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Agenda item 34

REDUCTION OF MILITARY BUDGETS

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Kedar Bhakta SHRESTHA (Nepal)

1. The item entitled "Reduction of military budgets: report of the Secretary-General" was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-first session on the basis of General Assembly resolution 3463 (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 and 39th meetings, from 1 to 19 November.
4. The First Committee had before it, in connexion with agenda item 34, a report of the Secretary-General on the subject (A/31/222).
5. On 23 November, Mexico and Sweden submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/31/L.21) which was subsequently also sponsored by Ecuador. The draft resolution was introduced by Mexico at the 43rd meeting, on 26 November. A statement on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution (A/C.1/31/L.37) was submitted by the Secretary-General on 1 December.
6. At the 47th meeting, on 1 December, Mexico, on behalf of the sponsors, orally revised operative paragraph 3 by replacing "31 May 1977" with "30 April 1977". At the same meeting, the First Committee adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised, by 104 votes to 2, with 12 abstentions (see para. 8 below).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

Reduction of military budgets

The General Assembly,

Recalling that in its resolution 3463 (XXX) of 11 December 1975 the General Assembly, inter alia, requested the Secretary General to prepare, with the assistance of a group of qualified experts, a report containing an analysis and examination in concrete terms of issues regarding a system of international measurement, reporting and comparisons of military expenditures,

Noting with appreciation the report of the Secretary General submitted to the General Assembly in response to the aforementioned resolution, 1/

Reaffirming its conviction of the urgent necessity that the States permanent members of the Security Council, as well as any other State with comparable military expenditures, carry out reductions in their military budgets,

Reaffirming also its conviction that part of the resources thus released should be utilized for social and economic development, particularly that of the developing countries,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General and to the group of qualified experts which assisted in the preparation of the report;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements for the report to be issued as a United Nations publication and widely distributed;

3. Invites all States to communicate to the Secretary-General before 30 April 1977 their comments with regard to matters covered in the report and in particular:

(a) Their views and suggestions on the proposed standardized reporting instrument contained in the report;

(b) Any information they may wish to convey on their military expenditure accounting practices, including a description of methods currently in use;

(c) Suggestions and recommendations concerning possible practical approaches for the further development and operation of a standardized reporting system;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare, with the assistance of an intergovernmental group of budgetary experts appointed by him, a report containing an analysis of the comments provided by States pursuant to paragraph 3 above in the light of the suggestions contained in the report 1/ as well as any further conclusions and recommendations;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to distribute that report not later than 31 August 1977;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-second session the item entitled: "Reduction of military budgets".

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