



VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 19TH MEETING

Chairman: Mr. PASTINEN (Finland)

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ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION: REPORT OF THE
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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 125 (continued)

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/33/42, A/33/279, A/33/305, A/33/312, A/33/317; A/C.1/33/L.1-5)

Mr. SOURINHO (Lao People's Democratic Republic) (interpretation from French): The problem of arms limitation and disarmament is undoubtedly of all the problems facing the world today the one which has created most disappointment and frustration among the vast majority of the peoples of the world since the United Nations was called upon urgently to deal with this problem - in fact, since the Organization came into being. More than 30 years have gone by since that time and even though disarmament negotiations and debates have continued unrelentingly in the United Nations, as well as in other international forums, the final objective sought, general and complete disarmament under effective international control, seems to be more remote than ever. Indeed, it is clear from the studies and researches undertaken by the various specialized agencies that stockpiles of weapons, particularly nuclear weapons, far from diminishing have on the contrary been considerably increased, and today would be more than enough to destroy the world twice over.

However, what is even more worrying is that despite that terrifying revelation the arms race continues apace, increasingly placing mankind in peril of a nuclear war. In those circumstances it is unnecessary to emphasize the deep feelings of disquiet, disappointment and frustration of the peaceful and progressive peoples of the world whose representatives have ceaselessly, though in vain, advanced and advocated ideas and measures to put an end to the arms race and reverse its trend.

(Mr. Sourinho, Lao People's
Democratic Republic)

In this respect, my delegation wishes to express its appreciation to all representatives for their patient and sustained efforts, as well as for the concrete measures proposed at various stages and in all negotiating forums on the complex question of disarmament. My delegation is convinced that because of their joint, concerted and sustained efforts and with the contribution of all of us, they will see humanity advance towards an unarmed or disarmed world in which peace and security for all peoples will be fully assured.

A little more than three months ago, there was held in this building the tenth special session of the General Assembly devoted exclusively to all aspects of disarmament problems. Like many others, my delegation duly welcomed that session as a very important historical event in disarmament negotiations, because it was the broadest and most representative forum which has ever met to consider the question.

In this connexion, it is appropriate to emphasize that it was because of the felicitous initiative taken at the first summit conference of the non-aligned countries held at Belgrade in 1961 that this unique event was able to take place. The holding of the tenth special session is above all a striking victory for all the peoples of those countries, constantly supported in this by the socialist countries, in their persevering and sustained efforts to pave the way towards general and complete disarmament under effective international control. From this brilliant victory, the conclusion was reached that no imperialist or reactionary force can ever oppose the joint and co-ordinated action of the non-aligned countries, benefiting from the support of the socialist countries, and that the latter, duly taking into account their attitude and their specific action, are the natural allies of the peace-loving peoples who uphold democracy, in their constant efforts to arrive at just solutions to disarmament problems, as well as other problems which beset the international community.

(Mr. Sourinho, Lao People's
Democratic Republic)

The item which the First Committee is now considering is of vital importance, because it concerns the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session. My delegation welcomes the decision to include this new item in the agenda of the First Committee and to give it priority. As has been stated and restated so often, a document, whatever its merit, is simply a piece of paper unless it is applied. The Final Document of the tenth special session will be doomed to this unenviable fate unless it is implemented within a reasonable time. There is no need, then, to insist on the terrible consequences which, were it to remain unimplemented, would ensue both for the credibility of the United Nations and for international peace and security.

It is therefore imperative, in order to maintain the impetus given by the tenth special session, that the political will which prevailed at the time of the negotiation and drafting of the Final Document, should continue to dominate and guide the actions of States in implementing all the decisions of the tenth special session. It would seem that this has not always been the case, and the international community will rightly recall that at the very time the First Committee began its consideration of this item, a major nuclear Power officially announced to the world that it was going to resume the manufacture of delivery systems for the neutron bomb, which had been interrupted for some time. We regret this decision, which will only accelerate the nuclear arms race and, what is more, contravenes the spirit of paragraph 41 of the Final Document, which, inter alia, states that:

"In order to create favourable conditions for success in the disarmament process, all States should strictly abide by the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, refrain from actions which might adversely affect efforts in the field of disarmament ..."

(General Assembly resolution S/10/2, para. 41)

The attitude of that Power is in sharp contrast with the positive and constructive attitude taken by the Soviet Union in its sincere efforts immediately

(Mr. Sourinho, Lao People's
Democratic Republic)

to implement some of the decisions reached at the tenth special session. Thus, in order to guarantee to all non-nuclear weapon States that there will be no recourse to the use or the threat of use of nuclear weapons, as stated in paragraph 59 of the Final Document, the Soviet Union has just submitted to the General Assembly, at the beginning of this session, a draft conclusion of an international convention on the strengthening of guarantees for the security of non-nuclear States. My delegation welcomes this satisfactory initiative and will certainly take the opportunity to come back to this when the First Committee considers agenda item 128. In addition, another socialist State, the People's Republic of Poland, through its spokesman, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, submitted to the General Assembly at its present session a proposal calling upon it to adopt a declaration on the preparation of societies for life in peace. That proposal, which is intended to strengthen confidence among peoples, is fully consistent with the spirit of some provisions of paragraph 93 of the Final Document, and accordingly deserves our serious consideration.

Finally, various non-aligned countries have also submitted to our Committee a number of draft resolutions designed to implement various provisions of the Final Document. My delegation will carefully study those proposals, as well as the one submitted by Mongolia and other countries regarding Disarmament Week.

The final objective of all United Nations efforts for more than thirty years in regard to disarmament is general and complete disarmament under effective international control. But because nuclear weapons place such a heavy burden on mankind, the tenth special session rightly gave priority to nuclear weapons in the negotiations on disarmament.

However, while recognizing the crucial importance and extreme urgency of intensifying our efforts to halt the nuclear arms race, as well as the race for chemical, radiological and other weapons of mass destruction, my delegation, for all that, would merely confine itself in this statement to a few remarks on the recommendations of the tenth special session, particularly those referring to conventional weapons and to some other subjects.

(Mr. Sourinho, Lao People's
Democratic Republic)

The history of the two world wars and the imperialist war of aggression against the Peoples of Indochina clearly showed that conventional weapons not only have a vast destructive power but also represent a serious danger to peace and international security. It has been emphasized too that the conventional arms race, both qualitative and quantitative, today absorbs more than 80 per cent of world military expenditure. For all these reasons, the tenth special session quite rightly decided that, within the framework of progress towards general and complete disarmament, a progressive limitation and reduction of armed forces and conventional weapons should be resolutely pursued at the same time as negotiations on nuclear disarmament measures.

