems which have defied solution for more than a decade. In this context, it would be pertinent to recall that the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States in one of its resolutions¹ stated that the strategic arms limitation talks between the United States and the Soviet Union should aim at and lead to negotiations in good faith, among all nuclear-weapon Powers.

10. It is indeed encouraging that new currents of thought are now in flow among the major Powers. Would it not be both timely and warranted to express the hope that our deliberations this year will contribute to the removal of the serious disability that is being felt by all of us, including the interlocutors of the three nuclear Powers, because of the absence of their counterparts from the other two? In the introduction to his annual report the Secretary-General has pointed out to us that the full participation of all the nuclear Powers in all efforts to contain the nuclear arms race and to reduce and eliminate armaments would be not only beneficial, but indeed indispensable, for a full measure of success.

11. As we start the Committee's work at this session we can feel fortified by the confidence that we are all united in respect for the Charter and that your Chairman has the duty to abide strictly by the rules of procedure without any discrimination. I pledge you my co-operation and I am confident of receiving the same from you.

Election of the Vice-Chairman

12. Mr. GALINDO POHL (El Salvador) (*translated from Spanish*): Allow me, Mr. Chairman, on the occasion of my first statement, to express the great satisfaction it has given my delegation to support your candidature for the Chairmanship of this Committee. Your work in the past is well known to all of us, and combined with your great experience it qualifies you admirably to undertake the difficult task you will have as Chairman.

13. I am confident that we have chosen a worthy successor to our esteemed Chairman of last year, Mr. Vinci, Ambassador of Italy. I am sure you have the full support and the good will of all the members of the Committee and will be given every assistance in your efforts to solve the problems facing us. Your leadership and advice will of course at all times be of the utmost importance to us in all the work we have before us.

14. In connexion with the election of the officers of the First Committee, I also wished to speak in order to

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Session, Annexes, agenda item 96, document A/7277 and Corr.1 and 2, para. 17, resolution D.*

nominate for consideration by the representatives here as Vice-Chairman of the First Committee Mr. Sule D. Kolo, representative of Nigeria.

15. Mr. Kolo has held many posts in international life and has already represented his country at a number of international conferences. Furthermore, he has the valuable and irreplaceable experience of having worked with the First Committee, since he has participated in its meetings since the twenty-first session of the General Assembly. Aside from his training and experience in diplomacy, economics and administration, he has actual experience of the work of the First Committee. I therefore believe that Mr. Kolo can provide very valuable help and give the Committee the assistance needed for the solution of the delicate political problems which invariably arise and call for initiative, diplomacy and patience in negotiation.

16. In his academic studies, Mr. Kolo specialized in economics, but also took in other branches of knowledge, and he has the disciplined mind, the sense of method and the analytical lucidity to take the most complex and delicate problems in his stride.

17. Mr. Kolo belongs to that highly gifted generation in Nigeria which underwent the most rigorous training so as to win an important place for their country in international affairs. Working with great diligence and increasing success, the men of that generation of Nigerians have assumed the responsibilities of power and are leaving their mark on the international world of today. Consider, for example, what happened recently at the United Nations Conference on the Law of Treaties at Vienna, when Judge Elías played a very significant role which earned him the gratitude and admiration of all the delegations.

18. The new States of Africa have always had the sympathy, the respect and the determined support of the Latin American countries, which have worked with them in the many United Nations programmes aimed at promoting development and decolonization and laying the foundations for a world of co-operation and peace. It is therefore a particular honour for the delegation of El Salvador, and for me personally, to nominate Mr. Kolo for the post of Vice-Chairman of the First Committee.

19. I am confident that the Committee would be making a sound choice in electing Mr. Kolo, and also genuinely contributing to the work before us. We should also be paying a tribute to the African group in the United Nations, to Nigeria, and to this eminent Ambassador, still a young man yet fully and fruitfully active in the international field.

20. The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of El Salvador for the kind words he spoke about me.

21. Mr. AKWEI (Ghana): Mr. Chairman, knowing you as I do and knowing your attitude to work, I am sure you will be the first to insist that we should not waste too many words on the normal congratulations. Suffice it to say that, by now, you yourself must be aware of the confidence and trust we have in you, the respect we have for your high qualities and the satisfaction we have at seeing you in the Chair of this Committee.

