AGENDA ITEM 71

Financial reports and accounts for the year 1971 and reports of the Board of Auditors:
(a) United Nations;
(b) United Nations Development Programme;
(c) United Nations Children's Fund;
(d) United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East;
(e) United Nations Institute for Training and Research;
(f) Voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/8873)

AGENDA ITEM 93

Amendment to rule 160 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/8861)

1. The President (interpretation from French): I invite the Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee to present in a single statement the reports of the Fifth Committee that are before the Assembly on agenda items 71 and 93.

2. Mr. PASHKEVICH (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic), Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee (interpretation from Russian): On behalf of the Fifth Committee, I have the honour to present the reports on two agenda items examined by the Committee.

3. The report relating to agenda item 71 is contained in document A/8873. In paragraph 11 of this document, the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of six draft resolutions under the corresponding headings, which were adopted without objection in the Committee.

4. The report relating to agenda item 93 is contained in document A/8861. In paragraph 5 of this document, the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution which was adopted without objection in the Committee, and which refers inter alia to General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) on the restoration of the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations and recommends an increase in the membership of the Committee on Contributions from 12 to 13, with effect from 1 January 1973.

5. I hope that the draft resolutions which have been submitted will be approved by the General Assembly.

Pursuant to rule 68 of the rules of procedure, it was decided not to discuss the reports of the Fifth Committee.

6. The President (interpretation from French): The Assembly will consider first the report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 71 concerning the financial reports and accounts for the year 1971 and reports of the Board of Auditors (A/8873). Since no one wishes to explain his vote, we shall now take a decision on the six draft resolutions recommended for adoption by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 11 of its report. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt draft resolutions A, B, C, D, E and F?

Draft resolutions A, B, C, D, E and F were adopted (resolutions 2912 A to F [XXVII]).
7. The President (interpretation from French): We shall now take up the report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 33 (A/8661). We shall now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 5 of that report. May I take it that the General Assembly decides to adopt that draft resolution without objection?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 2913 (XXVIII)).

AGENDA ITEM 8

Adoption of the agenda (concluded)*

8. The President (interpretation from French): With regard to item 76, the Assembly is informed by a note by the Secretary-General in document A/8870 that a member of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee has tendered his resignation. Therefore, it will be necessary for the Assembly to appoint someone in his place. According to a submission (J) reading “United Nations Staff Pension Committee”, should be added to agenda item 76 and referred to the Fifth Committee. If there is no objection it will be so decided.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEMS 28 AND 29

International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space: report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Preparation of an international treaty concerning the Moon: report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

REPORT OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE (A/8653)

AGENDA ITEM 37

Preparation of an international convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting

REPORT OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE (A/8664)

9. The President (interpretation from French): I invite the Rapporteur of the First Committee, Mr. Santosu-Santos, to present in a single statement the two reports of the First Committee now before the Assembly.

10. Mr. SANTOSU-SANTOS (Guatemala), Rapporteur of the First Committee (interpretation from Spanish): On behalf of the First Committee I have the honour to present to the General Assembly the report on agenda items 28 and 29, which are draft resolutions in document A/8663, and the report on agenda item 37 contained in document A/8664.

11. As we know, the first two items were included by the Secretary-General in the provisional agenda of the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly on the basis of General Assembly resolutions 2776 (XXVII) and 2799 (XXVII). Agenda item 37 is included by the Secretary-General in the current report of the General Assembly on the basis of a request by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (A/8771). 12. The First Committee considered the three items together in 11 meetings, from its 1862nd to its 1974th meetings, and had before it four draft resolutions. The Committee adopted unanimously the two draft resolutions which appear in paragraph 12 of document A/8663, and the two other draft resolutions which were adopted appear in paragraph 23 of document A/8664.

13. Special reference should be made to draft resolution II, contained in paragraph 12 of document A/8663, which deals with the general work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. In the text of that draft resolution note is taken of the valuable work done by the Committee and its subsidiary organs during the past year, particularly as it relates to the continuation of the programme on the practical application of space technology and the elaboration of a legal regime governing the activities of States in the exploration of outer space. Regarding the latter, it was noted that the Committee had made significant progress in approving two draft treaties, one relating to the moon and the other to the registration of objects launched into outer space. This draft resolution also calls on States not to test intercontinental missiles in space and to work in all the areas; i out in the draft resolution in previous resolutions of the General Assembly, and to report to the Assembly at its five-year sessions. The draft resolution received wide support in the First Committee and was adopted unanimously, as was draft resolution I, which appears in the same document and which is entitled “International action for the mitigation of the harmful effects of storms”.

14. I have the honour to submit on behalf of the First Committee these four draft resolutions to the General Assembly, for adoption if no objections.

15. The President (interpretation from French): We shall first consider the report of the First Committee on agenda items 28 and 29 [A/8663].

Pursuant to rule 68 of the rules of procedure, it was decided not to discuss the report of the First Committee.

16. The President (interpretation from French): The First Committee recommends for adoption by the General Assembly the two draft resolutions appearing in paragraph 13 of its report. Draft resolution I is entitled “International action for the mitigation of the harmful effects of storms”. Since the First Committee adopted this draft resolution unanimously, may I take it that the General Assembly also wishes to adopt it unanimously?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 2914 (XXVIII)).

17. The President (interpretation from French): We turn now to draft resolution II, entitled “International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space”. The financial and administrative implications of this draft resolution are set forth in paragraph 6 of document A/8663. Since the First Committee adopted draft resolution II unanimously, may I take it that the Assembly also wishes to adopt it unanimously?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 2915 (XXVIII)).

18. The President (interpretation from French): We now turn to the report of the First Committee on agenda item 37 (A/8664).

19. I call on the representative of Italy, who wishes to introduce the amendments contained in document A/8582.

20. Mr. MIGLIUOLI (Italy): From the report contained in document A/8664, members have no doubt noticed that the First Committee's decision to recommend draft resolution I to the Assembly on item 37 was reached through a series of split decisions on different drafts proposed by various delegations. In actual fact, the matter brought to the attention of the First Committee was a complex one on which many countries held firm views and positions that could not be reconciled with a common denominator in the time available for the debate.