In this context, my delegation has studied in particular the application of the recommendation in paragraph 85 of the Final Document which refers to the international transfer of conventional weapons. It goes without saying for us that the limitation of the transfer of conventional weapons should in no case and under no pretext be invoked to the detriment of peoples struggling for their inalienable right to self-determination and independence and that, on the contrary, the transfer of arms for the benefit of colonialist and racist régimes which indulge in the exploitation and oppression of other peoples, must be strictly prohibited.

Paragraph 64 of the Final Document emphasizes the importance of creating zones of peace. In this respect, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, which has followed and pursued, with all the countries of South East Asia, a policy of peace, friendship and co-operation based on the principles of independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-interference in internal affairs, peaceful co-existence, equality and mutual benefit, has repeatedly declared that it is in favour of all efforts to create in South East Asia a zone of peace of independence and of neutrality which will contribute to the strengthening of peace and stability in that part of the world

(Mr. Sourinho, Lao People's
Democratic Republic)

It is, nevertheless, desirable that the establishment of such a zone should be the result of agreement among all the countries concerned in the region.

Paragraph 108 of the Final Document recommends the establishment of a programme of fellowships on disarmament. My delegation is pleased with this fortunate decision, which will certainly provide an opportunity for the representatives of several countries, in particular of developing countries, to acquire the necessary technical knowledge on disarmament. Rapid implementation of this decision would meet the needs of our times, and my delegation wishes to express its appreciation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the speed with which he has taken action on this recommendation.

Finally, before concluding, my delegation would like to make some brief comments on the decisions of the tenth special session on the deliberative and negotiating bodies on disarmament. In this respect, many of those who spoke before me have described those decisions as substantive results of the special session. On considering, among other things, the new composition and new rules of procedure which the session adopted for the Committee on Disarmament which will replace the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament as a negotiating body on disarmament, my delegation feels most optimistic regarding future negotiations on disarmament. However, since the Committee on Disarmament has not yet begun its work and will begin only in January, all that we can do at this stage is to stress the importance that the international community attaches to the constructive participation of all the Powers that are members, and in particular the nuclear Powers.

We know that the Disarmament Commission, which is the deliberative body, held its first session devoted to the necessary preparations for the organization of its first substantive session, to be held for a period of four weeks in New York beginning on 14 May 1979. My delegation has no difficulty in accepting this date nor in joining in a consensus for the adoption of the report of the Commission.

As for the date of the second special session devoted to disarmament on which the General Assembly must take a decision at this session, it would be desirable to allow a sufficiently long period - four or five years - between the first

(Mr. Sourinho, Lao People's
Democratic Republic)

and second special sessions, such a term being necessary for progress to be made in implementing the decisions of the first special session. However, while being perfectly aware of the importance of the results that the deliberations of the second special session may produce, my delegation remains convinced that the convening of a world disarmament conference in the conditions described in paragraph 122 of the Final Document would contribute to great progress in the cause of disarmament. Accordingly, at the present session the General Assembly should deal seriously with this question.

To conclude, Mr. Chairman, my delegation wishes to emphasize that this is the first time that we have participated in the debate of the First Committee on disarmament. We were encouraged by the dynamic impetus given to the subject at the tenth special session. We are fully aware of the magnitude of our tasks since the problem of disarmament, because of its multiple implications, has become most complex. Nevertheless, we take on these tasks to the best of our ability and sincerely wishing to contribute to paving the way towards a more secure world, that is to say, a world without weapons, a disarmed world, where confidence, friendship and co-operation among peoples will prevail.

Mr. OYONO (United Republic of Cameroon) (interpretation from French): Mr. Chairman, first of all, I wish to offer you my congratulations on your election as Chairman of this Committee and to assure you that you will always have the co-operation of my delegation.

The items to which the First Committee must now devote its efforts, namely, disarmament and international security, are of the highest significance for mankind, which is threatened with destruction by the unprecedented accumulation of increasingly sophisticated and deadly weapons.

The end of the world which earlier was thought to be a mythical possibility has become a potentially immediate danger since certain countries have at their disposal sufficient means to destroy many times over all signs of life on our planet.

(Mr. Oyono, United Republic of Cameroon)

Hence, the interest of the international community in the deliberations of the tenth special session of the General Assembly which, for the first time, has attempted to tackle the problem of disarmament in its entirety and to define global solutions.

We are very happy to see that our Committee has decided to examine as a priority the means by which the recommendations and decisions contained in the Final Document adopted at that session should be implemented. Indeed, it is indispensable that our Organization should be recognized as one that should play an essential role in the field of disarmament and thus its authority will be reinforced by the effective implementation of the decisions that States take by common agreement.

Speaking before the General Assembly, Mr. Jean Keutcha, my Minister for Foreign Affairs, placed emphasis on the loyalty that must animate all States vis-à-vis this Organization so that it can really become a force capable of laying down the law and of ensuring respect for it.

This requirement is most pressing, especially with regard to disarmament problems. Of course, in an area that is so complex progress is necessarily slow, and four months after the end of the tenth special session we cannot really say that on balance what has been achieved is substantial.

Yet it seems necessary to indicate as of now in what direction, in our view at least, the efforts of the Organization and its Member States should be oriented.

First of all, let us recall that our common objective must remain general and complete disarmament, beginning with nuclear disarmament. To achieve it, all States, without exception, must contribute actively both at the level of the drafting of general principles and at the level of the negotiation of specific measures, which, of course, in no way detracts from the special responsibilities to be borne by the nuclear States.

It is in that spirit that Cameroon participates in the work of the deliberative bodies whose role has been reinforced by the special session of the General Assembly, be it the First Committee which "should deal in the future only with questions of disarmament and related international security questions" (General Assembly resolution S-10/2) or the Disarmament Commission, which will begin its substantive discussions in the spring of the coming year.

(Mr. Oyono, United Republic of Cameroon)

As for the negotiating body, we had expressed the wish that it "should be more representative and reflect the features of contemporary international society, which is characterized by universality, the interdependence of States and the fact that all nations share a common destiny". (A/S-10/PV.27, p. 158-160)

(Mr. Oyono, United Republic of
Cameroon)

The recommendations of the Final Document in that regard fortunately follow the same line. We fear, however, that the democratic nature of the new Committee on Disarmament may be jeopardized even now by the ambiguities and imbalances which we stressed at the last meeting of the tenth special session. Indeed, while France has taken the welcome decision to participate in the Committee's work, we are not yet assured of the participation of all the other nuclear Powers. Hence a further effort should be made to create conditions which would allow the participation of all nuclear-weapon States in the Geneva negotiations - and, in particular, the participation of China.

