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Agenda item 57

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE DENUCLEARIZATION OF AFRICA

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Ngaré KESSELY (Chad)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled:

"Implementation of the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa:

"(a) Implementation of the Declaration: report of the United Nations
Institute for Disarmament Research;

"(b) Nuclear capability of South Africa:

"(i) Report of the Disarmament Commission;

"(ii) Report of the Secretary-General"

was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-ninth session in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 38/181 A and B of 20 December 1983.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 1984, 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 15 October, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on the disarmament items allocated to it, namely, items 45 to 65 and item 142 which was allocated to the First Committee by the General Assembly at its 27th plenary meeting, on 9 October, followed by statements on specific disarmament

agenda items and continuation of the general debate, as necessary. The deliberations on those items took place between the 3rd and the 36th meetings, from 17 October to 12 November (see A/C.1/39/PV.3-36).

4. In connection with item 57, the First Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Disarmament Commission; 1/

(b) Letter dated 15 March 1984 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the reports, resolutions and final declaration adopted by the Fourteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held at Dhaka from 6 to 11 December 1983 (A/39/133-S/16417);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the nuclear capability of South Africa (A/39/466);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (A/39/470);

(e) Letter dated 27 September 1984 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Togo to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/39/529);

(f) Letter dated 8 October 1984 from the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Final Communiqué of the Meeting of Ministers and Heads of Delegation of the Non-Aligned Countries to the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly, held in New York from 1 to 5 October 1984 (A/39/560-S/16773).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolution A/C.1/39/L.44

5. On 12 November 1984, Cameroon on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the African Group, submitted a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa" (A/C.1/39/L.44). The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Cameroon at the 40th meeting, on 15 November.

6. At the 45th meeting, on 21 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/39/L.44 by a recorded vote of 132 to none, with 5 abstentions (see para. 11, draft resolution A). The voting was as follows:

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/39/42).

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, 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 Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Belgium, France, Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

B. Draft resolution A/C.1/39/L.51

7. On 12 November 1984, Cameroon, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the African Group, submitted a draft resolution, entitled "Nuclear Capability of South Africa" (A/C.1/39/L.51). The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Cameroon at the 40th meeting, on 15 November. The draft resolution read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 34/76 B of 11 December 1979; 35/146 A of 12 December 1980; 36/86 A of 9 December 1981; 37/74 B of 9 December 1982 and 38/181 B of 20 December 1983,

"Bearing in mind the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization

of African Unity at its first ordinary session, held at Cairo from 17 to 21 July 1964,

"Recalling that in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly it noted that the accumulation of armaments and the acquisition of armament technology by the racist régimes as well as their possible acquisition of nuclear weapons presented an increasingly dangerous and a challenging obstacle to the world community faced with the urgent need to disarm, 2/

"Recalling also that in its resolution 33/63 of 14 December 1978, it vigorously condemned any overt or covert attempt by South Africa to introduce nuclear weapons into the continent of Africa and demanded that South Africa refrain forthwith from conducting any nuclear explosion in the continent or elsewhere,

"Noting resolution GC(XXVIII)/RES/739 on South Africa's nuclear capabilities, adopted on 27 September 1984, by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency during its twenty-eighth regular session,

"Taking note with appreciation of the report of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, 'South Africa's nuclear capability', 3/ undertaken in co-operation with the Department for Disarmament Affairs and in consultation with the Organization of African Unity, as well as the report of the Disarmament Commission, 4/

"Expressing regret that despite the threat South Africa's nuclear capability constitutes to international peace and security and, in particular, to the realization of the objective of the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa, the Disarmament Commission has, once again, in 1984, failed to reach a consensus on this important item on its agenda,

"Gravely concerned that South Africa, in flagrant violation of the principles of international law and the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, has continued its acts of aggression and subversion against the peoples of and the independent States of southern Africa,

"Strongly condemning the continued military occupation by South African troops of parts of the territory of Angola in violation of its national sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, and urging the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of South African troops from Angolan soil,

2/ Resolution S-10/2, para. 12.

3/ A/39/470.

4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/39/42).

"Expressing its grave disappointment that despite repeated appeals by the international community, certain Western States and Israel have continued to collaborate with the racist régime of South Africa in the military and nuclear fields and that some of the same Western States have, by a ready recourse to the use of the veto, consistently frustrated every effort in the Security Council to deal decisively with the question of South Africa,

"Recalling its decision taken at the tenth special session devoted to disarmament that the Security Council should take appropriate effective steps to prevent the frustration of the decision of the Organization of African Unity for the denuclearization of Africa, 5/

"Stressing the need to preserve peace and security in Africa by ensuring that the continent is a nuclear-weapon-free zone,

"1. Condemns the massive build-up of South Africa's military machine, in particular, its frenzied acquisition of nuclear-weapon capability for repressive and aggressive purposes and as an instrument of blackmail;

