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*President: Mr. Corneliu MANESCU (Romania).*

## AGENDA ITEM 96

Conclusion of a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons

### REPORT OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE (A/6945)

1. Mr. ÖRN (Sweden) (Rapporteur of the First Committee) (translated from French): As Rapporteur of the First Committee, I have the honour to submit to the Assembly the report on agenda item 96 [A/6945].

2. The First Committee has just adopted by 56 votes to none, with 33 abstentions, the draft resolution in paragraph 6 of its report; it is this draft resolution which it recommends that the General Assembly should adopt:

*In conformity with rule 68 of the rules of procedure, it was decided not to discuss the report of the First Committee.*

3. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): In accordance with the decision just taken by the General Assembly, interventions will be limited to explanations of vote.

4. Mr. NAIK (Pakistan): The initiative of the Soviet Union in placing on our agenda the item concerning the conclusion of a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons [A/6834] has been endorsed by the First Committee. I should like to take this opportunity of commending the Soviet Union for providing the Assembly with yet another opportunity for considering an issue which has remained uppermost

in the mind of the world community since the dawn of the atomic age. In the last two decades the United Nations has carried on an unrelenting struggle for disarmament. While progress in those efforts has been slow, nuclear technology has advanced at a formidable pace and the arms race, particularly in nuclear armaments, has continued unimpeded. The report of the Secretary-General [A/6858 and Corr.1], submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2162A (XXI), has provided us with a deeper and clearer understanding of the catastrophic effects of the use of nuclear weapons. The report emphasizes that it is imperative that the world community should continue to search for ways of preventing the total destruction of humanity.

5. The desirability of concluding a convention prohibiting the use of nuclear weapons was stressed by the General Assembly in its resolution 1653 (XVI) and reiterated at the twenty-first session, when by resolution 2164 (XXI) the General Assembly expressed its conviction "that the signing of a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear . . . weapons would greatly facilitate negotiations on general and complete disarmament under effective international control and give further impetus to the search for a solution of the urgent problem of nuclear disarmament". The delegation of Pakistan supported both those resolutions and believes that the draft resolution recommended by the First Committee in its report [A/6945, para. 6] is a logical sequel to the Assembly's previous action on this question.

6. My delegation was compelled to abstain when the draft resolution was put to the vote in the First Committee. We explained that because of the lack of time the Pakistan delegation, like several other delegations had not been able to consult and receive instructions from its Government. I am happy to state that my delegation is now in a position to vote in favour of the draft resolution contained in the First Committee's report.

7. Mr. ALARCON DE QUESADA (Cuba) (translated from Spanish): My delegation did not take part in the debate held in the First Committee on agenda item 96, entitled "Conclusion of a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons". That is why we now wish to explain the vote which Cuba cast in that Committee and which we shall confirm here in the plenary meeting.

8. The Cuban people, like all the peoples of the world, want peace. Peace is important to our people, who are engaged in building an independent economy, in speeding up the development of agriculture, in pushing ahead with vast educational plans and in promoting public health and social security for all. The Cuban people have for years been carrying

on a gigantic struggle against backwardness, poverty and ignorance, which are the inheritance from a long period of our history in which we were dominated by foreign capital. This undertaking is in itself a peaceful work.

9. Cuba has always pronounced itself in favour of general and complete disarmament under international control, of the absolute prohibition of the manufacture and stockpiling of nuclear and thermo-nuclear weapons and of their total elimination. Nevertheless, it is a well known fact that the steps so far taken towards disarmament are almost insignificant. The resistance shown by the imperialist Powers, particularly the United States, in order to prevent a solution to these problems in accordance with the interests of peoples is well known. The present international situation does not offer much hope with regard to the possibility of agreements being reached which would effectively promote disarmament and prevent the threat of a nuclear conflagration.

