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VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 51st MEETING

Chairman: Mr. TAYLHARDAT (Venezuela)

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Statement by the Chairman

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AGENDA ITEMS 71, 72 AND 73 (continued)

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

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish) : I should like to say how pleased I am to be here again even though it is only for a very short time since I have to return to my capital tomorrow. It would be a source of great satisfaction to me if I could be in the Chair when we finish our work. If that is not possible, then Vice-Chairman Fahmy, who has very skilfully and effectively directed the work of the Committee in my absence, would preside over tomorrow's meeting, the final meeting of the First Committee for this session.

I have this morning received a letter from the Permanent Representative of Cameroon addressed to the Chairman of the First Committee. The letter, which bears the heading "International peace and security", reads as follows:

(spoke in English)

"Mr. Chairman, I have the honour to inform you that Cameroon does not wish to take part in the discussion of the above subject-matter, and accordingly requests the removal of our name from the list of speakers and the withdrawal of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/44/L.7/Rev.1. Thank you for your co-operation. Kind personal regards, Bamela Enqo."

(continued in Spanish)

I also wish to inform the Committee that consultations are now under way for the preparation of a paper that would reflect the position of the Cameroon delegation. The purpose of that paper, which will not require any action by the Committee, will be to set forth the position of Cameroon so that it will be on record.

Mr. ANDRIANADY (Madagascar) (interpretation from French) : The delegation of Madagascar would like to express **its sincere** condolences to the **sister** delegation of the Islamic **Federal Republic of the Comoros** on the **occasion** of the death of its **President, Ahmed Abdallah Abderemane**.

We **also wish to express** to the delegation of the Philippines **our sorrow** on learning of the death of the **Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations, Claudio Teehankee**.

The **realignment of the respective interests of the great Powers and the two main military blocs, and a degree of flexibility in putting forward positions**, have made it **possible to resume the dialogue on arms control**.

The **conclusion, later the implementation, of the Soviet-American Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles in the arsenal of the two super-Powers** was a **decisive starting-point**. The **international community** unanimously welcomed it **because, even though the agreement involved only 4 per cent of the world's stock of nuclear weapons, it was the first time in history that a whole category of weapons of mass destruction was going to be voluntarily destroyed**.

The impetus **thus given to effective disarmament measures makes it possible to hope for the conclusion, in the near future, of a more substantial bilateral agreement involving 50 per cent of the offensive strategic weapons of the United States and the Soviet Union**. A few months before **the Fourth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, such a step should be supplemented by an undertaking on the part of the three depositary States parties to the Treaty to negotiate a comprehensive nuclear-test.-ban treaty**. **Only thus will it be possible to safeguard the credibility of the non-proliferation régime set forth in the non-proliferation Treaty**.

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The complete lack of progress in the negotiations **on the prohibition** of nuclear tests at the Conference on Disarmament led several dozen delegations, including Madagascar, to support the convening **of a** conference to study amendments that would transform the **partial** nuclear-test ban into a **comprehensive** ban.

Madagascar **shares the conviction** that the total prohibition **of** nuclear tests is a **matter of top priority** in the field of nuclear disarmament.

It goes without saying **that the final objective is to have a totally denuclearized** world. **Is this an idealistic dream?** The dreams of **today may** become the realities **of tomorrow**. This explains our wish to make the Indian **Ocean a zone** of peace. In **our** opinion, the best way to reach that objective would be through the speedy convening **of** the United Nations **Conference on** the Indian Ocean. **within the framework of** nuclear and conventional disarmament, **that Conference would give concrete expression to the principles involved in the concept of a zone of peace,** while contributing **to** the reduction and **eventual** elimination from the Indian Ocean of any foreign military or naval **presence**.

**For** the time being, non-nuclear-weapon States are insisting that nuclear-weapon States **guarantee** that there will **be no recourse** whatsoever to the **use** or threat of the **use of** nuclear weapons. Such a measure **of basic confidence** must be enshrined in a binding international **instrument**.

The strengthening of international security through disarmament must be the main objective of the international **community**. Only tangible progress in achieving that objective would make it possible to ensure the reduction of international **tension**.

The general rapprochement between the United States and the Soviet Union **is** contributing to **the** creation of conditions conducive to the establishment of a

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lasting peace, **but** the scope and complexity of disarmament problems, both nuclear and conventional, require the participation of all actors on the international scene •

As the international body best suited for the central role it plays in the maintenance of international peace and security and the settlement of international disputes, the United Nations needs the constant support of its Member States. We would be remiss if we did not mention in this connection the Soviet-American initiative which, on 15 November last, led to the General Assembly's adoption by consensus, of resolution 44/21, on enhancing international peace, security and international co-operation in all its aspects in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

In this connection, we note and support the views expressed by the Secretary-General in his most recent report on the work of the Organization.

"... the Security Council could meet periodically to consider the state of international peace and security in different regions. For such meetings sufficiently to guide and influence the necessary supportive diplomacy, it might be helpful to hold them at the level of foreign ministers and, when appropriate, in closed session. That simple expedient could help ensure that the United Nations would not be caught unready by developments threatening the peace. Where international friction appears likely, the Security Council could act on its own or request the Secretary-General to exercise his good offices directly or through a special representative. When appropriate, the Council could also enlist the co-operation of the concerned regional organization in averting a crisis." (A/44/1, pp. 11-12)

We wish to stress particularly the fact that in some areas, such as Central America, Africa, and even South-East Asia, experience has shown that making the countries of a given area responsible for, and allowing them to contribute to the

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settlement of conflicts affecting their geographical **zone**, has proved **more** positive and **more** effective than outside interference and intervention.

International peace and security are not based solely **on** the elimination of nuclear threats. International peace and security can also **be** endangered by non-military threats, **such** as flagrant economic inequality, both inside the different countries and among them, **poverty**, famine, deprivation, the debt burden, disease, drug abuse, all **form** of terrorism, and the **deterioration of** the **environment**. **None** of **these** questions can be settled or studied thoroughly by Governments except at the multilateral level.

The prospect **of** a new **turning-point** in the **history** of international relations **seems** to **have** highlighted the existing potential for fruitful co-operation **on** the Part **Of Governments**, in the interest and to the advantage **of** all. **This** potential **has begun** to be felt, thanks to a **more** pragmatic **attitude on** the part of the leaders **of** various countries in the world alive to the **true** needs and **aspirations** of their peoples.

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The process **has** been **hastened** under the influence of dramatic events, **with the result** that it **has** become impossible to ignore the imminent danger threatening the environment or the economic health of the world community. It has also been facilitated **by** a more widespread and stronger will **to** protect human rights.

**In this** context, it **is no** longer **possible to push** into the **background** multilateral questions which are challenging us **more** and more. Merely to cite **as** an example the worsening of the **environment** and the ecosystem **as a** whole, we can gauge the enormous dangers resulting from **the wastage** and using up of **resources**, industrial pollution, toxic **wastes** and the dumping of them, **biospheric** disturbances, **desertification**, deforestation, **erosion and impoverishment** of the soil and the threatened disappearance of **certain vegetable and animal species**. In this field, **as in so many others**, we **must together work out** permanent and **institutionalized solutions**.

