

United Nations GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EIGHTEENTH SESSION

Official Records



SECOND COMMITTEE, 950th
MEETING

Monday, 9 December 1963,
at 11.15 a.m.

NEW YORK

CONTENTS

	Page
<i>Agenda item 34:</i>	
<i>Conversion to peaceful needs of the resources released by disarmament: report of the Secretary-General (concluded)</i>	423
<i>Agenda items 12, 33, 35, 36, 37, 39 and 76:</i>	
<i>Report of the Economic and Social Council (continued)</i>	
<i>Economic development of under-developed countries (concluded)</i>	
<i>United Nations training and research institute: report of the Secretary-General (concluded)</i>	
<i>Progress and operations of the Special Fund (concluded)</i>	
<i>United Nations programmes of technical co-operation (concluded)</i>	
<i>Co-operation for the eradication of illiteracy throughout the world: report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) (concluded)</i>	
<i>Means of promoting agrarian reform (concluded)</i>	
<i>Adoption of the draft reports of the Committee</i>	425
<i>Organization of the work of the Second Committee at future sessions of the General Assembly (concluded)</i>	
<i>Adoption of the draft report of the Committee</i>	425

Chairman: Mr. Ismael THAJEB (Indonesia).

AGENDA ITEM 34

Conversion to peaceful needs of the resources released by disarmament: report of the Secretary-General (E/3736 and Add.1-9, A/5503, chap. I; A/5537, A/5538, A/C.2/L.785) (concluded)

1. Mr. FINGER (United States of America) said that his delegation and the delegations of Nigeria and the Soviet Union had agreed to submit a joint draft resolution (A/C.2/L.785) replacing the two texts which had been initially submitted. The three-Power draft resolution contained the first preambular paragraph of the Nigerian draft (A/C.2/L.767/Rev.1) and the remainder of the preamble of the two-Power draft (A/C.2/L.770); operative paragraphs 1 and 2 of the latter; paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Nigerian draft, with the substitution at the end of paragraph 4 of the words "with the Secretary-General" for the words "in carrying out the above-mentioned studies with the group of experts"; a new paragraph 5; and paragraph 3 of the two-Power draft, which had become paragraph 6 of the new text.

2. His Government still felt that the establishment of a new group of experts was premature but had no objection to the Council's considering the matter at its

thirty-seventh session, on the understanding that there was no commitment or prejudgement of the issue.

3. Mr. RADIVOJEVIC (Yugoslavia) observed that the eighteenth session of the General Assembly was being held in an atmosphere of lessened political tension and growing hope that the Treaty banning nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water, signed at Moscow in August 1963, would be followed by other efforts to promote peace and economic stability. The study entitled Economic and Social Consequences of Disarmament (E/3593/Rev.1) showed that, from the economic standpoint, disarmament was not only possible but desirable. In addition to the political harm it entailed, the arms race placed a tremendous burden on the economies of the military Powers. At a time when the under-developed countries were striving to mobilize more resources for their economic development, vast human and material resources were being wasted in the pursuit of military goals. The freezing and reduction of military budgets, accompanied by the allocation of a certain percentage of the expenditure on armaments to a United Nations fund for the accelerated development of the under-developed countries, would be in the interest of all countries, irrespective of their social systems and levels of economic development. The prospects for the implementation of such measures had recently become brighter. There was no reason for delaying the preparation of studies on the subject.

4. His delegation had been prepared to accept both the texts originally submitted to the Committee and would support the new three-Power joint draft resolution (A/C.2/L.785) in the hope that rapid advance would be made. He looked forward to the early submission of the first progress reports.

5. Mr. ROSSIDES (Cyprus) said that two important developments which had occurred in the past year should have been reflected in the draft resolution. First, there was a growing awareness of the threat posed by the widening gap in levels of living between the developed and the developing countries. The magnitude of the threat was now realized and it would be aggravated by the steady growth in the world's population. The need to use the resources released by disarmament to promote the development of the developing countries had been mentioned in previous resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, and it was regrettable that it was not mentioned in the joint draft resolution.

