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Chairman: Mr. JAROSZEK (Poland)

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Implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security:
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The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 33

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY:
REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The CHAIRMAN: In accordance with the programme of work and the time-table adopted by the First Committee, we are beginning today the consideration of agenda item 33, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security".

The Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security, it may be recalled, was adopted in 1970 at the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly, following the submission by the Soviet Union of a proposal concerning this question at the previous session.

The political importance and practical usefulness of this Declaration in relations among States have not failed their expectations. The Declaration not only solemnly reaffirmed the continued validity of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations but also specified and developed the ideas of the Charter, taking due account of the quarter-century of existence of the United Nations. Its adoption has been a fitting response to the ever-increasing need to intensify efforts towards the fulfilment of the paramount objective of the United Nations: the maintenance of international peace and security. As one of the political milestones in the history of the United Nations, the Declaration has served well as an instrument to guide actions of Member States.

The item on the implementation of this Declaration has been inscribed on the agendas of all the consecutive sessions of the General Assembly since its adoption. Indeed, this is one more evidence of the international recognition and topicality of the principles proclaimed in it.

Today, we can be only pleased to see that progress has been made in the implementation of a number of provisions of the Declaration; their practical application has contributed to the consolidation of positive trends in international relations, thus strengthening the processes of détente. Pursuant

(The Chairman)

to the provisions of the Declaration, our Organization succeeded in working out the long overdue definition of aggression. Considerable progress has been achieved in developing international co-operation both on regional and bilateral planes.

It is exactly in the context of the provisions of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security concerning regional co-operation that the States of Europe, as well as the United States of America and Canada, at their Conference on Security and Co-operation at Helsinki, unanimously adopted the Conference's Final Act, constituting as it does a major landmark in the promotion of peaceful relations among States and an example worth taking up in other regions of the world.

However successful the efforts of the world community might have been, there is still much to be done in bringing the provisions of the Declaration to full fruition. For, some of them still await their realization. In certain areas of the world still much is to be desired as far as their security is concerned. But this is precisely why the item is discussed every year -- to sum up how much we have moved forward, and to map out specific steps to further enhance the cause of the implementation of the Declaration.

I, therefore, believe that the First Committee will give its careful consideration to this important item on our agenda. May I express my sincere hope for a constructive discussion of the item, which would contribute adequately to the effective and full implementation of the purposes and principles of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security.

Mr. STASHEVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Every year that has elapsed since the adoption of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security has provided new confirmation of the correctness and relevance of the tasks indicated in that extremely important document of the United Nations. The Declaration quite rightly has won universal recognition as a document of great political significance which, in strict compliance with the United Nations Charter, lays down the fundamental guidelines for the efforts of States towards the strengthening of international peace and security.

In the time which has elapsed since the adoption of the Declaration far-reaching changes have occurred in the world, and the international climate has substantially changed for the better. There has been a turn around from cold war and tension to détente and normalization of relations among nations with different social systems towards the development of many-sided co-operation among them.

Everyone recognizes that the extremely important historic result of the efforts of all peace-loving forces in recent years has been the easing of the threat of a new world war and global nuclear confrontation. The world has become more tranquil and stable.

It is quite clear that the policy of détente has no sensible alternative. It is necessary in equal measure to all States, regardless of their social systems or the degree of their economic development. The process of the improvement of the international situation is in keeping with the interests of all States and peoples.

Noting all the positive achievements in recent years in international affairs, however, we cannot say that the purposes laid down in the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security have lost any of their relevance or urgency.

The danger of a world war, although it has been reduced, still continues to threaten mankind. The unceasing arms race constantly creates and maintains a material basis for the danger of war. In various parts of the world, hotbeds of international conflict are still smouldering; fraught with dangerous consequences for peace. Colonial racist régimes, by force of arms or by deceit and intrigue are attempting to perpetuate their existence. In the world influential forces

(Mr. Stashévsky, USSR)

remain at work which are aiming at undermining the progressive process of improvement in international relations and are endeavouring to turn the world back to the times of fear, mistrust, and uncertainty about the morrow. Therefore it is extremely important for States Members of the United Nations to be unflagging in their efforts in accordance with the requirements of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security, and to do everything in their power to preserve and perpetuate the results already achieved in the matter of détente and to strive to see to it that this process becomes irreversible.

