

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

TWELFTH SESSION
Official Records



**FIRST COMMITTEE 893rd
MEETING**

*Wednesday, 6 November 1957,
at 3.45 p.m.*

NEW YORK

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Agenda item 24:	
Regulation, limitation and balanced reduction of all armed forces and all armaments; conclusion of an international convention (treaty) on the reduction of armaments and the prohibition of atomic, hydrogen and other weapons of mass destruction (<u>concluded</u>):	
(a) Report of the Disarmament Commission;	
(b) Expansion of the membership of the Disarmament Commission and of its Sub-Committee;	
(c) Collective action to inform and enlighten the peoples of the world as to the dangers of the armaments race, and particularly as to the destructive effects of modern weapons;	
(d) Discontinuance under international control of tests of atomic and hydrogen weapons	139
Programme of work of the Committee.	141

Chairman: Mr. Djalal ABDOH (Iran).

AGENDA ITEM 24

Regulation, limitation and balanced reduction of all armed forces and all armaments; conclusion of an international convention (treaty) on the reduction of armaments and the prohibition of atomic, hydrogen and other weapons of mass destruction (A/3630 and Corr.1, A/3657, A/3674/Rev.1, A/3685, A/C.1/793, A/C.1/797, A/C.1/L.174, A/C.1/L.175/Rev.1, A/C.1/L.176/Rev.4, A/C.1/L.177, A/C.1/L.178/Rev.2, A/C.1/L.179 and Corr.1 and Add.1, A/C.1/L.180, A/C.1/L.181/Rev.1, A/C.1/L.182, A/C.1/L.184, A/C.1/L.185, A/C.1/L.186) (concluded):

- (a) Report of the Disarmament Commission;
- (b) Expansion of the membership of the Disarmament Commission and of its Sub-Committee;
- (c) Collective action to inform and enlighten the peoples of the world as to the dangers of the armaments race, and particularly as to the destructive effects of modern weapons;
- (d) Discontinuance under international control of tests of atomic and hydrogen weapons

1. The CHAIRMAN announced that at the previous meeting the Salvadorian representative's vote on the twenty-four-Power draft resolution as a whole had been misheard and had been recorded as an abstention, whereas it had been in favour of the draft.

2. In reply to a question by Mr. LODGE (United States of America), the CHAIRMAN said that under General Assembly procedure it was difficult to correct a vote once the result of a ballot had been announced. It seemed clear, however, that the number of votes cast in favour of the draft resolution had been 57.

3. He proposed that the Committee should proceed to a vote on the other draft resolutions before it.

4. Mr. NISOT (Belgium) requested that the vote on the Belgian draft resolution should be deferred until the end of the discussion. The Committee should wait until

it had decided on all questions of substance before it voted on the Polish amendments to the Belgian draft, since the amendments took a stand on certain substantive matters.

5. Mr. KUZNETSOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation would insist on its draft resolution concerning the discontinuance of atomic and hydrogen weapons tests (A/3674/Rev.1) being put to the vote, since the Indian delegation had submitted a draft resolution on the same question.

6. Mr. Krishna MENON (India) announced that, in view of the statement he had made at the previous meeting, he would not press for a vote on the Indian draft resolutions contained in documents A/C.1/L.177 and A/C.1/L.178/Rev.2, although he did not withdraw them. He would merely request that a vote should be taken on the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/L.176/Rev.4.

7. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the draft resolution submitted by India (A/C.1/L.176/Rev.4).

A vote was taken by roll-call.

Poland, having been drawn by lot by the Chairman, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Yugoslavia, Albania, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Ceylon, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Finland, Ghana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal.

Against: Portugal, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Greece, Honduras, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines.

Abstaining: Sudan, Sweden, Syria, Thailand, Afghanistan, Austria, Bolivia, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Haiti, Iraq, Ireland, Japan, Jordan, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Malaya (Federation of).

The draft resolution was rejected by 38 votes to 22, with 20 abstentions.