22. It is a pleasure for me, personally, to second the nomination of Ambassador Kolo of Nigeria for the Vice-Chairmanship of the First Committee. Apart from Ambassador Kolo's very impressive *curriculum vitae* just given us by the representative of El Salvador, Mr. Kolo is no stranger to the First Committee. Having served on this Committee as his country's representative at the twenty-first, twenty-second, resumed twenty-second, and twenty-third sessions of the General Assembly, Mr. Kolo brings with him to the Vice-Chairmanship a rich store of experience which will doubtless be of considerable benefit to the work of this Committee.

23. Nor is this rich store of experience limited to the First Committee alone. Mr. Kolo has on several occasions led his country's delegation to several international conferences and is held in high regard by all those who have had occasion to meet him in the sphere of international diplomacy.

24. I have had the privilege of knowing Mr. Kolo personally and working with him in Geneva and Berne, where he is still serving as his country's ambassador, and I can, without hesitation, vouch for his sterling qualities, particularly his devotion to duty, hard work, diligence, competence and amiable nature—qualities which should help the work of the First Committee. I am confident that, if elected, he will perform his duties with great ability. I therefore have great pleasure in supporting and recommending for unanimous acceptance of this Committee the nomination of Mr. Kolo as Vice-Chairman of the First Committee.

25. The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Ghana for the kind words he has said about me. Taking up his constructive idea that compliments to the Chairman can be dispensed with, I would appeal to all my colleagues to follow his example, and even better his example, by dispensing with compliments to me altogether.

26. Mr. BEAULNE (Canada) (*translated from French*): Mr. Chairman, the delegation of Canada takes note of your appeal, but feels it must express its pleasure on your election as Chairman of the First Committee, which was presided over with such tact and competence by your predecessor, Mr. Vinci, the Permanent Representative of Italy. May I therefore extend to you my very best wishes.

27. My delegation is very happy to support the nomination of Mr. Kolo, the representative of Nigeria, as Vice-Chairman of the First Committee. We are happy for a number of reasons. First, he represents a country with which Canada has had close ties for a long time. Secondly, as we all know, he has occupied important positions in the service of his country. He has served as Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Trade at home and as representative of Nigeria in the First Committee and at many conferences on trade and development abroad. Last, but not least, the delegation of Canada has learned to know Mr. Kolo's personal qualities more closely and acquired a high opinion of him because of the opportunity our two delegations had of working together in the Committee on Disarmament in Geneva. We are convinced that the great competence acquired by Mr. Kolo in that body will be most valuable for the work of the First Committee here in New York.

28. In short, in supporting the nomination of Mr. Kolo, we are firmly convinced that his ability as a diplomatist and his technical knowledge and his great wisdom will enable him to carry out his duties as Vice-Chairman of the First Committee with great competence.

29. The CHAIRMAN: Ambassador Alhaji S.D. Kolo of Nigeria has been nominated for the post of Vice-Chairman by the representative of El Salvador, and the nomination has been supported by the representatives of Ghana and Canada. Since there are no other nominations, I shall take it that the First Committee unanimously elects Mr. Kolo as the Vice-Chairman of the First Committee.

Mr. Kolo (Nigeria) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

30. The CHAIRMAN: I congratulate Mr. Kolo on his unanimous election to the post of Vice-Chairman and I invite him to take his seat at the officers' table.

31. Mr. KOLO (Nigeria): Mr. Chairman, permit me first of all to congratulate you, in spite of your recent statement that we should dispense with these congratulations. I should like to congratulate you on behalf of my delegation and myself, on your well-deserved and unanimous election as Chairman of this Committee. I am confident that, under your wise and able leadership, we shall be able to register some progress on the various important items that have been allocated to the Committee for consideration. My confidence is based on my personal knowledge of your unflinching and untiring devotion to duty, your vast and varied experience, your tact and, above all, your complete fairmindedness—qualities which are essential for the conduct of work of this Committee and which you, Mr. Chairman, possess in full abundance. May I assure you of my fullest co-operation, as well as that of my delegation, in the discharge of your heavy responsibilities.