**To conclude**, in our search for a world freed from everyday insecurity, a more **democratic** world, a world where national **selfishness** yields to the **common interest**, a **world** devoted without restriction to the goals and objectives of the **Charter**, the United **Nations is** our irreplaceable **instrument**.

Mr. ORAMAS OLIVA (Cuba) (interpretation from **Spanish**) I **At the outset** I wish to express my delegation's condolences to the sister republic of the **Comoros** on the death of the President of the Republic and to the **Philippines** on the death of **our** colleague the Ambassador.

**As** we consider the items relating to international security, we **must first of** all recognise that at the present time we are beginning **to** see new **signs** on the international scene **which, if they remain and develop, will undoubtedly make an** effective contribution to international security and its strengthening. Our peoples demand that **ddtente** and **peace** be equal for all.

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First of all, **we** find that the climate of tension has been replaced **by one of détente between the** principal nuclear **Powers**, and at the same time advances are being made in the field of disarmament, while the process of negotiation with a view to further and more significant arms limitation measures is **continuing**.

Along with this, in different parts of the world, after years of **confrontation**, **Borne** negotiated political solutions are emerging, and the path **towards the** elimination of regional conflict is **now** becoming shorter. Many obstacles remain and others appear in this process, but it is undeniable that the peoples of **many** parts of Asia, Africa and **Latin** America sooner or later will at last see the day when **the** shadow of devastating **war** is eliminated and when they will be able to devote themselves **to** the noble objective **of** national reconstruction and economic and social **development**. We have a clear example of this in Namibia, where the beginning of the implementation of Security **Council** resolution **435 (1978)** has permitted the recent holding **of** free and **fair elections** in an atmosphere of **peace**, impossible a **few** years **ago**, and a constituent assembly is already meeting to decide the institutional future and government **of** that country.

While we may well believe that disarmament constitutes one **of** the **most** significant ways of strengthening international security, the dismantling **of** military bases and the return of the territories on which they stand to their legitimate owners is also **necessary**, and history also demands that regional hotbeds **of** conflict be eliminated. However, there are other factors **of** a **non-military** nature that cannot and must not be disregarded.

There exists a profound crisis of an economic **nature that affects all** countries and particularly those of the third world, as a result of archaic and unjust international economic relations based on unequal trade, protectionism, dumping and the existence of the unbearable burden of foreign debt. All this is

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combined in such a way **as** to stifle weak economies and lead many societies **to** grave levels **of** poverty and misery, generating social upheaval which affects and will in the future even **more** strongly affect not only national stability **and** security but also international security. The Americas today are witnessing such a situation. In this part of the world our peoples are demanding that the weapons that attack US be laid down and that the **resources** so released be devoted entirely to development and **to** ensuring a suitable future for our children.

International security will certainly **become** strengthened when the heinous practice **of** apartheid, which at the end **of** **the** twentieth century is still causing suffering to millions of **human** beings, is definitively eliminated. **Of** equal importance in the efforts **to make** security and **the** climate **of** peace and tranquillity more effective is **the** need to **meet the just** claims of all those peoples that are still struggling for the legitimate right to self-determination and independence. Colonialist relations must be **en&d** if we are to strengthen international security. Even today, when the independence of Namibia is on the horizon, our battle must be carried out energetically, as there are more than 20 territories in which millions of human beings are still calling for an end to the **colonial** yoke and for their accession to full independence.

Respect for the principles **of** international law embodied in the spirit and letter of the United Nations Charter undoubtedly constitutes the basis for establishing a climate of peace and security. This **means** that strict **compliance** with the obligations of States concerning these principles is the **best way of** promoting and strengthening international security.

In our world of today, **characterized by** the search for solutions to the problems we are facing, we attach particular significance not only to the sovereign

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equality of States and the peaceful settlement of disputes but also to the need for States to refrain from the threat or use of force in international relations and to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other States.

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Unfortunately, as has been pointed out by a number of speakers and as was **recognized** by the Heads of State and Government of the **Non-Aligned** Countries, at their last summit conference, held at Belgrade last September, acts of aggression and **violations** of sovereignty are still being committed. Interventions, economic blockades and interference in the internal affairs of States are still being engaged in. There are powerful States that **followed** the policy of trying to satisfy their greed by force, and this must come to an end for peace to be a reality for all. Examples of this exist in countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America.

**My** delegation wishes to affirm, as we address the item on the strengthening of international security, that another act of aggression against my country is being prepared by the **United** States, as final steps are taken for the establishment of a permanent television broadcasting station designed to transmit propaganda against Cuba. **By** this action, which constitutes a flagrant act of interference in the internal affairs of my country and a violation of international **norms**, the **United States** Government is sharpening its policy of aggression against Cuba at a time when there is talk of broadening international **détente**. This can only be interpreted as arrogant behaviour towards small countries and a demonstration of intent to provoke a crisis by fuelling regional conflicts. The Cuban Government will not accept any violations of its sovereignty, and it has warned of the additional tension that could result from this policy, which in addition violates fundamental international norms among States as well as commitments undertaken in international treaties in the case of telecommunications.

Cuba totally and firmly rejects the United States plan and stands against the establishment of that anti-Cuban television broadcasting station. We affirm our full right to take whatever measures we deem **appropriate** to attempt to impede and thwart this new manoeuvre by the United States.

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On the basis of a new agenda item, just a few days ago through adoption of the relevant resolution the General Assembly appealed for the strengthening of international peace, security and co-operation in all its aspects in accordance with the Charter - a concept that our delegation supported and hopes will be implemented effectively by all States. If the United States is true to its support for that adopted text it has a new opportunity to demonstrate its sincerity to the international community by taking measures to halt and impede this new act of aggression and interference in the internal affairs of Cuba - this violation of its sovereignty, which the establishment of the anti-Cuban television station represents. Let us hope that the peace for which we yearn may truly become the fresh air we all breathe, because all peoples, however small, have the right to live in peace.

Mr. REFAAT (Egypt) : Forty-five years ago, when the Charter of the United Nations was drawn up, international peace and security meant peace and security among the nations of a world that had gone through two world wars. With the rapid developments in the field of technology, acclimatization of the concept of international peace and security was thought to meet prevailing situations and it has come to mean peace and security in space, on earth and under water. But do we find ourselves in a situation in which peace and security prevail? Are we going in the right direction, and could peace and security ultimately prevail in the midst of all of this? In addressing this, we should make an honest assessment of the past year to take account of positive developments and at the same time address those negative developments that have an impact on our interdependence and co-operation. The importance of being guided in our actions by the security Provisions of the Charter should be borne in mind.