Of course, we appreciate the measures that were taken to increase the representation of non-nuclear States, particularly those of the third world. Nonetheless, it is obvious that that group of States, which comprises three quarters of mankind, has yet to receive an equitable number of seats in accordance with our usual procedures. I therefore reiterate my statement of 30 June, that to enable all States to take an active part in the important deliberations and decisions on a subject of such high priority as our common security and to assure effective opportunities for the participation of all States within a reasonable period of time, the Committee should, in establishing rules for renewal of the term of office of its members, adopt the principle of rotation by intervals not to exceed two or three years.

We hope that the draft resolutions being prepared now will duly take into account the need to include such a provision so that they can be supported by the largest possible number of States. The new Committee should not be a club with a restricted membership confiscated by a minority of States for their own use.

I come now to yet another recommendation contained in the Final Document, in paragraph 63 (c), one which for obvious reasons is of much concern to my delegation. It calls upon the Security Council to take appropriate effective steps whenever necessary to prevent the frustration of the objective of the denuclearization of Africa which has been decided upon by the Organization of African Unity.

(Mr. Oyono, United Republic of Cameroon)

We are all aware of the grave danger threatening our continent as long as white minority and racist régimes continue to hold sway in the southern part and pursue a policy of oppression and systematic violation of human rights. Those régimes, shaken by the determined struggle of the peoples they oppress - peoples which aspire impatiently to regain their freedom - have decided to resort to the nuclear threat to perpetuate their criminal domination.

The Security Council has, of course, recognized that this situation constitutes a threat to international peace and security; hence it has declared an embargo on armaments destined for South Africa. But those measures have proved ineffective, especially since certain countries violate Security Council decisions and co-operate with South Africa in the nuclear field.

The recommendations of the special session should therefore direct our closest attention to this very grave state of affairs, and our Committee, on its part, should recommend to the Security Council the imposition against South Africa of strict economic sanctions, beginning with an oil embargo.

Other parts of the Final Document similarly deserve urgent attention, as, for example, paragraph 59, which stipulates that:

"... the nuclear-weapon States are called upon to take steps to assure the non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. The General Assembly notes the declarations made by the nuclear-weapon States and urges them to pursue efforts to conclude, as appropriate, effective arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons." (resolution S-10/2, para. 59)

My delegation repeats its endorsement of that wish of the Assembly, but is concerned over the reservations and restrictions which certain nuclear Powers have appended to their statements. Non-nuclear weapon States must be assured by convincing guarantees within the framework of a binding international convention, if we really want to avoid the danger of a growing temptation among States to possess such weapons for their own security.

(Mr. Oyono, United Republic
of Cameroon)

In the field of studies, the General Assembly at the special session authorized the Secretary-General to set up groups of governmental or consulting experts. The studies on disarmament should not, however, in our view, be limited to the topics enumerated in the Final Document - namely, the relationship between disarmament and development and the relationship between disarmament and international security. It would be appropriate for a study to be undertaken also on the real causes of the arms race, a subject which, unfortunately, has been skimmed in the Final Document.

I should not like to conclude this brief statement without stressing Cameroon's interest in the fellowship programme created by the General Assembly to encourage the acquisition of specialized knowledge about disarmament. We are grateful to the Secretary-General for having taken the first steps to ensure implementation of that programme, and we hope that due regard will be paid to immense needs of Africa in that field so that Africa can receive priority in this regard.

(Mr. Oyono, United Republic of Cameroon)

I have not tried to evaluate in every detail the recommendations and decisions of the last special session. That task will require a lengthy debate, which we must continue here in the First Committee and also in the Committee on Disarmament for several years. That is why we think that despite the provisions in the Final Document it would certainly be premature to fix now the date of the next special session devoted to disarmament. However, if the General Assembly nevertheless wished to do that it would be appropriate to set a comparatively distant date in order to enable the competent bodies to exploit thoroughly the results of the preceding session. Those are the views of my delegation on some of the main points in the Final Document of the tenth special session.

Mr. IBRAHIM (Ethiopia): The tenth special session of the General Assembly has laid down the guidelines for a new approach to the crucial issues of disarmament. During the proceedings of that special session it was confirmed that disarmament is the most pressing and urgent issue facing the international community. Accordingly, the consensus Final Document stressed the necessity of working for general and complete disarmament and, to this end, of making further collective efforts aimed at the strengthening of international peace and security; the elimination of the threat of war, particularly nuclear war; the implementation of practical measures aimed at halting and reversing the arms race; the strengthening of the procedures for the peaceful settlement of disputes; and the reduction of military expenditures and the utilization of the resources thus released in a manner that will promote the well-being of all peoples. Obviously, all this is dictated by the realization that peace, security, disarmament and development are inextricably linked.

The discussions now taking place in this Committee under item 125 are therefore of particular importance since they aim at ensuring the translation of the decisions and recommendations of the special session into concrete action.

(Mr. Ibrahim, Ethiopia)

Socialist Ethiopia considers the creation of more democratic machinery for negotiations and the reactivation of the United Nations Disarmament Commission for deliberation on disarmament issues as highly positive results of the special session. The greater role and responsibility given to the United Nations in future efforts in the field of disarmament is most welcome. These decisions were easy to arrive at since they deal more with the form, and less with the substance, of disarmament. However, it must be emphasized that now, perhaps more than ever before, the need for the political will is paramount since the lack of progress in the field of disarmament can no longer be attributed either to the nature of the deliberative body or to the composition of the negotiating machinery.

The reactivation of the deliberative body and the strengthening of the machinery for negotiating disarmament were not the only purpose and certainly not even the primary objective of the special session. As we look at the Final Document, we find that the results of the special session with regard to substantive matters leave much to be desired. While, among the positive steps taken at the special session, the recognition of fundamental principles, the establishment of the priorities for disarmament negotiations and the acceptance of the relevance of nuclear-weapon-free zones and zones of peace stand out, the special session did not achieve a breakthrough in halting the arms race, nor was it possible to obtain agreement on new and concrete disarmament measures.