32. It is with a feeling of deep humility that I wish, through you Mr. Chairman, to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to the members of the Committee for the honour done to my country and to me by electing me Vice-Chairman of the Committee. I can assure you that I shall endeavour, to the utmost of my ability and in co-operation with you, Mr. Chairman, the members of the Bureau and the members of the Committee, to ensure the success of our collective endeavours and efforts.

33. I should like in particular to express my deep appreciation to the representative of El Salvador for the very kind remarks that he has made about me and for nominating me as Vice-Chairman of the Committee. Nigeria and El Salvador have excellent relationships based on mutual respect and deep admiration for each other.

34. May I also express my gratitude to my friend and colleague, Mr. Richard Akwei, the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations, for the very kind compliments paid to my country and to me personally. Ambassador Akwei represents a country with which my country has the most cordial relations based on strong fraternal and historic bonds and abiding mutual interests. I wish also to express my gratitude to the representative of Canada, a country with which Nigeria has the closest ties,

for the very kind references he made to me. Finally, I should like, once again, to assure you, Mr. Chairman, of my full co-operation and to express the wish that all our endeavours during the current session will be crowned with success.

35. The CHAIRMAN: I thank the Vice-Chairman for the kind words he has said about me. I assure him that I shall value his co-operation and that he can count on mine to the fullest extent. I have had the pleasure and privilege of working with the Vice-Chairman in past sessions of the General Assembly and in the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, and I can testify to the outstanding contribution that he has made to political and security questions.

Election of the Rapporteur

36. Mr. ADJIBADE (Dahomey) (*translated from French*): Mr. Chairman, although we can understand the recommendation you have just made that we should dispense with our congratulations to you, may I express our satisfaction at seeing you occupy the post of Chairman of our Committee and to congratulate you most warmly on the trust shown in you by this unanimous election. We feel sure that under your enlightened guidance our Committee will once again do useful work.

37. We should also like sincerely to extend our warm congratulations to the Vice-Chairman we have just elected, an election which is a source of real satisfaction to the delegation of Dahomey. We wish to assure you, Mr. Chairman, and the other Committee officers, of our full co-operation in the successful fulfilment of their tasks.

38. We are pleased and honoured to nominate Mr. Barnett of Jamaica for the office of Rapporteur of the First Committee at the present session. Mr. Barnett comes from one of those young States about whose attachment to international peace and security there can be no doubt and he therefore has a very special interest in the problem of disarmament. Mr. Barnett is so well known to the members of the Committee that it seems hardly necessary to dwell at length on his qualifications. I need only recall his great experience as a distinguished diplomat, as a jurist and as an expert economist. He has represented his Government at a number of international meetings. We are convinced that with his evident intellectual qualities Mr. Barnett will be able to put together, sort out and adequately express the ideas or proposals advanced at random in our discussions. We therefore most warmly recommend Mr. Barnett for unanimous election by this Committee.

39. The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Dahomey for his words. They reflect his generosity of spirit.

40. Mr. MOJSOV (Yugoslavia): As this is the first time I have taken part in the deliberations of this Committee, allow me, first of all, Sir, to congratulate you on your unanimous and well-deserved election as Chairman of the First Committee and to express the deep satisfaction of the Yugoslav delegation that we shall be able to work under your competent guidance. I assure you that my delegation

will offer you its full co-operation in our common efforts in this important Committee of the General Assembly.

41. I should also like to congratulate Ambassador Kolo of Nigeria who has just been unanimously elected to the post of Vice-Chairman of this Committee.

42. It is a great pleasure for me to second the motion of the representative of Dahomey that Mr. Lloyd Barnett, a member of the Jamaican delegation, be elected to the post of Rapporteur of the First Committee. I should not hesitate to add that my pleasure is all the greater since Mr. Barnett represents Jamaica, a country with which Yugoslavia has been developing ever wider and more cordial relations. We are fully confident that with his knowledge and experience in the work of the United Nations, as well as in a number of important international conferences in which he has ably represented his country, we have a guarantee that Mr. Barnett will carry out successfully the important task of Rapporteur of the First Committee to the satisfaction of us all.

