



FIRST COMMITTEE  
33th **meeting**  
held on  
Wednesday, 4 **November** 1987  
at 3 p.m.  
New York

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**VERBATIM RECORD OF TBE 33rd MEETING**

Chairman: Mr. **BAGBENI ADEITO NZENGEYA** (Zaire)

**CONTENTS**

**CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION ON DRAFT RESOLUTIONS ON AGENDA ITEMS 48 TO 69**  
(continued)

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**A/C.1/42/PV.33**  
5 November 1987  
**ENGLISH**

The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

AGENDA ITEMS 48 TO 69 (continued)

**CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION ON DRAFT RESOLUTIONS ON AGENDA ITEMS 48 TO 69**

Mr. DESPRES (Canada) : Today I would like to introduce for **consideration** in the First Committee draft resolution **A/C.1/42/L.49**, dated 27 **October 1987**, "Prohibition of the production of fissionable material for weapon8 purposes." The draft resolution **is sponsored by** Australia, Austria, Bahamas, **Bangladesh, Botswana,** Cameroon, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, the Netherlands, New **Zealand,** Norway, the Philippines, Romania, Samoa, Sweden, Uruguay and Canada.

The draft resolution, **which** I am **pleased** to introduce in the company of sponsors from every continent and group **of** countries, issues an important statement. It is **a** reminder that the ban on the production of fissionable material **for** weapons purposes remains a **key** element in any **progress** towards nuclear disarmament. It is a realistic resolution because **it takes into account the fact** that progress towards **a comprehensive nuclear-test ban is a prerequisite of any** prohibition of production of fissionable material for weapons purposes.

The draft resolution **also points** to an effective way of **prohibiting nuclear weapons** proliferation, both horizontal and vertical, **and** represents **a** step we must follow if progress is to be achieved towards complete nuclear disarmament.

In **this** respect there have **been** encouraging developments this year **towards the** goal **of** effective **arms** control and disarmament. **The September decision by the** United States of America and the Soviet **Union to begin negotiations** on nuclear **testing offers new ground;** for hope. The signing of an agreement on **intermediate-range nuclear forces at a summit meeting next month will be an** important advance in the **process** of nuclear disarmament.

These **are** reasons for **optimism which** give new meaning to the **draft resolution** before us. I **therefore** urge all delegations to give their support to this

. Despres, Canada)

important draft **resolution**. The **sponsors** hope that it will continue to attract strong and broad **support**.

Mr. HALACHEV (Bulgaria): Today I have the honour to introduce, on behalf of **their sponsors**, two draft **resolutions**.

The **first draft** resolution, "Conclusion of effective international arrangements on the strengthening of the security of **non-nuclear-weapon States** against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons", in document A/C. 1/42/L.19, has been submitted under agenda **item 54**. The **sponsors** of the draft **resolution** are **Afghanistan, Angola, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Ethiopia, Mongolia, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics** and my country, **Bulgaria**.

**(Mr. Halachev, Bulgaria)**

The draft **resolution is based** on the following **basic considerations**: The **achievement of taking affective measures** to give non-nuclear-weapon **States assurances** against the **use** or threat **of use** of nuclear **weapons** continues to **be of** major importance for the international community. **There is an urgent need to reach** an international agreement in **accordance with** the **provisions of paragraph 59** of the Final Document **of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly**. The majority of countries believe that efforts to that end **should be intensified** in the light of the **forthcoming third special session** of the **General Assembly devoted** to disarmament.

**The thrust of** the draft resolution **is similar** to that of the resolution on this question adopted by **the General Assembly over** the past few **years**. There **is no** need to elaborate further on our **understanding of** the problem, **since** it is reflected in the preambular part **of** the draft. **The draft resolution embodies** certain **new elements characterizing** the ongoing negotiations in the Conference on **Disarmament at Geneva**. The **sponsors of** the draft have tried to incorporate **those elements as** they **are reflected** in the report of the relevant **ad hoc** committee of the Conference. We should **note**, in particular, the new **proposals** on the **substance of the issue of security assurances** with respect to non-nuclear-weapon **States**; the need for flexible approaches, as **emphasized** by many participants in the negotiations, with a view to agreeing on a common formula which could be included in a **legally binding** international instrument; the **wide support** in the Conference on Disarmament for **continuing the search for such a common formula**; the existence of **well-known difficulties** relating to differing perceptions of security; and the necessity for **adopting** a new political thinking on the issues of security in the nuclear age, many of which directly affect **the security of non-nuclear-weapon States**.

