



Fourteenth session  
Agenda item 68

QUESTION OF FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTS IN THE SAHARA

Report of the First Committee

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1. On 13 August 1959, the Moroccan Government requested (A/4183) the inclusion of the item "Question of French nuclear tests in the Sahara" in the agenda of the fourteenth session of the General Assembly.
2. On 16 September 1959, the General Committee recommended its inclusion as sub-item (c) under the heading "Question of disarmament".
3. The General Assembly, at its 803rd plenary meeting on 22 September 1959, considered the General Committee's report (A/4214) and decided to include as separate items in the agenda each of the questions listed by the General Committee under the heading "Question of disarmament", leaving to the First Committee the decision as to the manner and order in which they would be discussed.
4. The First Committee, on 8 October 1959, adopted without objection the Chairman's suggestion that the "Question of French nuclear tests in the Sahara" should be the second item on its agenda. Accordingly, the item was considered at the First Committee's 1043rd to its 1053rd meeting, from 4 November to 12 November 1959.
5. On 4 November 1959, Afghanistan, Burma, Ceylon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Morocco, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, Tunisia, the United Arab Republic and Yemen submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.238) whereby the General Assembly would: (1) express its grave concern over the intention of the French Government to conduct nuclear tests

in the Sahara; and (2) urge France to refrain from such tests. On 6 November 1959, Japan and the Federation of Malaya were added to the list of sponsors (A/C.1/L.238/Add.1). On 11 November 1959, a revised version of the twenty-two-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.238/Rev.1) was distributed with some changes in the preamble.

6. On 10 November 1959, a draft resolution was submitted by Italy and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (A/C.1/L.239) whereby the General Assembly would: (1) express the hope that the French Government would associate itself with the arrangements which may be worked out in order to achieve the suspension of nuclear weapons tests under effective international control; and (2) request France to take full account of the views expressed in the debate. On 11 November 1959, Peru co-sponsored this draft resolution (A/C.1/L.239/Add.1).

7. On 10 November 1959, Bolivia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico and Panama submitted amendments (A/C.1/L.240) to the preamble and operative parts of the twenty-two-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.238/Rev.1) whereby the General Assembly would express the hope that the Government of France would reconsider its decision to carry out such tests, taking into account the views expressed in the debate on the question. On 11 November 1959, a revised version of the five-Power amendments (A/C.1/L.240/Rev.1) was distributed with some changes in the preamble.

8. On 12 November 1959, Ghana and Indonesia submitted sub-amendments (A/C.1/L.241) to the five-Power amendments (A/C.1/L.240/Rev.1), proposing that the preamble and operative parts of the twenty-two-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.238/Rev.1) be amended whereby the General Assembly would: (1) express its grave concern over the intention of the French Government to conduct nuclear tests, and (2) request France to refrain from such tests.

9. At its 1053rd meeting on 12 November 1959, the First Committee voted on the draft resolutions and amendments, commencing with a vote on the sub-amendments of Ghana and Indonesia (A/C.1/L.241).

(a) The first paragraph of the sub-amendments (A/C.1/L.241) to the preamble was adopted by a roll-call vote of 45 to 24, with 12 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

<u>In favour:</u>	Afghanistan, Albania, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian
	Soviet Socialist Republic, Cambodia, Canada, Ceylon,

Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ethiopia, Federation of Malaya, Ghana, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Japan, Jordan, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Morocco, Nepal, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against:

Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, France, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay.

Abstaining:

Austria, China, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Finland, Greece, Israel, Mexico, Paraguay, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey.

(b) Upon the proposal of Ecuador, the second, third and fourth paragraphs of the sub-amendments (A/C.1/L.241) to the preamble, which had been incorporated from the five-Power amendments (A/C.1/L.240/Rev.1), were voted upon together, and adopted by a roll-call vote of 60 to 11, with 10 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Argentina, Austria, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cambodia, Canada, Ceylon, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Federation of Malaya, Finland, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Japan, Jordan, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Sweden, Tunisia, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: Australia, Belgium, Dominican Republic, France, Honduras, Italy, Luxembourg, Nicaragua, Peru, Portugal, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Abstaining: China, Greece, Haiti, Israel, Netherlands, Spain, Thailand, Turkey, Union of South Africa, United States of America.

(c) The fifth paragraph of the sub-amendments (A/C.1/L.241) to the preamble was adopted by a roll-call vote of 44 to 12, with 26 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cambodia, Canada, Ceylon, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, Federation of Malaya, Ghana, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Morocco, Nepal, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, France, Guatemala, Honduras, Luxembourg, Nicaragua, Peru, Portugal.