43. The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Yugoslavia for his kind words. I am grateful to him for his pledge of co-operation.

44. Mr. ÅSTRÖM (Sweden): Mr. Chairman, may I say that if you had not specifically asked, with characteristic modesty and a sense of economy, that no congratulations be addressed to you, I should have in this first statement of mine in the Committee paid the high tribute to your qualities as Chairman that you deserve, and said that it is with complete confidence and great expectations for the successful completion of our work that we shall serve under your chairmanship.

45. I would also express our great satisfaction at seeing Ambassador Kolo at your side. We have known him for many years as an eminent servant of his own country and of the United Nations, through his highly appreciated membership of many United Nations organs.

46. It gives the Swedish delegation great pleasure to second the nomination of Mr. Barnett of Jamaica as Rapporteur of the Committee. We do this in the knowledge that, in the person of Mr. Barnett, the Committee will have as its Rapporteur a man of truly outstanding capacity and of the highest integrity. In particular, his personal interest and active participation in the discussion of important items on our agenda, such as disarmament and the sea-bed, assure us that he will perform his duties as Rapporteur with dedication and skill. We hope he will be elected unanimously.

47. The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Sweden for his kind words. I am grateful for the confidence he reposes in me and I hope I shall be able to fulfil his expectations.

48. Mr. JACKMAN (Barbados): Mr. Chairman, I shall certainly accept the ruling which you informally made earlier and merely pledge you the co-operation of the Barbados delegation, and assure you of our congratulations and of our satisfaction at seeing you in the Chair of this First Committee.

49. I shall not spend any of the Committee's time in repeating the kind words that have been said about Mr. Barnett, who is being proposed for the post of Rapporteur. I will, however, say that I know him personally and have had the great good fortune of working as a colleague of his in the Federal Government of the West Indies, now, alas, defunct. As Chairman of the Latin American Group, I take great pleasure in joining with and supporting those who have proposed, for the consideration of the Committee, the election of Mr. Lloyd Barnett of Jamaica.

50. The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Barbados for his statement.

51. Mr. Lloyd Barnett of Jamaica has been nominated for the post of Rapporteur by the representative of Dahomey, and the nomination has been supported by the representatives of Yugoslavia, Sweden and Barbados. Since there are no other nominations, I declare Mr. Barnett of Jamaica unanimously elected Rapporteur of the First Committee.

Mr. Lloyd Barnett (Jamaica) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

52. The CHAIRMAN: I congratulate Mr. Barnett on his unanimous election to the post of Rapporteur of the First Committee, and I invite him to take his seat on the Bureau.

53. Mr. BARNETT (Jamaica), Rapporteur: Mr. Chairman, I shall be brief in congratulating you on your unanimous election, and in congratulating my long-standing friend Ambassador Kolo of Nigeria on his unanimous election as Vice-Chairman of this Committee. I am conscious of the very distinguished predecessors that I follow, particularly Ambassador Zollner of Dahomey and Mr. Torsten Orn of Sweden, and I hope that I shall be able to fulfil my duties with the same high distinction that they brought to the task.

54. The CHAIRMAN: I thank the Rapporteur for his kind congratulations to me.

55. Before we take up the next item on our agenda, which is the organization of work, I call on the representative of Saudi Arabia, who has asked for the floor to make a brief statement.

56. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia): I think that modesty should characterize all of us, but here we deal in speech, and I cannot be silent when I see you in the Chair, Mr. Chairman. I would therefore like to exercise my right to speak. I want to say a few words, with your permission and with the permission of my colleagues in this room.

57. Mr. Chairman, I feel that it augurs well for us to have a Chairman like you, not only because you are the representative of an outstanding sister State in the heart of the Asian continent, but even more, because it was my privilege to know you many years ago and, like others who have worked with you, we have all marvelled at your ability, your perspicacity and sense of fairness, quite evident in your handling of the various problems of the United Nations. But that is not all, Sir. In the heat of debate on many an item we discovered that you were not easily

ruffled. On the contrary, you always preserved your poise and dignity. Your precocity when you were very young was in later years bolstered by wide experience and, I may say, with singular wisdom. It is an honour to have you as our Chairman.