(Mr. Refaat, Egypt)

This year the world community has witnessed a number of positive developments reinforcing the existing prevailing positive climate. A conviction is growing - marked by the willingness of all to live in a peaceful world - of the importance of moving away from the language of force to the rule of logic and negotiation, A drive exists to move ahead and the renaissance of faith in the United Nations is beginning to mature, providing an increased impetus to further efforts and additional co-operation between its members. In this context, the following should be stressed: this renaissance and drive should not be temporary; peace and security can be achieved only through the co-operation of all, respect for the United Nations and its Charter and a continued commitment to its collective security provisions are imperative; there should be respect for the principle of equal rights and the self-determination of peoples, and in particular the right of self-determination should be granted to the Palestinian people. To this end, Egypt calls upon Israel to exercise the necessary flexibility and to demonstrate to the whole world its honest quest and desire for peace and security in the Middle East region.

A few days ago there was an important development, which Egypt would like to welcome and support: the successful elections in Namibia. As a member of the African continent, of which we are proud, Egypt is looking forward to the independence of the State of Namibia and its eventually becoming a member of Our African family.

Nevertheless, Egypt would like to emphasize the importance of the successful efforts undertaken by the United Nations and its Secretary-General towards bringing about a successful conclusion to one of the longest examples of colonial domination. Moreover, Egypt would like to pay tribute and applaud the invaluable

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**contribution made** by the United Nations peace-keeping group in Namibia for the difficult burden they have endured in **maintaining order**, thereby **facilitating** the electoral **process**.

**High on our agenda is the question of security and** co-operation in the Mediterranean. *For a number of years, Egypt has stressed* the indivisibility of **security. Security affects Europe versa,** and also has a direct impact **on international peace and security. Egypt has always believed** that **such a** important **geostrategic** region should not remain an area of tension. The continuation of **such tension does more than threaten** peace and **security in the area. Perilous situations are sure** to arise, exacerbating the danger and volatility. *If no solution is found in the near future for such areas of tension,* the main artery for the provision **to** many nations of the **necessary means** for their economic **and** cultural life will **always** remain **threatened. For security and** co-operation to be **established** in the Mediterranean region, the following **should** be achieved.

**First,** there must be a peaceful **settlement of the Middle East** problem, in particular the Palestinian **question,** through the **establishment** of a Palestinian State, one in which the **Palestinian** people must have **the right to self-determination, and** Israel **must** withdraw **from** Arab territory occupied **since** 1967.

**(Mr. Refaat, Egypt)**

Secondly, urgent **steps** should be taken to halt **co-operation of any kind between Israel and South Africa, as such** co-operation threaten<sup>8</sup> peace and security not only in the Mediterranean region **but also on** the African continent. Thirdly, a **nuclear-weapon-free zone** should be **established** in the region **of the Middle East as** a step **towards the** enhancement **of** international peace and **security** in general and **the promotion of** security and **co-operation** in the Mediterranean region in particular. Fourthly, **there should** be a **peaceful** settlement **of the** problem of Cyprus, **Fifthly**, the international community **should** play **a more positive role to ensure that peace is** restored to **Lebanon** despite recent negative developments. In **this** context, Egypt cannot **but** deplore the **assassination of Lebanon's** President,

The **Helsinki** Document **of** 1975 and the Stockholm Conference **stressed the close** link between security in Europe and **security** in the Mediterranean area, and **emphasized that the process of** improving security **should** not be confined to **Europe** but should extend **to other parts of the** world, in particular **to the** Mediterranean. Such a **close** link **necessitates** co-operation and commitment to **work towards that end: security and co-operation in the Mediterranean area.**

**In conclusion,** let me refer **to my** earlier question, **Do** peace and **security** prevail?

are moving at a **slow pace**, we are certainly **moving** in the right direction. **However**, in order for further **progress** to be **made**, political will **is needed to support** our endeavours. I **should also emphasize** that **those** endeavours will be crowned with **success only** if we all remain committed to the **principles** enshrined in the United Nations Charter.

Mr. AWAD (Syrian Arab Republic) (interpretation from Arabic) : My delegation considers the United Nations to be **the most** appropriate **body** to which the international **community** can appeal to find a real solution to **problems of peace and security**. We might say that the United Nations **was** set up for that very **purpose**. Article 1 of the Charter clearly **states** the **purposes** of the United Nations to be :

"To maintain international peace and security, and to **that end** : to take effective collective **measures** for the prevention and removal of threats to **the Peace** . . . and to bring about by peaceful means . . . adjustment or **settlement** of international **disputes**" and "to develop friendly relations among **nations** . . ."

Although **the** Charter **was** adopted **over 40 years ago**, it **is** still a solid **basis for** dealing with the **problems** and difficulties that confront us. We **must** therefore strengthen the role of the United Nations so that it may be able to take practical **measures to ensure respect** for the **purposes** and principles of the **Charter** : to **safeguard** the sovereignty, the territorial integrity and the economic independence of countries, to refrain from the threat or **use of force**, to **ensure the peaceful settlement of disputes**, the right of all peoples to self-determination, the liquidation of **colonization** and of racial discrimination, the cessation of foreign occupation and **domination**, and the elimination of weapons of **mass** destruction, especially nuclear weapons. The world **has** learned with **dismay** that certain racist **régimes** are in **possession of such weapons** and we see that they **are** co-operating with a **view** to developing **such weapons**, and organizing tests on their delivery systems.

The Syrian Arab Republic has **always** paid attention to the strengthening of international security. We **have** worked actively and effectively to **consolidate** principles of **security** and **co-operation** in the Mediterranean region by contributing

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to the adoption of declaration<sup>8</sup> and **statements**, for example the statement **issued** by the Foreign Ministers of the non-aligned countries in the Mediterranean **area**, the Valletta statement in 1984, and the **Brioni** statement in **1987**.

The strengthening of **security and co-operation** in the Mediterranean region **requires** the elimination of **hotbeds of tension** in that part of the world through the peaceful settlement of disputes, respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of **States**, non-interference in their internal **affairs** and **non-resort** to force or the threat of the **use** of force, in accordance with the **principles** of international law and of the United Nations **Charter**.

My country **would** like **to stress** that the following elements **are factors** of destabilisation in the Mediterranean region.

**First, there are certain States which adhere to** the concept of military superiority and domination, resort to expansion, and **the presence** of **navies** and of military **bases**, and which practise State **terrorism** against **some** countries of the region.

Secondly, **there** is the fact that **Israel is** obstructing the implementation of the resolutions adopted **by the** General Assembly and the Security Council calling for the setting up of a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East. **Israel is** continuing to develop **its** nuclear and military potential! it **has** refused **to accede** to the non-proliferation Treaty and to submit **its** nuclear facilities **to** the International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards.

Thirdly, Israel is continuing to occupy Arab territories, to establish settlements therein and **to** practise its **racist** and expansionist **policy**. It **has** refused to withdraw from the occupied **territories** or to recognise **the** legitimate **rights** of the Arab Palestinian people.

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Republic)

Fourthly, the Israeli aggression against Lebanon **continues**. Israel **has** occupied **part of the south** of Lebanon and **refuses to** implement **the** resolution<sup>8</sup> of **the** Security Council calling upon it to withdraw unconditionally **from** those **territories**.