21. After the vote in the First Committee, therefore, some delegations felt it expedient to explore the possibility of broadening the basis of support for the text of the draft resolution adopted by the First Committee on 20 October. In its work, the Committee did not aim at introducing changes in the substance of the draft resolution I, that draft resolution had received the support of a very large majority. Those delegations, however, felt that some amendments, notably of a procedural nature, might improve the text.

22. In the course of informal consultations held under the guidance of the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, my Ambassador Janowski, those delegations agreed to propose to members of the General Assembly the addition of the two paragraphs contained in document A/8582, which I have the honour to introduce on behalf of the delegation of Belgium, Iraq, Morocco, the Netherlands and Poland of my own delegation.

23. The first amendment consists of a parenthetical paragraph in which it is recalled that this important matter was brought to the attention of the General Assembly—during the discussions which had taken place in the Outer Space Committee's Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites—of the initiative of the delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which proposed the full text of this paragraph (see A/8771).

24. The second amendment relates to the operative part of the draft resolution I and is intended to bring the main question of the Committee the documentation relating to the discussions held during this session, aims at strengthening the idea that agreement is already ready to be found on the thorough discussion of all the aspects of this complex subject within the First Committee and, it is hoped, to reach agreement.

25. In connection with the second amendment, may I draw the attention of members to the fact that the additional operative paragraph has been slightly changed in keeping with the formulation usually used in such circumstances? A revised text will be distributed shortly. 1 In the new text, instead of saying “Recommends that all documentation relating to the discussion...”, the new paragraph will read: “Requests the Secretary-General to transmit...all documentation”. I repeat that this is in keeping with the usual formulation used in the United Nations.

26. As I pointed out earlier, the two amendments do not change the substance of draft resolution I recommended by the First Committee, nor do they accommodate the diverging views expressed by a number of delegations during the debate. But the amendments are the expression of a sincere desire to reaffirm the spirit of co-operation which generally obtains in the United Nations when matters related to outer space exploration are dealt with. The sponsors therefore agreed to propose these amendments in the sincere hope that they, as well as the amended draft resolution, could be approved by this Assembly without objection.

27. The President (interpretation from French): The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution which the First Committee has recommended for adoption in paragraph 23 of its report (A/8664). The draft resolution is entitled “Preparation of an international convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting. The draft resolution has been published in document A/8662/R1.

28. In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, first of all I shall put to the vote the amendments, one after the other and then the draft resolution as a whole, whether amended or not.

29. The first amendment in document A/8662/R1 is to insert a new paragraph after the sixth preambular paragraph.

The first amendment was adopted by 91 votes to none, with 7 abstentions.

30. The President (interpretation from French): The second amendment is to add an operative paragraph 3.

The second amendment was adopted by 95 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.

31. The President (interpretation from French): Before putting draft resolution I as a whole to the vote, I shall call on those representatives who wish to explain their vote.

32. Mr. ISRIS (Argentina): Education, education, education. It is today completing its consideration of a series of questions related to international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space. The Soviet delegation agrees with great satisfaction that attention in the First Committee was largely

1 Subsequently circulated as document A/8662/R1.
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concentrated on the question, raised at the initiative of the Soviet Union, of the preparation of an international convention on principles governing the use by States of direct television facilities for direct television broadcasting [A/8771].

The Soviet delegation is also glad that the initiative of the Soviet Union attracted the attention of a very wide circle of delegations. Moreover, as in the debate in the First Committee, the idea of the regulation of the direct television broadcasting by international law was supported by a considerable number of delegations. Thus, we can affirm, with the majority of the Members of the United Nations recognizing the actuality of the question of the preparation of an international agreement on direct television broadcasting, not only as an international law issue, but also as an important step in the development of the role of law in this new sphere of human activity.

4. We particularly welcome the fact that the preamble to draft resolution I adopted in the First Committee [A/8864, paras. 23] embodies the principle that the use of outer space, inter alia, for direct television broadcasting, must be for peaceful purposes for the benefit of all States and for the development of friendly relations among them.

5. The preamble also stresses that direct television broadcasting from outer space should serve only the lofty goals of peace and friendship among peoples. It further notes that the question can be extended to States at all stages of economic and scientific development.

6. The question is raised in the third paragraph of the preamble that “the free flow of communications” should be ensured on a basis acceptable to all States. The rights of States and also the rights of individuals, as also have considerable significance for the future work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

7. The draft resolution adopted by the First Committee calls upon States not to allow the conversion of direct television broadcasting into an instrument of international conflict and of aggravation of the relations among States, and stresses the need to protect the sovereignty of States from any external interference through the further elaboration of rules concerning outer space on the basis of the Charter of the United Nations. These are very constructive provisions.

8. Thus, it is clearly and distinctively stated in the draft resolution submitted to the General Assembly for approval that the activity of States in the sphere of direct television broadcasting shall be in accordance with the principles of mutual respect for the sovereignty of States, non-interference in their internal affairs and equality and cooperation between them. We hope that strict observance of these principles will lead to the preparation of an international convention supported by all States and to a considerable expansion of the volume of international space communications by the space communication methods of the near future.

9. The fact that today we are already seriously preparing to face this near future on the basis of regulation by international law emphasizes as a whole the mature approach of the United Nations to the initiative taken by the Soviet Union.

40. At the same time the Soviet delegation would like to draw attention to the fact that the draft resolution submitted in the First Committee by the Soviet delegation, together with the amendment supported by other countries [A/8864, paras. 6] stated the problem of the tasks of the United Nations with regard to the preparation of rules of international law and international co-operation. It is noted that direct television broadcasting from outer space more deeply and more properly.

2. In our opinion, the amendment adopted in the First Committee in the form of the operative part of the draft resolution submitted by the USSR delegation and certain other delegations. Nevertheless, we consider that the basis idea—the need to prepare a regime of international law for direct television broadcasting from outer space—has been reflected in the draft resolution adopted by the First Committee.