The General Assembly could not have achieved anything more substantive than what was attained at that special session, not only because disarmament is a complex problem in itself, but equally because of the outright defiance of the special session by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) summit meeting in Washington, the very group that in the first place unilaterally initiated the nuclear arms race. The fact that at that summit meeting it was decided to press for a qualitative and quantitative increase in armaments unprecedented in the history of NATO just as the United Nations General Assembly was meeting, for the first time in its history, in a special session to discuss disarmament and arms control, demonstrated unmistakably the sheer contempt that group has for the world-wide struggle for détente, peace, security and disarmament. Putting

(Mr. Ibrahim, Ethiopia)

that ever-increasing appetite for massive military build-up in its proper perspective in the general debate at the current session, the leader of the Ethiopian delegation said:

"...the intensification of the arms race by the imperialist Powers and reactionary forces is not limited to the confines of Europe, where the alleged Soviet threat provides a convenient smokescreen, but is being extended to Africa, where attempts are made at frustrating the struggle of the African people against exploitation, domination and human degradation by hysterical and hypocritical cries of Soviet intervention in Africa." (A/33/PV.31, p. 72)

This new level of increase of the arms build-up reached by the neo-colonialist forces finds its roots in the economic crisis of capitalism, since behind the increasing militarization of the capitalist West lies the need to expand the imperialist market and its access to resources, even if it be through war, particularly war against the national liberation movements.

It is thus not only a mere exercise in futility but also an act of gross error to speak of disarmament in a world still subject to the evils of racism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, expansionism and apartheid. When Ethiopia appeals to Member States to demonstrate political will, it is not necessarily seeking a prompt decision to disarm, but rather, first and foremost, is appealing for the necessary commitment to work together in the construction of a world in which justice, equality, freedom and independence prevail on the basis of the recognition of the need to foster the struggle of the African peoples for the restoration of their human dignity. The top priority in the struggle for peace, security and disarmament necessarily goes to the elimination of colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism and apartheid in Southern Africa, a region which constitutes the major hotbed of tension and confrontation in the world today.

Disarmament is attainable only if we can build a viable alternative security system through effective confidence-building measures, the consolidation of détente, the strengthening of mechanisms for the peaceful settlement of disputes and the outlawing of the use of force in all its aspects. Unfortunately,

(Mr. Ibrahim, Ethiopia)

the Final Document adopted at the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament lacks specific proposals regarding concrete measures that can enhance international security. Instead, the special session entrusts the Secretary-General with the responsibility of continuing the study of the interrelationship between disarmament and international security and submitting a report thereon to the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

Ethiopia is firmly committed to strengthening international peace and security, building confidence among States, consolidating détente and promoting respect for the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. As the victim of successive wars of aggression, the people and Government of Ethiopia are always ready to join in all efforts aimed at avoiding the horrors of war. The nuclear Powers and non-nuclear-weapon States must realize that time is of the essence, because war in the present-day world is a war of total destruction. For these reasons Ethiopia has been participating actively in efforts to strengthen the effectiveness of the principle of the non-use of force, and particularly the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons. This also explains why we have joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, initiated by India, on non-use of nuclear weapons and the prevention of nuclear war (A/C.1/33/L.2).

Ethiopia's ultimate objective is general and complete disarmament under effective international control on the basis of equal security for all. This process can begin only after the cessation of the arms race in the nuclear field. Since there is no indication that this will be attained in the near future, Ethiopia supports all efforts that contribute towards the achievement of that objective.

(Mr. Ibrahim, Ethiopia)

In this context, my delegation would like to refer to another sign of limited progress achieved by the special session in the area of security guarantees for non-nuclear countries in the form of the unilateral declaration by the nuclear-weapon States. Nevertheless, since no binding assurances were given not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against any non-nuclear-weapon State, Ethiopia not only welcomes but also supports the initiative of the Soviet Union relating to a possible international convention which could unify the various degrees of commitment made in the form of unilateral declarations.

Mr. CABELLO (Paraguay) (interpretation from Spanish): Mr. Chairman, first of all I wish to say that, in compliance with your request but much to my regret, I shall abide by the letter of rule 110 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

My delegation followed very closely the debate at the tenth special session and we should like to take this opportunity to make our comments on it. Paraguay considers that disarmament is a matter of the highest priority. My country has been living in peace and tranquillity with its neighbours for decades. Therefore the national Government has endeavoured for more than two decades to keep our military budget within the essential limits, and it is one of the lowest on the American continent and in the world. Furthermore, during recent decades the armed forces in Paraguay have come to constitute one of the entities which have contributed most to development, directly participating in the building of indispensable infrastructural works such as roads, bridges, airports, river ports, schools and health facilities. They have also actively co-operated in the struggle against illiteracy, in the provision of air and river transport and in the encouragement of new eating habits and agricultural techniques by means of special educational programmes for enlisted men in the armed forces. This, however, would not have been possible without the atmosphere of peace and tranquillity that prevails along our borders, and this is due to the friendship and co-operation characteristic of our relations with Argentina, Brazil and Bolivia. This is a real example for the world and provides an illustration of how a regional approach can work successfully.

(Mr. Cabello, Paraguay)

For all these reasons, Paraguay enthusiastically supported the convening of the tenth special session of this Assembly, which was devoted to disarmament, even though, as far as we can see so far, the results are very difficult to specify. We have established the long-awaited machinery that we firmly believe can lead us to major achievements in the field of disarmament. However, we believe that disarmament is a very complex subject and that the process cannot be completed for a long time to come. We have no illusions about this, therefore.

We believe that to achieve our goals it is necessary to have a clear and firm political will on the part of all our Governments. We regret to note that countries with development levels among the lowest in the world and with a vast proportion of the population living in absolute poverty are prepared, nevertheless, to enter into financial commitments amounting to thousands of millions of dollars in order to acquire sophisticated weaponry, even when they do not face an imminent danger of war. If we analyse the news published by the world press since June, it would seem, ironically, that the immediate result of the tenth special session has been precisely to give further impetus to the arms race.

As my delegation sees it, there is at present very little political will. In paragraph 99 of the Final Document all States are invited to take specific measures so as to mobilize world public opinion on behalf of disarmament. Nevertheless, we wonder whether world public opinion is not already sufficiently sensitized on the subject. We wonder whether the peoples of the world do not know better than politicians the horrors of war and the deadly effects of weapons, the transfer of which is being so coldly negotiated by certain Governments.

We also view with concern the danger of excessive proliferation of different disarmament bodies, whether within or outside our Organization, because, besides making difficult the participation of the smaller delegations, this can in no way strengthen or form that will for disarmament which is essential for the success of our endeavours.

It is also essential for a realistic approach to the disarmament question to take into account all the elements and interests which are closely linked to it, such as the ideological confrontation that is characteristic of our century, the conflict between the great Powers, industrial and trade union

(Mr. Cabello, Paraguay)

interests linked to arms, certain hegemonistic policies which are manifest even in the developing world, the lack of adequate peaceful mechanisms for the settlement of disputes, and a corresponding evolution of the rules and institutions of the international legal order.

