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Thirty-seventh session
Agenda item 39ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE ARMAMENTS RACE AND ITS
EXTREMELY HARMFUL EFFECTS ON WORLD PEACE AND SECURITYReport of the First CommitteeRapporteur: Mr. Luvsangiin ERDENECHULUUN (Mongolia)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Economic and social consequences of the armaments race and its extremely harmful effects of world peace and security: report of the Secretary-General" was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-seventh session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 35/141 of 12 December 1980.
2. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 24 September 1982, 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 29 September, the First Committee decided to hold a combined general debate on the items allocated to it relating to disarmament, namely, items 39 to 57, 133 and 136. The general debate on these items and on items 138 and 139, which were allocated to the First Committee by the General Assembly at its 24th plenary meeting, on 8 October, took place at the 3rd to 28th meetings, from 18 October to 5 November (see A/C.1/37/PV. 3-28).
4. In connection with item 39, the First Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Report of the Secretary-General on the economic and social consequences of the arms race and of military expenditures (A/37/386);

(b) Letter dated 22 June 1982 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Final Communiqué and other documents of the Ministerial Meeting of the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Countries held at Havana from 31 May to 5 June 1982 (A/37/333-S/15278);

(c) Letter dated 11 October 1982 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final communiqué of the Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Non-Aligned Countries held in New York from 4 to 9 October 1982 (A/37/540-S/15454).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/37/L.16

5. On 10 November, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, Egypt, Indonesia, Ireland, Mali, Mexico, Peru, Romania, Rwanda, Sweden, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia and Zaire submitted a draft resolution entitled "Economic and social consequences of the armaments race and its extremely harmful effects on world peace and security" (A/C.1/37/L.16), which was later also sponsored by the Congo, Liberia, Malta and the United Republic of Cameroon. The draft resolution was introduced by Romania at the 32nd meeting, on 12 November.

6. At its 42nd meeting, on 24 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.16 without a vote after an oral amendment to add the words "taking also into account the views expressed by Member States on the report not later than 1 March 1983" to operative paragraph 4 had been incorporated at the suggestion of Romania to accommodate the viewpoints of some delegations (see para. 7).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

Economic and social consequences of the armaments race
and its extremely harmful effects on world peace and
security

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "Economic and social consequences of the armaments race and its extremely harmful effects on world peace and security",

Recalling its resolutions 2667 (XXV) of 7 December 1970, 2831 (XXVI) of 16 December 1971, 3075 (XXVIII) of 6 December 1973, 32/75 of 12 December 1977 and 35/141 of 12 December 1980,

Deeply concerned that the arms race, particularly in nuclear armaments, and military expenditures continue to increase at an alarming speed, constituting a grave danger for world peace and security,

Recalling also the conclusion of the General Assembly at its twelfth special session, the second special session of the Assembly devoted to disarmament, 1/ to the effect that the vastly increased military budgets have also contributed to current economic problems in certain States and that existing and planned military programmes constitute a colossal waste of precious resources which might otherwise be used to elevate living standards of all peoples and solve the problems confronting developing countries in achieving economic and social development,

Reaffirming the need for all Governments and peoples to be informed about and understand the situation prevailing in the field of the arms race and disarmament,

Having in mind the objectives of the World Disarmament Campaign, solemnly launched at the twelfth special session, which is intended to promote public interest in, and support for, the reaching of agreements on measures of arms limitation and disarmament,

Recalling further paragraph 93 (c) of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 2/ which provides that the Secretary-General shall periodically submit reports to the Assembly on the economic and social consequences of the armaments race and its extremely harmful effects on world peace and security,

Considering that the elaboration of such reports should be viewed as a measure aimed at building confidence among States,

1. Welcomes with satisfaction the updated report of the Secretary-General on the economic and social consequences of the arms race and of military expenditures; 3/
2. Expresses its thanks to the Secretary-General and to the consultant experts, as well as to the Governments and international organizations that have rendered assistance in the updating of the report;
3. Recommends that the conclusions of the updated report should be brought to the attention of public opinion and also taken into account in future actions by the United Nations in the field of disarmament;

1/ See A/S.12/32, section III, para. 61.

2/ General Assembly resolution S-10/2.

3/ A/37/386.

4. Requests the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements for the reproduction of the report as a United Nations publication and to give it publicity in the framework of the World Disarmament Campaign, taking also into account the views expressed by the Members States on the report not later than 1 March 1983;

5. Recommends that all Governments should ensure the widest possible distribution of the report, including, where appropriate, its translation into the respective national languages;

6. Invites the specialized agencies as well as intergovernmental, national and non-governmental organizations to use their facilities to make the report widely known;

7. Reaffirms its decision to keep the item entitled "Economic and social consequences of the armaments race and its extremely harmful effects on world peace and security" under constant review, and decides to include it in the provisional agenda of its fortieth session.