58. Our Vice-Chairman and our Rapporteur have been elected by acclamation. We congratulate them for the confidence placed in them by all of us. I have no doubt that they will discharge their duties in an exemplary manner.

59. One last word, Sir. Your dedication and that of your aides, including the members of the Bureau, remind me of a famous Arabic proverb: "The leader of a people is their servant". We are all servants, Sir, including yourself. We hope that our deliberations under your guidance will pave the way to world peace.

60. The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Saudi Arabia. Let me tell him that I am deeply moved by his statement, and I know that he has spoken with deep sincerity. I hope, however, that it will not be taken amiss—and here I think that I am speaking for both the Vice-Chairman and the Rapporteur—when I appeal to all of you, my colleagues, not to emulate the example of the representative of Saudi Arabia in the matter of compliments. But I am very grateful to him for what he has said. If I may inject some element of personal relationship into this matter—and I apologize for doing so—I had to give him the floor because I look upon him as my elder statesman.

Organization of work

61. The CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up the next item on the agenda, which is the organization of work. The Committee has before it, in documents A/C.1/981 and Add.1, two letters dated 20 and 25 September, addressed to the Chairman by the President of the General Assembly, which contain the list of items allocated to the First Committee for consideration and report to the General Assembly.

62. Members of the Committee will note that the General Assembly has allocated to it eight items of the agenda. In my introductory statement I have already referred to the importance of the items allocated to the First Committee. It is therefore obvious that each of the items should be given adequate time for a full and thorough discussion. As Chairman, it would be my endeavour to see to it that, within the total period of nine weeks available to us, sufficient time is allocated for the consideration of each item. I am sure that, in this effort, I can count on the support and co-operation of all members of this Committee.

63. In referring to the time available to us as nine weeks for completing our work, I am proceeding on the assumption that we shall be able to begin our substantive work this afternoon, and, should there be time, even this morning, and that we should aim at concluding consideration of all items on Friday, 12 December, taking into account that Tuesday, 16 December, has been set for the closing of the General Assembly. I am of course not asking the Committee at this stage to take a formal decision to set the deadline

of 12 December for completing our work, but I take it that all representatives agree that this should be our aim.

64. Turning now to the question of order of priorities for the consideration of the agenda items, I have held wide-ranging consultations. On the basis of views expressed to me during those consultations and the consensus that appears to me to have emerged therefrom, I should like to submit for the consideration of the Committee that the items allocated to it may be taken up in the following order.

- (a) The strengthening of international security—agenda item 103.
- (b) Invitation aspects of the question of Korea—agenda item 99.
- (c) The question of the sea-bed and ocean floor—agenda item 32.
- (d) The substantive aspects of the question of Korea—agenda item 99.
- (e) Agenda items relating to disarmament, namely:
 - (i) Question of general and complete disarmament: report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament—agenda item 29.
 - (ii) Urgent need for suspension of nuclear and thermonuclear tests—agenda item 30.
 - (iii) Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States—agenda item 31.
 - (iv) Question of chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons—agenda item 104.
- (f) International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space—agenda item 28.

65. I have suggested that the question of Korea be considered in two parts, the first part to deal with the invitational aspects of the question and the second part to deal with the substantive aspects. I am making that suggestion in the light of the desire expressed to me by a number of delegations that if the First Committee were to decide to invite the parties concerned to take part in the discussion of the substantive aspects of the question, an early decision to that effect would allow sufficient time to enable them to do so.

66. In grouping together the four agenda items concerning disarmament, I should like it to be understood that the procedure and priorities for the consideration of those items is to be decided on by the Committee at a later stage in the light of further consultations.

67. In this connexion I should also like to mention that in the course of my consultations some delegations have mentioned to me that certain questions of a procedural nature in relation to the consideration of some of the items, in particular those relating to the sea-bed and the ocean floor and the question of the peaceful uses of outer space, might arise. I hope to continue my consultations with all interested delegations in regard to these questions and to consult the Committee as appropriate as we proceed with our work.