The position of the Soviet Union on this score has been set forth very clearly and has been developed in the decisions of the Twenty-Fifth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union which confirmed the programme for the further struggle for international peace and co-operation for freedom and independence of peoples which has become known to all. The General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU, Comrade Brezhnev, in his statement at the Congress, stressed that the Soviet Union will, and I quote, " ... do everything in its power to intensify international détente and to embody it in concrete forms of mutually advantageous co-operation among States".

It is precisely from this point of departure that the Soviet Union views the question of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security. The consistent struggle based on principle for the strengthening of international peace and security is being waged by the socialist countries and this is something which has been demonstrated once again by the results of the Conference of the Political Consultative Committee of the States members of the Warsaw Treaty in Bucharest, on 25-26 November this year. This Conference considered a broad range of urgent topics in the further struggle for the intensification of international détente and the strengthening of security and co-operation in Europe, and indicated a broad programme of further measures along these lines.

The States parties to the Warsaw Treaty were firmly in favour of the cessation of the arms race and disarmament, and declared their wish and readiness actively and constructively to co-operate with all States in achieving these exceptionally important goals which face mankind.

They noted in particular that they attached great significance to talks on the reduction of armed forces and armaments in Central Europe and that they were ready to make further efforts to achieve a mutually acceptable agreement on these topics.

(Mr. Stashévsky, USSR)

In order to eliminate the threat of nuclear war the States parties to the Warsaw Treaty produced an extremely important proposal. They proposed to all States signatories of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe that they conclude a treaty providing for the assumption by all States parties to that Conference of the obligation not to be the first to use nuclear arms against each other on land, at sea or in outer space. This obligation, under the draft treaty, would apply not only to the territory of States but also to their armed forces in whatever part of the world they may be found. States parties to the Bucharest Conference expressed the hope that this proposal of theirs would be welcomed by other States parties to the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

In the declaration adopted the States parties to the Warsaw Treaty also proposed concrete measures designed to extend comprehensive co-operation in accordance with the provisions of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe in the economic, cultural, education and information fields, as well as in contacts among people.

The Soviet Union has always striven to see to it that the process of détente not only is intensified but is also extended to cover the whole planet. Peace and reliable security should be brought within the reach of all continents, all countries, all peoples. It is precisely this which is the goal of the States Members of the United Nations in approving the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security.

In this Declaration, as we know, there is enshrined the principle of non-use of force or the threat of force in relations between States in accordance with the United Nations Charter, as one of the fundamental principles of relations among States. The strict and universal embodiment of this principle and its implementation, its conversion into an unshakeable law of international relations without any doubt would be a major step towards the strengthening of international security and further consolidation of international détente and its extension throughout the world. The Soviet Union was guided by precisely these considerations when it put forward the proposal for the conclusion of a world treaty on the non-use of force in international relations. The preparation and conclusion of such a treaty would unquestionably strengthen the security of all

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States and international security as a whole, and the fruits of détente would become accessible to the peoples of all continents.

The question of concluding a treaty has been broadly and thoroughly discussed at the present session of the General Assembly; it was first taken up in the First Committee and then the legal aspects of the matter were considered in the Sixth Committee. This made it possible for delegations to familiarize themselves thoroughly with the proposal on the conclusion of a treaty on the non-use of force and to become acquainted with the details of the matter. As a result the General Assembly approved the idea of the conclusion of a treaty and appealed to Member States to study the draft treaty submitted by the Soviet Union and to give their views and ideas on the subject so as to continue the discussion of this item at the thirty-second session. Accordingly, in essence, a beginning has been made in the process of producing a treaty by the collective efforts of States. The Soviet Union is ready to take part in talks on concrete provisions of this treaty in order to achieve general agreement.

In order further to strengthen international security, we must focus our efforts on resolving the most urgent and important task of the day, that is, the cessation of the arms race and the bringing about of disarmament. We cannot forever maintain a situation where political détente in the world and at the same time the process of the accumulation of all possible types of weapons and the development of new types of weapons are pursuing parallel courses. All States of the world must make new efforts to eliminate this discrepancy, which is fraught with such dangerous consequences for our planet. The Soviet Union for its part is making such efforts.