(Mr. Halachev, Bulgaria)

The draft **resolution** is primarily of a procedural character. It requests the Conference on Disarmament to **continue**, at the beginning of its **1988 session**, active negotiations on this question in the appropriate **ad hoc committee** established for this purpose. We are thinking particularly of the need for making **more** substantial progress towards the forthcoming third special session of the **General Assembly** devoted to disarmament. For this purpose, the Conference **should continue to** explore **ways and means** of **overcoming** the difficulties encountered. We **believe** that the **General Assembly should** again appeal to all States, particularly the nuclear-weapon States, to demonstrate the political will **and to** exercise the flexibility, necessary to reach **agreement concerning a** common formula on the substance of security assurances with respect to non-nuclear-weapon States, which **could become** the **basis** for a **legally binding international** instrument on this subject.

The **second draft resolution**, entitled "World Disarmament Campaign: Actions and activities", is **contained in document A/C.1/42/L.23** and has been **submitted under agenda item 63**. The **Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic**, the **German Democratic Republic**, **Mongolia**, **Romania**, the **Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic**, **Viet Nam** and **Bulgaria** are its **sponsors**. The principal reason for introducing this draft **resolution** is that the **World Disarmament Campaign continues to be** a topical issue which reflects the growing interest of the world public in the problems of peace and disarmament. Therefore we believe that the United Nations, under whose auspices the Campaign is **being** carried out, **should** continue to contribute to the further **mobilization** of world public opinion in **behalf** of peace and disarmament.

The draft **resolution as a whole** follows the basic provisions of **General Assembly resolution 41/60 A**. The **new elements** of the draft reflect the conviction of the **sponsors** that the **World Disarmament Campaign** and **world public opinion** can and should contribute effectively to the holding and the positive outcome of the

(Mr. Halachev, Bulgaria)

third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. This is reflected in the seventh preambular paragraph and paragraph 4 of the draft resolution. In view of the paramount importance of the decisions for future disarmament efforts which the forthcoming special session will make, the sponsors of the draft deem it essential that in draft paragraph 4 the General Assembly should invite all mass peace and disarmament movements to express in an appropriate form their demands, views and suggestions with respect to the tasks and specific results of the session. In this connection, we propose that in draft paragraph 5 the General Assembly should renew its appeal to all Governments, when formulating their policies in the field of disarmament, to take into account the will and demands of the mass peace and disarmament movements, including the tasks and goals of the third special session.

Given the urgent need for a favourable political atmosphere based on confidence, publicity, openness and predictability in international affairs with a view to achieving the objectives of disarmament, the provisions of paragraph 8 of the draft resolution are of particular importance.

In conclusion, the sponsors express the hope that the draft resolutions will receive the widest possible support.

Mr. BUTLER (Australia) : On behalf of the delegations of Austria, Cameroon, Fiji, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Sweden and Australia, I wish to introduce to the Committee the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/42/L.9, entitled "Notification of nuclear tests".

We submitted a resolution on the same subject at last year's session of the General Assembly, the first such resolution ever considered by the Assembly. It was adopted on 3 December 1986 as resolution 41/59 N. That resolution called upon the States conducting nuclear explosions to provide the Secretary-General with specific data on the explosions conducted by them.

(Mr. Butler, Australia)

The draft resolution as submitted this year in document A/C.1/42/L.9 draws on and absorbs the text of resolution 41/59 N adopted last year. This year's draft resolution is designed to ensure that what was adopted in substance last year will be implemented now and in the future.

(Mr. Butler, Australia)

**This year's** draft resolution **encompasses** four simple steps. First, there **is** a call upon all States to comply with resolution **41/59 N**. Secondly, we urge all States conducting nuclear explosions to provide to the Secretary-General within one week of each nuclear explosion the data referred to in paragraph 1 **of** resolution **41/59 N** - that is, data with respect to the nature, size and location of the explosion. Thirdly, we invite all other **States** to provide to the Secretary-General any other such data on nuclear explosions as they may have **available**. Fourthly, we ask the Secretary-General to make **this** information immediately available to **all Member States** and to submit to the General Assembly annually **a register** of the information provided on nuclear explosions during the preceding 12 months.