41. Our attitude towards this draft resolution on direct television broadcasting is also conditioned by the fact that the operative part acknowledges that the United Nations should begin as soon as possible to elaborate the principles which would serve as a basis for an agreement or agreement on the need for rules of international law concerning direct television broadcasting.

42. The Soviet delegation takes a favourable view of the initiative of a number of States which submitted to the Committee the amendments which were just adopted by an overwhelming majority and which make the text of the draft resolution adopted by the First Committee more purposeful and objective. We believe that the inclusion of the present part of the draft resolution of a reference to the draft convention on principles governing the use by States of outer space for direct television broadcasting, submitted by the United Nations Socialist Republics. Another positive move was the restoration of the principle of the inalienability of States to the draft resolution, proposed earlier by the USSR delegation together with the delegations of other countries.

43. In our opinion, the amendments that have been introduced reflect the spirit of realism and co-operation which will, we hope, enable the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in future to solve the complex problems relating to the development of international space law.

44. That is why the Soviet delegation found it possible to vote for the amendments to the draft resolution adopted in the First Committee. In view of the adoption of these amendments and of what I have just said, the Soviet delegation intends to vote for the draft resolution as a whole, as amended.

45. Mr. TYSNO (United States of America): The United States will vote against draft resolution I as submitted by the First Committee on agenda item 37 [A/8864, para. 23]. I would suggest that this statement is not to preclude the possibility of our going to the Committee to press for some form of resolution that would be acceptable to all States and that our views be reflected in that resolution.

46. First, the draft resolution does not sufficiently take note of the positive potential of what we can foresee as the new technology involved in the use of earth satellites for direct television broadcasting. The First Committee, as recently as at the twenty-seventh session in 1970 wisely drew much too early to take a decision on the need to conclude a single convention.”

Parallel statements were made on the same day by the representatives of Canada and Japan at the Committee’s 1871st meeting and by the representative of the United Kingdom. In his statement the United States is obliged to voice its position.

50. The Assembly also has before it draft resolution II, advanced in the First Committee by Saudi Arabia, the preamble of which recalls some very useful work done by the General Assembly in 1965 on the principle of freedom of information. In particular, the text recalls General Assembly resolution 2448 (XXIX) which “affirms the principle that the primary function of media of information anywhere in the world is to gather and impart freely and responsibly objective and accurate information”. However, since the operative paragraph states the “elimination of international instruments or United Nations arrangements”, we will abstain in the vote on this draft resolution.

51. Finally, I want to say a word on the resolution on international action for the mitigation of the harmful effects of storms, submitted by the First Committee in documents A/8863, and adopted by the General Assembly. We would like to note, in connection with paragraph 5 of this resolution that man’s knowledge of the nature of these phenomena is still very limited. Accordingly, we think that such research at locations removed from populated areas is essential to be carried on. We are, however, convinced that our experience in the reach of points where operational activities in the moderate of severe tropical storms become safe and practical.

52. Mr. MARTINEZ-SIMAHAN (Colombia) (interpretation from Spanish): My delegation considers it appropriate to amplify what it has said in the general debate in the First Committee on item 37. We said then, at the Committee’s 1870th meeting, and we repeat now, that the technological advances in mass communications have always needed special attention in my country. The subject of school lecturers broadcast by radio, to mention one case, Colombia, together with Radio Sucre, has been a very successful experience in the particular conditions which it is given to my country to test. It is an example to other countries in Latin America. This entry of Colombia is, I hope, one of demonstration of communication which may be adapted to the needs of the United Nations to attract great interest in the media and broadcasting. We are enthusiastic over the great prospects opened for education, and for the exchange of scientific and cultural information. Our people will even have a greater opportunity to enjoy recreation, which is today a new right acquired by contemporary man.

53. For countries like ours, where 56.5 per cent of the population is less than 20 years old—that is, theoretically they are on school or college unprepared, the users of radiocommunication facilities for teaching purposes would accelerate the process of teaching our people.
54. We also know that the same picture can be hooked up to a channel carrying different voices, thereby providing its own master medium. We can imagine no field more worthly for the use of outer space for peaceful purposes, for the transmission of space technology to developing countries, and, briefly, for international co-operation as a whole. We therefore welcome the statement appearing in the World Plan of Action for the Application of Science and Technology to Development that "in the utilization of communications satellites to transmit educational programmes to relatively simple and inexpensive receivers, there is little doubt that the technical feasibility of doing so exists at present." However, this technological advance has given political implications, and this document therefore quite rightly states that "the world has not yet been developed and proven is that individual nations, or even regions, can organize an education programme which would be suited to the demands of such a system, and which would meet the needs of the nations involved."4

55. Here arises, quite clearly, the ambivalence of this powerful instrument which we mentioned in the First Committee. It may indeed be useful, but it may also become something which disturbs international relations if it is not carefully regulated, for the concept of the sovereignty of the State could be in conflict with the unrestricted use of this space system. Furthermore, the principle of the free flow of information might be in conflict with the right possessed by every Government to protect and preserve the cultural ethos of its people.

56. With a great understanding of the problem and focusing their attention on the future, the Ministers for Education of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela—who met in Bogotá from 27 to 30 January 1970, adopted resolution 3, which, despite its length, should be read out, for it presents at one and the same time the proof of the concern of our Governments and a bold and far-sighted solution. It reads as follows:

"The first meeting of Ministers for Education of the Andean Region,

Considering:

