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VERIFICATION IN ALL ITS ASPECTS

Report of the First CommitteeRapporteur: Mr. Latévi Modem LAWSON-BETUM (Togo)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The *item* entitled "Verification in all its aspects" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-fifth **session** of the General Assembly in accordance with **Assembly** resolution **43/81 B** of **7** December 1988.
2. At **its** 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 1990, 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 **9 October** 1990, the First **Committee** decided to hold a general debate on the disarmament **items** allocated to it, namely, **items 45 to 66**. At **its** 4th meeting, on 16 October, the First Committee decided to consider jointly with other **disarmament items agenda item 155**, which was allocated to the First Committee upon a decision of the General Assembly at **its** 30th plenary meeting, on 15 **October**. The deliberations on those **items** took place between the 3rd and 23rd meetings, from 15 to 30 **October** (see **A/C.1/45/PV.3-23**). Consideration of and action on draft resolutions on those **items** took place between the 24th and 39th meetings, from 2 to 16 **November** (see **A/C.1/45/PV.24-39**).
4. In connection with **item 66**, the First **Committee** had before it the following document: note by the Secretary-General on the study on the role of the United Nations in **the** field of verification (**A/45/372** and **Corr.1**).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/45/L.42

5. On 31 October, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Samoa, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Yugoslavia and Zaire submitted a draft resolution, entitled "Study on the role of the United Nations in the field of verification" (A/C.1/45/L.42), which was later also sponsored by Panama. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Sweden at the 28th meeting, on 6 November.

6. At the 37th meeting, on 15 November, the Secretary of the Committee made a statement concerning the programme budget implications of the draft resolution (see A/C.1/45/PV.37).

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.42 without a vote (see para. 8).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

Study on the role of the United Nations in the field of verification

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 40/152 D of 16 December 1985, 41/86 Q of 4 December 1986, 42/42 F of 30 November 1987 and 43/81 B of 7 December 1988,

Underlining the important role that the United Nations, in accordance with its Charter, has to play in the sphere of **disarmament,**

Recalling that all the peoples of the world have a vital interest in the success of disarmament negotiations and that, consequently, all States have the duty to contribute to **efforts in** the field of disarmament,

Noting that the critical importance of verification of and compliance with arms limitation and disarmament agreements is universally **recognized,**

Stressing that the issue of verification of and compliance with arms limitation and disarmament agreements is a matter of concern to all nations,

Recognizing that the United Nations, in accordance with its role and responsibilities established under the Charter, can make a significant contribution in the field of verification, in particular of multilateral agreements,

Reiterating its view that:

(a) Disarmament and arms limitation agreements should provide for adequate and effective measures of verification **satisfactory** to all **parties** concerned in order to create the necessary confidence and to **ensure** that they are being observed by all parties;

(b) The form and modalities of the verification to be provided for **in** any specific **agreement** depend upon and should be determined by the **purposes**, scope and nature of the **agreement**;

(c) **Agreements** should provide for the participation of parties directly or through the United **Nations** system in the verification **process**;

(d) Where appropriate, a combination **of** several methods of verification **as** well as other compliance procedures should be employed,

Recalling that:

(a) In the context of international disarmament negotiations, the problem **of** verification should be further **examined** and adequate **methods** and procedures in this field should be **considered**;

(b) Every effort should be made **to** develop appropriate methods *and* procedures *that are* non-discriminatory and *that* do not interfere unduly with the internal affairs of States **parties** or other **States** or **jeopardise** their economic, technological and social development,

Taking note of all proposals that had been put forward in the *field* of verification by Member States, **1/** including those by Canada and the Netherlands, France and the countries of the Six-Nation Initiative, **2/**

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifteenth Special Session Supplement No. 3 (A/S-15/3), para. 60 (para. 6, sect. 111.2, of the quoted text).

2/ See the Joint Declaration issued on 22 May 1984 by the heads of State or Government of Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden and the United Republic of Tanzania (A/39/277-S/16587, annex; for the printed text, see Official Records of the Security Council, Thirty-ninth Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1984, document S/16587, annex), reaffirmed in the Delhi Declaration issued on 28 January 1985 (A/40/114-S/16921, annex; for the printed text, see Official Records of the Security Council, Fortieth Year, Supplement for January, February and March 1985, document S/16921, annex), the Mexico Declaration issued on 7 August 1986 (A/41/518-S/18277, annex I), and the Stockholm Declaration issued on 21 January 1988 (A/43/125-S/19478, annex).

Affirming its support for the 16 principles of verification drawn up by the Disarmament Commission, **3/**

Noting that recent developments in international relations have underscored the importance of effective verification of existing and future arms limitation and disarmament agreements,

Recalling that by resolution **43/81 B** the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to undertake, with the **assistance** of a group of qualified governmental experts, an in-depth study of the role of the United Nations in the field of **verification** that would:

(a) Identify and review existing **activities** of the United Nations in the field of verification of arms limitation and **disarmament;**

(b) **Assess** the need for improvements in **existing activities** as well as explore and identify possible additional activities, taking into account organizational, technical, operational, legal and financial aspects;

(c) Provide specific recommendations for future action by the United Nations in this content]

and to submit a comprehensive report on this subject to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session,

1. **Welcomes** the report of the Secretary-General; **4/**
2. **Notes** that the report was approved by the group of qualified governmental experts to undertake a study on the role of the United Nations in the field of verification;
3. **Commends** the report to the attention of Member **States;**
4. **Requests** the **Secretary-General** to give the report the widest possible circulation;
5. **Also requests** that the Secretary-General take appropriate action within available resources on the recommendations of the **group;**
6. **Encourages** Member States to give active consideration to the recommendations contained in the concluding chapter and to assist the Secretary-General in their implementation where appropriate

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifteenth Special Session Supplement No. 3 (A/S-15/3), para. 60 (para. 6, sect. I, of the quoted text),

4/ A/45/372 and Corr.1.

7. **Requests** the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on actions taken by Member States and by the United Nations Secretariat to implement these recommendations)

8. **Decides** to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-seventh session an item entitled "**Verification** in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification**.