Neither disarmament nor peace in the world will be possible as long as in the industrialized countries the interests of private groups linked to armaments are allowed to prevail over essential interests such as the right to life and liberty of entire peoples throughout the world. Therefore we applaud any measure in those countries that will lead to stricter control of the production and marketing activities in regard to weapons, as well as the conversion of such industries to other productive activities which are more useful to mankind.

Furthermore, we cannot accept the resolution by force of differences concerning the major social, political or economic options which divide us in the world. To believe in that would be to fight against peace; it would be to deny to man any opportunity to choose; and it would be to engulf entire peoples in the most deadly intolerance. If there is no will to respect the right of States to self-determination and autonomy, true disarmament will not be possible.

The major Powers have a great responsibility. We are pleased at the progress made in the negotiations for the control and reduction of strategic nuclear weapons, just as we view with great hope the efforts to reduce military arsenals in central Europe. But we realize that since the Second World War in more than 100 international or internal wars tens of millions of people have died because, while we have avoided a real confrontation among the great Powers, there have been and continue to be wars in the developing countries, waged with supreme disregard for the rights of those peoples recognized in the United Nations Charter and in so many resolutions adopted by this Organization, such as the right to self-determination.

(Mr. Cabello, Paraguay)

The ideological conflict which characterizes the great Powers is one, if not the greatest, obstacle to peace and disarmament in the world. It is time for the international community to face the situation. To this end, we need to have the necessary means to establish within this Organization an adequate forum for conciliation. Similarly, it is necessary to halt any intervention by the great Powers in the weaker countries on purely ideological grounds.

Within this context, major responsibility is borne by the leaders of the developing world who allow themselves to be used by the great Powers, contributing by their behaviour to the insecurity of their neighbours and, consequently, to the arms race throughout the world.

Studies carried out so far on world expenditures on armaments, widely publicized during the special session with which we are dealing, prove that disarmament would be the most important contribution to development. No commercial or financial measure, no form of assistance - technical or otherwise - could have a more positive effect than a diversion of the enormous resources now allocated to the arms race into the struggle against under-development.

We were particularly impressed by the affirmation made recently by the President of the World Bank that in the year 2000 there would be at best more than 500 million people in the world on the verge of "absolute poverty". Is that not also the cost of the arms build-up in the world? It is for that reason that we support the studies provided for in paragraph 95 of the Final Document, and we give them the highest priority.

We also whole-heartedly support any effort intended to train peace-loving men who know of the risks of the arms build-up and, hence, we firmly support the fellowship programme of the United Nations for training in disarmament matters as well as the proposal of Costa Rica to establish within the United Nations University system a university for peace, which would, inter alia, have those objectives. My country is proud to be in a position to state that today for the first time in its history it has a complete generation of citizens that have not known the horrors of war in any of its forms;

(Mr. Cabello, Paraguay)

Aware of the responsibility this entails, the present Government of my country has striven to reform education so as to form citizens free of any ideology advocating hatred or recognizing violence as an institutionalized instrument for the settlement of disputes.

Similarly, my delegation attaches great importance to research which might be carried out within the context of the proposed studies on the problem of the use of the transfer of military technology as an instrument of domination and hegemony. Governments and peoples must have a clear perception of the machinery whereby arms transfers create a situation of dependency which in certain circumstances might substantially lessen the sovereignty and self-determination of entire communities.

Finally, I should like briefly to refer to the question of priorities to achieve disarmament. In this respect my delegation supports the priorities established in paragraph 50 of the Final Document. However, we wish to point out that while nuclear disarmament might remove from mankind the future danger of total destruction - and, in the first place, the reciprocal destruction of the nuclear Powers - only conventional disarmament can at present save the developing world from more suffering and death. All are interested in nuclear disarmament, but who more than we in the third world is interested in conventional disarmament?

We should like to conclude our statement by calling the attention of delegations present to the fact that while disarmament is essential for the well-being of mankind, it is also an absolute priority for the United Nations. This is stated in the Charter and on it largely depends its credibility and perhaps even its own existence, judging by the disruptive effects that failure in this respect had on the now defunct League of Nations.

Mr. NGUYEN VAN LUU (Viet Nam) (interpretation from French):

In speaking during the week devoted to promoting the goals of disarmament, the delegation of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam would like to reaffirm that our Government and our people firmly support the struggle for disarmament and consider it as one of the major methods of struggle of peoples living under different social systems against oppression, exploitation and unjust war so as to preserve peace and security for all nations. If general and complete disarmament can be achieved, it will no doubt constitute a genuine guarantee for lasting peace. But that is a long-range, arduous and complex struggle, for imperialism, colonialism and reactionary forces will never of themselves be willing to give up subjugating peoples and to put an end to the arms race. Our Government is determined to support the aim of the struggle of millions of peace-loving people on our planet and is committed to persevere in that venture until general and complete disarmament has been fully achieved.

All the peoples of the world yearn for disarmament. We support disarmament but, so long as imperialism and reactionary forces have not disarmed, so long as they continue the arms race and so long as they continue to foment wars of aggression, domination and exploitation against peoples, we must be constantly vigilant and strengthen our capacity for self-defence, and be ready to repulse victoriously all imperialist and aggressive reactionary forces.

Our delegation believes that the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament was an event of great importance, a new milestone on the long road to lasting peace. That is why my delegation attaches considerable importance to the question of the review of the recommendations and decisions of the special session.

With respect to item 125 my delegation, like many others, does not intend to give a detailed evaluation of the results of the special session. In fact, this is not, in our view, the aim of item 125. In our view, this item would have each delegation review the decisions and recommendations of the special session, so as to provide a new impetus to their implementation.

(Mr. Nguyen Van Luu, Viet Nam)

It is against this background that our delegation wishes to express its sincere appreciation of paragraph 64 of the Final Document, which reads:

"The establishment of zones of peace in various regions of the world under appropriate conditions, to be clearly defined and determined freely by the States concerned in the zone, taking into account the characteristics of the zone and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and in conformity with international law, can contribute to strengthening the security of States within such zones and to international peace and security as a whole. In this regard, the General Assembly notes the proposals for the establishment of zones of peace, inter alia, in:

"(a) South-East Asia where States in the region have expressed interest in the establishment of such a zone, in conformity with their views;"

Our Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs stated at the plenary meeting of the Assembly on 4 October 1978:

"For many years in the past imperialist and colonialist aggression created instability and hostility among many South-East Asian countries. It is now necessary to eliminate this situation in order to restore peace and stability and to achieve reconciliation and co-operation."

(A/33/PV.21, p. 32)

The common efforts which were undertaken by the countries of the region during the special session and recently in the direct contacts which took place at the highest level aimed at establishing a zone of peace, independence, freedom and neutrality, a stable and prosperous zone in South-East Asia, reflect the interests of all countries, the interests of the region as a whole, as well as those of international peace and security.