1. That advances in technology will make it possible in the near future to transmit television signals direct from satellites to receivers;
2. That instruction via satellites, by multiplying educational resources, can contribute to improvement in the qualitative and quantitative yield of educational systems in our countries;
3. That possibilities for the use of outer space for the cultural and educational development of peoples are limited by the fact that only a small number of countries possess the requisite technology;
4. That in order to reap the benefits of educational television via satellite, it is necessary to have international co-operation among the countries in possession of such technology and those which lack it;
5. That such co-operation should be carried out in such a way that countries do not possess space technology are not reduced to the status of mere receivers and passive users of satellite broadcasting, but actively participate in the decision-making on an equal footing, in the orientation, production, administration and control of educational broadcasts;
6. That unilateral management of broadcast satellite, which is practised by one State or by non-governmental entities, might easily lend itself to abuse disturbing to the customs, scales of values and cultures of the developing countries, thus entailing intervention in affairs exclusively within the competence of States;
7. That programmes are under study by governmental organizations and entities outside Latin America to broadcast educational television programmes via satellite to our countries, programmes that would be broadcast from non-Latin American territories and without the participation and supervision of the competent authorities of our States;
8. That there exist rules of positive international law applicable to direct transmissions from satellites, such as the United Nations Charter; the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and other Celestial Bodies; the pertinent articles of the Convention on International Telecommunication Union and its regulations governing radio communications; and the principles enshrined in the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly relating to the use of outer space for peaceful purposes;
9. That the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and other Celestial Bodies, in its article 3, provides that outer space should be used to further the maintenance of international peace and security and to promote co-operation among nations;
10. That the same Treaty, in article 6, establishes that States shall be internationally responsible for the use of outer space not only when their activities are undertaken by the States themselves, but also when they are carried out by international organizations or non-governmental bodies;
12. That the activities of the Andean Community are understood joint action in international bodies and general common policy in meetings and conferences of such bodies, common policy in meetings and conferences of such bodies;

Resolves that:

1. All countries have the right to determine, on a basis of sovereignty, liberty and equality, the content of educational programmes reaching their respective peoples via satellite, together with the orientation, production and control thereof;
2. There should be respect for the principle of non-intervention in the choice of educational full programmes, and the jurisdiction of each State; so that freedom in the use of space for purposes of satellite broadcasting is a question of procedure to be decided by the rights of other countries;
3. Satellite broadcasting from one State to another, even when carried out by non-governmental bodies, should take place only with the prior and explicit consent of the Governments of the receiving countries;
4. It is highly desirable that the signatory countries establish educational television broadcasting by satellites on a basis of genuine equality of rights both to benefit from the system and in its management, administration and control;
5. The signatory countries will pursue a joint policy with other Governments and international organizations for the purpose of achieving immediate application of the principles laid down in this Declaration;
6. The signatories of this Declaration agree to submit to the United Nations Development Programme a request that UNESCO, in close collaboration with the International Telecommunication Union and in consultation with other interested bodies of the United Nations System, with the relevant regional organization, and with non-governmental organizations and competent national bodies, carry out a feasibility study for a satellite communication system for educational, cultural and development purposes in Latin America, and make the necessary arrangements for its financing with the aid of international and national organizations; and
7. The signatories propose that the Governments and private groups interested in direct broadcasting of educational television programmes undertake their initiatives through the Inter-American Cultural Council of the Organization of American States, within the spirit of international cooperation that should govern the organization of all projects requiring the joint effort of various nations.

57. Colombia submitted the working document which forms the basis of the resolution I have just read out, and its preambular paragraph are not just a product of the imagination of our Government leaders. They are based on solid, proven facts which I am going to set forth to this Assembly, facts that were stated by a Colombian representative before a convention in Europe:

"In April 1969 there took place in the city of Santiago, Chile, a meeting devoted to analysing various aspects connected with an initiative on the part of some North American groups the use of satellites for educational purposes in Latin America. That meeting was attended by representatives of several Latin American universities and of various foundations and commercial enterprises of the United States, such as COMSAT and General Electric."

58. Such attitudes, were they to persist, might become black clouds in international relations. Hence my delegation does not agree with various other delegations that have stated it is premature to bring up certain international norms in this area. The data we possess indicate the contrary. We have already presented the statement of the experts of the United Nations that their technical possibility now exists. Rightly or wrongly, the time has come for us to begin to study the preparation of a juridical instrument enabling countries not possessing space technology to protect themselves.

59. We all know the slow—sometimes desperately slow—dysthan of work on certain items in the United Nations. Sometimes it seems that we are watching a religious procession in which the devil carry the vested mant on their shoulders, and, so the worshipper can contemplate it, carefully move two paces forward and one back. On the other hand, the work of this Assembly is on international co-operation, peace and aid to the developing countries. That is why we do not want to delay studying this subject. We have proposed international regulations or any other legal regulation which could be incorporated in the corpora juris scripta to defend our common interest. Otherwise, it may witness a kind of ideological occupation of the world by the super-Powers. We may witness the spectacle of humanity being mentally conditioned by advertising or "official
truths". We can imagine the intensity with which the praise of American, Soviet or Chinese paradises would be beamed to receivers belonging to the inhabitants of the earth. That would be quite undesirable for the countries of the third world—we who seek political, economic and cultural independence.

60. That is why we shall vote in favour of draft resolution I in document A/3864. That draft adequately deals with the fundamental principles mentioned in this statement in its preamble part. We think the text duly refers to the sovereignty of States and the flow of free information and international co-operation for the peaceful uses of outer space.

61. The President (interpretation from French): I shall now put to the vote draft resolution I in paragraph 23 of document A/3864, as a whole, as modified by the adoption of two amendments. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cambodia, Canada, Chad, Chile, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Dahomey, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Finland, France, Greece, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Mexican Repub., Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Republic, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malagasy, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, United Slovak Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: United States of America.


Draft resolution I, as amended, was adopted by 102 votes to 1, with 7 abstentions (resolution 2961 (XXVII)).

62. The President (interpretation from French): We now turn to draft resolution II entitled "Preparation of an international convention or United Nations arrangements on principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting".

Draft resolution II was adopted by 65 votes to 9, with 32 abstentions (resolution 2971 (XXVII)).

63. The President (interpretation from French): I call upon the representatives of Belgium, who wishes to explain his vote.