Abstaining: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, China, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, Greece, Haiti, Italy, Laos, Mexico, Netherlands, Panama, Paraguay, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay.

(d) The sixth paragraph of the sub-amendments (A/C.1/L.241) to the preamble was adopted by a roll-call vote of 36 to 29, with 17 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Ceylon, Cuba, Czechoslovakia,

Ethiopia, Federation of Malaya, Ghana, Guinea, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against:

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Guatemala, Honduras, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay.

Abstaining:

Cambodia, Canada, Costa Rica, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Haiti, Iceland, Ireland, Laos, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, Venezuela.

a) The last paragraph of the sub-amendments (A/C.1/L.241) to the preamble was adopted by a roll-call vote of 40 to 26, with 16 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cambodia, Canada, Ceylon, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, Federation of Malaya, Ghana, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against:

Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Honduras, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay.

Abstaining: Austria, Costa Rica, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, Venezuela.

(f) Operative paragraph 1 of the sub-amendments (A/C.1/L.241) was adopted by a roll-call vote of 45 to 28, with 9 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cambodia, Canada, Ceylon, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, Federation of Malaya, Finland, Ghana, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Morocco, Nepal, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Sweden, Tunisia, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: Argentina, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Guatemala, Honduras, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay.

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, China, Denmark, Greece, Haiti, Laos, Thailand, Turkey.

(g) Operative paragraph 2 of the sub-amendments (A/C.1/L.241) was adopted by a roll-call vote of 44 to 28 with 10 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cambodia, Canada, Ceylon, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, Federation of Malaya, Ghana, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Morocco, Nepal, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan,

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Philippines, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Sweden, Tunisia, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against:

Argentina, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Guatemala, Honduras, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay.

Abstaining:

Australia, Austria, China, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Haiti, Laos, Thailand, Turkey.

10. The Chairman thereupon announced that, because of the adoption of the sub-amendments (A/C.1/L.241), it was not necessary, under the rules of procedure, to vote on the five-Power amendments (A/C.1/L.240/Rev.1), and that the Committee would therefore proceed to vote on the twenty-two-Power draft resolution.

(A/C.1/L.238/Rev.1) as a whole, as amended by the sub-amendments (A/C.1/L.241).

11. The twenty-two-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.238/Rev.1), as amended, was adopted by a roll-call vote of 46 to 26 with 10 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cambodia, Canada, Ceylon, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, Federation of Malaya, Finland, Ghana, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Morocco, Nepal, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Sweden, Tunisia, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: Argentina, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay.

Abstaining: Australia, China, Costa Rica, Denmark, Greece, Laos, Mexico, Paraguay, Thailand, Turkey.

12. The draft resolution submitted by Italy, Peru and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (A/C.1/L.239 and Add.1) was rejected by a roll-call vote of 38 to 24, with 20 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Greece, Honduras, Israel, Italy, Laos, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Against: Afghanistan, Albania, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Ceylon, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Federation of Malaya, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Abstaining: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Haiti, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Panama, Paraguay, Turkey, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Recommendation of the First Committee

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

QUESTION OF FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTS IN THE SAHARA

The General Assembly,

Conscious of the great concern throughout the world repeatedly expressed in the United Nations over the prospect of further nuclear tests and their effects upon mankind,

Noting the declared intention of the Government of France to undertake nuclear tests in the Sahara,

Considering the deep concern felt over the dangers and risks which such tests entail,

Considering that significant progress is being made in the negotiations now proceeding at Geneva concerning the discontinuance of nuclear weapons tests under an international control system,

Considering that the parties to those negotiations have facilitated their progress by voluntarily suspending such tests,

Considering that the purpose of the said negotiations is to bring about a general discontinuance of nuclear weapons tests and that it is to be hoped that, in the same spirit which inspired the present voluntary suspension of tests, no State will initiate or resume tests of this kind,

Recognizing the anxiety caused by the contemplated tests in the Sahara among all peoples, and more particularly those of Africa,

Bearing in mind that in creating conditions of danger in Africa, France cannot assume the responsibility for the protection of the threatened sovereign States,

Considering the special responsibility of the United Nations for the health, safety and well-being of the dependent peoples of Africa threatened by such tests,

1. Expresses its grave concern over the intention of the French Government to conduct nuclear tests;

2. Requests France to refrain from such tests.