On the **basis** of those **principles**, my country is continuing to **strive** to eliminate **one of the most serious hotbeds of tension** in the world and to reach a **just** and equitable solution **to** the Middle **East** crisis through the **convening of** the International Peace Conference **on** the Middle **East** with the participation **Of** all **parties** concerned, **including the** Palestine Liberation Organization and the permanent **members** of the Security Council, to **ensure** the total Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab **territories**; to **guarantee** the legitimate **rights** of the Arab people of **Palestine**, foremost of **which are its** right to return, and **its** right to **self-determination** and to the **establishment** of **its** own independent State **on its** national **territory**.

Finally, the Syrian Arab Republic would **like to stress** that the **interdependence** between the **security** of Europe and that of the Middle **East requires** that the non-aligned **countries** in the Mediterranean region co-operate with **European** States, for **in** order to **ensure** security in one part, the same conditions **of** **security must** prevail in the other part.

Miss CAREY (Bahamas) : My delegation **extends** its congratulations to you, Sir, **on your election** to the chairmanship of this Committee, **and to the other members of the Bureau,**

**More than 40 years ago,** at the **end** of a **disastrous world war,** the **strengthening of international peace and security was underscored** as a critical issue for the **community of nations.** The priority the international **community** attached to the issue finds its **clearest expression** in Article 1 of the **Charter,** according to which **the fundamental purpose of the Organization is to** “maintain international peace and security”. That Article is as pertinent today as it **was 40 years ago,** as evidenced **by the fact that Member States are** returning to the **Charter** in the **search for** viable solutions **to global problems** that threaten international peace and security.

All **States** have a legitimate right to security, **and efforts to ensure** security for **some countries** at the **expense** of others would **be** unrealistic and **ultimately destabilizing.** It is imperative, **therefore,** that Member States reaffirm their commitment to the purposes and principles **of** the United Nations in order to **enhance** the effectiveness of **the Organization** in **ensur**ing international peace and security. **Maximum use must be** made **of** the capacity of the United Nations if its Charter provisions are **to be** effectively implemented. In this **connection** the Bahamas supports all efforts aimed at making the **Organization** more viable. We note in particular the recent agreement **between the** United States **of** America and the Union of Soviet Socialist **Republics,** as indicated in their joint statement and related understanding of 3 **November** 1989, to recommit their resolve **to the purposes and principles of the Charter.**

**Member States** seem, justifiably, to **be** placing greater confidence in the peace-making and peace-keeping capability **of** the United Nations. The contribution of the Organization to the maintenance of peace **has been demonstrated** most

(Miss Carey, Bahamas)

effectively in recent times in its activities in the **field of** peace-keeping. The broad recognition **of** the **value** of these operations **was** reflected in the award of the Nobel **Peace Prize** to the peace-keeping forces last **year**.

Peace-keeping is and always has **been** a dramatic way **of** representing the international will to peace in the conflict areas **of the** world. **If backed by greater** international **effort**, it can **become an** extremely important **part** of our broader effort to build **a** world at peace. The **increased** demand for **peace-keeping** operation<sup>8</sup> **is** a direct result **of** an improvement in **the** international climate **over** the **past** three years.

But peace-keeping is only one of many elements in the **complex** issue of peace and **security**. The **process** of peace-making must **necessarily precede** peace-keeping . We therefore look forward to and will participate **in** enhancing the peace-making capability of the United **Nations**.

**Just as** peace-keeping and peacemaking are directly related, so are peace and **security**. The existence of **the** one **presupposes** the other. A **comprehensive** look at this interrelated concept must allow for adequate **consideration of** the issue of **security**. The concept of security **is** an all-encompassing one **that must be dealt** with in the **context of a** better appreciation of the security problem<sup>8</sup> and interests **of** other countries, What is required is an acceptance of **the** important notion<sup>8</sup> that derive from the Charter **of** the United Nations, that all nations have an inalienable right to **security**, **that** military force is not a **legitimate instrument** for resolving international disputes, that restraint **is** necessary in pursuing national policies in an interdependent world, and that neither military **superiority** nor military means offers an adequate answer **to** security issues in the present **or** the future world.

In this context, nations **must** engage in **confidence-building** measures in order to strengthen international peace and security. Such measures could eliminate the

(Miss Carey, Bahamas)

causes of tension, thereby consolidating peace and security. They also reinforce mutual confidence, promoting greater stability and thereby reducing the potential for armed conflict. In this regard we are pleased to note that draft resolution A/C.1/44/L. 58 on the contribution of confidence- and security-building measures to international peace and security was, like its predecessors, adopted by consensus. We hope that the dialogues on confidence-building measures will continue and bring about even more substantive results.

The building of a peaceful world cannot be limited to the military and political spheres; attention must also be given to economic and environmental challenges confronting the international community because they too can threaten international peace and security. The attainment of peace and security will continue to elude us if the economic prospects of developing countries do not improve. The growing interdependence of countries and the nature of the world economic environment call urgently for a search for constructive dialogue and co-operation free from restrictions and limitations. The debt problem which inhibits the economic growth of States in a developing world and destabilises international trade and financial relations also requires the co-operation of developed and developing countries to ensure a stable economic environment.

Recent events clearly indicate that the world community is making concerted efforts to attain international peace and security. There has been a renewal of confidence that international peace and security are attainable, as there has been a trend towards strengthening international peace and security at the regional, multilateral and bilateral levels. There has also been increased willingness to co-operate, and dialogues continue to take place between the super-powers.

Unprecedented prospects for peace and security are also evident in recent events in Eastern Europe, in Namibia and in the abatement of East-West tensions. The cessation of belligerency and the new-found hope for negotiated political

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settlements in Kampuchea, Afghanistan, Cyprus and Western Sahara are also encouraging.

It is our hope that efforts to realize the purpose, enunciated in the Charter, of upholding international peace and security will be strengthened and enhanced. The Bahamas is confident that, with the support and co-operation of all Member States striving towards this goal, the prospect of attaining international peace and security will become more promising.

Mr. SUAREZ (Philippines): Walls are coming down all over the world. Barely three weeks ago, in the middle of the proceedings in this Committee, we received the unbelievable news that one of the harshest monuments of the post-Second World War period had fallen. The Berlin Wall had been breached and the citizens of that long-divided city were free to meet together. That stunning news caught all of us off guard. Overnight the policies and the mindset of the cold war suddenly seemed irrelevant. Indeed, the makers of policy and the shapers of opinion alike are still reaching out for answers to this and to many other world developments, not quite knowing how to respond to this swift unfolding of history.

As was put so eloquently by President Alan Boesak of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, "There has never been a time like this."

More than the visible walls of concrete and barbed wire, the walls we have referred to are those that have enclosed our minds when it was facile to think in black-and-white terms, in categories of East and West.

As we take up again in this Committee the question of international security, we come face to face with the reality that the boundaries and buzz-words of our old thinking now seem to hold little meaning. Yet, at the same time, the question of security, which for a long time seemed stalled in a stalemate, has assumed new vigour and relevance.

(Mr. Suarez, Philippines)

What is interesting is that, all along, we have been preparing ourselves for this moment. In the meetings of this Committee, in the three special sessions of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament and in the meetings of the non-aligned Countries the ideas for a new and peaceful world in accordance with the United Nations Charter have been debated and explored.