At this session of the General Assembly, during the general debate in plenary as well as in this Committee during the debate on item 125 of the agenda, the voices of representatives of certain countries of the region were raised to advocate the progressive continuation of efforts in that direction.

(Mr. Nguyen Van Luu, Viet Nam)

That is why, despite the present manoeuvres of the forces which harbour expansionist and hegemonistic ambitions of the great Powers, which follow in the wake of colonialism and attempt to create divisions and foster suspicion and hostility among the countries of South-East Asia, we are confident that the joint efforts of all the countries of the region will result in the establishment of a zone of peace in that region.

Mr. AL-HAMZAH (Democratic Yemen) (interpretation from Arabic): Thanks to the decision taken at the first summit meeting of the non-aligned countries, the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament was held in May/June this year. Although the conclusions of the special session have led us to believe that the arms race constitutes a permanent threat to the peace and security of the world, those conclusions also demonstrated that the countries and peoples of the world are convinced that disarmament is a question of vital importance for everyone because of the interdependence of countries and the will of each to establish a durable peace. They also demonstrated that it was difficult to dissociate peace and security from economic and social development.

At the tenth special session of the United Nations devoted to disarmament, the international community undertook to implement the objectives stated in the Final Document, in order to enable mankind to fulfil its aspirations in the field of general and complete disarmament and to benefit from the transfer of resources for weapons to development.

However, the forthcoming period must be equally dynamic in order to prevent war and to strengthen international co-operation as well as the principles of peaceful coexistence and détente. That attitude would also prevent recourse to the use of force in international relations.

The Final Document, which was adopted by consensus, established the principles and priorities which are to be the subject of future negotiations aimed at putting an end to the arms race. It emphasized the importance of nuclear weapons and referred to the fact that conventional weapons and the reduction of armed forces must receive serious attention.

(Mr. Al-Hamzah, Democratic Yemen)

The implementation of these objectives can be achieved if it is linked to the commitments undertaken by States in respect of the principles of the United Nations Charter. This commitment is linked to the awareness of States Members of the United Nations of the danger which can result from the destruction of the world; what is required is the political will to safeguard the well-being of mankind.

Among the important subjects proposed and considered by the special session was the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones throughout the world. There was the question of considering the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace. The Final Document also refers to compliance with the decisions and recommendations of the United Nations. On this point, we should like to say that this declaration is closely linked to the elimination of the military bases of the various aggressive blocs so that countries may be saved from the risks of war and tension which the imperialist forces try to incite in their region. A number of delegations expressed their concern with respect to agenda item 125 regarding the acquisition by the occupation forces in Palestine and by South Africa of a nuclear capability, which poses a serious threat to us. It is true that those countries regrettably pose those same dangers, not only in Africa or the Middle East, but also represent a threat which may extend to the entire world.

States should therefore denounce all attempts by Israel to obtain nuclear weapons.

My delegation would like to express its satisfaction with respect to the Soviet proposal to give additional guarantees to non-nuclear-weapon States, a proposal which will be discussed in the First Committee. Paragraph 59 of the Final Document shows the continuing efforts undertaken by the Soviet Union, efforts which deserve our full support.

The tenth special session has provided the necessary guidelines to achieve disarmament and has emphasized the fact that the United Nations is the most appropriate international organ to deal with this problem.

(Mr. Al-Hamzah, Democratic Yemen)

What was needed, then, was a deliberative body. From 9 to 13 October that body organized its work and showed that it was acting very seriously. So there is a good beginning for an integrated and co-ordinated programme.

At the present session we are called upon to review the implementation of all the decisions and recommendations adopted at the tenth special session.

At the tenth special session the Disarmament Commission was given the mandate to continue negotiations on disarmament and to make it possible for States not members of the Commission to place their suggestions and problems before it. Thus the Commission will be able to cope with its responsibilities and intensify Member States' awareness of their responsibilities.

Among the positive results produced by the tenth special session the fact that the First Committee can devote itself fully to disarmament problems is one of the most promising. This will strengthen the role of the United Nations and its organs in the field of disarmament. In the course of the debates here we have heard proposals that will be the subject of the forthcoming special session, and we support the holding of that second special session devoted to disarmament. But before then there should be adequate preparation for that session. Likewise, the forthcoming world disarmament conference will, we believe, be the ideal framework for arriving at the results for which we all hope.

We are also pleased at the various phases scheduled for the implementation of disarmament measures, and we would wish priority to be given to the education of persons who will devote themselves to disarmament. Here we should like to pay a tribute to the Secretary-General for the measures he has taken to establish fellowships to study disarmament and its relationship to development. We also agree with delegations which have stated that the study mentioned in the Secretary-General's report on this question will greatly assist members of the advisory board who have been entrusted with special studies on disarmament.

In conclusion, I should like to say that we are convinced that the achievements of the tenth special session will make it possible for people to fulfil their aspirations to peace and create a world based on peace and security.

Mr. JAMAL (Qatar)(interpretation from Arabic): Mankind has suffered as a result of two apocalyptic world conflagrations. Since the end of the Second World War and to this day, 120 wars have ravaged the world and spread destruction and death in numerous regions, in particular in countries of the third world. Those wars have been the direct consequence of the arms race.

The nuclear arms race which began with the explosion of the atomic bomb at Hiroshima has given a frightening dimension to the threat of war, and mankind is facing the future with anxiety. All that has led us to conjugate our efforts to achieve general and complete disarmament under strict international controls. Those efforts were consecrated by the meetings of the tenth special session of the General Assembly, though many felt that that session took place a little late. Yet it was an important event in the history of the United Nations and in the history of mankind as a whole, because from that point on the United Nations has shouldered complete responsibility and has begun to play a vital role in the field of disarmament.

The Final Document which the tenth special session produced reflects the first results of a struggle which must lead to the achievement of the ultimate goal, that is, general and complete disarmament, so that mankind can really enter a new era of peace, prosperity and security for all.

If we consider the results of the tenth special session, we see that the most important of them, as reflected in the Final Document, is the great significance that is now attached to negotiations in the field of disarmament. That is why my country wishes to express its satisfaction in light of paragraph 11⁴ of the document which contains the provision to the effect that the United Nations should facilitate and encourage all disarmament measures - unilateral, bilateral, regional or multilateral.

We are also very happy to see that the Committee on Disarmament will be expanded so as to be able to play a more effective role through the participation of many other countries in its work.