8. Mr. MATSUDAIRA (Japan) requested a roll-call vote on the Japanese draft resolution as a whole. His delegation did not insist on such minor points as the date on which the Sub-Committee of the Disarmament Commission should be reconvened, since paragraphs 2 and 3 of the twenty-four-Power draft resolution contained equivalent provisions. If the Committee approved the Japanese proposal, his delegation would bring the text into line with that of the twenty-four-

Power proposal, before it was submitted to the General Assembly.

9. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Japanese draft resolution (A/C.1/L.174).

A vote was taken by roll-call.

Yemen, having been drawn by lot by the Chairman, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Yugoslavia, Bolivia, Burma, Ceylon, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ghana, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Laos, Mexico, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Sweden.

Against: Albania, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, China, Colombia, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, France, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Peru, Poland, Romania, Spain, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela.

Abstaining: Yemen, Afghanistan, Austria, Cambodia, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Finland, Guatemala, Haiti, Iceland, India, Ireland, Jordan, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Malaya (Federation of), Nepal, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Portugal, Syria, Thailand, Tunisia, Uruguay.

The draft resolution was rejected by 32 votes to 18, with 31 abstentions.

10. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Soviet Union draft resolution (A/C.1/L.175/Rev.1).

At the request of the representative of the Soviet Union, a vote was taken by roll-call.

Cambodia, having been drawn by lot by the Chairman, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Cambodia, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Yugoslavia, Albania, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic.

Against: Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Greece, Honduras, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Luxembourg, Malaya (Federation of), Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil.

Abstaining: Ceylon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, Ghana, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Jordan, Libya, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Yemen, Afghanistan, Austria, Bolivia, Burma.

The draft resolution was rejected by 45 votes to 11, with 25 abstentions.

11. Mr. PRICA (Yugoslavia) said that in view of the adoption of the twenty-four-Power draft resolution, his delegation would not insist on its own draft resolution (A/C.1/L.180) being put to the vote. The support which it had received during the discussion of the various

draft resolutions convinced him that it would prove very useful in the near future in efforts to reach a compromise and an understanding on the subject of disarmament.

12. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Soviet Union draft resolution concerning the establishment of a permanent disarmament commission (A/C.1/797), with the amendment submitted by the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic (A/C.1/L.186) and accepted by the Soviet Union.

A vote was taken by roll-call.

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, having been drawn by lot by the Chairman, was called upon to vote first.

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

Against: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Luxembourg, Malaya (Federation of), Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey.

Abstaining: Yemen, Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Austria, Burma, Cambodia, Ceylon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria.

The draft resolution was rejected by 51 votes to 9, with 21 abstentions.

13. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on the Belgian draft resolution (A/3630/Corr.1) concerning collective action to inform and enlighten the peoples of the world as to the dangers of the armaments race, and particularly as to the destructive effects of modern weapons.

14. Mr. NISOT (Belgium) reminded the Committee that the Polish delegation had submitted certain amendments (A/C.1/L.185) to the draft resolution and that his delegation had accepted the second of those amendments. In his opinion, the two paragraphs set out in the first amendment should not be put to the vote, as they related to points on which the Committee had already taken a decision and to put them to the vote would therefore be tantamount to reconsidering previous decisions.

15. After a discussion in which Mr. WINIEWICZ (Poland), Mr. KUZNETSOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Mr. AZKOUL (Lebanon) and Mr. ENTENZAM (Iran) took part, Mr. NISOT (Belgium) withdrew his request.

16. Mr. WINIEWICZ (Poland) asked for a separate vote on each of the two paragraphs contained in the first of the amendments submitted by his delegation.

17. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the first of the Polish amendments (A/C.1/L.185).

The first paragraph was rejected by 46 votes to 18, with 15 abstentions.

The second paragraph was rejected by 42 votes to 18, with 19 abstentions.

18. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Belgian draft resolution, as modified by the second Polish amendment.

At the request of the Belgian representative, a vote was taken by roll-call.

Ireland, having been drawn by lot by the Chairman, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Luxembourg, Malaya (Federation of), Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Cambodia, Canada, Ceylon, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq.

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

Abstaining: Syria, Yemen.

The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted by 70 votes to 9, with 2 abstentions.

19. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had now voted on all the draft resolutions and amendments concerning the question of disarmament. He invited delegations to explain their votes.

20. Mr. KUZNETSOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he had voted against the twenty-four-Power draft resolution as it would not be conducive to agreement on disarmament, but would tend rather to protract negotiations. The draft resolution did not provide for the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons, the liquidation of stocks of such weapons, the suspension of nuclear test explosions, the reduction of armaments and armed forces, or the abolition of military bases on foreign soil. It made it clear that the Western Powers intended to continue the armaments race, which they needed in order to carry out their "positions of strength" policy.

21. A policy of dictatorial acts and ultimatums had no chance of success. A similar resolution which the General Assembly had adopted at its tenth session, resolution 914 (X), had achieved nothing. The "positions of strength" policy was even more inappropriate at the present time.

22. The Soviet delegation thought it necessary to state that the Western Powers bore the whole responsibility for any consequences that their attitude might have. The Western Powers had revealed themselves to the world as the adversaries of disarmament and the organizers of the armaments race. What the peoples of the world were awaiting from the United Nations was not unproductive resolutions, but effective action.

23. For its part, the Soviet Union would persevere in

its efforts to bring the armaments race to an end and to secure the prohibition of nuclear weapons.

24. Mr. MOCH (France) found it difficult to understand how a vote freely cast by a majority could be described as a dictatorial act or an ultimatum. He recalled that the Western Powers were ready to continue negotiations and to seek adjustments and compromises. He congratulated the Chairman on the skill with which he had conducted a particularly complex debate.

25. Mr. DE LA COLINA (Mexico) said that his delegation was ready to vote in favour of any draft resolution containing constructive ideas. It had been particularly glad to support the draft resolution submitted by the twenty-four Powers, as its provisions were flexible and represented a starting point for further negotiation. In view of the categorical statements made by one of the parties, whose absence would virtually preclude all negotiation, the Mexican delegation doubted the practical value of the draft resolution, but had voted for it in the hope that some new compromise would be worked out before the proposal was submitted to the General Assembly. He reserved his delegation's position in the plenary meeting of the General Assembly, if that hope was not fulfilled.

26. Mr. SANDLER (Sweden) said he had abstained from voting on the last two paragraphs of the twenty-four-Power draft resolution in view of the uncertainty as to whether the Sub-Committee would resume its work. He regarded the vote on that proposal simply as an expression of opinion; there was no assurance that it would facilitate any serious negotiations. His delegation regretted that the Japanese proposal had not received the full attention it deserved.

27. Mr. NAJAR (Israel) said that to his great regret he had been unable to vote for the Japanese draft resolution. He agreed with the Japanese delegation that the suspension of nuclear test explosions should occupy a key position in any initial disarmament scheme. However, the proper context for the suspension would be a more comprehensive plan for nuclear disarmament, as suggested in the twenty-four-Power draft resolution. Having voted for the latter, the Israel delegation had been unable, logically, to vote for the Japanese draft resolution. Its vote did not, therefore, imply any intention contrary to that of the Japanese delegation, but was merely the logical expression of its choice of a different method of action, having, however, the same object.

28. Mr. BASTIEN (Haiti) said that he had supported the twenty-four-Power draft resolution because it provided the best means of achieving effective and lasting disarmament. He had also supported certain amendments to that draft resolution, especially the amendment of the five Latin-American Powers, which reflected the desire to diminish ignorance and poverty in the world by reducing expenditure on the armaments race. He had also felt that the Belgian draft should be accepted.

29. His delegation had abstained on all the other proposals except one in the desire to show a conciliatory attitude and to express its appreciation of the efforts made by their sponsors.

Programme of work of the Committee

30. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the fact that the

First Committee's work was very much behind schedule. He therefore proposed that at the beginning of the following meeting the Committee should discuss the priority to be granted to the various items on the agenda.

31. After a discussion in which Mr. LOUTFI (Egypt), Mr. PALAMAS (Greece), Mr. MOCH (France) and

Mr. SLIM (Tunisia) took part, the CHAIRMAN proposed that at the beginning of the following meeting the Committee should decide which item of the agenda would be discussed after item 57.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.