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# PLENARY MEETINGS

Volume I

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UNITED NATIONS

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158. Why is the development of Cuba arousing such anger and hatred in the ruling circles of the United States? Can it be that the United States, a nuclear Power, is threatened by an attack on the part of Cuba, with its six million inhabitants? The complete absurdity of such an assertion is self-evident.

159. The United States Government will not reconcile itself to the fact that the Cuban people, under the leadership of their revolutionary Government headed by Fidel Castro, have overthrown the mercenary and tyrannical Batista régime, freed themselves from colonial dependence and made it impossible for foreign monopolies to pump out their national wealth and enjoy the fruits of their labour. The United States Government will not reconcile itself to the fact that the Cuban people have become the masters of their own country, are striving to overcome the disastrous consequences of their economic, social and cultural bondage, are building a truly new and free life and are pursuing a consistent policy of peace and friendly co-operation with all countries. As a sovereign State, Cuba has every right to see that it is fully equipped to defend the results of the creative labour of its people against United States threats and aggression.

160. On behalf of the Government and people of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, I have the honour to salute from this rostrum the heroic Cuban people and their Government. Czechoslovakia is one of the States which are developing friendly relations and close co-operation with Cuba. Such co-operation is fully in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter and we shall continue to develop it, whether or not some people approve.

162. We categorically condemn the irresponsible imperialist policy being pursued against Cuba. It should also be condemned by all States which are guided in their policies by the principles of the Charter. If the United Nations were to condone such a policy, if it failed to oppose violation of the sovereign rights of States and interference in their internal affairs and if it did not support the right of peoples freely to choose their social systems, its end would be inevitable.

163. In the interests of peace and in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter, the plots directed against the freedom and security of Cuba must cease and the United States must abandon this policy and re-establish normal relations with the Republic of Cuba.

164. We also feel it necessary to draw the attention of the General Assembly to the dangerous situation resulting from United States aggressive actions in South Viet-Nam. It is well known that in the territory of South Viet-Nam regular United States Army troops, with headquarters at Saigon and equipped with the latest weapons, are engaged in operations aimed at the extermination of the people of South Viet-Nam. United States armed forces are taking part in these operations and in the construction of concentration camps into which the population of entire regions is herded.

165. If the United States armed action against Cuba has reached the stage of active preparation, in South Viet-Nam it is in full swing. The United States is trying by fire and sword to crush the movement of the heroic people of South Viet-Nam for the liberation and re-unification of their country. It is flouting the

Geneva Truce Agreements on Indo-China and assuming the function of an international police force, is openly defending the puppet régime of Ngo Dinh Diem, which is hated by the people.

166. The main reason for the present world tension is this behaviour of the United States, which wants to suppress by armed force the peoples' desire for freedom and true independence.

167. In his statement, the United States representative once again indulged in gross slander of the socialist countries. It is quite unnecessary to refute this lie from the "cold war" arsenal. It is, however, time the United States stopped trying to interfere in the internal affairs of the countries of Eastern Europe and time it faced the facts and finally realized that the peoples of these countries have severed all ties with capitalism and freely chosen the goal of building socialism, an endeavour in which they are achieving increasing successes and thereby making a significant contribution to the cause of world peace.

168. The most urgent task of our times is to remove the danger of thermo-nuclear war by bringing about general and complete disarmament. Despite the untiring efforts of the USSR and other socialist countries, however, the negotiations concerning this problem have yielded no practical results. This also applies to the work of the Eighteen-Nation Committee, which was established at the sixteenth session of the General Assembly [resolution 1722 II (XVI)] and of which Czechoslovakia is a member.

169. At the beginning of the Committee's work, the USSR Government submitted a practical, clearly-worded draft "Treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict international control",<sup>6/</sup> thus at the very outset laying the right foundation for business-like and fruitful negotiations. This draft treaty solves a fundamental problem—removal of the danger of thermo-nuclear war by the elimination of the means of delivering nuclear weapons during the first stage and the elimination of the nuclear weapons themselves during the second stage.

170. Later in the negotiations the USSR Government, in its efforts to help to reach agreement, submitted further proposals which took into account the views of the Western countries.

171. The goodwill of the USSR and the other socialist countries, however, did not meet with understanding on the part of the Western Powers which demand not disarmament but the establishment of control over continuing armament. Their policy is predicated on the continuing existence of nuclear weapons and they therefore will not agree to measures which might effectively ensure the final elimination of such weapons in the nearest future.

172. This is confirmed by the negative reaction of the Western Powers to the practical and radical measures proposed in the USSR draft and by the draft submitted by the United States delegation.<sup>7/</sup> Not only does the United States draft openly call for the preservation of nuclear weapons during the entire process of disarmament but it does not even preclude the existence of such weapons, and consequently the possibility of unleashing a nuclear world war, after the end of the process.

<sup>6/</sup> See Official Records of the Disarmament Commission, Supplement for January 1961 to December 1962, document DC/203, annex I, sect. C.

<sup>7/</sup> *Ibid.*, section F.

Czechoslovakia - Vaclav Dvick, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Chairman of U.N. Delegation