(Mr. Jamal, Qatar)

My country wishes to express its hope that disarmament negotiations, whether held within the United Nations or outside this Organization, will make it possible to slow down the arms race, in particular the nuclear arms race, even though this may only be achieved in the course of several stages. That is why the United Nations must exhort the two super-Powers which are in possession of terrible arsenals to conclude a SALT II agreement and begin negotiations for the conclusion of a SALT III agreement. In that regard my country attaches the greatest importance to the need to determine the aim to be kept in mind by the negotiating organs so as to achieve one or more conventions acceptable to all countries or at least all regional groupings. Those conventions should embrace all the questions relating to disarmament, such as the prohibition of nuclear tests, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, and the creation of denuclearized zones.

My country wants to state again that negotiations alone - not discussions - will make it possible to achieve the aim of a general convention on disarmament, on condition, of course, that world public opinion is vigilant and gives support to all progress that may be achieved, as well as doing away with any obstacle that may prove to be an impediment to those negotiations.

(Mr. Jamal, Qatar)

Paragraph 65 of the Final Document states that it is imperative, as an integral part of the efforts to halt the arms race, to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the emergence of any additional nuclear-weapon States besides the existing five nuclear-weapon States and on the other hand progressively to reduce and eventually eliminate such weapons altogether. That is why we would welcome effective and decisive measures by the United Nations, specifically by the Security Council, in relation to Israel, because we have now more and more abundant proof of attempts by that country to acquire nuclear weapons and also information and co-operation in that field from another racist country, South Africa. It must be noted that Israel, to this day, has not signed the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

To that must be added the fact that Israel is pursuing an expansionist and racist policy in the very heart of the Middle East, the region where international tensions are very grave. That, of course, emphasizes the great importance we attach to the role of the United Nations, particularly the Security Council, in respect of measures that should be taken against Israel. First of all, the transfer of any fissionable material or nuclear equipment and, generally, the exportation of any nuclear technology to Israel should be stopped. At the same time, denuclearized zones should be established in the Middle East and also in other regions where international tensions exist, in order to prevent other countries also from acquiring nuclear weapons.

The importance that we all attach to the tenth special session of the General Assembly was expressed in the many proposals made by Member States and reflected in paragraph 125 of the Final Document. It states that the proposals are an integral part of the work of the special session and that is why my country would like to draw the attention of the First Committee to several of the proposals that we believe should be studied very carefully - in particular, the proposals of the non-aligned countries, which are also developing countries and which are very much interested in achieving international stability and security.

(Mr. Jamal, Qatar)

First, we have the proposal for the dismantling of foreign military bases in foreign territories and the withdrawal of foreign troops.

We have the draft resolution submitted by India to the effect that the use of nuclear weapons would be a violation of the United Nations Charter and therefore a crime against humanity.

We have the proposal by Italy concerning the role of the Security Council in the field of disarmament in accordance with Article 26 of the United Nations Charter, to which proposal my country attaches the greatest importance. We feel that an effective role in disarmament matters and also in opposition to countries which have armed themselves in order to serve expansionist aims should be played by the Security Council and that measures should be taken by the Council against countries where there is an escalation of the production of armaments and also those countries which are acquiring nuclear weapons in order to practise policies of oppression and nuclear terror against countries which oppose their racist policies and expansionist aims.

Paragraph 119 of the Final Document contains a provision for the convening of a second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament on a date to be decided by the General Assembly at this current session. Differing views have been expressed on that point. Some do not favour the convening of such a session in the very near future because the preparatory work for the first special session took a long time and if a date is set for the next special session the preparatory work will, they say, divert the attention of the competent bodies from consideration of the measures necessary to implement the Programme of Action established by the first special session on disarmament. We are opposed to that thesis, because we feel that the second special session should be convened in the very near future, for reasons which seem to us imperative. The Final Document, indeed, recognizes the fact that vital questions were not resolved during the first special session on disarmament and satisfactory and acceptable results were not achieved because of the very complex character of the questions and the very little time at

(Mr. Jamal, Qatar)

the disposal of the special session. The Final Document mentions some of those questions, but in a very general way, and some questions are not mentioned at all. If the second special session relating to disarmament is held in the near future it will be able to complete the work begun at the first special session and will certainly be able to devote the necessary time to those questions so as to ensure complete and thorough consideration of them.

On the other hand, that session will also consider the measures that have been taken to carry out the Programme of Action established in the Final Document, and also the various obstacles that have impeded the implementation of the Programme. In addition, the flow of ideas engendered by the first session will, of course, be increased and further strengthened, in the view of my Government, by the measures contemplated in paragraphs 89, 100, 101 and 102 of the Final Document. That flow of ideas will furnish possibilities for ensuring the success of the second special session on disarmament and also maintain the impetus which now exists and which was given by the first special session.

For all those reasons we feel that the General Assembly should at this session set a time-table and a date not too far distant for the convening of the second special session.

We have great hopes of the discussions which have taken place and will take place in the First Committee on the measures taken to implement the decisions and recommendations of the first special session devoted to disarmament. This is important because it will enable us to ensure the implementation of those decisions and recommendations; otherwise they will remain a dead letter, although we all know that they are the fruit of considerable efforts made by all States and by many non-governmental organizations, representing world public opinion.

Mr. SANGARET (Ivory Coast) (interpretation from French): Mr. Chairman, the Ivory Coast wishes to state that it will comply with your appeal regarding the congratulations which your personal merits, as well as those of the members of the Bureau, deserve. Those merits have been recognized by all present here and your election is eloquent proof of this.

The Ivory Coast, since it is speaking at this stage in the debate, has heard a number of delegations whose statements have covered all matters pertaining to disarmament. We shall therefore confine ourselves to supporting certain proposals or draft resolutions announced since the beginning of the tenth special session of the General Assembly.

The disarmament problem is one which, as everybody knows, is closely linked to international peace and security. It is therefore a crucial problem for mankind. Accordingly, it is with genuine satisfaction that the Ivory Coast has seen the international community exercising its full competence to consider the disarmament question in full sovereignty in these bodies. It is fitting when a problem becomes crucial for the survival of mankind that the international community be aroused and take it to heart. That is what the United Nations has done in setting up the Disarmament Commission as the successor to the Commission established in 1952.

In so doing, the General Assembly decided to enlarge and even strengthen the deliberative function of the United Nations in regard to disarmament. An opportunity is given to every Member of the United Nations, whether small or large, scarcely armed or heavily armed, to study and refine and specify the elements of a complete disarmament programme within the deliberative Disarmament Commission, and to make recommendations to the General Assembly, which will then transmit them to the negotiating body, the Committee. This implies that it will be a matter not of merely stating generalities, but of making concrete contributions to the solution of the complex disarmament problems.

