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Agenda item 50

URGENT NEED FOR A COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY

Report of the First CommitteeRapporteur: Mr. Kazimierz TOMASZEWSKI (Poland)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Urgent need for a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty: report of the Conference on Disarmament" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-second session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 41/47 of 3 December 1986.
2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 18 September 1987, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.
3. At its 2nd meeting, on 1 October, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on the disarmament items allocated to it, namely, items 48 to 69, followed by statements on specific disarmament agenda items and continuation of the general debate, as necessary. The deliberations on those items took place between the 3rd and the 31st meetings, from 12 October to 3 November (see A/C.1/42/PV.3-31).
4. In connection with item 50, the First Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Report of the Conference on Disarmament; 1/
 - (b) Letter dated 15 January 1987 from the Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/42/89);

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/42/27).

(c) Letter dated 30 March 1987 from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the concluding document of the regular session of the Committee of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States parties to the Warsaw Treaty of Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Assistance, held at Moscow on 24 and 25 March 1987 (A/42/189-S/18768);

(d) Letter dated 29 May 1987 from the Permanent Representative of the German Democratic Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the communiqué and documents adopted at the session of the Political Consultative Committee of the States parties to the Warsaw Treaty of Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Assistance, held at Berlin on 28 and 29 May 1987 (A/42/313-S/18888);

(e) Letter dated 28 May 1987 from the representatives of Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden and the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the joint statement dated 22 May 1987 of the President of Argentina, the Prime Minister of Greece, the Prime Minister of India, the President of Mexico, the Prime Minister of Sweden and the First President of the United Republic of Tanzania (A/42/319-S/18894);

(f) Letter dated 12 June 1987 from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/42/346-S/18922);

(g) Letter dated 15 July 1987 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/42/404-S/18982);

(h) Letter dated 15 July 1987 from the Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the final statement of the fifth session of the InterAction Council, held at Kuala Lumpur from 19 to 21 April 1987 (A/42/407);

(i) Letter dated 20 July 1987 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Samoa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the final communiqué of the eighteenth South Pacific Forum, held at Apia on 29 and 30 May 1987 (A/42/417);

(j) Note verbale dated 14 August 1987 from the Permanent Mission of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/42/509);

(k) Letter dated 5 October 1987 from the Head of the Delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the forty-second session of the General Assembly addressed to the Secretary-General (A/42/621-S/19180);

(l) Letter dated 9 October 1987 from the Permanent Representatives of Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden and the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the joint statement issued on 7 October 1987 by the President of Argentina, the Prime

Minister of Greece, the Prime Minister of India, the President of Mexico, the Prime Minister of Sweden and the First President of the United Republic of Tanzania (A/42/652-S/19201);

(m) Letter dated 19 October 1987 from the Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Vancouver Declaration on World Trade, the Okanagan Statement on Southern Africa and Programme of Action, and the communiqué of the Meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government, held at Vancouver from 13 to 17 October 1987 (A/42/677);

(n) Letter dated 23 October 1987 from the Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a copy of the final communiqué of the Meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries to the forty-second session of the General Assembly, held in New York from 5 to 7 October 1987 (A/42/681);

(o) Letter dated 2 November 1987 from the Permanent Representative of Czechoslovakia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué and the document entitled "Towards Increasing the Effectiveness of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva" issued at the session of the Committee of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Warsaw Treaty, held at Prague on 28 and 29 October 1987 (A/42/708 and Corr.1);

(p) Note verbale dated 18 September 1987 from the Permanent Representative of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.1/42/2).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/42/L.77

5. On 27 October 1987, Australia, Austria, The Bahamas, Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, Canada, Denmark, Fiji, Finland, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Liberia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, the Solomon Islands, Sweden, Vanuatu and Zaire submitted a draft resolution, entitled "Urgent need for a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty" (A/C.1/42/L.77), which was later also sponsored by Barbados, Rwanda and Thailand. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of New Zealand at the 29th meeting, on 2 November.

6. At its 43rd meeting, on 13 November, the Committee voted on draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.77 as follows:

(a) Operative paragraph 3 was adopted by a recorded vote of 114 to none, with 15 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Australia, Austria, The Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire,

Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burma, Cuba, Cyprus, France, India, Syrian Arab Republic, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela, Yugoslavia.

(b) The draft resolution, as a whole, was adopted by a recorded vote of 122 to 2, with 8 abstentions (see para. 7). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Australia, Austria, The Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: France, United States of America.

Abstaining: Angola, Argentina, Brazil, China, Cuba, India, Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

Urgent need for a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty

The General Assembly,

Convinced that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought,

Convinced of the consequent urgent need for an end to the nuclear-arms race and the immediate and verifiable reduction and ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons,

Convinced, therefore, that an end to all nuclear testing by all States in all environments for all time is an essential step in order to prevent the qualitative improvement and development of nuclear weapons and further nuclear proliferation and to contribute, along with other concurrent efforts to limit and reduce nuclear arms, to the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons,

Welcoming the joint statement of 17 September 1987 by the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics that they have agreed to commence negotiations in 1987 on nuclear testing issues,

Recalling the proposals by the leaders of the six-nation initiative to promote an end to nuclear testing, and other recent initiatives to this end,

Convinced that the most effective way to achieve the discontinuance of all nuclear tests in all environments for all time is through the conclusion, at an early date, of a verifiable, comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty open to and capable of attracting the adherence of all States,

Reaffirming the particular responsibilities of the Conference on Disarmament in the negotiation of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty,

1. Reaffirms its conviction that a treaty to achieve the prohibition of all nuclear-test explosions by all States in all environments for all time is a matter of fundamental importance;

2. Urges, therefore, that the following actions be taken in order that a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty may be concluded at an early date:

(a) The Conference on Disarmament should initiate substantive work on all aspects of a nuclear-test-ban treaty at the beginning of its 1988 session;

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(b) States members of the Conference on Disarmament, in particular the nuclear-weapon States, and all other States should co-operate in order to facilitate and promote such work;

(c) The nuclear-weapon States, especially those which possess the most important nuclear arsenals, should agree to appropriate verifiable, interim measures with a view to realizing a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty;

(d) Those nuclear-weapon States which have not yet done so should adhere to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water; 2/

3. Also urges the Conference on Disarmament:

(a) To take immediate steps for the establishment, with the widest possible participation, of an international seismic monitoring network with a view to the further development of its potential to monitor and verify compliance with a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty;

(b) In this context, to take into account the progress achieved by the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Co-operative Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events, including the exchange of wave-form data, and other relevant initiatives by individual States and groups of States;

(c) To initiate detailed investigation of other measures to monitor and verify compliance with such a treaty, including an international network to monitor atmospheric radioactivity;

4. Calls upon the Conference on Disarmament to report to the General Assembly at its forty-third session on progress made;

5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-third session the item entitled "Urgent need for a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty".
