



A/2386  
16 April 1953

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Seventh session  
Agenda item 72

MEASURES TO AVERT THE THREAT OF A NEW WORLD WAR AND MEASURES  
TO STRENGTHEN PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP AMONG THE NATIONS

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Thor THORS (Iceland)

1. In a letter dated 18 October 1952 (A/2229), the representative of Poland requested that the following questions should be included in the agenda of the seventh session of the General Assembly: "Measures to avert the threat of a new world war and measures to strengthen peace and friendship among the nations".
2. In the same letter, the representative of Poland submitted a draft resolution, providing that the General Assembly (a) considering that the war in Korea had already entered its third year and had caused untold suffering and misery, should recommend to the parties engaged in the war in Korea: (i) the immediate cessation by the parties of military operations on land, at sea and in the air; (ii) the return of all prisoners of war to their homeland, in accordance with international standards; (iii) the withdrawal from Korea of foreign troops, including the Chinese volunteer units, within a period of from two to three months, and ~~the~~ ~~peaceful~~ settlement of the Korean question on the principle of unification of Korea, this unification to be achieved by the Koreans themselves under the supervision of a commission, with the participation of the parties immediately interested and of other States, including the States which had not taken part in the war in Korea; (b) desiring to avert the threat of a new world war, (i) should recommend to the Governments of the United States of America, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom, France and China - the permanent members of the Security Council - to reduce their

armed forces by one third within one year, including their air forces, naval forces and auxiliary forces, and to submit full data on their armaments; and should further recommend to the Security Council that it call as soon as possible an international conference for the carrying out by all States of the reduction of armed forces; (ii) should call for the adoption without delay of a decision on the unconditional prohibition of atomic weapons and other weapons of mass destruction and the establishment of strict international control over the observance of that decision by all States; (iii) should call on all States, which had not acceded to or ratified the Geneva Protocol of 17 June 1925 on the prohibition of the use of bacterial weapons, to accede to or ratify that instrument; and (c) should declare that participation in the aggressive North Atlantic bloc, which had brought about an ever growing armaments race and had aggravated international tension, was incompatible with membership in the United Nations; would call upon the Governments of the United States of America, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom, France and China, to conclude a peace pact designed to bring about reduction of the armaments of the great Powers and the strengthening of peace among the nations; and would call upon all other States to adhere to the peace pact.

3. At its 386th meeting on 21 October 1952, the General Assembly decided to include the question in the agenda of the seventh session and to refer it to the First Committee for consideration and report.

4. The First Committee considered the item at its 594th to 604th meetings, inclusive, held between 9 and 16 April 1953.

5. At the 594th meeting on 9 April, Poland submitted a revision (A/C.1/L.39) of the above draft resolution. The new text revised the section of the draft resolution set out in paragraph 2 (a) (ii) above, to provide that the General Assembly should recommend to the parties engaged in the war in Korea the immediate resumption of truce negotiations, it being understood that in the course of such negotiations the parties would exert every effort to reach agreements both on the question of the exchange of sick and wounded prisoners of war and on the question of prisoners of war as a whole, endeavouring thereby to remove the obstacles preventing the termination of the war in Korea.

6. At the 600th meeting on 14 April, Brazil submitted a draft resolution which, after two revisions incorporating drafting amendments, provided (A/C.1/L.40/Rev.2) that the General Assembly should, inter alia, (a) note with deep satisfaction that an agreement had been signed in Korea on the exchange of sick and wounded prisoners of war; (b) express the hope that the exchange would be promptly effected and that further negotiations would result in an early armistice, consistent with United Nations principles and objectives; and (c) decide to recess the seventh session upon completion of the current agenda items, and request the President to reconvene the seventh session to resume consideration of the Korean question (i) upon notification by the Unified Command to the Security Council of the signing of an armistice agreement in Korea; or (ii) when, in the view of a majority of Members, other developments in Korea required consideration of this question.

7. At the 603rd meeting on 16 April, the representative of Poland stated that, in view of the fact that the Governments of the People's Republic of China and the People's Democratic Republic of Korea had made suggestions for the conclusion of an armistice and the termination of the war in Korea, and the fact that negotiations were in progress at Panmunjom, the Polish delegation would not, at that time, press for a vote on section 1 of the Polish draft resolution (summarized in paragraph 2 (a) above), relating to the Korean question, but would support the revised Brazilian draft resolution. Nor would the Polish delegation press for a vote on sections 2 and 3 of its draft resolution (summarized in paragraph 2 (b) and (c) above), since the debate had indicated that the problems raised therein required further consideration. Bearing in mind the limited time remaining at the disposal of the seventh session of the General Assembly, the Polish delegation reserved its right to raise those problems at the next regular session. In accordance with this statement, the Polish draft resolution was not put to the vote.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee proceeded to vote on the revised Brazilian draft resolution. It was adopted by 60 votes to none, with no abstentions.

9. The First Committee, therefore, recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following resolution on the Korean question:

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its unswerving determination to spare no efforts likely to create conditions favourable to the attainment of the purposes of peace and conciliation embodied in the Charter of the United Nations,

Noting, following the United Nations Command initiative for the exchange of sick and wounded prisoners of war, the communication by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China dated 31 March 1953 to the President of the General Assembly, and the exchange of communications between the United Nations Command and the Commanders of the Chinese People's Volunteers and the Korean People's Army in regard thereto,

Confident that a just and honourable armistice in Korea will powerfully contribute to alleviate the present international tension,

1. Notes with deep satisfaction that an agreement has been signed in Korea on the exchange of sick and wounded prisoners of war;
2. Expresses the hope that the exchange of sick and wounded prisoners of war will be speedily completed and that the further negotiations at Panmunjom will result in achieving an early armistice in Korea, consistent with the United Nations principles and objectives;
3. Decides to recess the present session upon completion of the current agenda items, and requests the President of the General Assembly to reconvene the present session to resume consideration of the Korean question (a) upon notification by the Unified Command to the Security Council of the signing of an armistice agreement in Korea; or (b) when, in the view of a majority of Members, other developments in Korea require consideration of this question.

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