64. Mr. VAN USSSEL (Belgium) (interpretation from French): My delegation was able to support draft resolution III, submitting to the Committee for consideration certain principles which it had no option but to place before the Assembly, that we consider essential. The preparation of an international convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting must be considered as a most important undertaking. The resolution clearly states that the Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should as soon as possible undertake the elaboration of the principles governing the question of direct television broadcasting by satellites. It is only then—and I emphasize the word "then"—that the Committee should be in a position to recommend to the General Assembly the conclusion of one or more international agreements. In other words, the resolution we have just adopted paves the way for future action of the Committee or of the General Assembly, which will be free to decide in the light of the undertaking to elaborate the principles governing this future activity. It is not for us to elaborate an international instrument.

65. With respect to the preamble of the draft resolution, we have just adopted, my delegation maintains the reservation it has already expressed in the First Committee, and we remain convinced that that part of the resolution would have been better balanced and more complete if it had contained the statement that the activities of States in respect of direct television broadcasting should be based not only on consent, but should also be based on principles of non-aggression, non-interference in the domestic affairs of a State, co-operation, and mutual advantage, and on the principle of the freedom of international communication, which is enshrined in the General Assembly's Declaration on actions and statements which have the effect of nullifying or impairing the international recognition of a State's right to exist.

66. Moreover, my delegation would have liked to see a further elaboration of the peaceful uses of outer space. Particular parts of the resolution in which the General Assembly would emphasize the importance of the advantages that this new technology could bring to all mankind.

67. My delegation has not pressed for the adoption of these two concepts because we are motivated by a concern to facilitate, if not to guide, the General Assembly, at least the widest possible support for the operative part of the text.

68. Moreover, the addition of a new operative paragraph A so as to provide that all the documents containing the decision at the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly of the Item entitled "Preparation of an international convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting" would be forwarded to the Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, is not only on the principles of mutual advantage, but also on the principle of non-interference in the domestic affairs of a State, co-operation, and mutual advantage, and on the principle of the freedom of international communication, which is enshrined in the General Assembly's Declaration on actions and statements which have the effect of nullifying or impairing the international recognition of a State's right to exist.

69. By contrast, the peoples of Indo-China, Palestine and the Near and South of Africa and many Arab countries are at the mercy of imperialist forces, the forces of racism and imperialist injustice. Peaceful peoples, innocent human beings are victimized by aggression, forced to flee their homes, then to buy at a time and the choice could not have been more apt. The international community is today drawn between two options: the principles of peace and the principles of war. The former is the only one to be chosen if the world is to be judged by the standards of international peace and security. The latter is the only one to be chosen if the world is to be judged by the standards of international war and aggression.

70. As we have said, the idea of non-use of force appears on the one hand, as a culmination of the process of approachment, and, on the other hand, it seems to be the primary factor which will determine the future of the world, thereby ensuring the victims increase in number, the ravaging of earth and villages is spreading, and hatred is building up.

71. Ambassador Maliks, in his lucid explanation at the 207th meeting, rightly emphasized this other sad aspect which constitutes to preserve fully their legitimate right to self-defense—a principle which is enshrined in Article 51 of the Charter. In addition, there is nothing lawful to the use every possible means for the liberation of occupied territories or to throw off the colonial yoke, the struggle for liberation having been recognized as legitimate in United Nations resolutions.

72. The use of force for expansionist or aggressive purposes should be formally condemned by the United Nations, for no peace and justice. Any weakening will encourage aggression and will temper the aggressor further to consolidate as facts accomplishments—they which proclaim publicly as their faith and their policy—their illegal acquisitions and their efforts to expand further their range of destruction. Non-use of force in the circumstances cannot be transformed from an aspiration into a fact until we effectively resist the practitioners and supporters of the doctrine that might makes right.

73. The task is not easy and no sacrifice is too great to achieve the ideal of an International society based on peace, justice and progress. If the adoption of the principle of the non-use of force is not put into practice, the General and complete disarmament cannot fail to follow. It is precisely to give more significance to its proposal that the Soviet Union has included in it the principle of the permanent prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons.

74. The development which is apparent in this proposal and on which we can congratulate ourselves is that one of the two great nuclear Powers has taken a position in accordance with the wishes of the non-aligned countries, which have long advocated this prohibition. Although for a quarter of a century the debate on nuclear weapons has taken a position in accordance with the wishes of the non-aligned countries, which have long advocated this prohibition. Although for a quarter of a century the debate on nuclear weapons has taken a position in accordance with the wishes of the non-aligned countries, which have long advocated this prohibition. Although for a quarter of a century the debate on nuclear weapons has taken a position in accordance with the wishes of the non-aligned countries, which have long advocated this prohibition. Although for a quarter of a century the debate on nuclear weapons has taken a position in accordance with the wishes of the non-aligned countries, which have long advocated this prohibition.
reflecting the possibility and the will to renounce the use of force in international relations in violation of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. This is basically the idea. It should be the basis for the Security Council, which is the supreme body entrusted with maintaining international peace and security, to call the ideas to concrete detail, and at one of its periodic sessions provided for by the Charter precisely to deal with major questions of international politics, to consider ways and means of putting these principles into effect.

81. We have heard Ambassador Malik say that his delegation is flexible on the procedure to be adopted. Once the idea has been accepted, consultations at a special level compatible with the great importance of the proposal will begin. It is my belief that within the Assembly is likely to lead us to the most proper wording to achieve this purpose.

82. The history of diplomacy is rich in examples of vigorous initiatives succeeding in dispelling mistrust in international relations and encouraging political genius to create models of readaptation to peaceful coexistence and international co-operation.

83. The initiative of the Soviet Union falls squarely within this framework, and it is important to take advantage of it to achieve the peace objectives of the Charter and realize the hopes of mankind.

84. Mr. PUNTSANGNOR (Mongolia) (translation from Rusian): In our opinion, the item entitled "Non-use of force in international relations and permanent prohibition of the threat or use of nuclear weapons," in the Assembly (Paragraph 4, Resolution 2724 (XXVI) of the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, Resolution 2625 (XXV) and others). Within the meaning of the Charter of the United Nations, the maintenance of international peace primarily signifies the prevention of military conflict, or the non-admission of the outbreak of war. The spirit and content of the Soviet Union proposal which we are examining fully conform to the principal purpose of the United Nations—to save mankind from the scourge of war.