The draft resolution is **a** simple, **procedural** one. **As** I have already noted, it **draws** on the substance of the resolution adopted last **year** on the same subject.

The **following** points should be clear. The draft resolution provides for the **establishment** of an interim **mechanism**, a mechanism through which nuclear tests would be notified and information on them made **available publicly** until the **day on** which we have a comprehensive **nuclear-test-ban** treaty under which no tests would be conducted in any environment at any **time**. In this sense it **is** an interim measure. It is no sense designed to replace the fundamental objective **shared** by **so many** of us that **we should** have an **end to all** testing through the adoption of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty.

The draft resolution **is** simple. Last year's draft resolution achieved a wide measure of **support**. It is our hope that the **same** will be true **this** year and that it will be understood in the sense in which I have just, described it - as **an** interim measure until the day on which we have a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty. It **is** a measure which will provide us with information that is required as we move forward in practical work towards such a treaty, information **that is**



(Mr. Butler, Australia)

largely available, **but the** collective publication of which would **assist** the technical and political drive towards **a** comprehensive test-ban treaty.

The delegations sponsoring the draft resolution commend it to the **wide support** of the Committee and the Assembly, on the ground that it will constitute an important interim step towards the achievement of **a** comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty.

Mr. PATUKALLIO (Finland) : I wish to introduce draft **decision A/C.1/42/L.36**, under agenda item 66, "Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions **adopted by the General** Assembly at **its** tenth special **session**", entitled 'Verification". Finland is **joined as sponsor** of the draft **decision** by Bulgaria, Canada and Sweden.

The draft **decision** requests the Secretary-General to submit to the **Disarmament Commission at its next session** a preliminary report on existing capabilities and facilities within the United Nations Secretariat **relevant** to the establishment of a **computerized data base for** purposes of verification of compliance with international **arms** limitation and disarmament agreements.

In the **Finnish** view, such a data **base** could **assist** Member States in verifying Compliance with arms limitation **and** disarmament agreements to which they **are** parties. The data base could also **form a** channel for the **distribution** of **confidence-building information**.

It goes without saying that the role of a United Nations verification data base would **be** essentially technical in nature. Political judgments **as** to whether a particular agreement is **being** complied with would **obviously continue to** rest with the sovereign States concerned.

(Mr. Patokallio, Finland)

The purpose of the draft decision is to facilitate further **and** more concrete consideration by the Disarmament Commission of the **idea** of a United Nations verification data base.

The Disarmament Commission has already **accomplished valuable** work on this subject at its 1987 session, as noted in the **draft decision as well as** in the report of the Disarmament Commission (A/42/42). **Under paragraph 46**, paragraph 11 of the report of the Working Group IV **states** that the Disarmament Commission **agreed** that the United Nations should examine the possibility of compiling and managing and verification data base. It is precisely in furtherance of **this** conclusion of the Disarmament Commission, adopted **by consensus**, that the draft decision is presented for action in the Committee.

May I also underline another **important point**: the **draft** decision has no financial implications for the United Nations budget. The preliminary report **requested** in the draft decision will be prepared by the Department of Disarmament Affairs within existing resources.

On behalf of all the sponsors, Finland is pleased to commend the draft decision to the First Committee for its adoption without a vote.

Mr. NAZARKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (**interpretation** from Russian): The Soviet delegation wishes to **state** its attitude towards the draft resolutions on the prevention of an arms race in outer space. The Soviet Union is a sponsor of one of the draft resolutions, A/C.1/42/L.14, in which we propose that the General Assembly request the Conference on Disarmament to re-establish an **ad hoc** committee at the beginning of its 1988 session in order to initiate without delay negotiations for the conclusion of an agreement or agreements on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its **aspects**. Our draft resolution

(Mr. Nazarkin, USSR)

**is thus** oriented **towards** an **immediate start on active negotiations** in the Conference on Disarmament to conclude an agreement or agreements on the prevention of an **arms race** in outer **space**.

