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Agenda item 43

STRENGTHENING OF GUARANTEES OF THE SECURITY
OF NON-NUCLEAR-WEAPON STATES

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Ernst SUCHARIPA (Austria)

1. The item entitled "Strengthening of guarantees of the security of non-nuclear-weapon States: report of the Committee on Disarmament" was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-fourth session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 33/72 A 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 16 October to 5 November (A/C.1/34/PV.4-30).
4. In connexion with item 43, the First Committee had before it the report of the Committee on Disarmament. 1/
5. On 5 November, Afghanistan, Angola, Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Ethiopia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Poland, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Viet Nam submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/34/L.9), which later was also sponsored by Guinea and Mali. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Bulgaria at the 33rd meeting, on 12 November.

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

6. At the 44th meeting, on 27 November, the Committee proceeded to vote on draft resolution A/C.1/34/L.9. The representative of Bulgaria, on behalf of the sponsors, submitted an oral revision by which, in the eighth preambular paragraph, the letter "A" was deleted after "resolution 33/72". Thereupon, draft resolution A/C.1/34/L.9, as orally revised, was adopted by a recorded vote of 91 to 1, with 25 abstentions (see para. 7). The voting was as follows: 2/

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cape Verde, Chile, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: Albania.

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Swaziland, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

Conclusion of an international convention on the strengthening of guarantees of the security of non-nuclear-weapon States

The General Assembly,

2/ Subsequently the delegation of Mauritius advised the Secretariat that, had it been present, it would have voted in favour.

/...

Convinced of the need to take effective measures for the strengthening of the security of States and prompted by the desire shared by all nations to eliminate war and prevent a nuclear holocaust,

Taking into account the principle of the non-use of force or threat of force enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and reaffirmed in a number of United Nations declarations and resolutions,

Noting with satisfaction the desire of States in various regions to prevent nuclear weapons from being introduced into their territories, including through the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned, and being anxious to contribute to this objective,

Considering that, until nuclear disarmament is achieved on a universal basis, it is imperative for the international community to develop, as appropriate, effective measures to ensure the security of non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons from any quarter,

Recognizing that effective measures to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons can constitute a positive contribution to the prevention of the spread of nuclear weapons,

Mindful of the statements and observations made by various States on the strengthening of the security of non-nuclear-weapon States,

Desirous of promoting the implementation of paragraph 59 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 3/ in which it urged the nuclear-weapon-States to pursue efforts to conclude, as appropriate, effective arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Recalling its resolution 33/72 of 14 December 1978,

Welcoming the in-depth consideration of the item entitled "Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons" by the Committee on Disarmament and the establishment of an ad hoc working group open to all States members of the Committee to conduct negotiations on the subject, 4/

Noting with satisfaction that, pursuant to this item, drafts of an international convention were submitted to the Committee on Disarmament,

3/ Resolution S-10/2.

4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/34/27), paras. 44-51.

Further noting the report of the Committee on Disarmament, including the report of the ad hoc working group, 5/

Noting with satisfaction that the idea of such a convention has gained broad international support,

Desirous of promoting an early and successful completion of the negotiations on the elaboration of the convention,

1. Welcomes the conclusion of the Committee on Disarmament that it is urgent to reach agreement on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;

2. Notes with satisfaction that in the Committee on Disarmament there was no objection, in principle, to the idea of such an international convention;

3. Commends the decision of the Committee on Disarmament to continue the negotiations on this subject at the beginning of its 1980 session;

4. Requests the Committee on Disarmament to continue the negotiations on this subject on a priority basis during its 1980 session with a view to their early conclusion with the elaboration of a convention to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;

5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-fifth session an item entitled "Conclusion of an international convention on the strengthening of the security of non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons".

5/ Ibid., appendix II.