The delegation of the Ivory Coast considers that these are tangible ways of achieving our objective of disarmament. We are not unaware of the decidedly useful bilateral, multilateral and regional efforts, but we are confident and conscious that today the United Nations is entrusted with the primary responsibility for disarmament. Disarmament problems affect every one of us, and it is

(Mr. Sangaret, Ivory Coast)

reassuring to learn that all the great Powers have decided not to remain aloof from the world disarmament movement. We welcome the entry of France into the Committee and we hope that it will shortly be followed by China.

Does not this world-wide character which has just been given to the disarmament problem find its quite natural extension in the need of every nation to be informed on all the various aspects of the problems associated with security? If it is increasingly necessary to know everything about modern weapons and military discoveries and their social, military and economic implications, the world is also more and more aware that these military arsenals are a matter of growing complexity. One cannot tackle disarmament problems without up to date education. Disarmament would be an empty word if it were carried out by incompetent technicians who were immediately left lagging behind because of the rate of inventions. That is why my delegation welcomes the concept in paragraph 103 of the Final Document of the tenth special session of the General Assembly.

This means that we should encourage and intensify the research and studies carried out by the United Nations Centre for Disarmament. That Centre should broaden its field of research so as to carry out its universal role of absolute research and the dissemination of results as widely as possible, in accordance with the wishes expressed in paragraph 123 of the Final Document.

Technicians throughout the world must find in the United Nations the scientific and technical support that will assist them in mastering disarmament questions. It only remains for us to think of the material support needed.

We are happy to note that, in accordance with paragraph 108 of the Final Document, the international community, through the General Assembly, has decided to establish a Programme of Fellowships to promote expertise in development in more Member States, particularly in the developing countries. While we are grateful to the international community for being aware of the specific financial and technical backwardness of the developing countries, the Ivory Coast believes that 20 yearly fellowships are insufficient. Furthermore, the very idea of a fellowship should be understood as being aimed only at the most needy.

(Mr. Sangaret, Ivory Coast)

We warmly welcome the idea which was repeatedly mentioned at the tenth special session of establishing a link between disarmament and development. A number of proposals and initiatives have been submitted here. Without going into details, we wish to say that we are pleased that there is an awareness among States that there must be solidarity among the rich and the poor and this must be made manifest through disarmament. But we cannot disguise the difficulty of achieving that solidarity.

The General Assembly realized this and even called on the Secretary-General to undertake, with the assistance of governmental experts, an in-depth study of the relationship between disarmament and development. The Secretary-General appointed this group of experts, which has just met. The results of the work of that group of experts will be known in part in 1979, and fully in 1981. Bearing in mind that those dates are rather distant, the Ivory Coast believes it would be more realistic to support the already specific proposals for a disarmament fund for development aid. We can only hope that it will receive funds and that its targets will be attained, unlike the targets set by the international community regarding the gross national product of wealthy countries, which have never been reached.

Regarding disarmament itself, my delegation notes with satisfaction that the first priority is nuclear disarmament. Everyone agrees in recognizing that nuclear weapons most seriously threaten mankind and the survival of civilization. That is why the Ivory Coast follows with much interest the second round of Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) between the United States and the Soviet Union. We believe that the agreement that the two super-Powers will reach will lead to important quantitative and qualitative reductions in strategic weapons and, will undoubtedly constitute an important step in the direction of nuclear disarmament.

But pending the attainment of this great objective of total denuclearization, the Ivory Coast is in favour of the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in accordance with paragraphs 60, 61 and 62 of the Final Document of the tenth special session. The commitment to denuclearize must come from nuclear States, not non-nuclear States. The Ivory Coast, as part of the African continent, is particularly happy to note that in co-ordination with the Organization of African Unity, which has confirmed its decision to denuclearize Africa, the Security Council of the United Nations will whenever necessary take effective measures to ensure that this objective is not jeopardized.

(Mr. Sangaret, Ivory Coast)

All these agreements on denuclearization and disarmament and on the prohibition of all weapons of mass destruction can never be fully implemented without effective control. As the techniques of the manufacture of weapons progress, verification procedures must also be kept up to date. Studies should be carried out so that new means may be adopted that are both modern and appropriate but which are not discriminatory and will neither constitute an undue interference in the internal affairs of other States nor hamper their social and economic development.

As regards the date for the next special session, it should be set taking into account the date on which the provisional report of the group of governmental experts entrusted with considering the relationship between disarmament and development will be submitted.

In conclusion, I should like to say that the Ivory Coast cherishes great hopes for the tangible attainment of the goals set by the tenth special session - in particular, the reduction of military budgets that will permit more aid to development.

The CHAIRMAN: We have heard the last speaker for today. However, the representative of Israel has asked to speak in exercise of his right of reply. Before calling on him, I would ask him to be good enough to keep that reply within the ambit of the statements to which he will reply and also within the ambit of the item we are discussing. I now call on the representative of Israel.

Mr. EILAN (Israel): I should like, first of all, to refer to the statement made by the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic on a point of order this morning. I mentioned his country's criminal and nefarious role in Lebanon in the exercise of my right of reply - and not under item 125 - and was therefore procedurally in order.

The delegation of Israel is not going to respond to the charges made by the representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and others as it does not wish to become a party to a debate that is more reminiscent of the vituperations of the market square than a debate in the United Nations ...

The CHAIRMAN: I think that the representative of Israel will understand that language of that sort is very rarely heard in this hall.

Mr. EILAN (Israel): I bow to the Chair's ruling.

The CHAIRMAN: This concludes the debate on agenda item 125, entitled "Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session". As delegations are aware, between 16 and 20 meetings were originally scheduled for the debate on this item. We have used all 20 of them, but at the same time we have heard some 90 speakers in the debate. It is my feeling that, with a few exceptions, the tone and content of this debate have been most constructive, and representatives in general have defined the results of the tenth special session as providing a new platform for our common efforts on behalf of disarmament.

I should like to announce that the following countries have joined in sponsoring draft resolutions: for A/C.1/33/L.1, Burundi; for A/C.1/33/L.2, Burundi and Mauritius; for A/C.1/33/L.3, Mauritius; for A/C.1/33/L.4, Burundi, Cuba and Mauritius; and for A/C.1/33/L.5, Cuba, Egypt and Mauritius.

We shall meet next on Monday at 10.30 a.m., when the Committee will take up agenda item 128, entitled "Conclusion of an international convention on the strengthening of guarantees of the security of non-nuclear States". As representatives may remember, 10 meetings - in other words, the next working week - are reserved for this item.

The meeting rose at 4.55 p.m.