85. There was a time when disputes between States were settled mainly by non-violent means, including recourse to war. Now the time has come for both sides to brutally trample the interests of weak and small countries. But now that the era of the undivided rule of imperialism has come to an end, the world has been weakened and conflict has become a decisive factor in the strengthening of international peace.

86. In this connection, we should like to point out that any alternative which runs counter to the trends toward the normalization of international life cannot reflect the interests of the overwhelming majority of States or mankind as a whole.

91. We must welcome every step which strengthens the principle of peaceful coexistence in international relations, every step towards saving mankind from aggressive war. In this connection, we should like to note that the alternative which runs counter to the trends toward the normalization of international life cannot reflect the interests of the overwhelming majority of States or mankind as a whole.

92. Of course, the question of the non-use of force relations between States cannot be considered in isolation from the effects of the scientific and technological revolution, in particular the development of nuclear technology, which has led to the emergence of monstrous means of destruction and annihilation.
the achievement of a climate of detente and broad co-operation among all nations.

104. Contemporary international law has raised the prohibition of use of force to the rank of a fundamental principle governing relations among States, thus responding to the imperative requirements of international law and the aspirations of nations. Continuing their efforts to achieve the central purpose of the United Nations, namely, to preserve future generations from the scourge of war, Member States have undertaken in the Charter the commitment not to have recourse in their international relations to the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or the political independence of any State whatsoever, or to act in any other way incompatible with the purposes of the United Nations.

105. It goes without saying that the categorical prohibition of the use of force in international relations has not been and cannot be interpreted in a limiting of the inalienable right of all States to self-determination. The co-operation of the Charter, in this way draws a clear distinction between the aggressor and the victim of the aggression.

106. Nor can the prohibition of the use of force be interpreted as affecting in any way whatsoever the legitimate right of the use of force by peoples deprived of their right to self-determination of their own free will or the acts of aggression committed against them by the colonial powers, or to fight by all means available to them against all those who seek to impede their progress toward freedom and independence.

107. Life has amply demonstrated that the apartheid policy of the threat of the use of force or the recourse to force, whether it is a question of force of arms, economic force or any other kind of force, does serious harm to the peaceful co-operation and to the cause of international co-operation.

108. To have recourse to the threat of the use of force or to the use of force, when that is a question of force of arms, economic force or any other kind of force, does serious harm to the peaceful co-operation and to the cause of international co-operation.

109. Despite the commitments which States have undertaken under the Charter, international relations have still not been free from violations of the policy of the Charter, from acts of aggression and of colonial domination. Because of this the flames of war continue to rage, armed conflicts have broken out and continue to break out, acts of aggression have been committed and tensions of tension persist in various parts of the world. And all of this follows inevitably from the use of force or the threat of the use of force, from pressures, constraints and intervention in the domestic affairs of other States.

110. The Charter, treaties and international declarations, like all the decision and recommendations of our Organisation, have proved inadequate in such circumstances. We have thus arrived at a point at which we can no longer confine ourselves to stating the general declarations. It is high time for us to proceed to act and take measures to create conditions which would make the use of force for the purposes of this nation, precise to the real possibility of replacing the policy of force by a policy of negotiation and contract, which would enable the solution of all problems. They demonstrate that there are no international problems, however complicated, which cannot be settled peacefully. The means to achieve this are inspired by a genuine desire to eliminate the sources of tension and conflict.

111. Hence, the Romanian delegation appreciates the usefulness of the initiative of the Soviet Union to the end of reducing development of co-operation among peoples and the possibility for any nation fully to exploit its material and spiritual potential, without let or hindrance.

112. Of course, these efforts cannot be undertaken in a vacuum because, as is well known, at its twenty-first session, the General Assembly gave special consideration to the question of the strict observance of the prohibition of recourse to the threat of force or the use of force in international relations, as well as the strict observance of the right of peoples to self-determination. Resolution 2150 (XXII), adopted at that time, contained an explicit reaffirmation that "States shall strictly observe, in their international relations, the prohibition of the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or the political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations".

The same resolution also provides that: "...armed attacks by one State against another or the use of force in any other form contrary to the Charter of the United Nations constitute a [flagrant] violation of international law giving rise to international responsibility..."

113. The provisions of the Charter with regard to the prohibition of the threat of the use of force or the use of force have been progressively developed and included in the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security and in the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States Parties.

114. What is necessary, in the view of the Romanian delegation, is that we should pass on to a higher stage, where these commitments, which will be reaffirmed and clarified, should be made of binding legal force and universal applicability and should be provided with firm guarantees of their observance.

115. Inspired by its consistent championing of such measures, the Romanian Government has put forward concrete proposals along these lines. I would like to remind the Assembly, moreover, that in the light of these commitments, it would start on 5 March 1970 to the Conference on the Committee on Disarmament, worked as follows:

-...firm commitments, assumed through an international agreement, binding and universal, not to resort to use of force in relations among States and, first and foremost, to outlaw nuclear weapons and the threat of their use.

116. The recent positive developments in the world arena, which resulted in the cancellation of this nation, permit the real possibility of replacing the policy of force by a policy of negotiation and contract, which would enable the solution of all problems. They demonstrate that there are no international problems, however complicated, which cannot be settled peacefully. The means to achieve this are inspired by a genuine desire to eliminate the sources of tension and conflict.

117. The peaceful means of settling international disputes should thus entirely fulfill both their preventive function— that is, to prevent the aggravation of situations of tension and conflict—as their therapeutic function, that of providing lasting solutions for existing controversial problems between States, so that peace, international security and justice would not be endangered in any way. In this context, it would be useful, in our view, to explore the possibilities of improving the system of peaceful measures provided in the Charter and to this end to clarify the principles and rules governing direct negotiations as the principal method of the peaceful settlement of international disputes. The effective and broader observance of the obligation to settle disputes peacefully requires that we proceed, taking account of the principles of international law, to an examination of the principal means of settling disputes among States, as laid down in Article 33 of the Charter, with a view to adapting them to the present needs of peaceful coexistence of States.