The thirty-first session of the General Assembly had before it the memorandum of the Soviet Union on questions of ending the arms race and disarmament (A/31/232). This comprehensive document contains the concrete views of the USSR on the lines along which our efforts to combat the arms race should be directed primarily and how to find some way of approaching the solution of the most important problems or to bring the solution of these problems to a logical conclusion. The programme of the limitation of armaments and disarmament proposed in the memorandum takes into account the views of many States. It contains substantively new elements designed to deal with certain difficult,

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unresolved issues. The Soviet Union is ready either to implement immediately all the measures provided for in the memorandum or to begin with some of them, proceeding step by step from one to another.

The range of proposed measures is extremely broad. We have the proposal for steps to be taken for nuclear disarmament, gradually moving from the cessation of the nuclear arms race to the total elimination of nuclear armaments. We have the proposal to come to an agreement on the total cessation of all nuclear tests and the adoption of further measures to strengthen the régime of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. The memorandum proposes the conclusion of an agreement on the prohibition and destruction of chemical weapons and the prohibition of the creation of new types and systems of weapons of mass destruction. The USSR is also proposing that talks be held on the reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments and the reduction of military budgets and proposes that new efforts be made to eliminate military bases on foreign territory. It also proposes the early convening of a world disarmament conference in order comprehensively and radically to consider and resolve the problems of the cessation of the arms race and disarmament. The Soviet Union has expressed its readiness to accommodate the views of the States of the Indian Ocean in order to facilitate the conversion of that ocean into a peace zone and has confirmed the proposal to come to an agreement with the United States on the withdrawal from the Mediterranean of Soviet and United States vessels and submarines carrying nuclear arms. In supporting its proposals on disarmament by deeds, the Soviet Union has recently once again reduced its military budget. The wide-ranging and business-like discussion on questions of disarmament which has just been concluded in the First Committee last week confirms the wish of an absolute majority of Member States of the United Nations to place limits as soon as possible on the arms race and to proceed to the implementation of measures of genuine disarmament. It also revealed the growing understanding by States of the objective fact that it is precisely the continuation of the arms race which is making more difficult the solution of the problems of the developing countries, the elimination of their economic lag and the transfer to development purposes resources which are being spent on armaments; at the same time it is aggravating the economic disturbances which are being experienced by the developed capitalist countries.

(Mr. Stashévsky, USSR)

The First Committee has adopted a number of resolutions which can facilitate a cessation of the arms race and disarmament. Members of the Committee are well aware of these decisions. It is now our task to achieve the implementation of the decisions adopted. It seems to us that the mood of Member States on questions of disarmament should be reflected in a resolution which the General Assembly would adopt on the question of the strengthening of international security.

In order to strengthen international security and to implement the provisions of the declaration on this question there must be consistent efforts to eliminate existing military hotbeds which create the potential threat of war in various parts of the world. It is precisely for this reason that the Soviet Union has constantly espoused the idea of a just and total settlement of the Middle East conflict. Such a settlement requires the withdrawal of all Israeli troops from the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and the implementation of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian Arab people, including its right to the creation of its own State, the assurance of the right to an independent existence of all States of the area, including Israel and the cessation of the state of war between the Arab States in question and Israel. These questions should form the agenda of the Geneva Peace Conference on the Middle East and the work of this body should be resumed as soon as possible with the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

(Mr. Stashévsky, USSR)

It is becoming increasingly apparent that there is an urgent need to eliminate the dangerous hotbeds of tension in the Eastern Mediterranean and to settle the Cyprus problem by guaranteeing the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Cyprus in accordance with the decisions of the United Nations. All foreign troops should be evacuated from the territory of Cyprus and internal problems of the country should be resolved by the Cypriots themselves, due account being taken of the interests of both the Greek and Turkish communities.

The strengthening of international security undoubtedly would be served by a peaceful solution of the Korean problem in accordance with the fundamental aspirations of the Korean people by the withdrawal from South Korea of all foreign troops and the peaceful democratic reunification of the country without any outside intervention.

The Soviet Union believes it is necessary actively to continue the search for ways of strengthening peace and security on the Asian continent as a most essential constituent element of the struggle for the strengthening of international security. The question of strengthening security in Asia, on the basis of the joint efforts of the States of that continent, is becoming yearly more important and urgent and is attracting the attention of a growing number of States of the area. This question is on the agenda of international political bodies and awaits a solution.

One of the most important international tasks of today, the solution of which would promote the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security, is the elimination of all the remnants of the system of colonial oppression, which is detrimental to the equality and independence of peoples, and the elimination of hotbeds of colonialism and racism. Any attempts to revitalize or preserve colonial racist domination in various parts of the world can only complicate the international situation and sow the seeds of new international conflicts.