Two other draft resolutions - **A/C.1/42/L.20**, submitted by China, and **A/C.1/42/L.43**, submitted by members of the Non-Aligned Movement - are directed **at** the same point. All three draft resolutions clearly state the need to establish an ad hoc committee **with** a mandate to negotiate. We believe that **this approach** fully reflects the urgent need to undertake **negotiations** in the **Conference on Disarmament** **on** preventing an **arms race** in outer space.

(Mr. Nazarkin, USSR)

In addition to those three **draft** resolutions, the Committee **has** before it also draft **resolution A/C.1/42/L.11**, submitted by a **group** of Western **countries**. We feel that draft **resolution A/C.1/42/L.11 would** tend to **consolidate a** situation in the Conference on **Disarmament** in which the **question** of outer space **would not move to the stage of negotiations**. We do not agree with the arguments put **forward by** delegations **emphasizing the** auxiliary role of multilateral **efforts** to prevent an arms race in outer **space**. Those delegations would urge that we do not rush, but rather wait **for progress** in Soviet-United **States** negotiations. But here again we feel that bilateral and multilateral **efforts must** work hand in hand to **facilitate one another** and accelerate rather than **slow** down international disarmament **efforts**.

In its **Ad Hoc Committee on the subject**, the Conference on Disarmament **has** been **considering the question** of the prevention of an **arms race in outer space since** 1985 and **has done a good** deal of useful work on that question. We **feel that a good foundation has been** laid **at the Conference** for practical, purposeful work on the prevention of an arms **race in outer space**. **This year's** report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the prevention of an arms race in outer space recognizes that **the legal régime applicable to outer space, as such, is not sufficient to guarantee the prevention of an arms race in outer space**. The report **recognizes the need to consolidate and reinforce that régime**. Those conclusions were reached on the **basis of two years** of work. **Taking account of the work that has been done**, the **Ad Hoc Committee** saw fit to recommend that the Conference on Disarmament **re-establish the Ad Hoc Committee on the prevention of an arms race in outer space** with an **adequate mandate at the beginning** of the 1988 session, **taking into account all relevant factors, including the work of the Committee since 1985**.

(Mr. Nazarkin, USSR)

That recommendation constitutes **recognition that the Ad Hoc Committee** has **successfully** carried out the work entrusted to it, and that the Committee has in fact **fulfilled its** previous mandate. In **our** view, it **indicates** the need to change the **Ad Hoc Committee's** mandate **so that the** Committee **an** re-established at the beginning of **the 1988** session will be **able** to proceed to negotiations on the prevention of an arms **race** in **outer** space.

We **consider that the** General **Assembly** can **and** should promote **progress** with respect to the **prevention of** an arms **race** in **outer** space. It can do **this** by stating **clearly** and **unambiguously** that: **it** favours multilateral negotiations on a specific agreement or **agreements**.

Mr. PUNUNGWE (Zimbabwe): Since this is my **delegation's** first statement in this Committee, I should like to **begin** by **congratulating** you, Sir, on your election to the **chairmanship of this** important Committee. **My delegation** is satisfied that under your able **guidance** our work will reach a fruitful **conclusion**.

**The issue of** preventing a **nuclear war** is today at the forefront of the concerns of **all citizens**. The prevention of nuclear war **has been called** the most **urgent** task of **the present** day, and **the** precondition for **all other endeavours**. **Needless** to say, an important element in the **prevention** of nuclear war - indeed, the only **way** we can **guarantee that a** nuclear war will not occur - is the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. With that in mind, it becomes clear that nuclear-disarmament negotiations are of **the utmost importance**.

In that regard, it is evident that **the** nuclear-weapon States must play a major role. Among the nuclear-weapon States, **the two super-Powers** bear a special responsibility for nuclear disarmament. We are glad to note that the super-Powers themselves are in agreement with that view, **as evidenced** by their bilateral nuclear-arms negotiations.

**(Mr. Pununqwe, Zimbabwe)**

**However**, we **wish** to inform them that the outcome of **those** negotiations **is** of the **utmost** importance for **humanity** as a whole. **While** the choice to **start** or **not** to **start** such a war **rests** with the nuclear-weapon **States**, the **consequences** of their **choice** would affect all of us.

