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Agenda item 36

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) WEAPONS

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Kedar Bhakta SHRESTHA (Nepal)

1. The item entitled "Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons: report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament" was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-first session on the basis of General Assembly resolution 3465 (XXX) of 11 December 1975.
2. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 24 September 1976, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.
3. At its 2nd meeting, on 5 October, the First Committee decided to hold a combined general debate on the items allocated to it relating to disarmament, namely items 34 to 50 and 116. The general debate on these items took place at the 20th to 39th meetings, from 1 to 19 November.
4. In connexion with item 36, the First Committee had before it the report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament. 1/
5. On 17 November, Afghanistan, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Finland, the German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Poland, Sweden, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Yugoslavia submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/31/L.13 and Corr.1) which was subsequently also sponsored by Barbados, Bulgaria, Chad, Colombia, Denmark, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Ireland and Sierra Leone. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Poland at the 40th meeting, on 22 November.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/31/27).

6. At its 42nd meeting, on 24 November, the First Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/21/L.13 and Corr.1 without a vote (see para. 7 below).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

7. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 2454 A (XXIII) of 20 December 1968, 2603 B (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, 2662 (XXV) of 7 December 1970, 2827 A (XXVI) of 16 December 1971, 2933 (XXVII) of 29 November 1972, 3077 (XXVIII) of 6 December 1973, 3256 (XXIX) of 9 December 1974 and 3465 (XXX) of 11 December 1975,

Convinced that the process of international détente is conducive to the implementation of further disarmament measures and of general and complete disarmament under effective international control,

Reaffirming the necessity of strict observance by all States of the principles and objectives of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva on 17 June 1925, 2/

Convinced that the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction 3/ constitutes an important step towards early agreement on the effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and on their elimination from arsenals of all States,

Recalling in that connexion the undertaking contained in article IX of the Convention to continue negotiations in good faith with a view to reaching early agreement on effective measures for the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and for their destruction,

Stressing the importance of early agreement on the complete prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and on their destruction, which would contribute to general and complete disarmament under effective international control,

Noting the risk of continued development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons in the absence of such agreement,

2/ League of Nations, Treaty Series, vol. XCIV (1929), No. 2138, p. 65.

3/ General Assembly resolution 2826 (XXVI), annex.

Having considered the report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, 4/

Noting that drafts of a convention on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and on their destruction, 5/ as well as other working documents, proposals and suggestions, have been submitted to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament and constitute valuable contributions to reaching appropriate agreement,

Noting also the comments addressed to this problem and relevant documents submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-first session,

Noting also that intensified efforts in the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament have led to increased understanding in identifying practical approaches towards the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons, and their destruction, including definition of the agents to be banned,

Recognizing the importance of developing methods for providing adequate assurance of compliance with effective measures for the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons, including methods of verifying the destruction of stockpiles of such weapons,

Having in mind that agreement on the complete prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and on their destruction should not impede the utilization of science and technology for the economic development of States,

Desiring to contribute to a successful conclusion of the negotiations on effective and strict measures for the complete prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and for their destruction,

1. Reaffirms the objective of reaching early agreement on the effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and on their elimination from arsenals of all States;

2. Urges again all States to make every effort to facilitate early agreement on the effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and on their destruction;

3. Requests the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to continue negotiations as a matter of high priority, taking into account the existing

4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/31/27).

5/ See Official Records of the Disarmament Commission, Supplement for 1972, document DC/235, annex B, document CCD/361; Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/9627), annex II, document CCD/420; ibid., Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/10027), annex II, document CCD/452; and ibid., Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/31/27), annex III, document CCD/512.

proposals, with a view to reaching early agreement on effective measures for the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and for their destruction;

4. Invites all States that have not yet done so to accede to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, as well as to accede to or ratify the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva on 17 June 1925, and calls again for strict observance by all States of the principles and objectives of those instruments;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament all documents of the thirty-first session of the General Assembly relating to chemical weapons and to chemical means of warfare;

6. Requests the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to report on the results of its negotiations to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session.