It is useful to know that the Palme Commission on Disarmament and Security Issues - itself an offshoot of the optimistic times that gave rise to the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament - began its work in 1980 and issued its first report in 1982. On 14 April 1989 this Commission issued its Final Statement in Stockholm. That document is entitled "A World at Peace: Common Security in the Twenty-first Century". The Palme Commission noted that, in order for the international community to achieve the rule of law, three developments were required: first, the habitual use of peaceful means to resolve disputes; secondly, stronger international institutions, with greater resources and improved procedures and patterns of national behaviour, that turn first to these organizations for assistance; and thirdly, mobilization of public opinion through private associations.

Recently we have seen a stronger international will to use the institutions of the United Nations for peace-keeping and peace-making. In his 1989 report on the work of the Organization, the Secretary-General noted a growing determination on the part of the permanent members of the Security Council to work together, and a heightened awareness of the problems common to all nations. Namibia, Iran-Iraq, Western Sahara and Cyprus attest to this.

The new trans-border problems, such as the degradation of the environment, drugs, and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), are seen as being susceptible to solution only through common international effort. For instance, we concluded

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just last week our debate on Antarctica, which, together with outer space, the atmosphere and the oceans, was often referred to as part of our global commons.

Countries are now moving to put an end to the production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons, as well as to achieve, finally, a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty. The use of "people power", of which the Philippines was a Pioneer, is even now being applied in other jurisdictions - with positive results.

We should like to make some observations which, we hope, will contribute to the work of this Committee.

First, the détente between the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics has resulted in the concept of security being re-examined and threshed out anew. A New York Times editorial on 21 November 1989, for instance, proposed a move "From Mere Defense to True Security". Another article questions the relevance of the missiles and tanks of two supposedly opposed military alliances being ranged against each other while the citizens of those countries are now chatting amicably on the Kurfurstendam.

This weekend the President of the Soviet Union and the President of the United States will meet off the coast of Malta. Though they have announced no set agenda, the dramatic events in Eastern Europe and elsewhere will surely lead them to touch on problems of security. There have been similar summit encounters in the past - in Reykjavik, Washington and Moscow, and, very much earlier, in Yalta and San Francisco. Our present system of security arises from these important meetings.

We are still sailing through a Scylla and Charybdis as a result of decisions made at those meetings - a security imposed by parties who agreed between themselves, with hardly any consultation with other concerned parties, or a security fractured by regional aspirants or by individual contests. We know from

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the past that neither **solution** is adequate and that we must search for something above and beyond these **choices**. We **also** state that all 159 **countries** represented here have a role to play in the **evolution** of a new **approach** to international **peace** and security.

The **search for security** will be a long **quest**, marked by many **stops** and hesitations. Even now, there are those who worry that bilateral **rapprochement** might work to the detriment of multilateral initiatives. We believe that there is room for multilateral, as well as bilateral, initiative. We regret that earlier in the work of this Committee we failed to reach **consensus** on such a basic issue as our resolution on bilateral nuclear-arms negotiations - in fact, we had two resolutions on the issue. We should like to think that this lack of **consensus** is but a hiccup in the great **creative effort** still before all of us.

Secondly, the growing **awareness** of our global **environment** is making us broaden our idea of **security**. Indeed, man's encounters with the violent vagaries of nature paint the way to the **approach** that we should adopt to **problems** with global **dimensions**. Of instances of natural **disasters**, we have had too plentiful an experience this year - in Soviet Armenia, in China, in the United States, in the Caribbean and in my own country, the Philippines. The **response of societies** in all these countries, as well as internationally, was co-operation and mutual **assistance**. Suddenly, in periods of tribulation, boundaries did not seem to **matter**. These events also served to remind us of the fragility of the ecological balance, evident in the debate on Antarctica and in such phenomena as the depletion of the ozone layer, global warming and the greenhouse effect. Thus, our debate on **security** has increasingly overlapped with the debate on ecological issues.

Thirdly, many of the ideas that were proposed in the Palme Commission have now taken root. If nurtured and allowed to bear fruit, the ideas of common **security** -

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**crystallized in the** 1980s - should bring us **closer** to the ideal of peace and security **envisioned by** the United Nations Charter.

Parallel to the work of the **Palme** Commission, **the** report of which - entitled "**Common Security: A Programme for Disarmament**" - was published in 1982, there were two other studies requested by the United Nations **General** Assembly. Issued, respectively, in 1981 and 1986 **by the** Secretary-General, these are relevant to the work of **this** Committee. They are Study Series **8**, entitled "**The Relationship between Disarmament and International Security**", which was issued **as** United Nations document **A/36/597**, and Study Series 14, entitled "**Concepts of Security**", which was **issued** as an annex to United Nations **document A/40/553**. The Philippines **is** honoured to have participated in both these studies, having provided the Chairman for the first, and **an expert** for the second.

If we consider these **studies** together with the **Palme Commission's Final** Statement, which **was** issued **as** United Nations document **A/44/293**, we will find that **our** work in the past decade - and, **of** course, even before that - has not been for **naught**. They have provided **some of** the inspiration for action taken in the field of security and proposals on security forwarded by Governments, in this body as well **as** outside.

We have **now** come full circle - **from** the optimism of the late **1970s** to the bleak **first** years of the **1980s**, which saw the violent passing **of** such great leaders as **Olof Palme** and Indira Gandhi, to **today's** excitingly promising times.

**Turning** to the present session of the United Nations General Assembly, we note that, in the **General** Assembly, draft **resolution A/44/L. 38**, under agenda item 158 and bearing the title "Enhancing international peace, security and international co-operation in all its **aspects** in accordance with the Charter of the United **Nations**", was adopted by **consensus**. In the Special Political Committee, draft

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resolution **A/SFC/44/L.4, under agenda** item 150 and entitled "Protection and security of small **States**", was also adopted by consensus. In the Sixth Committee, **draft resolution A/C.6/44/L.44, under agenda** item 141 and entitled "Peaceful settlement of disputes between States", was similarly adopted by consensus. All these resolutions spring from concepts that have been dealt with in this Committee, as well as having been examined in the studies to which we have referred,

We should bear in mind that the First Committee still leads, or should lead, on the question of security. We have already stated that our work has inspired projects within other Committees of the United Nations, as well as outside this body. The Brundlandt Commission, for instance, speaks of food security. It deals with the question of security from an environmental perspective, just as the earlier Brandt Commission dealt with it from the perspective of economics.

(Mr. Suarez, Philippines)

Our Committee **must** continue **to provide** the lead on those **ques tions, not by** cleaving **to old formulas** or approaches **but rather by** striking **out on new** initiatives in order to enable **us** to co-ordinate our **work** with **that** of **other committees** in **such a way that** overlapping items, **such** as the environment or **economic security**, may be handled jointly, not separately **but** viewed **from** different **perspectives**. **Here**, as in life, one cannot always place **problems** in pigeonholes. We need **a more** integrated **approach** to **some** questions, and that will demand even more imagination **and** creativity from all of **us**. We must **atr ivate** to avoid **a** narrow-minded approach which **makes** some **of us** state categorically **that items do not belong** in our Committee simply **because they have** environmental, economic, social or other implications.