10. The present threats to peace arise not from the nature or the destructive power of existing weapons, but from the aggressive policy of North American imperialism. This aggressive policy is being carried out by means of a global strategy designed to eliminate the national liberation movements of oppressed peoples, to keep the weaker States in subjection and to impose the domination of Washington on the international community. The actions of the North American Government afford daily proof that it has not the slightest interest in the cause of world peace, and that, on the contrary, war is the very essence of its conduct. Its barbaric aggression in Viet-Nam, its intention to extend the war against other peoples in South-East Asia, its policy of interference and exploitation in Latin America, its machinations against the sovereign States of Africa and its obstinate endeavour to destroy the Cuban revolution clearly show that the Government of the United States does not desire the establishment of genuine peaceful relations among all States. We have always maintained that peace, in order to be acceptable, must be universal. Peace is indivisible, and all the peoples of the world have a right to it, whether they are large or small, powerful or weak.

11. We have always maintained that our people will only accept peace with dignity, that is to say a genuine peace which will ensure the independence, self-determination, sovereignty and territorial integrity of all States without distinctions or exceptions of any kind. There can be no talk of peace while the aggressive policy of North American imperialism against peoples fighting for their independence and its gross violations of the rights of weaker States continue.

12. In the present international situation discussions on disarmament take on an unrealistic character. It is for this reason that the revolutionary Government of Cuba is not prepared to accept compromises, under these conditions, in regard to disarmament or to problems arising out of nuclear armaments, although we know that at our present stage of technological development this attitude means nothing more than strict adherence to the principles which we consider essential. We must indicate to small peoples that what

we mean is not only a correct appreciation of the international situation, but the only way to avoid greater dangers for the world.

13. At present the only cause of war is the aggressive and interventionist policy of North American imperialism. The only way to attain peace is by the union of all anti-imperialist forces and militant solidarity with the national liberation movements of the oppressed peoples which are today fighting decisive battles against their oppressors.

14. As the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba stated in May 1967:

"The Yankee imperialists are not only developing further their nuclear armaments, but they are also developing, at top speed, lethal agents of chemical and bacteriological warfare.

"What can be the result if the peoples renounce the development of their means of defence, unless it be to facilitate for the imperialists the ideal conditions which would enable them to subject the world to their terror and their blackmail?

"So long as mankind has no system that offers to all peoples without exception equal and effective guarantees of security, without privileges for anyone, the right of countries threatened by imperialism to develop their means of defence, whatever they may be, cannot be renounced."

15. These are the reasons which guide the conduct of the Cuban delegation in all matters relating to disarmament and to nuclear dangers. They are the reasons underlying our abstention in the vote in the First Committee, which we shall repeat now in this plenary meeting.

16. Mr. GAUCI (Malta): We share with all other countries the desire to rid the world of the existence and the threat of nuclear weapons, and as we are firmly committed to the principle of military denuclearization we shall support any initiative that constitutes a positive approach to the eventual goal of general and complete disarmament, with priority for nuclear disarmament.

17. We do not minimize the complexities of the problems involved, and we do not think they are sufficiently reflected in the draft resolution which has been proposed [A/6945, para. 6], but we agree that this matter deserves urgent study by all Member States.

18. We note that the draft resolution acknowledges the need for general and complete disarmament under effective control. We also note that the draft resolution allows for the consideration of other proposals that might be made on this question. We recognize in the draft resolution, which was submitted by the Soviet Union and nine other delegations, an expression of this universal concern over the existence of nuclear weapons, and we shall consequently support this draft resolution as a step towards the eventual goal of nuclear disarmament.

19. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I call upon the Assembly to vote on the draft resolution recommended for adoption by the First Committee [A/6945, para. 6]. A roll-call vote has been requested.

*A vote was taken by roll-call.*

*Ceylon, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first.*

*In favour:* Ceylon, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo (Brazzaville), Congo (Democratic Republic of), Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives Islands, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Syria, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon

*Against:* None

*Abstaining:* China, Cuba, Denmark, France, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Malawi, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Portugal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Australia, Belgium, Burma, Canada

*The draft resolution was adopted by 77 votes to none, with 29 abstentions [resolution 2289 (XXII)].\**

20. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I call on the representative of the United States, who has asked to exercise his right of reply.