**At Harare, in September 1986**, the **leaders** of non-aligned countries **stated** that: "the **greatest** peril facing the world **is** the **threat** to the **survival** of humanity **posed** by the **existence** of nuclear weapons. Since annihilation needs to happen only once, **removing** the **threat** of **nuclear catastrophe** is **not** one **issue** among many, but **the** most acute and **urgent task** of the **present day**." (A/41/657, pp. 23-24)

It is **clear** that the **non-aligned countries** do not accept the **equation** of **nuclear** war with other **kinds** of war. They want *it* to be given its rightful place as a development **that could finish civilization as we know it**. In their **Appeal** on Disarmament, **also issued at Harare in September 1986**, the **Heads of State** or **Government** **of non-aligned countries**, in an **urgent appeal** to **General-Secretary Gorbachev** and **President Reagan**, **expressed** the **view** that "the **alternative** today **is** not between war [and] **peace**, but between **life** and **death**. This **makes** the **struggle** for **peace** and for the **prevention** of **nuclear war** the **principal task** of our times." (p. 157)

The non-aligned **leaders** went on to **say**,

"We hope that this **appeal** will **encourage** your own **efforts** to go forward to the **meeting** and reach **conclusions** which will take into account the best **interests** of the **States** and **peoples** of our planet. Humanity **must** be saved **from the scourge** of war. We must **recognize** our common **destiny**, and **strive** with determination for a future of **peace, dignity, development** and **progress** for all." (p. 159)

(Mr. Punungwe, Zimbabwe)

At their recent meeting here in New York, on 7 October 1987, the Ministers and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries specifically entrusted the Co-ordinating Bureau of the non-aligned countries with the task of presenting at the forty-second Session of the General Assembly, on behalf of the non-aligned countries, a draft resolution calling upon the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to avail themselves of the present momentum and to advance towards the achievement of agreements to halt and reverse the nuclear-arms race.

It is in the light of those observations that the States members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries are submitting the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/42/L.10. The text recalls previous similar resolutions, of 1985 and 1986; it recalls the Harare Appeal on Disarmament addressed to the two super-Powers, which I have just mentioned, and the communiqué adopted by the ministers and heads of delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries in New York on 7 October 1987.

The draft resolution expresses the conviction of the non-aligned countries that the alternative in the nuclear age is not between war and peace, but between life and death, which makes the prevention of nuclear war the principal task of our times. The draft resolution also expresses our conviction that international peace and security can be ensured only through general and complete disarmament under effective international control, and that one of the most urgent tasks is to halt and reverse the arms race and to undertake concrete measures of disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament. All these we regard as general sentiments with which no serious person could have any difficulty,

(MC. Punungwe, Zimbabwe)

In the draft resolution we also note that the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics reached an agreement in principle during the meeting between Secretary of State George Schultz and Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Washington on the elimination of intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles. This is a historical fact and the language used is from the text of the agreement itself. Therefore, we do not envisage any delegation having difficulty with it.

We also express our conviction that, in the interest of mankind as a whole, the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, in their bilateral nuclear-arms negotiations, should continue their endeavours with the ultimate objective of achieving general and complete disarmament under effective international control. Again, I point out that this is a genuine aspiration of mankind as a whole and that the international community has indeed set itself the goal of general and complete disarmament.

In its operative part, the draft welcomes the Shultz-Shevardnadze agreement. I believe all peoples do the same.

The draft resolution also calls upon the two Governments concerned to intensify their efforts with the objective of achieving agreements in other areas, in particular the areas of strategic arms and a nuclear test ban, as a matter of urgency. I should like to point out that both areas were mentioned in the Washington talks and that indeed a commitment was made to achieve a 50 per cent reduction in strategic arms and to begin nuclear-test-ban negotiations before 1 December 1987.

Finally, the draft invites the Governments of the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to keep the Conference on Disarmament duly



(Mr. Punungwe, Z inbabwe)

informed of **progress in** their **negotiations**. **That hardly needs justification**. **As the single multilateral negotiating body on disarmament issues, the Conference on Disarmament is more attuned to the needs of mankind as a whole**. **It is thur essential that the** Conference on Disarmament have a role in a **matter of** • uch importance to humanity **as a whole**.