In so far as concerns the Soviet Union, we shall continue to provide support and assistance to the peoples of Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa in their struggle against the racist régimes, apartheid, and neo-colonialist plots and in favour of the implementation of United Nations decisions for the elimination of colonialism and racism.

(Mr. Stashévsly, USSR)

Recently in world affairs the problem of the restructuring of international economic relations has been acquiring growing importance. This problem has now become urgent and is affecting political relations among States. The Soviet Union supports the just demands of the developing countries that an end be put to discrimination and artificial barriers to international trade and that all manifestations of inequality, diktat, and exploitation in international economic relations be eliminated. The sooner progress is achieved by States in ceasing the arms race and bringing about disarmament and the strengthening of international security and peace, the more quickly this problem will be solved.

These are some of the questions which the Soviet delegation wanted to touch upon in connexion with the discussion of the situation concerning the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security.

Our delegation believes that as a result of the discussion of this item at this session, steps should be taken to facilitate the strengthening of the process of international détente, its intensification and its extension to all parts of the world. The General Assembly, in our view, should recommend such measures as would promote the efforts of States to use more fully the possibilities offered by the United Nations for the further consolidation of international peace and security and favourable conditions of international détente. This session of the General Assembly ... and the decisions taken at it on a number of important topics ... demonstrate the increased political possibilities of the United Nations and the high level of activity and sense of responsibility of the majority of Member States. We must analyse the steps which are being taken by States in order to implement the Declaration and recommend new, concrete measures for the further implementation of all its provisions.

We would like to express our conviction, that the Assembly, as a result of a business-like, constructive consideration of the question of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security, will make an important contribution to the further development and strengthening of the process of détente and will give it an irreversible character.

Mr. SMID (Czechoslovakia): The implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security justly remains the focus of our attention.

(Mr. Smid, Czechoslovakia)

The whole development during the past year has clearly proved that the peace-loving nations are ever more aware of the importance and the problems connected with the strengthening of international security and peace in the world now under discussion.

These questions were also discussed this June by the Conference of European Communists and Workers Parties, held in the capital of the German Democratic Republic, Berlin. The Conference of Non-Aligned Countries held in Colombo this August also concentrated its attention on those questions. So did the September session of the world Conference on the Termination of the Armaments Race, on Disarmament and Détente held in Helsinki.

The discussion of these questions at each year's session in the United Nations General Assembly presents us with the opportunity to consider which of the urgent problems calls for our attention and to give accounts of the common efforts for the strengthening of international peace and security in the world. Pondering over the past year, the majority of delegations have noted during the course of the general debate of this session of the General Assembly, that the process of détente is the reality of our times, that we have succeeded in broadening détente, in spite of its obstacles, that the trend for peace has simply no other alternatives. Similarly, as other delegations, the Czechoslovak delegation considers the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security a significant document orientating the development of international relations and the lessening of international political tension and mutually beneficial co-operation of States with different social systems in the interests of peace, security and the welfare of nations.

During the period which has elapsed since the last United Nations General Assembly, outstanding successes have been achieved in the effort to make the peaceful coexistence of States with different social systems a recognized form of international relations. A significant contribution to this positive development has been the application of the conclusions of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, which has represented a very important step towards the fulfilment of the principles of peaceful coexistence, the strengthening of security and towards the expansion of equal co-operation among States in Europe and the whole world.

(Mr. Smid, Czechoslovakia)

The results of that Conference represent the victory of the common sense, and everyone who is concerned with peace and security on our planet is benefiting from it. It would, however, be a great mistake to say that détente has reached such a point that no further intensive efforts are required and that the struggle for peace need no longer be pursued. It is essential and imperative to proceed forward on the road to the strengthening of international security and to pave it with an ever increasing number of deeds.

(Mr. Smid, Czechoslovakia)

The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic is quite aware of that, and I take the liberty of emphasizing from this platform the fact that this requirement is being fully implemented in our foreign policy. The fifteenth Congress of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia this spring unanimously stressed that we will consistently continue to follow the present trend of our foreign policy to safeguard the results achieved in détente and to strive for the consistent application of the principle of peaceful coexistence in co-operation with other countries. We have, therefore, also welcomed the further elaboration of the peace programme by the twenty-fifth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. It enables us, together with the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries, to continue to further strengthen international security in accordance with the interests and desires of the Czechoslovak people.