21. Mr. FISHER (United States of America): I should like quite briefly to exercise my right of reply. The representative of Cuba has taken advantage of his opportunity of explaining his vote to rehash some stale propaganda charges. My delegation rejects them completely.

#### AGENDA ITEM 47

Multilateral food aid:

(b) Review of the World Food Programme

REPORT OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE (A/6943)

*Mr. Chadha (India), Rapporteur of the Second Committee, presented the report of that Committee and then spoke as follows:*

22. Mr. CHADHA (India), Rapporteur of the Second Committee: This item was introduced in the Committee by the Executive Director, Mr. A. H. Boerma, who gave an account of the activities of the programme. These activities were generally welcomed in the discussion that followed and hope was expressed that the programme would continue to play a useful role in the economic development of developing countries. At the conclusion of the discussion the Committee unanimously adopted the draft resolution recommended

by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1255 (XLIII).

23. In this draft resolution the General Assembly is invited to establish a target of \$200 million for voluntary contributions to the World Food Programme for the years 1969 and 1970, and to urge Member States to make every effort to ensure the full attainment of the target.

24. The draft also provides for the convening of a pledging conference for that purpose early in 1968, and another pledging conference early in 1970 for the announcement of pledges for the years 1971 and 1972. The text of this draft resolution, which the Committee has recommended for adoption by the General Assembly, is to be found in its report [A/6943, para. 5].

25. With these remarks, I submit the Committee's recommendation for the consideration of the General Assembly.

*Pursuant to rule 68 of the rules of procedure, it was decided not to discuss the report of the Second Committee.*

26. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I call upon the Assembly to vote on the draft resolution in the Second Committee's report [A/6943, para. 5], recommended by that Committee for adoption.

27. Since the draft resolution was adopted by the Second Committee without opposition, may I take it that the General Assembly also adopts it without any objection?

*The draft resolution was adopted without objection [resolution 2290 (XXII)].*

#### AGENDA ITEM 77

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations: report of the Committee on Contributions

REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE [A/6942]

#### AGENDA ITEM 81

Publications and documentation of the United Nations: report of the Secretary-General  
REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE [A/6944]

*Mr. Lynch (New Zealand), Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee, presented the reports of that Committee and then spoke as follows:*

28. Mr. LYNCH (New Zealand), Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee: In its report on item 77, the Fifth Committee has submitted a draft resolution [A/6942, para. 13] incorporating a revised scale of assessments for Member States, contributions to the regular budget for the years 1968-70. The Committee's report on item 81 includes a draft resolution [A/6944, para. 7] recommending endorsement of certain measures to control and limit the volume of documentation.

29. In conclusion, the Fifth Committee hopes that the General Assembly will give its general approval to the draft resolutions and recommendations it has submitted on these two agenda items.

*Pursuant to rule 68 of the rules of procedure, it was decided not to discuss the reports of the Fifth Committee.*

\*/ The representative of Dahomey informed the Secretariat subsequently that he would have voted for the draft resolution if he had been present.

30. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): In accordance with the Assembly's decision, statements will be limited to explanations of vote.

31. Mr. NAITO (Japan) (translated from Spanish): The Japanese delegation cannot support the new scale of assessments recommended by the Fifth Committee for adoption by the General Assembly, because the assessment for Japan of 3.78 per cent according to the new scale constitutes an excessive increase in comparison with the present assessment of 2.77 per cent.

32. My delegation suggested in the Fifth Committee that the Committee on Contributions should avoid excessively drastic fluctuations in the scale, and that the increases in assessments for any country should not exceed 20 per cent for any three-year period. Nevertheless, we have taken note of the statement made in this connexion by the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions, in the Fifth Committee, to the effect that he would draw to the attention of the Committee on Contributions, for future discussion, the consideration of more restrictive measures.

