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Agenda item 32

IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 33/60

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Ernst SUCHARIPA (Austria)

1. The item entitled "Implementation of General Assembly resolution 33/60: report of the Committee on Disarmament" was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-fourth session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 33/60 of 14 December 1978.
2. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 21 September 1979, 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 3rd meeting, on 1 October, the First Committee decided to hold a combined general debate on the items allocated to it relating to disarmament, namely, items 30 to 45, 120 and 121. The general debate on these items took place at the 4th to 30th meetings, from 6 October to 5 November (A/C.1/34/PV.4-30).
4. In connexion with item 32, the First Committee had before it the report of the Committee on Disarmament. 1/
5. On 8 November 1979, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Canada, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, Ghana, Ireland, Japan, Kenya, Mali, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Samoa, the Sudan, Sweden and Venezuela submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/34/L.14). The draft resolution was introduced at the 34th meeting, on 14 November, by the representative of Australia.
6. On 19 November, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Canada, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, Ghana, Guinea, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Samoa, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, the Sudan, Sweden, the United Republic of Cameroon, Uruguay and Venezuela submitted a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/34/L.141/Rev.1), by which the following changes were made:

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/34/27).

(a) In the second preambular paragraph, the words "the discontinuance of all test explosions for all time" were replaced by the words "the discontinuance of all test explosions of nuclear weapons for all time";

(b) The seventh preambular paragraph, which read:

"Taking note with dissatisfaction that part of the report of the Committee on Disarmament relating to the question of a comprehensive test ban treaty shows no progress in the consideration of this subject because the results of the negotiations between the three nuclear-weapon States were not submitted,"

was replaced by:

"Taking note with dissatisfaction that that part of the report of the Committee on Disarmament relating to the question of a comprehensive test ban treaty shows no progress in the consideration of this subject and that a full report on the status of the negotiations between the three nuclear-weapon States was not submitted,"

(c) Operative paragraphs 2, 3 and 4, which read:

"2. Reaffirms its conviction that a treaty to achieve the discontinuance of all nuclear test explosions by all States for all time is a matter of the highest priority;

"3. Expresses its conviction that positive progress in the negotiations by the Committee on Disarmament on a comprehensive test ban treaty is a vital element for the success of efforts to prevent the further proliferation of nuclear weapons, and will contribute towards an end to the arms race and the achievement of nuclear disarmament;

"4. Requests the Committee on Disarmament to initiate negotiations on a comprehensive test ban treaty, as a matter of the highest priority;"

were replaced by:

"2. Reaffirms its conviction that a treaty to achieve the prohibition of all nuclear test explosions by all States for all time is a matter of the highest priority;

"3. Expresses its conviction that positive progress in the negotiations by the Committee on Disarmament on such a treaty is a vital element for the success of efforts to prevent both vertical and horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons and will contribute towards an end to the arms race and the achievement of nuclear disarmament;

"4. Requests the Committee on Disarmament to initiate negotiations on such a treaty, as a matter of the highest priority;"

7. At its 42nd meeting, on 26 November, the Committee proceeded to vote on draft resolution A/C.1/34/L.14/Rev.1, as follows:

(a) Operative paragraph 4, on which a separate vote had been requested by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, was adopted by 111 votes to none, with 14 abstentions;

(b) The draft resolution as a whole was then adopted by a recorded vote of 128 to none, with 2 abstentions (see para. 8).

The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: None.

Abstaining: China, France.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

/...

Implementation of General Assembly resolution 33/60

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its conviction that the cessation of nuclear-weapon testing by all States in all environments would be in the interest of all mankind, as a major step towards ending the qualitative improvement, development and proliferation of nuclear weapons, as a means of relieving the deep apprehension concerning the harmful consequences of radioactive contamination for the health of present and future generations and as a contribution towards the cessation of the nuclear arms race,

Recalling the determination of the parties to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water ^{2/} and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons ^{3/} expressed in those Treaties to continue negotiations to achieve the discontinuance of all test explosions of nuclear weapons for all time,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the subject, in particular resolution 32/78 of 12 December 1977, paragraph 51 of resolution S-10/2 of 30 June 1978 and resolutions 33/60 and 33/71 II (IV) of 14 December 1978,

Emphasizing the urgent need for all nuclear-weapon States to cease the testing of nuclear weapons,

Recognizing the importance to a treaty prohibiting nuclear testing of the study being carried out by the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Co-operative Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events on a global network of stations for the exchange of seismological data,

Recognizing the indispensable role of the Committee on Disarmament in the negotiation of a comprehensive test ban treaty,

Noting with dissatisfaction that that part of the report of the Committee on Disarmament ^{4/} relating to the question of a comprehensive test-ban treaty shows no progress in the consideration of this subject and that a full report on the status of the negotiations between the three nuclear-weapon States was not submitted,

^{2/} United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 480, No. 6964, p. 43.

^{3/} Resolution 2373 (XXII), annex.

^{4/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/34/27).

1. Reiterates its grave concern that nuclear-weapon testing continues unabated against the wishes of the overwhelming majority of Member States;
2. Reaffirms its conviction that a treaty to achieve the prohibition of all nuclear test explosions by all States for all time is a matter of the highest priority;
3. Expresses its conviction that positive progress in the negotiations by the Committee on Disarmament on such a treaty is a vital element for the success of efforts to prevent both vertical and horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons and will contribute towards an end to the arms race and the achievement of nuclear disarmament;
4. Requests the Committee on Disarmament to initiate negotiations on such a treaty, as a matter of the highest priority;
5. Calls upon the three negotiating nuclear-weapon States to use their best endeavours to bring their negotiations to a positive conclusion in time for consideration during the next session of the Committee on Disarmament;
6. Invites Governments of Member States to contribute to the further development of national and international co-operative measures to detect seismic events aimed at setting up a global verification system of a comprehensive test ban treaty and to co-operate with the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Co-operative Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events for the fulfilment of its mandate;
7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-fifth session, an item relating to the implementation of the present resolution.