The positive results achieved by Czechoslovak foreign policy derive from our successes in all spheres of the development of society in our country, international economy, internal policy, social relations, science and culture. This has again been confirmed by the elections to the representative organs of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic held this October, which manifested the unanimous will and determination of our citizens to continue along the path laid down by the fifteenth Congress of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia in order that not only the present generation but also future generations can live in peace.

The proposals submitted at the current session of the United Nations General Assembly by the Soviet Union have confirmed the consistent application of the principle of peaceful foreign policy. The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic has fully supported the proposal for the conclusion of a world treaty on the non-use of force in international relations and the memorandum on questions of ending the arms race and disarmament. The draft resolution on the conclusion of a world treaty on the non-use of force in international relations adopted by the United Nations General Assembly represents a success for the forces of peace and the supporters of further détente. The significance and timeliness of the Soviet proposal has been stressed in the discussion on this question. This is understandable, because the adherents to the future treaty will have to undertake to settle their disputes solely by peaceful means in order to avoid threatening

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international peace and security. The resolution adopted attests to the ever-increasing awareness by countries that the conclusion of a world treaty on the non-use of force in international relations would represent an important step forward on the road bringing the world nearer to the time when the danger of war and aggression could be excluded once and for all. The conclusion of such a treaty would no doubt have a significant influence on further improvement of the atmosphere in relations among States in the world and create the prerequisites for the solution of complex international problems.

It has been stressed many times that further strengthening of international security is not possible without gradual achievement of concrete results in the field of disarmament negotiations. The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, together with the other socialist countries, has been actively participating in disarmament negotiations, both in the United Nations and the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament at Geneva and in the Vienna talks on the reduction of armed forces and armaments in Central Europe. Our participation in those negotiations is an expression of our deep conviction that the world needs to live in peace without fear of war or nuclear death.

We are of the opinion that a world disarmament conference would be a most significant event on the road towards disarmament, and thus towards the strengthening of international security. In order to bring about the convocation of such a conference, which is favoured by the overwhelming majority of Members of our Organization, it is, in our opinion, necessary to continue purposefully with negotiations on important partial steps. That is why we also fully support the conclusion of a convention on the prohibition of military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques, the proposal on the prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons and the prohibition of chemical weapons; these steps would move the issue of disarmament substantially forward.

The question of the complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests has major significance for progress in disarmament. We consider that this question can be solved only by negotiations with the participation of all nuclear Powers, as requested by the United Nations General Assembly at last year's session in its resolution 3478 (XXX) and reaffirmed this year. We also bear in mind the fact that

(Mr. Smid, Czechoslovakia)

armaments not only increase the danger of conflicts but also consume vast material means. It is well known that today world expenditures for military purposes are 2.5 times higher than health-care expenditures, 1.5 times higher than spending on education and 30 times higher than the total economic assistance rendered to the developing countries by the economically developed States.

The importance of further realization of the aims laid down in the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security is confirmed by the fact that, in spite of the present positive trend, there are still urgent problems and crisis situations in the world posing a serious danger to world peace and security. Retrograde forces opposing détente and wishing to plunge the world back into the cold war era continue to influence international life. Czechoslovakia, together with the whole progressive world, highly appreciates the Soviet proposals aimed at the removal of the hotbeds of tension and the broadening of co-operation among countries, irrespective of the different social systems.

The strengthening of peace and international security urgently requires that everything possible should be done to solve today's pressing problems, particularly the crisis situation in the Middle East. Therefore, we consider as very urgent the renewal of the negotiations at the Geneva Peace Conference with the participation of all interested parties, including the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). We favour the normalization of the situation in Lebanon without delay. All internal problems of this country have to be solved by peaceful means and by the Lebanese themselves, with respect for the legitimate rights and interests of the Palestinian people represented by the PLO. A speedy and peaceful reunification of Korea and the consistent application of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples adopted in 1960 would also contribute to further strengthening of international security.

We stand firmly on the side of the nations endeavouring to bring about the complete liquidation of all remnants of colonialism, racism and neo-colonialism. The present international situation not only makes possible the attainment of that goal but, particularly in the region of South Africa, forthrightly calls for it.

(Mr. Smid, Czechoslovakia)

We therefore welcome the results of the recent Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries held at Colombo, which we consider a significant contribution to the strengthening of international security. The policy of the non-aligned countries, which is directed against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism, racism and aggression and towards the safeguarding of lasting peace under conditions of independence, is becoming an increasingly important factor in international affairs.