68. I deliberately refrain at this opening meeting from indicating any time-table for debate on each of the items. But I have very much in mind the importance of apportioning the comparatively limited time at our disposal among the various items in consultation with the Chairmen of regional groups and interested delegations. As soon as these consultations result in a consensus, I shall submit a time-table for the consideration of the Committee. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee agrees to the order of consideration of items I have suggested.

69. Mr. AMERASINGHE (Ceylon): First of all, Mr. Chairman, with regard to your election, may I combine brevity with sincerity by saying: Congratulations and good luck. I should like to extend the same sentiments to the Vice-Chairman, Ambassador Kolo, and the Rapporteur, Mr. Barnett.

70. If I may be permitted one more observation, Mr. Chairman, the delegation of Ceylon welcomes the declaration of your commitment to the principles of non-alignment. We hope that this will be followed soon by formal adherence to the cause.

71. With regard to the organization of work, I should like to say that my delegation has no objection to the proposals that you, Mr. Chairman, have just put to the Committee. But I say so subject to one reservation to which you made a passing reference when you observed that certain delegations had brought to your notice some questions of a procedural nature that might arise with regard to the item concerning the sea-bed and ocean floor.

72. I would wish you, Mr. Chairman, and the Committee to take note of the possibility of a special session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction being held during this session of the General Assembly. The reason I say this is that in operative paragraphs 3 and 4 of resolution 2467 A (XXIII), which was adopted at the last session, the General Assembly called upon the Committee on the sea-bed and ocean floor to make recommendations on the reservation of that area exclusively for peaceful purposes, taking into account international negotiations and studies on the question.

73. The Committee was not able, during any of its sessions, to pay much attention to that aspect of its mandate because it had no material on the subject. In paragraph 18 of its report [A/7622] the Committee on the sea-bed and ocean floor observes that it would wish to have information regarding the progress of these negotiations. We are aware that the negotiations have now reached a stage when certain definite proposals are being contemplated. This would therefore be the appropriate time for the Committee on the sea-bed and ocean floor to discharge its duties under its mandate as required by operative paragraph 3.

74. A special session of the Committee will be necessary if the report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament does contain any proposals regarding the demilitarization of the sea-bed. If it does, I would kindly request you, Mr. Chairman, in consultation with the members of the Committee, to see that arrangements are made

for holding a special session of the Committee on the sea-bed and ocean floor before the question of the demilitarization of the sea-bed and ocean floor—from wherever the proposals may emanate—comes up in this Committee, either under the agenda item concerning the sea-bed and ocean floor or under any other item. But most definitely we would wish that the Committee on the sea-bed and ocean floor be given an opportunity to meet and to discuss the proposals before the item on the sea-bed and ocean floor is taken up in this Committee.

75. The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Ceylon for his good wishes and for what he has said about my country. I should like to assure him that I shall at all times be ready to consult with him on the matter that he has raised.

76. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia): Like my colleague from Ceylon, I have no objections to the order of the agenda items as read out by you, Mr. Chairman. However, some contingency may arise, in which case we should be prepared to take action with respect to disposing of one or two of the items as enumerated by you. You stated that the item concerning the sea-bed and ocean floor would be the third item to be discussed by the Committee, and you then stated that the fourth item would be the substantive aspects of the Korean question.

77. The second item on the agenda, as I understood it, would be the question of inviting both parties—the North Koreans and the South Koreans—to appear before this Committee. I submit that this is a wise thing to do, namely, to find out at an early stage whether they will be invited. But suppose they are not invited or, at least, that one of the parties is not invited? Then—and I say this in the light of my experience during the last three or four sessions of the General Assembly—I believe it would be futile to discuss at an early stage the substantive aspects of the Korean question. I believe it would be an academic discussion leading nowhere. I think we have left nothing unsaid on the Korean question since this Committee has been seized of it.

78. Therefore, my suggestion is that if the North and South Koreans are invited to appear before this Committee the substantive aspects of the Korean question should be discussed forthwith as the fourth item. But should we repeat the same, shall I say, protracted debate that we had last year and the year before last about the invitation, without actually inviting both parties, I believe that the agenda item on chemical and bacteriological weapons should be dealt with in lieu of the substantive aspects of the Korean question.