In **many** parte of **the** world today - in Europe, the Philippines, Japan, China **and** India - we still see magnificent reminders of feudal **ages** in the walls which surround their ancient cities and settlements. In **due course** those walls became irrelevant once gunpowder and cannons **were** able to breach them. In **a** similar **sense** we are now leaving behind us **a** feudal age, so to speak. Jet travel, space flight, television, computers, satellites, the spread of universal ideas - to **mention just** **a** few things - have made **political boundaries** and the walls in our thinking **superfluous**. **It is time to see** the world as one **entity**. From the **moon**, even the Great Wall of China **is** but a line on Earth's surface. All over the world **the walls which once** divided us are slowly **coming** down. We **must** leave mankind **all the better** for this.

Mr. BENDJAMA (Algeria) (interpretation from French) : Our Committee is this year considering items on international security in an atmosphere which has undoubtedly **never been** so favourable since the establishment of **our Organization**. In fact, **the** world **is** experiencing **such** complex and rapid changes in favour of an improvement in the international **climate that sometimes we find** it difficult to

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gauge their **scope and** to define the basic **situation**. That situation, it has **become clear** today, **means** a new qualitative **approach** to international relations.

In its **analysis** of every stage of that evolution my delegation **uses as** a **point of reference** the three fundamental objectives for **which** the United Nations has been working **since its** establishment: the establishment **of** genuine and **lasting** international **peace and security**; the **establishment** of general and **complete disarmament**, and the **promotion** of universal economic and **social development**. Those three objectives, **which are closely interrelated**, benefit mutually from any favourable **change, just as** they are affected by any **deterioration** in international relations.

On the **basis of those points of reference** a calm observation of **changes** in our world today **gives rise** to measured **optimism** on the part of my delegation but above all **also raises** valid **questions**. We are optimistic, **first of all, because** international relations today **are** less based on the logic of **power** and ideological confrontation. The international community **has suffered on** too much **from** their concrete manifestations, **such as** the establishment **of** exclusive **zones** of influence and the **preservation of selfish** strategic **interests**, not to welcome and **grasp this** opportunity of the emergence of a new concept **of world peace**.

That **is** a Peace which the Non-Aligned **Movement has** always called for as global **peace**, global in approach **and universal** in **scope**, which means a break with practice that **has prevailed thus far**, in order to establish a true policy **of coexistence** and co-operation based exclusively on compliance **with the goals** and principles **of** the Charter. **The institutional framework** for this quest on the part **of** the international community for lasting **rules for common security** can only be the **United Nations**. **Is not its** original mission the promotion of peace for all peoples

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and the establishment and strengthening of international security for of all Multilateralism, has already its fruitfulness as long as political will exists, must necessarily lead to dialogue and consultation and require the equal contribution of all States in this new era of international relations.

In this respect we may well be pleased at the renewed prestige of our Organization in world public opinion and within the community of States. Its restored authority today makes it possible for it to carry out the many missions entrusted to it with commendable effectiveness. By its direct involvement in the process of seeking solutions to many hotbeds of tension the United Nations has confirmed its calling as an irreplaceable framework for endeavours for peace. There are many examples of this: Afghanistan, the Gulf, Cyprus and, most recently, Namibia, where, to the great satisfaction of the international community, our Organization has conducted a historic mission for the benefit of the Namibian people.

It is undeniable that at the basis of this climate of detente which is today prevailing in international relations the improvement in United States-Soviet relations has had considerable influence. We have seen the first dividends of renewed confidence in the lessening of distrust between the main military alliances of our world. The signing and implementation of the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Nuclear Weapons has created favourable dynamics and we have seen limited but real progress in negotiations under way towards the reduction by half of strategic arsenals and negotiations on conventional and chemical disarmament. This evolution depends to a great extent on an awareness that a nuclear war could not be won by anyone and that therefore a nuclear war must not be waged, and that it is madness to seek strategic superiority for that reason.

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We are fully aware that general and complete disarmament means that we have a long and difficult course ahead and that we must proceed gradually as we gain new confidence in different areas. In that spirit we cannot accept the development of ever more sophisticated and deadly weapons.

There is another undeniable fact and it is that the lessening of ideological rivalries has had a positive effect on the evolution of certain regional conflicts which are today in a state of relative appeasement or where a process of negotiated settlement is under way, with the participation of our Organization systematically requested. None the less it remains equally true that there are still other hotbeds of tension in the world, with their sequel of hatred, violence and injustice. In Africa and the Middle East peoples are still struggling for the recognition of their rights to dignity and freedom. It is important that their suffering and sacrifice be not in vain and that the principles that guide our international community be restored in those regions.

Since it is on the European continent more than anywhere else in the world that efforts to improve international relations have been concentrated, and it is Europe which is today reaping the first fruits of the East-West improvement, my delegation is of course pleased at the progress of détente on a continent to which we have always been bound by geographic proximity, economic and demographic exchanges and history, but at the same time we reaffirm our commitment to the indivisible and global nature of international security.

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In this context, we cannot go along with a piecemeal approach. We cannot go along with restricting measures of détente and disarmament to the European continent at a time when it is unanimously recognized that there is a direct relationship between security in Europe and security in the Mediterranean basin.

The Mediterranean non-aligned countries, quite rightly concerned at the constant tension in the region, have already expressed their resolve to spare no effort to fulfil the historic role of the Mediterranean Sea area for co-operation and trade in the framework of the status of a zone of peace and co-operation. Thus, following Brioni in 1987, my own country's capital is preparing to welcome next year a meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Mediterranean non-aligned countries. We will continue thinking about the promotion of co-operation among our countries in different sectors, but we will also be preparing dialogue and agreement with the member States of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. We expect of them the same open-mindedness, the same readiness to meet our legitimate concerns that existed at their meeting in Palma de Mallorca, which was devoted to the relationship between security in Europe and security in the Mediterranean.

At the regional level, Algeria has worked and will continue to work together with its neighbours to build a union of the Arab Maghreb viewed as a grouping that reflects the historic aspirations of our peoples and that opens a broad horizon for co-operation and increased complementarity. My country has been involved in mutually advantageous co-operation in this grouping, which we are convinced is an appropriate response to the challenges of an international environment characterised today by the imperative need for the establishment and unity of large groups. Unfortunately these positive developments for security and co-operation in our region have met with real threats to international peace and security in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Bendjama, Algeria)

In the Middle East, **Palestinian** people has Put to  
The wonderful **children** of the  
intifadah call upon **our** consciences every **day**. The Zionist **régime, deaf** to the  
**condemnations** and appeals of the international **community**, continues to bring about  
**armed** intervention throughout the Middle East and the threat of nuclear **war**:. It  
constitutes in this respect the basic reason why the situation in **the** Middle East  
has constantly **deteriorated** and is the sole obstacle to the restoration of peace in  
that troubled region.

