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26 October 1961

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Sixteenth session  
Agenda items 73 and 72

CONTINUATION OF SUSPENSION OF NUCLEAR AND THERMO-NUCLEAR TESTS  
AND OBLIGATIONS OF STATES TO REFRAIN FROM THEIR RENEWAL

THE URGENT NEED FOR A TREATY TO BAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTS  
UNDER EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL CONTROL

Report of the First Committee

(Part I)

Rapporteur: Mr. Ralph ENCKELL (Finland)

1. On 15 July 1961, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America requested the inclusion of an item in the agenda of the sixteenth session of the General Assembly entitled "The urgent need for a treaty to ban nuclear weapons tests under effective international control" (A/4799).
2. On 17 and 28 July 1961, India requested the inclusion of an item in the agenda of the sixteenth session of the General Assembly entitled "Continuation of suspension of nuclear and thermo-nuclear tests and obligations of States to refrain from their renewal" (A/4801 and Add.1).
3. At its 1014th plenary meeting held on 25 September 1961, the General Assembly included in its agenda the items mentioned above as items 72 and 73 respectively, and at its 1018th plenary meeting, on 27 September 1961, the General Assembly allocated the items to the First Committee for consideration and report.
4. At its 1169th meeting on 18 October 1961, the First Committee decided by 83 votes to 10, with 4 abstentions, to list item 73 as the first item on its agenda. At the same meeting, it decided by 54 votes to 13, with 31 abstentions, to list item 72 as the second item on its agenda and to discuss it simultaneously with item 73.

5. At its 1171st meeting on 19 October, the First Committee commenced the general debate on the two items. During the course of that meeting and the subsequent four meetings, the following substantive draft resolutions relating to the two items were submitted to the Committee. (a) a United Kingdom-United States draft resolution (A/C.1/L.280) concerning item 72; (b) and Indian draft resolution A/C.1/L.283) concerning item 73, which was later revised and co-sponsored by Ethiopia, Ghana, Nepal, United Arab Republic and Yugoslavia (A/C.1/L.283/Rev.2 and Rev.2/Add.1); (c) an Afghanistan amendment (A/C.1/L.289/Rev.1) to the foregoing draft resolution; (d) an eight-Power draft resolution sponsored by Canada, Denmark, Iceland, Iran, Japan, Norway, Pakistan and Sweden, incorporating an Indian amendment (A/C.1/L.290) thereto, concerning items 73 and 72 (A/C.1/L.288/Rev.1); (e) an eight-Power draft resolution sponsored by Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, Sudan and United Arab Republic, concerning item 73 (A/C.1/L.291); (f) and a nine-Power draft resolution sponsored by Ceylon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Libya, Nigeria, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia and Indonesia concerning items 73 and 72 (A/C.1/L.292).

6. At the 1173rd meeting on 20 October, the representative of Denmark, in introducing the eight-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.288), to which the sponsors subsequently accepted the Indian amendment, requested that it be given absolute priority in the voting. Under the terms of the joint draft resolution, the General Assembly, seized with the question of halting nuclear weapons tests, would solemnly appeal to the Government of the Soviet Union to refrain from carrying out their intention to explode in the atmosphere a 50-megaton bomb before the end of October 1961.

7. At the 1176th meeting on 25 October, the representative of Iran, on a point of order, moved that the Committee decide to adjourn temporarily the general debate on items 73 and 72 in order to undertake immediate consideration of the eight-Power draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/L.288/Rev.1.

The Iranian motion was subsequently adopted by a roll-call vote of 51 in favour to 20 against, with 22 abstentions as follows:

In favour: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Federation of Malaya,

Finland, France, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Liberia, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Against: Afghanistan, Albania, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroun, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Guinea, Hungary, India, Iraq, Mali, Morocco, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, Yugoslavia.

Abstaining: Burma, Central African Republic, Ceylon, Chad, Congo (Leopoldville), Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, Ivory Coast, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Upper Volta, Yemen,

Tunisia did not participate in the voting.

8. At its 1177th meeting on 25 October, the Committee limited its discussion to a consideration of the eight-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.288/Rev.1). After a number of representatives had participated in the discussions, the representative of Denmark moved, under rule 118 of the rules of procedure, that the Committee close the debate on the aforementioned draft resolution and proceed to the vote.

The motion was adopted by 54 votes to 9, with 21 abstentions.

9. The eight-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.288/Rev.1) was subsequently put to the vote. It was adopted by a roll-call vote of 75 to 10, with 1 abstention.

The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Cambodia, Canada, Central African Republic, Ceylon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo (Leopoldville), Costa Rica, Cyprus, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Federation of Malaya, Finland, France, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia,

Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia.

Against: Albania, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Abstaining: Mali.

Recommendation of the First Committee

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

CONTINUATION OF SUSPENSION OF NUCLEAR AND THERMOR-NUCLEAR TESTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF STATES TO REFRAIN FROM THEIR RENEWAL

THE URGENT NEED FOR A TREATY TO BAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTS UNDER EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL CONTROL

The General Assembly,

Seized with the question of halting nuclear weapons tests,

Solemnly appeals to the Government of the Soviet Union to refrain from carrying out their intention to explode in the atmosphere a 50-megaton bomb before the end of this month.

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