6. Secondly, it had been recognized that it was possible to reach agreement on collateral measures to precede complete disarmament. The possibility of such agreement had been shown by the Moscow treaty, the bilateral space agreement of 8 June 1962 and the agreement to prohibit the orbiting of nuclear weapons in space (General Assembly resolution 1884 (XVIII)). The Soviet acceptance of the proposal on the retention of a "nuclear umbrella" also represented progress in

that respect. Among the collateral measures which could be carried out, consideration should be given to the halting of arms production and the freezing of existing levels of armaments. Such a step had been recommended in the First Committee, during the current session, by several delegations, including those of Canada (1320th meeting), Cyprus (1330th meeting), New Zealand (1324th meeting) and Sweden (1321st meeting).

7. The release of resources should not be regarded as conditional on the achievement of general and complete disarmament. The necessary resources to bridge the gap in levels of living between the developed and under-developed countries could be released simply by limiting or halting arms production. The need to bridge that gap was a reason for disarming; development should not be considered merely incidental to the process of disarmament. Accordingly, the third preambular paragraph of the three-Power draft resolution might mention that further agreements resulting in the limitation of armaments would release resources for the development of the developing countries. In addition, the draft resolution might request the Secretary-General to transmit to the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament the summary records of the Second Committee and the text of the draft resolution. However, his delegation would not insist on those suggestions unless it was apparent that they commanded general support.

8. Mr. KANO (Nigeria) pointed out that operative paragraph 2 of the Nigerian draft resolution (A/C.2/L.767/Rev.1), which had been the main point of controversy, had been partly incorporated in the new joint draft resolution (A/C.2/L.785). He hoped that the Council would examine the matter from the point of view of the developing countries and give favourable consideration to the possibility of establishing an ad hoc group. Although the text did not fully reflect the desire of his delegation, he hoped that it would be adopted unanimously.

9. Mr. BEN SAOUD (Libya) said, on behalf of thirty-one delegations from Africa and the Middle East, that the question of the economic consequences of disarmament was of paramount interest to developing countries. Although those countries were not directly involved in the process of disarmament, they had nevertheless striven incessantly to bring about general disarmament, inspired, on the one hand, by a sincere desire and strong determination to ensure lasting peace and security in the world, and, on the other, to seek a speedy conversion to peaceful needs of the resources to be released by disarmament.

10. For those reasons, they had given their wholehearted support to the proposal, made by President Nkrumah of Ghana at the fifteenth session of the General Assembly (869th plenary meeting), that some studies should be undertaken immediately and that an international team of scientists, technicians and administrators should be formed, under United Nations auspices, to produce a plan showing what could in fact be done with the resources which were being wasted in armaments. Pursuant to the request of the General Assembly (resolution 1516 (XV)), the Secretary-General, assisted by a consultative group of experts, had examined various aspects of the economic and social consequences of disarmament and had submitted his report to the General Assembly at its seventeenth session (E/3593/Rev.1). His delegation had been astounded to learn from that report that the astronomi-

cal amount of \$120,000 million was being spent annually on armaments. In that connexion, he had been gratified by the United States representative's statement (948th meeting) that his country was committed to the goal of general and complete disarmament and that the United Nations had a vital interest in promoting, in every useful way, preparations for facilitating the readjustments which a disarmament process would necessitate. That view had also been reflected in the address, part of which the United States representative had cited, made by the late President Kennedy at the American University.

11. The principle of effective international control was sometimes considered as the main obstacle to an agreement on general disarmament. Others felt that the reconversion of the arms industry to peaceful uses and the economic readjustment of the nuclear Powers were the major difficulties to be overcome in order to pave the way for the solution of the political problems which had already been given a good start by the signing of the Moscow treaty.

12. It was generally agreed—as was reflected in the statements of the representatives of the United States, the Soviet Union and Nigeria—that, because of its international nature and of the technical facilities at its disposal, the United Nations was best suited to provide experts to carry out studies on the economic consequences of disarmament and on the processes of converting the resources released by disarmament to peaceful needs. The difference of opinion between the sponsors of the two draft resolutions which had been submitted concerned the form that should be given to such machinery. The group of thirty-one delegations on whose behalf he was speaking had been happy to hear the United States representative announce that agreement had been reached between the sponsors and hoped that the joint draft resolution would be adopted unanimously. That would be another striking example of international co-operation and another practical step towards achieving the objectives of the United Nations Development Decade.