33. Consequently, and in accordance with the basic policy of my country, which is to co-operate with the United Nations, my delegation will not vote against the draft resolution contained in the report of the Fifth Committee [A/6942, para. 17], but will abstain.

34. Mr. FRANZI (Italy) (translated from French): The Italian delegation will abstain from voting on the draft resolution on the scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations. It will not vote against the draft resolution because it wishes to emphasize that it does not attribute responsibility for proposals submitted to the General Assembly in regard to the scale of assessments to the discretionary powers of the Committee on Contributions, but to the provisions of its terms of reference.

35. The Italian delegation considers that the criteria and working methods of the Committee on Contributions should be subjected to careful analysis with a view to revision. We made certain suggestions in that respect during the debate in the Fifth Committee (1192nd meeting). These suggestions should be the basis for the revision of the Committee's terms of reference.

36. We propose now that the General Assembly should examine this matter at its twenty-third session with all due attention, with a view particularly to avoiding any further ambiguities in 1970 when the Committee on Contributions will present its report on the scale of assessments for 1971-1973.

37. The policy of the Italian delegation will be to participate actively in bringing the Committee's terms of reference up to date, and in any event to be consulted by the Committee whenever there is any question of altering the rate of the Italian contribution to the regular budget of the United Nations.

38. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I now put to the vote the Fifth Committee's draft resolution on agenda item 77, reproduced in the Committee's report [A/6942, para. 13].

*The draft resolution was adopted by 76 votes to 4, with 5 abstentions [resolution 2291 (XXII)]*

39. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I shall now call on those representatives who wish to explain their vote.

40. Mr. PILLADO SALAS (Argentina) (translated from Spanish): The Argentine delegation voted against the scale of assessments contained in the Committee's report, and consequently against the percentages specified by the Committee on Contributions, because of its conviction that the assessment specified for Argentina had been the subject of an unjustified increase. We also believe that the capacity to pay and in particular the ability to secure foreign currency are two essential elements which have not been taken sufficiently into account.

41. We wish to repeat here the statement made by our delegation in the Fifth Committee to the effect that per capita income indexes are always of very relative value, due principally, among other reasons, to the variety of economic systems existing in the world.

42. Furthermore, General Assembly resolution 14 A (1) establishes clearly and categorically that priority should be given to the capacity to pay and the ability to secure foreign currency. In the light of these principles it is obvious that our country has been subjected to an unexplainable increase, due mainly to the difficulties created by its numerous international commitments and the abnormal conditions of its foreign trade. We hope that at its forthcoming meetings the Committee on Contributions will take into account the valid arguments advanced by my delegation, clearly and unquestionably, in the Fifth Committee.

43. In conclusion, I repeat what we also said in the First Committee, namely that our attitude should in no way be interpreted as a criticism of the efficient work carried out by every member of the Committee; our opposition relates rather to the system used to determine the scale of contributions of Member States.

44. Mr. MARRON (Spain) (translated from Spanish): I should like to say a few brief words to explain why my delegation was unable to support the draft resolution fixing the scale of contributions by Member States to the expenses of the United Nations.

45. Briefly, these reasons are the same as those which were stated at the meetings of the Fifth Committee; that is to say we are convinced that our assessment, and still more specifically the percentage increase which it represented, is not in proportion to the actual rate of development in Spain during the period studied for the purpose of determining the assessments. This is because certain factors, including the price index, were not taken into account, which means that the figures calculated for per capita income were in fact higher than the present effective income of our nation. The proof of this is seen in the present devaluation of our currency.

46. This disagreement in no way implies any doubt that the procedures applied by the Committee on Contributions were in any way whatsoever a departure

from the objective methods which have constituted its normal standard of procedure.

47. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I now put to the vote the Fifth Committee's draft resolution on agenda item 81, contained in its report [A/6944, para. 7].

48. Since the draft resolution was adopted unanimously by the Fifth Committee, may I take it that the General Assembly also adopts it unanimously?

*The draft resolution was adopted unanimously [resolution 2292 (XXII)].*

*The meeting rose at 4.10 p.m.*