118. The Socialist Republic of Romania, in its international relations, adheres to the principle of non-use of force or threat of the use of force and is constantly striving for the affirmation of this principle in interstate relations. Accordingly, the solemn joint declarations entered into by the Socialist Republic of Romania with the Kingdom of Belgium and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, signed at the conclusion of the recent visit by the Chairman of the Council of State of Romania, Nicolae Ceausescu, to two countries, proclaim the common will of the parties to these joint declarations, and with those all States later also on:

-...refraining from all forms of military, political, economic or any other kind of constraint, and the renunciation of the threat of force and the use of force against any State, on any pretext whatsoever..."

119. The principle of non-recourse to force or the threat of the use of force has been accepted as a qualitative dimension of the very existence of nuclear power, with which, their extraordinary destructive capacity, call into question the very future of mankind.

120. In present conditions, where the nuclear arms race is on a concrete basis, the production, manufacture and stockpiling of nuclear weapons are constantly on the increase, it is necessary then ever to put into effect practical measures to prohibit the use of force and the threat of the use of force in relations among States and, first and foremost, to outlaw nuclear weapons and the threat of their use.

121. We use in the prohibition of nuclear weapons a measure of the highest priority in the context of all the possible measures for ending the arms race and committed to lead to a reduction and elimination of the nuclear peril.

122. Our Organization already took an important first step towards the outlawing of nuclear arms when, in resolution 1653 (XV), the General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and the Socialist Republic of Romania and the Soviet Union were among the countries which, as a direct violation of the Charter of the United Nations, was, by all means consistent with violating the Charter of the United Nations, as acting contrary to the laws of humanity and as committing a crime against mankind and civilization.

123. As is well known, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (resolution 2371 (XXII)) contains no provision designed to halt the production of nuclear arms or to eliminate stockpiles of these arms. Nor does it offer any guarantees that nuclear weapons will not be used in any future war and it gives no assurance that these weapons will not be used.

124. Until such time as there is a general agreement on the prohibition and destruction of nuclear weapons, countries which have renounced the right to acquire such weapons, as well as all other peoples, are entitled, politically, juridically and morally, to request and to obtain, without further delay, firm guarantees that, in no circumstances, will they be subjected to or be in the danger of an attack by nuclear weapons. These States whose possess nuclear weapons will have to assume the obligation not only to negotiate, as any pretext whatsoever, to the use of nuclear arms, or the threat of their use, against any States whatsoever regardless of whether that country possesses such weapons or not.

125. We believe that every Government or political leader has the duty and the great responsibility towards their own people and towards the destiny of mankind as a whole to act in the most energetic way possible to impose, without further delay, a prohibition on the use of nuclear arms. In our view, an effective way to achieve this would be, as is demonstrated in the resolution of the National Conference of the Romanian Communist Party, circulated to the General Assembly as document A/7879, to conclude a universal agreement which would proclaim the principles and fundamental norms that the Socialist Republic of Romania has been seeking to implement in its international relations. An important element of such an agreement should be, in our view, the solemn reaffirmation of the commitment of all States to renounce force and the threat of force against other States.
and the obligation assumed by those countries which possess them, not to employ them under any circumstances whatever.

136. In our view, we should also define and recognize in a unequivocal manner, the right of all peoples to prevent the use of nuclear weapons. This right should be recognized under international law, in the framework of an international conference, which we believe would be a Soviet initiative, and to which every country should be invited. The problem is world-wide in its dimensions because nuclear power is available to several nations and poses a threat to all peoples, especially to the small and world peace and security, to all peoples, and of the Charter of the United Nations. It is necessary not only to renounce that type of force in international relations but also to prevent its use by setting up the machinery which would make it impossible and unprofitable to use force, including nuclear power. For this purpose, all states and all people must act in concert and be guided by the principles of non-aggression, non-offense, and non-aggression.

137. The Russian delegation considers that the adoption of such an international instrument would have a most favorable impact on international law and would constitute an important contribution to the steady improvement of the world political climate and the promotion of a relaxation of tension, confidence and mutual understanding. It is also to be hoped that the existence of this instrument would facilitate negotiations to bring about a general and complete disarmament and would stimulate efforts to solve the international problems of nuclear disarmament. On the juridical and moral levels the above-mentioned instrument could make a substantial contribution to the solution of the present problem by the progressive forces of the world who strive to strengthen international law, mean for the fundamental rights for the peoples of the world and universal international relations on the principles of the Charter, which are universal.

138. The United Nations cannot and must not act as a mere player in these efforts and thus enhance its own role in the maintenance and strengthening of peace in the world, the elimination of the threat or use of force in international relations and the building of a new form of relations between States based on equality and mutual respect.

139. Mr. DIAZ-CANALURPE (Chile) (interpretation from Spanish) : In response to the request for the consideration of the proposal of the Soviet Union for the inclusion in the agenda of the item "Non-use of force in international relations and permanent prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons". Any initiative linked with international peace security will have the fervent support of the people and Government of Chile.

140. According to the delegation considers that the Soviet initiative, if it is to be meaningful, cannot be confined to a statement of good intentions but should be directed towards a series of positive measures, among which should be included all of those which constitute disarmament; for example, the prohibition of nuclear testing of all kinds, the destruction of those weapons, the halting of the arms race, until we have attained the disarmament of mass destruction under international control, the prohibition of the use of napalm and other chemical, bacteriological and toxin weapons, the disarmament of the countries by means of a world disarmament conference, which is also a Soviet initiative, and so on. The problem is world-wide in its dimensions because the nuclear power is available to several nations and poses a threat to all peoples, especially to the small and non-aligned. It is necessary not only to renounce that type of force in international relations but also to prevent its use by setting up the machinery which would make it impossible and unprofitable to use force, including nuclear power. For this purpose, all states and all people must act in concert and be guided by the principles of non-aggression, non-offense, and non-aggression.

