

REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE
DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND STOCKPILING
OF BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) AND
TOXIN WEAPONS AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION

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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE ELEVENTH MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Tuesday, 18 March 1980, at 3.30 p.m.

President:

Mr. VAERNØ

(Norway)

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Consideration of the report of the Committee of the Whole

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The meeting was called to order at 4.05 p.m.

CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (BWC/CONF.I/7)

1. The PRESIDENT invited the Conference to consider the report of the Committee of the Whole (BWC/CONF.I/7).
2. Mr. VOUTOV (Bulgaria), Chairman of the Committee of the Whole, introducing the report, said that the Committee had played an essential role during the Conference. It was gratifying to note that representatives of practically all participating countries had taken part in its discussions. On the basis of a fairly flexible programme, it had, in his opinion, carried out very useful work and largely fulfilled its tasks, thus making a positive contribution to the remaining work of the Conference and, more particularly, to the preparation of the final document. He thanked the members of the Committee for the work they had done and for the spirit of co-operation they had displayed. He also thanked the Secretary-General of the Conference and her staff.
3. The PRESIDENT, speaking on behalf of the Conference, thanked the Committee of the Whole and its Chairman in particular for their excellent work. Despite the complexities involved, the Committee, under its Chairman's guidance, had successfully discharged its mandate. He suggested that the plenary Conference should note with thanks the report contained in document BWC/CONF.I/7.
4. It was so decided.
5. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Drafting Committee, which was to begin its work immediately after the conclusion of the present meeting, should be instructed to take into account the report of the Committee of the Whole together with the statements made in the general debate.
6. Although the precise functions of the Drafting Committee were set out in rule 35 of the rules of procedure (BWC/CONF.I/2), he further suggested that, in view of the pressure of time, that Committee should be requested to undertake the task of preparing and submitting to the plenary Conference the entire text of the final document. He hoped that the Committee would be able to conclude its work within the next two days, thus giving the Conference time to consider and adopt the final document on Friday, 21 March.
7. Mr. ENE (Romania) said that the report of the Committee of the Whole presented in general terms the substantive conclusions of the Conference. He agreed with the President's suggestion that the Drafting Committee should take that report into account and that it should be requested to draft the final document, but pointed out that under rule 35 of the rules of procedure the Drafting Committee's functions were only of an editorial nature. Furthermore, rule 35 was not very clear about the status of delegations other than those represented on the General Committee which wished to participate in the Drafting Committee's work.
8. The PRESIDENT said that his suggestion amounted, in effect, to a somewhat liberal interpretation of rule 35.

9. Mr. ISSRAELYAN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), after thanking the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole for his skilful guidance of the Committee's work, said that he supported the President's procedural suggestions. He hoped that the Drafting Committee would make every effort to complete its work not later than Thursday, 20 March, as many delegations, including his own, would have to consult their Governments before endorsing the final document. Experience of earlier arms limitation talks suggested that a problem of time tended to arise in such a situation.

10. The PRESIDENT assured participants that a draft of the final document would be produced by Thursday, 20 March. If there was no further comment, he would assume that the procedure he had outlined was acceptable.

11. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 4.20 p.m.

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