I do not wish to **conclude** without referring once again to the objectives that  
have underlain the activities of **our** Organisation since its establishment. While  
today we see possibilities **for** dialogue and agreement on international security,  
and while the framework for **negotiations on** disarmament issues has been  
**revitalized** - this also applies to the process of detente - the **same** is not true of  
economic and social development at the global level. The **global** economic **situation**  
in fact continues to arouse the most serious concerns. It is characterised by an  
ever-widening gap between the rich and the poor countries, a gap illustrated by the  
continued economic growth of the countries of the North in sad contrast with **the**  
**flagrant** economic **deterioration** of the South. It **is** also **characterized** by a  
structural trade imbalance because of the **constant** deterioration of the terms **of**  
trade, the debt burden and the negative net transfer of capital. The international  
community must see in this dangerous situation the elements of a new crisis in  
international relations. It is our duty and our **aspiration** to reverse **this**  
dangerous trend and to use to the utmost the many **possibilities** of **multilateralism**.

Mr. KOTEVSKI (Yugoslavia) : In assessing the current state of affairs in  
international relations and in considering the question of the implementation of  
the Declaration **on** the Strengthening of International Security, account should be  
taken of the fact that further major changes have occurred on the international

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scene since our last gathering. In the political sphere of international relations especially, these processes are gaining increasing significance.

Relations between the East and West are constantly being improved. The level and intensity of the dialogue, as well as the broadening spectrum of topics and areas of **co-operation**, are gaining in depth and diversity. This is particularly true of the relations between the super-Powers that are engaged in a wide-ranging dialogue designed to improve their **mutual** relations, which has a positive impact on international relations in general.

There is no doubt that the road **embarked** upon by the United States and the Soviet Union in their **mutual** relations is a necessary precondition of **building** genuine international security. The international community has welcomed the results achieved so far, but has also expressed its **expectation** that through new agreements and concrete measures they will render their full contribution to world stability in the period ahead.

Changes are also evident in relations between the two main **military** blocs, as well as within them. Political developments and rapprochement seem to **question** their very existence. Progress is evident in the beginning of the solution of a number of hotbeds of crisis that have for years threatened world peace and security. Let me mention only the process under way in Namibia to **bring** long-awaited independence to the **Namibian people**.

The current positive processes are not, nor can they be, the result of the improved relations between the big Powers only. We see in contemporary processes the **most** direct confirmation of the principles and goals of the policy of non-alignment and the many years of activities of the non-aligned countries that have **resolutely** advocated the overcoming of bloc divisions in the world and have called on the big Powers to replace confrontation with **co-operation**. This was reaffirmed at the **summit** conference of non-aligned countries held at Belgrade.

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Negotiations and understanding are gradually superseding conflicts and misunderstandings. However, despite important positive movements, much remains to be done in various fields.

In order for detente to become universal, it must be **comprehensive** with respect to numerous and complex problems that call for a concerted and coherent approach in **multilateral** forums.

The danger inherent in the arms race, particularly the nuclear-arms **race**, is far from being removed and calls for further decisive steps to be taken in the field of disarmament.

Similarly, continuing efforts should be made to find solutions to regional crises, particularly to those that are of long standing. More often than not they are deeply rooted in regional contradictions and are aggravated and assume new dimensions because of the interference and involvement of outside forces.

The crisis in the Middle East and the problem of Palestine **continue** to represent a serious threat to international peace. Similarly, despite some encouraging signs, the system of apartheid in South Africa, which is the root-cause of the long-lasting crisis in the region, continues to defy the attempts of the international community to ensure a just and lasting solution to the problem. It is constantly **confirmed** that the solution of these problems, as well as of the problems of Western Sahara, Central America, **Cyprus** and Kampuchea, among others, is possible only through political means based on the **realization** of the inalienable rights of peoples to self-determination, freedom and independence in a process that will include all interested parties and ensure respect for the legitimate interests of all.

Despite a favourable political climate, the interdependence of the contemporary world necessarily demands that greater attention be accorded international economic relations. The economic situation in the vast majority of

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the developing countries has deteriorated dramatically , which is increasingly coming to the fore as a potential source of tension and new, even more difficult disruptions in international relations. Many developing countries can hardly visualize a better future in present conditions, which, for example, enable the net flow of capital from developing to developed countries, which is a unique paradox.

(Mr. Kotevski, Yugoslavia)

Particularly intolerable is **the** problem of the external debt. **It has been shown** that **as** yet there **is** not sufficient general **readiness** in developed **countries to** understand the problems **of** the developing world, **which are** global and in **the long run** may have global **consequences**. One **day the world may be** without a nuclear **bomb**, but the "economic **and social bombs**" may threaten all **positive processes** and world **peace**. **There is no doubt that, short of substantial** improvement in the economic position **of** developing **countries**, it is not **possible** to achieve lasting **peace and security** in the world.

The **question** of the environment **is** yet another global **issue**. The non-aligned countries devoted special attention to this question at their **summit** Conference in Belgrade, **realizing** the potential danger if the international community failed **to** react in **good time** and in **unison**.

**As** a European non-aligned **country**, **Yugoslavia** is very interested in ensuring **security** in Europe, bearing in **mind that**, historically, Europe **has been the** continent on which there have been numerous conflicts and that **has seen** the outbreak **of** two world **wars**. **Today, however**, we are witness inq important **processes** and **efforts** by European countries **aimed at** overcoming ideological, political and economic contradictions, **and at having** confrontations **superseded by** mutual confidence and co-operation. **The** recently concluded Follow-up **Meeting of the** Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (**CSCE**) at Vienna and **the negotiations** under its **aegis** are an important contribution **towards this end**.

**Speak ing** about Europe, we cannot but **point out the importance of** the Mediterranean and the **efforts** made by the non-aligned **countries of the region** to transform it into a zone of peace **and** co-operation.

(Mr. Kotevski, Yugoslav)

**Lasting** solutions to the existing problem<sup>8</sup> of disarmament, development, peace and security, on which the future of the world depends, can be achieved only with the **participation of all interested parties, that is, with the active participation of the international community and the United Nations**, in particular. The world **Organization** has confirmed, especially in the last couple of years, its role in the **maintenance of international peace** and security. It is therefore absolutely necessary today to **act** jointly towards further **strengthening** the effectiveness of the United Nations and, in particular, of the role entrusted by the United Nations Charter to the General **Assembly**, the **Security Council** and the Secretary-General\*

In conclusion, let me point out that recent events and **developments** bear out the essence of the non-aligned **countries'** perception and understanding of their relations in the **world**. There can be no genuine security without respect for **independence**, territorial integrity and the principle of non-interference and non-recourse to **force**. There can be no genuine security either, **without** the equitable co-operation and mutual interest. Nor **will there** be stability without the equitable economic development of all. "**A détente** devoid of **its economic** content is unlikely to endure", **says** the Belgrade Declaration. Only on this **basis** can the world take another step forward into the future and **face** the challenges **before** it.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from **Spanish**): My assessment of the situation indicates that it will not be possible for us to complete the **work of the First Committee** today. **Not** a single one of the three draft resolutions still pending will be ready for action today. As far as I am concerned, I regret **this** very much, because **as** I said **at** the beginning of the meeting, I would very much have liked to be here when the First **Committee** completes its work **this year**, but we certainly cannot impose on delegations a **pace of negotiations** that is not

(The Chairman)

appropriate for the Chair or the **members of the Committee**. That means that there will **be a meeting tomorrow to take action on** outstanding **draft** resolutions, which will **be** presided over by the Vice-Chairman, **Mr. Nabil Fahmy**.

