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Eighth session  
Agenda item 24QUESTION OF IMPARTIAL INVESTIGATION OF CHARGES OF USE BY  
UNITED NATIONS FORCES OF BACTERIAL WARFAREReport of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Thor THORS (Iceland)

1. By resolution 706 (VII) of 23 April 1953, entitled "Question of impartial investigation of charges of use by United Nations Forces of bacteriological warfare", the General Assembly, inter alia, (a) resolved that a Commission composed of Brazil, Egypt, Pakistan, Sweden and Uruguay, should carry out an investigation of the accusations that had been made by certain governments and authorities charging the use of bacteriological warfare by United Nations forces; and (b) requested the President of the Assembly to transmit the resolution to the governments and authorities concerned, requesting them to indicate their acceptance of the proposed investigation, and to report to the Assembly.
2. On 28 July 1953, the President of the General Assembly reported (A/2426) that Assembly resolution 706 (VII) had been duly communicated to the Governments of the United States of America, the People's Democratic Republic of Korea, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Korea and Japan. The Governments of the United States of America, the Republic of Korea, and Japan had accepted the proposed investigation, but no other replies had been received.
3. At its 435th meeting on 17 September 1953, the General Assembly decided to include in its agenda the item entitled "Question of impartial investigation of charges of use by United Nations forces of bacterial warfare", and referred it to the First Committee for consideration and report.

4. The First Committee considered the item at its 648th to 653rd meetings, inclusive, held from 26 to 31 October.
5. By a letter dated 26 October (A/C.1/L.66), addressed to the Secretary-General, the representative of the United States of America transmitted copies of ten sworn statements by members of the United States armed forces, made following their release as prisoners of war, concerning the charges of the use of bacterial warfare in Korea.
6. On 26 October, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.67), providing that the General Assembly should call upon all States which had not acceded to or ratified the Geneva Protocol of 17 June 1925 for the prohibition of the use of bacterial weapons to accede to the Protocol or ratify it.
7. On 28 October, the United Kingdom, Canada, Colombia, France, and New Zealand submitted to a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.68), providing that the General Assembly should (a) refer to the Disarmament Commission the USSR draft resolution (A/C.1/L.67) for such consideration as deemed appropriate under its plan of work and pursuant to the terms of reference of that Commission, as set forth in General Assembly resolutions 502 (VI) of 11 January 1952 and 704 (VII) of 8 April 1953; and (b) transmit to the Disarmament Commission for its information the records of the First Committee in which this item was discussed.
8. At the 653rd meeting on 31 October, the representative of the United Kingdom moved that the five-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.68) should be put to the vote first. This motion was adopted by 44 votes to 5 with 11 abstentions.
9. At the same meeting the Committee adopted by 47 votes to none, with 13 abstentions, the five-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.68).
10. At the same meeting the Committee decided, by 38 votes to 5, with 15 abstentions, that, in view of the adoption of the five-Power draft resolution, it would not vote on the USSR draft resolution (A/C.1/L.67).
11. The First Committee, therefore, recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

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The General Assembly

1. Refers to the Disarmament Commission the draft resolution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics contained in document A/C.1/L.67<sup>1</sup> for such consideration as deemed appropriate under its plan of work and pursuant to the terms of reference of that Commission as set forth in General Assembly resolutions 502 (VI) of 11 January 1952 and 704 (VII) of 8 April 1953;

2. Decides also to transmit to the Disarmament Commission for its information the records of the meetings of the First Committee at which this item was discussed.

1/ The USSR draft resolution reads as follows:

"The General Assembly

"Calls upon all States which have not acceded to or ratified the Geneva Protocol of 17 June 1925 for the prohibition of the use of bacterial weapons to accede to the Protocol or ratify it."