(Mr. Smid, Czechoslovakia)

The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic has vital interest in mutually beneficial economic, scientific, technological and cultural co-operation with all countries in accordance with the conclusions of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, in the strict respect for and application of the agreed principles of federations among States. Further deepening of co-operation in the fields of energy, transport and living environment signify an important step in the implementation of the Final Act. Therefore, we are in full accord with the proposals of the Soviet Union on the convocation of all-European congresses on those questions. Mutually beneficial economic, scientific and technological co-operation of all States regardless of their social systems will bring the participating parties not only material benefits but will likewise contribute to the strengthening of international trust and close co-operation of States. Unswerving and systematic endeavour of the socialist countries for the strengthening of international peace and security has been expressed in a particularly significant way at the meeting of the Political Advisory Committee of the Warsaw Treaty in Bucharest, held on 25 and 26 November of this year. The leading representatives of States parties to the Warsaw Treaty agreed at that meeting that life urgently needs further enhancement of the efforts aimed at the strengthening of peace in Europe and the whole world and, bearing this in mind, they proposed that all States signatories of the Final Act in Helsinki undertake not to be the first ones to use nuclear weapons against each other. An appropriate draft treaty has already been worked out and forwarded to the respective Governments -- participants of the Helsinki Conference -- for their consideration.

Czechoslovakia has been developing co-operation with States with different social systems in the spheres of contacts among people and exchange of information and has also attained good results in co-operation pertaining to culture, science and education. We are for increased tourism, for co-operation in the fields of press, films, theatre, television, literature, music, education, and for the solution of progress of divided families. The results achieved in that respect in the past year show that quite a lot has been done. For example, millions of our citizens travelled abroad and millions of tourists visited our country. A number of operational protocols have been signed in addition to the existing cultural agreements with the non-socialist States. In the past two years alone we have published 500 translations, screened 380 feature and 120 short films from the

(Mr. Smid, Czechoslovakia)

non-socialist countries and installed 240 exhibitions from abroad. Czechoslovak television in 1975 showed a total of 414 films from Western countries. This likewise we consider our contribution to the strengthening of international co-operation and we believe that a similar attitude on the part of the Western countries will also be taken to our cultural achievements.

The safeguarding of international peace and security is the most important principle embodied in the United Nations Charter. That is the reason why we consider it necessary to invigorate the significance and effectiveness of the United Nations Organization in the struggle for world peace and security on the basis of strict application of the provisions of the Charter. My Government is of the opinion that there are many possibilities to further enhance the effectiveness of the Organization without the revision of the Charter, that is, ways to promote the strengthening of international security. Significant documents have been worked out on the basis of the Charter concerning international security, struggle against colonialism, racism, apartheid and so on. We believe that it would strengthen the United Nations if the principles of some important declarations, among them the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security now under discussion, were made legally binding international instruments on the same basis as the United Nations Charter.

When we take stock of the past year's development in the world we can see that in spite of existing problems, it is favourable for the continuing strengthening of peace and international security in accordance with the Declaration. The whole course of world events convincingly shows that the world is truly changing and that it is changing for the benefit of peace-loving countries and freedom-loving mankind. We are firmly convinced that mankind will proceed on the way of further strengthening of peace, security of nations and international co-operation. It would, I am sure, be the wish of all progressive mankind if in our deliberations on the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security at the next thirty-second session of the United Nations General Assembly we could submit further positive results.

The CHAIRMAN: Since no other delegation wishes to take the floor at this stage, I should like to make some suggestions concerning the organization of work.

(The Chairman)

As the members of the Committee are aware, in accordance with the decision taken at our 2nd meeting on 5 October, we have to finish the work of the Committee by Friday next, 10 December. Consequently, I would suggest that we close the list of speakers in the general discussion on agenda item 33 now under consideration on Wednesday at 12 noon, that is, the day after tomorrow; set a deadline for the submission of draft resolutions at 6 p.m. on the same day, Wednesday, 8 December; finish the general discussion by Thursday, 9 December; and devote our Friday meeting or meetings, as the need may be, to the adoption of the draft resolution or resolutions. Thus, we could conclude the work of the Committee on time. May I take it that the Committee is in agreement with the suggestions that I have just made.

As I hear no objection, it is so decided.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.