STATEMENT BY THE **CHAIRMAN**

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish) : With the consent of the Committee, I should like to read out the statement that it was **my** intention to make at the end of **our** work as an evaluation **of our motivations this year**.

As the work **of** the First Committee draws to **a close**, I should like to express **my** appreciation **to all of those** who have contributed to the **success** of **our endeavours**. It **was** an honour and a pleasure **for me** to have served **as Chairman of the Committee**. It has **been** a very **rich experience**, which I shall always bear with **me**.

**Members** have made it possible **for the work of** the Committee to **be productive**, thanks to the spirit **of co-operation** and **understanding** that prevailed **in our work**. I extend my appreciation in particular to the **officers of the Committee**, without whose dedication, solidarity **and** support I would not **have** been able fully **to discharge** my responsibilities.

In connection with the first part of **our** agenda, the disarmament items, I should like **to** underscore that the effort at **co-operation made** it possible for the **number** of draft resolutions submitted to **be** reduced substantially. In spite **of** the increase in the number of agenda **items**, only 63 draft **resolutions were submitted** this year **as** compared with 74 draft **resolutions last year**. This year, out of 57 draft resolutions adopted **by the Committee**, 22 **were** adopted **without a vote**. **This is due**, to a large extent, to the climate of understanding, **harmony and** co-operation **that now** prevails in the world. But **this** would **not have been possible**

**(The Chairman)**

without the effort at **rationalization made by** all delegations, and in particular by those **that** are the traditional *sponsors* of draft resolutions.

In spite of the results achieved, we cannot feel completely **satisfied**. A **great deal remains to be** done. It is necessary, above all, to revitalise and strengthen the role of multilateral **forums** and render fully effective the interdependent relationship **between** them and **more** restricted **negotiation** mechanisms, whether bilateral or regional, that are used **by** the main **military** Powers. The need to confront globally the problems posed by military expenditures and **the** accumulation of weaponry requires the **participation** of the international community for the **adoption** of solutions consistent with **security** requirements. As was stated by the Secretary-General when he addressed the First **Committee**:

“While the role of bilateral and **regional** negotiations **is** self-evident, **it is also no substitute for** the pursuit of disarmament at the global **level**. The strengthening and reinvigoration of **the** multilateral disarmament **process** **is** vital, given the global **nature** of **many of** the **issues** involved and their implications for **international peace and** security.” (A/C.1/44/PV.15, p.13)

Furthermore, the **growing** need for financial **resources** in order to resolve economic problems has a decisive influence on the efforts of **all countries to curb** and reverse the **arms race** the world over. In **the** present **circumstances**, when the **international economic system** is faced with increasing difficulties in **its attempt** to provide **sufficient** resources for development, the only possible **source** of **additional resources** for development would **seem** to be disarmament. The reduction of military expenditures **by** releasing **sizeable human** and **material** resources should contribute to **reactivating** the **economies** of the large developed countries, and at the same time give **new impetus** to the process of development in general, and to renewed co-operation **in the** developing countries,

(The Chairman)

We **have** also adopted this year two draft resolutions **on** the question **of** **Antarctica**. Unfortunately, we have not **yet** reached a **consensus on this** question, in spite of the **expressed** will of many delegations to make **efforts** to achieve **that objective**. I am confident that efforts **will** be **intensified**, so that the international community may **take a consensus position**, in view of the challenges posed **by that very special** continent.

(The Chairman)

We are about to conclude our **consideration** of and **action** on draft resolutions on international **security agenda** items. I believe that in this field **also we have made progress**, which has **contributed** to a better understanding of the **prospects** of **different** States **as regards international** peace and security. The new climate of **positive change in** international relations is prevailing **over** old disputes **and hard and fast** Positions. The present time **offers** opportunities which we must grasp in order **to** resolve problems in the **area** of disarmament and **international** security .

The **debates this** year on international security have been conducted at a **time** of great expectations of change in respect of international security. The evolution of relations **between the** United States and the Soviet Union, **reflected** in the role they have assumed at **this session** of the General Assembly **as co-sponsors** Of the item on the **strengthening of** international peace, security and international co-operation, **the changes in** the security situation in Europa, and the success the **United Nations** has had in **facilitating** the negotiated settlement of a **number** of **regional** **have** all contributed to **creating** a widespread feeling of optimism about the present state of international security and the direction that has been taken, **During** this session the **achievements** in the long **process** of the independence of Namibia have also been a source of pride and satisfaction.

The **First** Committee has, I believe, been able to make a **contribution** to the **new climate** of co-operation and international **agreement** that has been **established** in the world. **Today** the political climate is **becoming more sensitive to the** peoples' aspirations for peace. We **are seeing an increasingly strong** conviction that an end must be put to old conflicts and **that we must** reduce the risk which the **accumulation** of arms represents to the **strengthening** of international **peace** and security.

(The Chairman)

I believe that the deliberations of the First Committee and the measures that have been adopted during this session have contributed significantly to the establishment of a balance sheet on the present state of international security and to the initiation of the consideration of certain proposals on effective new measures for the strengthening of international security. I regard as very valuable the positive attitude that has inspired our work during this session, and I am confident that the same spirit will continue to guide our thinking on these fundamental issues.

I believe that, without trying to impose discipline, the rationalization of the work the Committee has to a great extent I am referring to the efficiency and flexibility that have characterized our proceedings, thanks to the efforts made by all. This has made it possible for the Committee to complete, or almost complete, its lengthy agenda within the scheduled time.

I am grateful to all delegations for the co-operation they have given me and for their efforts to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of our work and of our proceedings,

I should not like to conclude this statement without expressing my thanks to Mr. Akashi, Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, and Mr. Safronchuk, Under-Secretary-General for Political and Security Council Affairs. I wish also to say a few special words of thanks to Mr. Sohrab Kheradi, Secretary of the Committee, whose special qualifications have made a fundamental contribution to the carrying out of our work.

I also want to thank our colleagues, Mr. Sattar and Mr. Gerardi Siehert, who have contributed considerably to the success of our work. Lastly, I want to extend my thanks to Ms. Perkins, Mr. Ishiguri, Ms. Marcaillou and Ms. Brosnakova and also,

(The Chairman)

of course, to the conference officers, interpreters and all the other United Nations staff members who have made it possible for this Committee to conduct its work effectively.

This brings me to the end of the statement I intended to make at the conclusion of our work. As I have already said, the Committee will be holding a meeting tomorrow, and it is hoped that it will then be able to take action on all the remaining draft resolutions.

The meeting- rose at 12. 35 p.m.