"2. Expresses its full support for the African States faced with the danger of South Africa's nuclear capability;

"3. Reaffirms that the racist régime's acquisition of nuclear-weapon capability constitutes a very grave danger to international peace and security and, in particular, jeopardizes the security of African States and increases the danger of the proliferation of nuclear weapons;

"4. Condemns all forms of nuclear collaboration by any State, corporation, institution or individual with the racist régime of South Africa, in particular, the decision by some Member States to grant licences to several corporations in their territories to provide equipment, technical and maintenance services for nuclear installations in South Africa;

"5. Demands that South Africa and all other foreign interests put an immediate end to the exploration and exploitation of uranium resources in Namibia;

"6. Calls upon all States, corporations, institutions or individuals to terminate forthwith all forms of collaboration with the racist régime, including military and nuclear collaboration;

"7. Requests the Disarmament Commission to consider, as a matter of priority, South Africa's nuclear capability during its 1985 session, taking into account, inter alia, the findings of the report of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research on South Africa's nuclear capability;

"8. Requests the Security Council, for the purposes of disarmament and to fulfil its obligations and responsibility, to take enforcement measures to prevent any racist régimes from acquiring arms or arms technology;

"9. Further requests the Security Council to conclude expeditiously its consideration of the recommendations of its Committee established by resolution 421 (1977) concerning the question of South Africa, with a view to blocking the existing loopholes in the arms embargo, so as to render it more effective and prohibiting, in particular, all forms of co-operation and collaboration with the racist régime of South Africa in the nuclear field;

"10. Demands once again that South Africa submit forthwith all its nuclear installations and facilities to inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency;

"11. Requests the Secretary-General to follow very closely South Africa's evolution in the nuclear field and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fortieth session."

8. At the 40th meeting, on 15 November, the representative of Cameroon, on behalf of the sponsors, orally revised the sixth preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.1/39/L.51 to read as follows:

"Taking note of the report of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, 'South Africa's Nuclear Capability', undertaken in co-operation with the Department for Disarmament Affairs and in consultation with the Organization of African Unity".

9. At the 45th meeting, on 21 November, the representative of Cameroon, on behalf of the sponsors, orally revised operative paragraph 6 of the draft resolution to read as follows:

"Calls upon all States, corporations, institutions or individuals to terminate forthwith all forms of military and nuclear collaboration with the racist régime;"

10. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/39/L.51 by a recorded vote of 123 to 4, with 11 abstentions (see para. 11, draft resolution B). The voting was as follows: 6/

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile,

6/ Subsequently the delegation of Malawi indicated that it had intended to abstain.

China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, 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 Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: France, Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Federal Republic of, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Spain.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

11. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Implementation of the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa

A

Implementation of the Declaration

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa ^{7/} adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its first ordinary session, held at Cairo from 17 to 21 July 1964,

^{7/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Twentieth Session, Annexes, agenda item 105, document A/5975.

Recalling its resolution 1652 (XVI) of 24 November 1961, its earliest on the subject, as well as its resolutions 2033 (XX) of 3 December 1965, 31/69 of 10 December 1976, 32/81 of 12 December 1977, 33/63 of 14 December 1978, 34/76 A of 11 December 1979, 35/146 B of 12 December 1980, 36/86 B of 9 December 1981, 37/74 A of 9 December 1982 and 38/181 A of 20 December 1983, in which it called upon all States to consider and respect the continent of Africa and its surrounding areas as a nuclear-weapon-free zone,

Recalling that in its resolution 33/63 it vigorously condemned any overt or covert attempt by South Africa to introduce nuclear weapons into the continent of Africa and demanded that South Africa refrain forthwith from conducting any nuclear explosion in the continent of Africa or elsewhere,

Taking note of the report of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research entitled "South Africa's nuclear capability" 8/ undertaken in co-operation with the Department of Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat and in consultation with the Organization of African Unity, as well as the report of the Disarmament Commission, 9/

Expressing regret that despite the threat South Africa's nuclear capability constitutes to international peace and security, and in particular to the realization of the objective of the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa, the Disarmament Commission has, once again, in 1984, failed to reach a consensus on this important item on its agenda,

1. Strongly renews its call upon all States to consider and respect the continent of Africa and its surrounding areas as a nuclear-weapon-free zone;
2. Reaffirms that the implementation of the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity would be an important measure to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and to promote international peace and security;
3. Expresses once again its grave alarm at South Africa's possession and continued development of nuclear-weapon capability;
4. Condemns South Africa's continued pursuit of a nuclear capability and all forms of nuclear collaboration by any State, corporation, institution or individual with the racist régime that enable it to frustrate the objective of the Declaration which seeks to keep Africa free from nuclear weapons;
5. Calls upon all States, corporations, institutions and individuals to desist from further collaboration with the racist régime that may enable it to frustrate the objective of the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa;

8/ A/39/470.

9/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/39/42).

