



Eighteenth session
Agenda item 73

URGENT NEED FOR SUSPENSION OF NUCLEAR AND THERMO-NUCLEAR TESTS

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Fernando VOLIO JIMENEZ (Costa Rica)

1. On 18 June 1963, India requested the inclusion in the agenda of the eighteenth session of the General Assembly of the item "Urgent need for suspension of nuclear and thermo-nuclear tests" (A/5428). On 28 June 1963, India submitted an explanatory memorandum (A/5428/Add.1).
2. In its report of 19 September (A/5530), the General Committee recommended the inclusion of the item in the agenda and its allocation to the First Committee. At its 1210th plenary meeting, on 20 September, the General Assembly approved the recommendation of the General Committee and referred the item to the First Committee for consideration and report.
3. At its 1309th meeting, on 15 October, the First Committee decided to consider the question of the suspension of nuclear and thermo-nuclear tests as the first item on its agenda. The item was considered at the 1310th, 1312th to 1319th, 1321st and 1323rd meetings of the Committee.
4. At the 1321st meeting, on 30 October, a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.326) was jointly submitted by Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, India, Italy, Mexico, Nigeria, Poland, Romania, Sweden, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Arab Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. The draft resolution was subsequently sponsored also by Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Chile, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Sierra Leone, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and Yugoslavia (A/C.1/L.326/Add.1). By the draft resolution, the General Assembly

would: (1) call upon all States to become parties to the treaty and to abide by its spirit and provisions; (2) request the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament to continue its negotiations to achieve the objectives set forth in the preamble of the partial test ban treaty; (3) request the Conference to report to the General Assembly at the earliest possible date, and in any event not later than at the nineteenth session; (4) request the Secretary-General to make available to the Conference documents and records of plenary meetings of the General Assembly and meetings of the First Committee at which the item relating to nuclear testing was discussed.

5. At the 1323rd meeting, on 31 October, Cyprus and Ghana submitted an amendment (A/C.1/L.327) to the draft resolution (A/C.1/L.326 and Add.1). By it the words "with a sense of urgency" would be inserted, in operative paragraph 2, between the words "continue" and "its negotiations".

6. At the same meeting the Committee adopted the amendment by 20 votes to 3, with 78 abstentions. Subsequently, the draft resolution, as amended, was adopted by 97 votes to 1, with 3 abstentions.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

Urgent need for suspension of nuclear and thermo-nuclear tests

The General Assembly,

Fully aware of its responsibility with regard to the question of nuclear weapon testing and of the views of world public opinion on this matter,

Noting with approval the partial test ban treaty signed on 5 August 1963 by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, and subsequently by a great number of other countries,

Noting further with satisfaction that in the preamble of that treaty the parties state that they are "seeking to achieve the discontinuance of all test explosions of nuclear weapons for all time" and are "determined to continue negotiations to this end",

1. Calls upon all States to become parties to the treaty and to abide by its spirit and provisions;

2. Requests the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament to continue with a sense of urgency its negotiations to achieve the objectives set forth in the preamble of the partial test ban treaty;
3. Requests the Conference to report to the General Assembly at the earliest possible date, and in any event not later than at the nineteenth session;
4. Requests the Secretary-General to make available to the Conference documents and records of plenary meetings of the General Assembly and meetings of the First Committee at which the item relating to nuclear testing was discussed.