141. In respect of the concept of force, our delegation would like to put forward two fundamental points which do not have merely verbal significance but are rather a basis for clarifying the main line of progress in real life of social philosophy. I know fully well that the Soviet proposal is designed to condemn the use of force to attack or threaten to attack another state, to defend the peace: to recognize territorial integrity, political independence, sovereignty, self-determination, equality of rights, international security, freedom of communication, of international trade, and of the Charter of the United Nations. It is necessary not only to renounce that type of force in international relations but also to prevent its use by setting up the machinery which would make it impossible and unprofitable to use force, including nuclear power. For this purpose, all states and all people must act in concert and be guided by the principles of non-aggression, non-offense, and non-aggression.

142. Every state has the duty to refrain from any forcible action which deprives peoples referred to in the elaboration of the United Nations. It is necessary not only to renounce that type of force in international relations but also to prevent its use by setting up the machinery which would make it impossible and unprofitable to use force, including nuclear power. For this purpose, all states and all people must act in concert and be guided by the principles of non-aggression, non-offense, and non-aggression.

143. Accordingly, we are witnessing a more detailed and decisive development of the concept of the use of force which broadens it and brings out its dangerous implications in respect of the sovereignty of States. In this connexion it is urgent to work more intensively on the definition of aggression, which is so closely interrelated with the use of force.

144. The situation of peoples who are victims of the use of force in all its forms raises new problems. For example, Chile, because it nationalized its own copper, is in conflict with the Kennecott Corporation, which operates in Chile, like the majority of nations and States that are Members of the United Nations, is weak and exceedingly vulnerable in the face of attack. We do not say that all go so far as the Kennecott Corporation, but there are many countries that have millions and millions of dollars, collect executive profits, exploit local resources and labour, have available to them the most advanced technology, have great influence, dominate the money markets, and in the world. The Kennecott office in Manhattan from which Pierre McCreary, general legal counsel, directs the campaign has the all the prestige of a big business. Its deck is covered with papers on the movements of ships, and on one wall there hangs a huge map for following the course of the ships, from his office, Mr. McCreary keeps close watch over boat entering or leaving the Chilean part of San Antonio, from which is shipped the ore from the 'El Teniente' mine, the mine nationalized from the Kennecott Corporation. At the present time, Mr. McCreary is following the movement of at least six ships on route to Europe with copper from 'El Teniente', whereas, when those ships arrive, his agents will be there to interview in the courts .

145. At that time, Kennecott will make efforts to have our copper embargoed, to try to get the buyers to make their payments, not to the State of Chile, but to Kennecott, and thus to nullify the political gains of the people of Chile. The Kennedy administration, as we have been informed, respected all the rules for nationalization and has granted...
Kenanetti the right to address itself to independent courts in respect of matters of compensation. But the multinational enterprise to which I refer has not respected this judgement: it flouted the law and, through its tentacles extending throughout the world, it has declared war on us, this "copper war", with generalizations, campaign headquarters, electronic detectors, spies, agents, and vast financial resources.

139. Copper is the daily bread of Chile, as President Allende has stated. It accounts for 80 per cent of our exports: it provides us with foreign exchange to remedy our food shortages and acquire our spare parts, and any hindrance or delay in the trading of copper causes an enormous damage. What is happening to Chile today can happen to any other country of the third world tomorrow. And faced with this form of force, with this aggression on the part of an imperialist enterprise, the international community is without defence. The United Nations has no effective machinery to prevent or reduce the damage to a defenseless country; available legal instruments are still not sufficient, nor have we planned, within the United Nations, a course of action appropriate to this new type of war and this new attempt against international security.

140. It is a fact that all peoples of the world are being caught up in a wave of solidarity with Chile, a wave of protest against the manoeuvres of imperialism. This movement in our favour gives strength to our resistance, convinces us that there are common interests among peoples and an increasing need to organize collective action that will attack the danger posed by certain unscrupulous multinationals enterprises, powerful pressure groups capable of bringing their influence to bear on Governments, private-interest groups, states within States, which are involved in the international life of our times.

141. Hence, the Soviet initiative should be received with the greatest attention, for it opens up prospects for acting, on the basis of legal and moral criteria, with regard to the international social reality.

142. The draft resolution submitted by the Soviet Union serves as a stimulus in the struggle of peoples against aggression: it tends to make States more responsible in practising mutual respect and to protect those States which are seeking to preserve their sovereignty and resources from imperialist exploitation, from dictation by domination, from subjugation, from "might makes right", from the law of the jungle.

143. It is true that Article 3, paragraph 4, of the Charter states that all Members of the Organization shall refrain from the threat or use of force; but we must be consistent with that fundamental demand of the Charter and transfer relations among States by creating stricter obligations, leading to effective implementation of the principle. Accordingly, we give our fervent support to any action aimed at prohibiting the use of nuclear weapons and at urging the nuclear Powers toward a compromise that will compel them to adopt measures to achieve the permanent prohibition of the use of such weapons, the production and stockpiling of which constitute a threat to wipe out all mankind.

144. Aside from their enormous potential for death, the nuclear arms race, the technological development, even more costly and more refined, of such weapons, the successive invention of weapons, counter-weapons and counter-counter-weapons, all represent something that is alarming as it is absurd, particularly if we realize that this use is becoming every day more and more hypothetical, unless of course we come to the stage of committing acts of insanity. It is distressing to note that, aside from the enormous resources devoted to the nuclear arms race, the so-called second industrial revolution, that is to say the commercial and technological exploitation of computers and electronic systems, has had greater application to war purposes than to civilian uses, despite the hunger, diseases and poverty that afflict the greater portion of mankind.

145. The Latin American countries have played an active part in the resolutions calling for the suspension of the arms race. My delegation considers that the Soviet proposal is deserving of a study in depth that will shed light on its basic elements and show its full scope. Disparities may come to light, though I doubt this very much because it is drafted in simple and incontrovertible language. This proposal can be linked with others dealing with disarmament and international security. In any event, in the face of the dangers confronting mankind, and taking advantage of a certain element of relaxation of tension to be observed in international relations, this session of the Assembly is in a better position than any other to mobilize the United Nations and to strengthen its authority by fully assuming its responsibility vis-à-vis the peoples of the world.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.