6. Demands once again that the racist régime of South Africa refrain from manufacturing, testing, deploying, transporting, storing, using or threatening to use nuclear weapons;
7. Appeals to all States that have the means to do so, to monitor South Africa's research on, and development and production of nuclear weapons, and to publicize any information in that regard;
8. Demands once again that South Africa submit forthwith all its nuclear installations and facilities to inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency;
9. Requests the Secretary-General to render all necessary assistance that the Organization of African Unity may seek towards the implementation of its solemn Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa;
10. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fortieth session the item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa".

B

Nuclear capability of South Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 34/76 B of 11 December 1979, 35/146 A of 12 December 1980, 36/86 A of 9 December 1981, 37/74 B of 9 December 1982 and 38/181 B of 20 December 1983,

Bearing in mind the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its first ordinary session, held at Cairo from 17 to 21 July 1964,

Recalling that in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly it noted that the accumulation of armaments and the acquisition of armament technology by the racist régimes as well as their possible acquisition of nuclear weapons presented an increasingly dangerous and a challenging obstacle to the world community faced with the urgent need to disarm, 10/

Recalling also that in its resolution 33/63 of 14 December 1978, it vigorously condemned any overt or covert attempt by South Africa to introduce nuclear weapons into the continent of Africa and demanded that South Africa refrain forthwith from conducting any nuclear explosion in the continent or elsewhere,

10/ Resolution S-10/2, para. 12.

Noting resolution GC (XXVIII)/RES/423 on South Africa's nuclear capabilities, adopted on 27 September 1984 by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency during its twenty-eighth regular session,

Taking note of the report of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, "South Africa's nuclear capability", 11/ undertaken in co-operation with the Department for Disarmament Affairs and in consultation with the Organization of African Unity,

Expressing regret that despite the threat South Africa's nuclear capability constitutes to international peace and security and, in particular, to the realization of the objective of the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa, the Disarmament Commission has, once again, in 1984, failed to reach a consensus on this important item on its agenda,

Gravely concerned that South Africa, in flagrant violation of the principles of international law and the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, has continued its acts of aggression and subversion against the peoples of and the independent States of southern Africa,

Strongly condemning the continued military occupation by South African troops of parts of the territory of Angola in violation of its national sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, and urging the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of South African troops from Angolan soil,

Expressing its grave disappointment that, despite repeated appeals by the international community, certain Western States and Israel have continued to collaborate with the racist régime of South Africa in the military and nuclear fields and that some of the same Western States have, by a ready recourse to the use of the veto, consistently frustrated every effort in the Security Council to deal decisively with the question of South Africa,

Recalling its decision taken at the tenth special session devoted to disarmament that the Security Council should take appropriate effective steps to prevent the frustration of the decision of the Organization of African Unity for the denuclearization of Africa, 12/

Stressing the need to preserve peace and security in Africa by ensuring that the continent is a nuclear-weapon-free zone,

1. Condemns the massive build-up of South Africa's military machine, in particular, its frenzied acquisition of nuclear-weapon capability for repressive and aggressive purposes and as an instrument of blackmail;
2. Expresses its full support for the African States faced with the danger of South Africa's nuclear capability;

11/ A/39/470.

12/ Resolution S-10/2, para. 63 (c).

3. Reaffirms that the racist régime's acquisition of nuclear-weapon capability constitutes a very grave danger to international peace and security and, in particular, jeopardizes the security of African States and increases the danger of the proliferation of nuclear weapons;
4. Condemns all forms of nuclear collaboration by any State, corporation, institution or individual with the racist régime of South Africa, in particular the decision by some Member States to grant licences to several corporations in their territories to provide equipment, technical and maintenance services for nuclear installations in South Africa;
5. Demands that South Africa and all other foreign interests put an immediate end to the exploration and exploitation of uranium resources in Namibia;
6. Calls upon all States, corporations, institutions or individuals to terminate forthwith all forms of military and nuclear collaboration with the racist régime;
7. Requests the Disarmament Commission to consider during its 1985 session, as a matter of priority, South Africa's nuclear capability, taking into account, inter alia, the findings of the report of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research on South Africa's nuclear capability;
8. Requests the Security Council, for the purposes of disarmament and to fulfil its obligations and responsibility, to take enforcement measures to prevent any racist régimes from acquiring arms or arms technology;
9. Further requests the Security Council to conclude expeditiously its consideration of the recommendations of its Committee established by resolution 421 (1977) concerning the question of South Africa, 13/ with a view to blocking the existing loopholes in the arms embargo, so as to render it more effective and prohibiting, in particular, all forms of co-operation and collaboration with the racist régime of South Africa in the nuclear field;
10. Demands once again that South Africa submit forthwith all its nuclear installations and facilities to inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency;
11. Requests the Secretary-General to follow very closely South Africa's evolution in the nuclear field and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fortieth session.

13/ See Official Records of the Security Council, Thirty-fifth Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1980, document S/14179.