13. Mr. TRUKHAN (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the alarming fact that \$120,000 million was spent annually on armaments was often mentioned in various United Nations bodies. In that connexion, his delegation shared the conviction, expressed in General Assembly resolution 1837 (XVII), that disarmament and the conversion of huge resources to peaceful uses would open up vast opportunities for the benefit of mankind. It was the urgent duty of the United Nations to examine the economic and social consequences of disarmament.

14. The Secretariat had been devoting increasing attention to that matter, as could be seen from the report of the Council (A/5503) and from the Secretary-General's report to the Council (E/3736). Pursuant to Council resolution 891 (XXXIV), the Secretary-General had invited Member States to provide information on the progress made in their studies of the detailed aspects of the economic and social consequences of disarmament which could be used for making necessary economic and social adjustments in the event of disarmament. The replies received from Governments (E/3736/Add.1-9) had indicated that further studies bearing specifically on that matter were being undertaken by only a few Governments. His delegation could not agree with the view that such studies would be of only limited value so long as there was no agreement on the stages and timing of a disarmament programme. There was a need for detailed research in order to

prepare mankind, both physically and morally, for disarmament.

15. When the results of the studies carried out by authoritative bodies were made available to the peoples of the world and they understood that disarmament would be an unqualified blessing to all mankind, they would intensify their efforts to achieve general and complete disarmament. World public opinion must be informed that the resources released by disarmament would make it possible to increase the amount of assistance rendered to the developing countries, help to speed up the economic development of the developed countries, reduce unemployment and taxes, and improve social welfare. It would also promote international economic, scientific and technical co-operation. The Byelorussian delegation therefore fully supported the joint draft resolution submitted by the Soviet Union, the United States and Nigeria.

16. True to its policy of peaceful coexistence, his delegation had consistently striven for general and complete disarmament. It therefore hoped that the three-Power draft resolution would be adopted unanimously.

17. Mr. KAPLANSKY (Canada) said that his country was in favour of general and complete disarmament under effective international control. Canada's record in the General Assembly and in the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament was proof of its desire to reach an effective agreement in that connexion.

18. He recalled the conclusions in the study of the Consultative Group of experts on the economic and social consequences of disarmament (E/3593/Rev.1) that careful preparation would be required to ensure that the various stages of the disarmament process were accompanied by as little disturbance of economic life as possible and that the achievement of general and complete disarmament would be an unqualified blessing to all mankind. His delegation had already submitted a lengthy study on the economic and social consequences for Canada of disarmament (E/3593/Rev.1/Add.1-5, sect. II) and had declared that further studies would be carried out on the same subject.

19. His delegation supported the three-Power draft resolution, which was based on a sound and pragmatic approach, and hoped that it would be adopted unanimously. He welcomed the request addressed to the Secretary-General regarding the survey of possibilities of undertaking studies of the problems that might arise in relation to primary commodities. The study of specific conversion problems, however, should be

left to national Governments, which would undoubtedly find the proposed studies very useful. Lastly, he considered that it would be premature to contemplate the establishment of an ad hoc group.

20. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the draft resolution of Nigeria, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America (A/C.2/L.785).

The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

AGENDA ITEMS 12, 33, 35, 36, 37, 39 AND 76

Report of the Economic and Social Council (continued)

Economic development of under-developed countries (concluded)

United Nations training and research institute: report of the Secretary-General (concluded)

Progress and operations of the Special Fund (concluded)

United Nations programmes of technical co-operation (concluded)

Co-operation for the eradication of illiteracy throughout the world: report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (concluded)

Means of promoting agrarian reform (concluded)

ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE (A/C.2/L.781, A/C.2/L.783)

21. Mr. APPIAH (Ghana), Rapporteur, introduced the draft reports of the Committee on agenda items 12, 33, 35, 39 and 76 (A/C.2/L.781) and on items 12, 36 and 37 (A/C.2/L.783).

22. Mr. FINGER (United States of America) proposed that, in paragraph 132 of document A/C.2/L.781, the Rapporteur should use the wording actually adopted by the Committee at its 943rd meeting.

It was so decided.

The draft reports were adopted unanimously.

Organization of the work of the Second Committee at future sessions of the General Assembly (concluded)

ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE (A/C.2/L.784)

23. Mr. APPIAH (Ghana), Rapporteur, introduced the draft report of the Committee (A/C.2/L.784).

The draft report was adopted unanimously.

The meeting rose at 1.5 p.m.