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Agenda item 47

URGENT NEED FOR A COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY

Report of the First CommitteeRapporteur: Mr. Ngaré KESSELY (Chad)

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 thirty-ninth session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 38/63 of 15 December 1983.
2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 1984, 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 15 October, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on the disarmament items allocated to it, namely, items 45 to 65 and item 142 which was allocated to the First Committee by the General Assembly at its 27th plenary meeting, on 9 October, 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 36th meetings, from 17 October to 12 November (see A/C.1/39/PV.3-36).
4. In connection with item 47, the First Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Report of the Conference on Disarmament; 1/

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/39/27).

(b) Letter dated 23 May 1984 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 Joint Declaration by Mrs. Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India, Mr. Miguel de la Madrid, President of Mexico, Mr. Julius Nyerere, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Mr. Olof Palme, Prime Minister of Sweden, Mr. Andreas Papandreou, Prime Minister of Greece, and Mr. Raúl Alfonsín, President of Argentina, issued on 22 May 1984 at Athens, Buenos Aires, Dar es Salaam, Mexico City, New Delhi and Stockholm (A/39/277-S/16587);

(c) Note verbale dated 7 June 1984 from the Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the United Nations Secretariat (A/39/296-S/16619);

(d) Letter dated 9 July 1984 from the Permanent Representatives of Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the declaration adopted by the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (A/39/343);

(e) Letter dated 27 September 1984 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Togo to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/39/529);

(f) Letter dated 8 October 1984 from the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Final Communiqué of the Meeting of Ministers and Heads of Delegation of the Non-Aligned Countries to the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly, held in New York from 1 to 5 October 1984 (A/39/560-S/16773).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/39/L.71

5. On 12 November, Australia, the Bahamas, Canada, Denmark, Fiji, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Kenya, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden and Vanuatu submitted a draft resolution, entitled "Urgent need for a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty" (A/C.1/39/L.71), which was later also sponsored by Brunei Darussalam, Portugal, Sierra Leone, Singapore and Thailand. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Australia at the 40th meeting, on 15 November.

6. At its 47th meeting, on 26 November, the Committee voted on draft resolution A/C.1/39/L.71 as follows:

(a) Operative paragraph 4 was adopted by a recorded vote of 71 to 18, with 35 abstentions. The voting was as follows: 2/

2/ Subsequently, the delegation of the Congo indicated that it had intended to abstain.

In favour: Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bhutan, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Denmark, Djibouti, Fiji, Finland, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Liberia, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Vanuatu, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: Afghanistan, Angola, Argentina, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, India, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Viet Nam.

Abstaining: Algeria, Burma, Chile, China, Colombia, Democratic Yemen, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Gabon, Ghana, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Panama, Romania, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zimbabwe.

(b) The draft resolution, as a whole, was adopted by a recorded vote of 109 to none, with 26 abstentions (see para. 7). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Algeria, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab

Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Afghanistan, Angola, Argentina, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, China, Congo, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, France, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, India, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Panama, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Viet Nam.

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 of the urgent need for a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty capable of attracting the widest possible international support and adherence,

Reaffirming its conviction that an end to all nuclear testing by all States in all environments for all time would be a major step towards ending the qualitative improvement, development and proliferation of nuclear weapons, a means of relieving the deep apprehension concerning the harmful consequences of radioactive contamination for the health of present and future generations and a measure of the utmost importance in bringing the nuclear-arms race to an end,

Recalling that the parties to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water ^{3/} undertook not to carry out any nuclear-weapon-test explosion, or any other nuclear explosion, in the environments covered by that Treaty, and that in that Treaty the parties expressed their determination to continue negotiations to achieve the discontinuance of all test explosions of nuclear weapons for all time,

^{3/} United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 480, No. 6964, p. 43.

Recalling also that the parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons 4/ recalled the determination expressed by the parties to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water in its preamble to seek to achieve the discontinuance of all test explosions of nuclear weapons for all time and to continue negotiations to this end, declaring their intention to achieve at the earliest possible date the cessation of the nuclear-arms race and to undertake effective measures in the direction of nuclear disarmament,

Recalling further its previous resolutions on this subject,

Taking into account that part of the report of the Conference on Disarmament concerning consideration of the item entitled "Nuclear-test ban" during its session in 1984, 5/,

Also taking into account relevant proposals and initiatives put forward in the Conference on Disarmament during its session in 1984,

Expressing its profound regret that, in spite of strenuous efforts, the Conference on Disarmament was unable to reach agreement on the re-establishment at its session in 1984 of an Ad Hoc Committee under item 1 of its agenda, entitled "Nuclear-test ban",

Recognizing the important role of the Conference on Disarmament in the negotiation of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty,

Recognizing the importance to such a treaty of the work on a global seismic detection network, assigned by the Conference on Disarmament to the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Co-operative Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events,

Recalling paragraph 31 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 6/ relating to verification of disarmament and arms control agreements, which stated that the form and modalities of the verification to be provided for in any specific agreement depend on, and should be determined by, the purposes, scope and nature of the agreement,

1. Reiterates its profound concern that, despite the express wishes of the majority of Member States, nuclear testing continues;

2. 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 greatest importance;

4/ Resolution 2373 (XXII), annex.

5/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/39/27), sect. III, A.

6/ Resolution S-10/2.

3. Expresses the conviction that such a treaty would constitute a vital element for the success of efforts to halt and reverse the nuclear-arms race and the qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons, and to prevent the expansion of existing nuclear arsenals and the spread of nuclear weapons to additional countries;

4. Urges the Conference on Disarmament to establish at the beginning of its 1985 session an Ad Hoc Committee under item 1 of its agenda, entitled "Nuclear-test ban" and:

(a) To resume immediately its substantive work relating to a comprehensive test ban, including the issue of scope as well as those of verification and compliance, with a view to the negotiation of a treaty on the subject;

(b) Taking into account the work previously performed by and the results of the technical test being conducted by the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Co-operative Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events, to take steps for the establishment as soon as possible of an international seismic monitoring network:

(i) to monitor nuclear explosions;

(ii) to determine the capabilities of such a network for monitoring compliance with a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty;

(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;

5. Urges all members of the Conference on Disarmament, in particular the nuclear-weapon States, to co-operate within the Conference in fulfilling these tasks;

6. Calls upon the Conference on Disarmament to report on progress to the General Assembly at its fortieth session;

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