**With** those obervationa I should like, on behalf of the group of non-aligned countries, to **commnd** the **dtaf t** resolution **contained** in document **A/C.1/42/L.10** to **this** Committee. **It is** our fervent hope **that** it will be **possible** to have it adopted by coneenoue. We are in touch with **cther colleagues** from **other groups** with regard to **this** draft and sincerely hope that mutual accommodation will **be possible**.

Mr. FAN Guoxiang (China) (interpretation from **Chinese**): I speak **today** to introduce draft **resolutions A/C.1/42/L.21 and L. 18**, which are **entitled "Nuclear disarmament"** and **"Conventional disarmament"**, **respectively**.

Undoubtedly, nuclear diarmament **has always** been the **yrratest concern of the peoples of all countries and takes the highest priority in the field of disarmament**. **Laet year the Chinese delegation submitted** a draft **resolution on nuclear disarmament** which wan adopted by coneenaur by **the General Assembly as resolution 41/59 F**. To facilitate the **progress** in nuclear **disarmament, this year my delegation has once again** aubmittsd a **draft resolution of the same nature** contained in document **A/C.1/42/L.21**.

**Resolution 41/59 F**, adopted by the **General Assembly** in 1986, **reflects** the common **desire** of **the** international community that the two **States** which **possess** the **most important nuclear arsenals should** be urged to discharge their **special responsibility** and take the lead in halting the **nuclear-arms race**. **Thanks to the promotion** by the peoples of the world and the political **willingness shown** by the **Soviet Union** and the United States, certain initial **positive signs** have appeared in

(Mr. Fan Guoxiang, China)

the field of nuclear disarmament. A few days ago the Soviet Union and the United States declared that a bilateral summit meeting would be held on 7 December and that a treaty on the elimination of all their medium-range missiles would be signed on that occasion. Like all other countries, China welcomes that development.

Once the Soviet-American agreement on the elimination of their intermediate nuclear forces is implemented, it will constitute the first real reduction of nuclear weapons since the end of the Second World War. Certainly this has great significance. We expect the promised treaty to be concluded and put into practice as planned, in order to eliminate on a global basis all the intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles of the two countries at the earliest possible date. On the other hand, it should also be noted that the intermediate nuclear forces of the Soviet Union and the United States account for only less than 5 per cent of their huge nuclear arsenals.

In their statements in this Committee, representatives of many countries have emphasised that the two major nuclear Powers should make further efforts to achieve a drastic reduction of nuclear weapons. Recently the leaders of the two countries also expressed their willingness to continue their negotiations on this crucial issue. To reach the goal of complete prohibition and thorough destruction of all nuclear weapons, it is still imperative for the whole international community, and the two major nuclear Powers in particular, to make unremitting efforts. Proceeding from this consideration, my delegation has once again submitted to this Committee our draft resolution on nuclear disarmament.

The main thrust and basic content of this proposal is identical to those of resolution 41/59 F of last year. Bearing in mind the positive development in the Soviet-American medium-range-missile negotiations, paragraph 1 of the operative part of last year's resolution, which reads

(Mr. Fan Guoxiang, China)

"Expresses its deep concern that negotiations on nuclear disarmament should yield concrete results at the earliest possible time", has been adjusted accordingly. The new text of that paragraph is formulated in line with the consensus decision adopted on 21 October by the General Assembly. In addition, the word "further" has been added in paragraph 2 of the operative part. Those are the only changes in this year's text.

I also wish to point out that the purpose of this Chinese draft is to reaffirm the special responsibility of the two major nuclear Powers and push forward the whole process of nuclear disarmament. Although this draft resolution touches upon the recent development in the Soviet-American bilateral negotiations, it is not confined to that issue. This differentiates it from those draft resolutions entitled "Bilateral nuclear negotiations".

I am sure that draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.21 will still enjoy consensus support from all delegations, thus once again reflecting the firm determination and common aspiration of the whole international community for preventing nuclear war, achieving nuclear disarmament and charting an effective approach towards nuclear disarmament, in accordance with the real situation in the world.