79. Why? There is a great deal of urgency for dealing with this item, namely, the chemical and bacteriological item, if I may so describe it. There is a special urgency because for the last few years poison gas—napalm—has been used in a number of regions in the world. I would not want to name them because I would be entering into the substance of the question, and I want to avoid doing that. Not only were these poison gases or chemical reagents used against man, but they were even used for killing plant life, trees and crops, without which man cannot exist.

80. Some of my friends have told me that the documentation is not yet ready. From what my colleague from

Ceylon has said I gather that the documentation on the item dealing with the sea-bed and ocean floor is not complete. But there is not the same urgency on the sea-bed and ocean floor item as there is, in our view, on the chemical and bacteriological item. I said this is all contingent on whether or not we deal with the substantive aspects of the Korean item. We have to deal with them, but if the invitation fails, I believe the Korean item should be relegated to another place and that, instead, we should deal with the item on chemical and bacteriological weapons.

81. The CHAIRMAN: Before I call on the next speaker I should like to make one comment on what the representative of Saudi Arabia has said. I quite appreciate the importance of the early consideration of the item on chemical and bacteriological weapons; but it is my information that a certain declaration concerning the prohibition of the production, development and stockpiling of these weapons is likely to be included in the report of the two co-Chairmen of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament. However, this is a matter about which the members of the twenty-six-nation Committee and particularly the two co-Chairmen, may be more fully informed. Therefore, perhaps it may be desirable to take up together all proposals in connexion with chemical and bacteriological weapons. I shall certainly bear in mind what the representative of Saudi Arabia has said about the importance of this item.

82. With regard to the invitational aspects of the question of Korea and what the representative of Saudi Arabia has said about the likely outcome of a consideration of that item, I would appeal to him to raise this matter when we do come to consider the invitational aspects. As Chairman I consider myself precluded from anticipating any result before it actually occurs, even though we may have the knowledge of the history of the consideration of that question. Therefore, may I appeal to the representative of Saudi Arabia to accept tentatively the order that I have indicated, and to take up the matter that he has just raised when we come to the invitational aspects. I should be grateful to him if he would do that.

83. Mr. GARCIA ROBLES (Mexico) (*translated from Spanish*): Of the two alternatives you have offered us, Mr. Chairman—to be silent or to speak to the point, I shall choose the second and merely express to you my delegation's profound satisfaction at your election as Chairman of this Committee. We regard your election as the best guarantee for the success of our work. I would also like to take this opportunity of congratulating the representative of Nigeria on his election as Vice-Chairman, and the representative of Jamaica on his election as Rapporteur.

84. With a view to shortening our debate on the item before us: Organization of work, 22 other delegations of the American continent have done me the honour of entrusting me with the task of expressing their views, which in the case in point coincide with those of my delegation. I think this will save time and perhaps the need for individual consultations on this particular item. Thus, I am saying what I have to say on behalf of the delegations of Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay,

Peru, the Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

85. On behalf of these 23 delegations, as I say, I shall express their views and ours on the following two questions: first, the date by which we consider that the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament should submit to the Assembly the report on its work during the present year. We feel that the date in question should preferably be 20 October, or 25 October at the latest. Second, the latest date by which we consider that this Committee should take up the items relating to disarmament. We would prefer the Committee to make a start on them on 5 November, or at any rate not later than 10 November. The reasons are obvious, the more so, I think, in the light of what the Chairman himself has said about both the number and the content of the disarmament items, and in view of the importance, rightly stressed just now by the representative of Saudi Arabia, of the item on the question of chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons.

86. If the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament were to submit its report on its 1969 work to this Committee by 20 October, it means that delegations would probably have it in their hands by 25 October, since it would have to be reproduced as an Assembly document. If the report were submitted on what we regard as the latest possible date, namely 25 October, it would mean that delegations would be in possession of the document by the end of the month, about 30 or 31 October. We regard that as the deadline after which delegations could not be expected to have sufficient time to study the report, which is closely connected with most of the disarmament items.

