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Agenda item 50

CESSATION OF ALL NUCLEAR-TEST EXPLOSIONS

Report of the First CommitteeRapporteur: Mr. Dimitris PLATIS (Greece)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Cessation of all nuclear-test **explosions**" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-fourth session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 43/63 A of 7 December 1988.
2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 22 September 1989, 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 13 October, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on the disarmament items allocated to it, namely, items 49 to 69 and 151. The deliberations on those items took place between the 3rd and 25th meetings, from 16 October to 1 November (see A/C.1/44/PV.3-25). Consideration of and action on draft resolutions on those items took place between the 26th and 41st meetings, from 2 to 17 November (see A/C.1/44/PV.26-41).
4. In connection with item 50, the First Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Report of the Conference on Disarmament; 1/

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/44/27).

(b) Letter dated 5 April 1989 from the representatives of Indonesia, Mexico, Peru, Sri Lanka, Venezuela and Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/44/211);

(c) Letter dated 22 May 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the Final Statement of the ~~Palme~~ Commission on Disarmament and Security Issues, issued at Stockholm on 14 April 1989 (A/44/293-S/20653);

(d) Letter dated 23 June 1989 from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/44/347-S/20702);

(a) Letter dated 14 July 1989 from the ~~Chargé~~ d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent ~~Mission~~ of Zimbabwe to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the final documents of the Ministerial Meeting of the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Harare from 17 to 19 May 1989 (A/44/409-S/20743 and Corr.1 and 2);

(f) Letter dated 11 August 1989 from the ~~Chargé~~ d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Solomon Islands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the Final Communiqué of the Twentieth South Pacific Forum, held at Tarawa on 10 and 11 July 1989 (A/44/463);

(g) Letter dated 22 September 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the texts of the final documents of the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Belgrade from 4 to 7 September 1989 (A/44/551-S/20870);

(h) Letter dated 26 October 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the communiqué adopted by the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, held at Kuala Lumpur from 18 to 24 October 1989 (A/44/689-S/20921),

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/44/L.11

5. On 30 October 1989, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Indonesia, Ireland, Mexico, Peru, Romania, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Venezuela and Yugoslavia, submitted a draft resolution, entitled "Cessation of all nuclear-test explosions" (A/C.1/44/L.11), which was later also sponsored by Myanmar. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Mexico at the 31st meeting, on 8 November.

6. At its 38th meeting, on 16 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/44/L.11 by a recorded vote of 117 to 3, with 13 abstentions (see para. 7). The voting was as follows!

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Cahnmas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, 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, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Belgium, Canada, China, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Turkey.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

Cessation of all nuclear-test explosions

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind that the complete cessation of nuclear-weapon tests, which has been examined for more than thirty years and on which the General Assembly has adopted more than fifty resolutions, is a basic objective of the

United Nations in the sphere of disarmament, to the attainment of which it has repeatedly assigned the highest priority,

Stressing that on eight different occasions it has condemned such tests in the strongest terms and that, since 1974, it has stated its conviction that the continuance of nuclear-weapon testing will intensify the arms race, thus increasing the danger of nuclear war,

Recalling that the Secretary-General, addressing a plenary meeting of the General Assembly on 12 December 1984, after appealing for a renewed effort towards a comprehensive test-ban treaty, emphasised that no single multilateral agreement could have a greater effect on limiting the further refinement of nuclear weapons and that a comprehensive test-ban treaty is the litmus test of the real willingness to pursue nuclear disarmament, 2/

Taking into account that the three nuclear-weapon States that act as depositaries of the 1963 Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water 3/ undertook in article I of that Treaty to conclude a treaty resulting in the permanent banning of all nuclear-test explosions, including all those explosions underground, and that such an undertaking was reiterated in 1968 in the preamble to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, 4/ article VI of which further embodies their solemn and legally binding commitment to take effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear-arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament,

Noting that the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, in its Final Declaration 5/ adopted on 21 September 1985, called upon the nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty to resume trilateral negotiations in 1985 and upon all the nuclear-weapon States to participate in the urgent negotiation and conclusion of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty, as a matter of the highest priority, in the Conference on Disarmament,

2/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Plenary Meetings, 97th meeting, para. 302.

3/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 480, No. 6964.

4/ Resolution 2373 (XXII), annex,

5/ Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, Part I (NPT/CONF.III/64/I) (Geneva, 1985), annex 1.

Recalling the disarmament declaration 6/ adopted by the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Belgrade from 4 to 7 September 1989, which underlined that the immediate suspension of and comprehensive ban on nuclear tests remained one of the highest priorities of nuclear disarmament,

Recalling also that the leaders of the States associated with the six-nation initiative on peace and disarmament affirmed in the Stockholm Declaration, 7/ adopted on 21 January 1988, that "any agreement that leaves room for continued testing would not be acceptable",

Taking note with satisfaction of the continuing progress made in the Conference on Disarmament by the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Co-operative Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events on the seismic verification of a comprehensive test ban, 8/

Expressing its concern that, after six years of efforts, the Conference on Disarmament has not yet succeeded in establishing an ad hoc committee on item 1 of its agenda, entitled "Nuclear-test ban",

1. Reiterates once again 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. Reaffirms also its conviction that such a treaty would constitute a contribution of the utmost importance to the cessation of the nuclear-arms race;
4. Urges once more all nuclear-weapon States, in particular the three depositary Powers of the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapons Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water and of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to seek to achieve the early discontinuance of all test explosions of nuclear weapons for all time and to expedite negotiations to this end:

6/ See A/44/551-S/20870, annex.

7/ A/43/125-S/19478, annex.

8/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/44/27), para. 29.

5. Appeals to all States members of the Conference on Disarmament to promote the establishment by the Conference at the beginning of its 1990 session of an ad hoc committee with the objective of carrying out the multilateral negotiation of a treaty on the complete cessation of nuclear-test explosions;

6. Recommends to the Conference on Disarmament that such an ad hoc committee should comprise two working groups dealing, respectively, with the following interrelated questions: contents and scope of the treaty, and compliance and verification;

7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fifth session the item entitled "Cessation of all nuclear-test explosions".