Many representatives have already talked about the importance and necessity of conventional disarmament. In my statement made on 15 October in this Committee, I also outlined some main points in this regard which I shall not repeat. However, there is one more point worth mentioning here. As the Soviet-American negotiations on intermediate nuclear forces have shown an optimistic prospect, the nuclear-disarmament issue has attracted more and more attention. In spite of that, the importance of conventional disarmament is being further emphasized rather than neglected by the international community. After all, the relationship between nuclear disarmament and conventional disarmament is a mutually complementary one; they promote each other and can only proceed hand in hand.

(Mr. Fan Guoxiang, China)

This year saw the United Nations Disarmament Commission carry out for the first time substantive deliberations on the issue of conventional disarmament. Discussions there were conducted in a serious atmosphere. Many delegations, including the Chinese delegation, put forward relevant working papers or ideas. All these have marked a good beginning of the work. During the deliberations, differences were apparent in the positions of various sides. This, however, should not be a reason for alarm. How many years have the United States of America and the Soviet Union spent on their nuclear talks? And how many years have the East and the West spent on their conventional disarmament negotiations? Now all the countries in the world, which face different domestic and regional situations and have different security interests, have gathered together to discuss conventional disarmament. It would be unrealistic to expect an agreement to be reached overnight. What is needed in dealing with conventional disarmament - a highly complicated and very important issue - is great patience and perseverance.

It is in line with this spirit that the Chinese delegation has once again submitted a draft resolution entitled "Conventional disarmament" (A/C.1/42/L.18). The General Assembly last year adopted by a great majority its resolution 41/59 G on conventional disarmament. Draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.18 keeps intact the basic principles affirmed by that resolution. In the new text only a few changes have been made in the light of the present situation. First, the eighth paragraph of the preambular part mentions the two resolutions on conventional disarmament adopted by the General Assembly last year, as well as the discussions on this matter conducted by the Disarmament Commission. This is purely a technical change. Secondly, in operative paragraph 3, two phrases have been added. One is "through various forums", and the other "particularly in Europe, which has the largest concentration of arms and forces in the world". The addition of the phrase "through various forums" is based on the fact that the East and the West are

(Mr. Fan Guoxiang, China)

currently exploring more forums for conventional disarmament negotiation Or **discussion**, and that **those** European countries outside the two military alliances should have an opportunity to air their opinions on this issue. As to making a special reference to the European region, **the** reason is that, since the United States and **the** Soviet Union are moving towards an agreement **on** the reduction of their intermediate-range nuclear forces (**INF**), the conventional disarmament issue in **Europe has become** even more outstanding and urgent. Representatives of many European countries have expressed a similar view in their recent statements in this Committee.

These are **all** the new changes in this draft resolution.

Like resolution **41/59 G**, draft resolution **A/C.1/42/L.18** is still aimed at promoting **the international** community's efforts to achieve **conventional** disarmament. Taking into account the positions of all **sides**, it is balanced and reasonable. The Chinese delegation hopes that this draft will receive support from all delegations.

**In** his statement to **the** General **Assembly on** 23 September, Chinese Foreign Minister **We Xueqian** said:

"China **has** not only actively put forward its views and proposals on disarmament, but has also taken a series of concrete actions towards disarmament ...". (**A/42/PV.8, p. 42**)

The Chinese delegation will co-operate with all other delegations in this Committee and **make** our contributions.

The **CHAIRMAN** (interpretation from Russian): I now call on the Secretary of the Committee.

**Mr. KHERADI (Secretary) :** I should like to inform the Committee that

**the following** countries have become **sponsors of the following draft resolutions:**

**A/C.1/42/L.41 - Ireland; A/C.2/42/L.44 - Romania and Uruguay; A/C.1/42/L.56 -**

**Uruguay; A/C.1/42/L.58/Rev.1 - the Federal Republic of Germany and Sri Lanka;**

**A/C.1/42/L.59 - Romania and Uruguay; A/C.1/42/L.61 - Australia; A/C.1/42/L.71 - Sri**

**Lanka; A/C.1/42/L.75 - Guinea Bissau.**

The meeting rose at 4.20~.