87. With regard to the date on which we firmly believe the Committee should take up the disarmament items, I would point out that, as the Chairman himself has said, we have to reckon that our work is due to end on Friday, 12 December. Thus if the discussion were to begin on 5 November, as we would prefer, the Committee would have five weeks in which to consider the items. If, however, we were to begin on 10 November—the date we consider should be the absolute deadline, although as I say we prefer 5 November—the Committee would have only just over four weeks.

88. It seems to us that our request is amply justified, not only in respect of numbers, since as the Chairman pointed out very pertinently just now, the disarmament items comprise five out of a total of eight, and if we include International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space among them, there would be six out of the eight. We must likewise take into account, as the Chairman pointed out, the possibility of a joint draft treaty arriving from Geneva, submitted by the co-Chairmen of the Committee on Disarmament, on what the official title calls the prohibition on the emplacement of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction on the sea-bed and the ocean floor and the subsoil thereof.

89. Apart from the number of items involved—and even arithmetically speaking I believe our argument is more than justified—we should bear in mind also their complexity and importance. I am sure that all the members of the First Committee recognize this, and hence I shall make no further comment.

90. I repeat therefore, in conclusion, that the 23 delegations I mentioned are of the opinion that the most suitable date for submission of the report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament at Geneva to the General Assembly would be 20 October, or 25 October at the latest. Secondly, we believe that if the Committee is to have what the Chairman rightly described a few moments ago as adequate time for a thorough and full discussion of the items on disarmament, we should take them up preferably on 5 November, or at the latest on 10 November.

91. Apart from these general comments, and speaking in this instance on behalf of my own delegation only, we are prepared to accept the order of priorities suggested by the Chairman.

92. The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Mexico for his words about me. May I assure him of my high esteem for him and his great country. With regard to what he has said on behalf of 23 Latin American delegations, I should like to assure him and all of them that it will be my endeavour to give the fullest weight to the considerations that have been urged by the representative of Mexico on behalf of his Latin American colleagues; and I am sure that what he has said also reflects the hopes and expectations of all members of this Committee. I am particularly grateful to him for having given me some latitude with regard to the target date for the submission of the report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, and also for the commencement of the debate on the disarmament questions.

93. I shall enter into consultations with the members of the 26-nation Committee and with the two co-Chairmen of the Geneva Conference, and I shall do everything in my power to meet the wishes of the delegations that they represent.

94. I take it that the Committee approves the order of priority for the consideration of the items on its agenda as indicated by me, subject to the reservations that have been made and to the other considerations that have been urged.

It was so decided.

95. The CHAIRMAN: In accordance with the decision just taken the Committee will begin consideration of the agenda item entitled "The strengthening of international security" at its next meeting, which will take place this afternoon. The first speaker in the general debate on this item this afternoon will be the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

96. Mr. VINCI (Italy): Mr. Chairman, you are about to adjourn this meeting and I do not think I shall take up too much of the time of the members of the Committee if I do not comply with your wishes 100 per cent. I think I would seem a little ungrateful if I did not express my full and sincere appreciation for the words you have addressed to me. You have been very generous and I was moved by your expressions of esteem for me. You were perhaps motivated by your feelings of friendship for me, which I fully reciprocate.

97. I should also like to thank Mr. Beaulne of Canada and Mr. Galindo Pohl, who was the Vice-Chairman last year, for

having mentioned my chairmanship of last year. I should like to express once again my appreciation to Mr. Galindo Pohl for the excellent manner in which he discharged his duties as Vice-Chairman last year.

98. One more word. I am sure that I am expressing not only my own feelings but also those of us all when I say that we were certainly well inspired in placing full confidence in your chairmanship. I believe that the manner in which you have conducted our work this morning gives us not only the hope but also the full assurance that the activities of this Committee will be successful, positive and constructive. Again, I wish you all success and at the same

time I assure you that you can count on my full co-operation and on that of all the other members of my delegation.

99. The CHAIRMAN: I thank Ambassador Vinci for his very kind words. I am very grateful indeed for the confidence that he reposes in me. I should also like to thank all the members of this Committee for the splendid co-operation that they have extended to me at this very first meeting.

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.