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Agenda item 44

STRENGTHENING OF THE SECURITY OF NON-NUCLEAR-WEAPON STATES
AGAINST THE USE OR THREAT OF USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Ernst SUCHARIPA (Austria)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Strengthening of the security of non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons: report of the Committee on Disarmament" was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-fourth session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 33/72 B of 14 December 1978.
2. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 21 September 1979, 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 3rd meeting, on 1 October, the First Committee decided to hold a combined general debate on the items allocated to it relating to disarmament, namely, items 30 to 45, 120 and 121. The general debate on these items took place at the 4th to 30th meetings, from 16 October to 5 November (A/C.1/34/PV.4-30).
4. In connexion with item 44, the First Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Report of the Committee on Disarmament; 1/
 - (b) Letter dated 18 October 1979 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the Final Communiqué adopted by the Extraordinary Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of Non-Aligned Countries, held in New York from 4 to 6 October 1979 (A/34/599).

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/34/27).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

A. Draft resolution A/C.1/34/L.3 and Rev.1 and 2

5. On 26 October, Pakistan submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/34/L.3), which was introduced at the 37th meeting, on 19 November, and later sponsored also by Mali. The draft resolution was subsequently revised (A/C.1/34/L.3/Rev.1) with the following changes:

(a) The sixteenth preambular paragraph, which read:

"Noting with satisfaction the drafts of an international convention submitted on this item in the Committee,"

was replaced by:

"Noting the drafts of an international convention submitted on this item in the Committee,";

(b) Two new preambular paragraphs, the nineteenth and twentieth, were added, as follows:

"Also noting similar recommendations made in the relevant resolution of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers,

"Further noting the general support expressed during its thirty-fourth session for the elaboration of an international convention to assure the non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,";

(c) Operative paragraph 1, which read:

"1. Affirms the conclusion of the Committee on Disarmament that it is urgent to reach agreement on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;"

was replaced by:

"1. Affirms the conclusion of the Committee on Disarmament that there is wide recognition of the urgent need to reach agreement on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;";

(d) Operative paragraph 5, which read:

/...

"5. Urges the nuclear-weapon-States to respond to the resolutions of the General Assembly, of the Sixth Summit Conference of Non-Aligned Countries in Havana and the Tenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers in Fez on this subject, thus rendering it possible for the Committee on Disarmament to conclude during 1980 an international convention to assure the non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons."

was replaced by:

"5. Decides to consider the question of the 'conclusion of an international convention to assure the non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons' at its thirty-fifth session."

6. The draft resolution was further revised (A/C.1/34/L.3/Rev.2) with the following changes:

(a) The fourteenth preambular paragraph, which read:

"Recalling resolution 33/72 B which inter alia urged the consideration of an international convention by the Committee on Disarmament in order to conclude effective arrangements, as appropriate, to assure the non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,"

was replaced by:

"Recalling resolution 33/72";

(b) Operative paragraph 4, which read:

"4. Recommends that the Committee conclude the international convention to assure the non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons during its 1980 session on the basis of the draft of the international convention submitted to it taking into account the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;"

was replaced by:

"4. Recommends to the Committee on Disarmament to conclude effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons during its 1980 session, taking into account the widespread support for the conclusion of an international convention and giving consideration to any other proposals designed to secure the same objective;"

7. At the 44th meeting, on 27 November, before the Committee proceeded to a vote on draft resolution A/C.1/34/L.3/Rev.2, the representative of Pakistan, in the name of the sponsors, introduced a revision to the seventeenth preambular paragraph, in accordance with which the last two words of this paragraph should read "appendix II" instead of "appendix I". Draft resolution A/C.1/34/L.3/Rev.2,

/...

as orally revised, was then adopted by a recorded vote of 99 to none, with 21 abstentions (see para. 10, draft resolution I). The voting was as follows: 2/

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, 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 Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

B. Draft resolution A/C.1/34/L.35

8. On 16 November, the United States of America, submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/34/L.35), which was introduced at the 39th meeting, on 21 November.

9. At the 44th meeting, on 27 November, draft resolution A/C.1/34/L.35 was adopted by a recorded vote of 81 to 1, with 27 abstentions (see para. 10, draft resolution II). The voting was as follows: 3/

In favour: Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Burma, Burundi, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica,

2/ Subsequently the delegations of the Ivory Coast, Mauritius and Peru advised the Secretariat that, had they been present, they would have voted in favour.

3/ Subsequently the delegation of the Ivory Coast advised the Secretariat that, had it been present, it would have voted in favour.

/...

Cyprus, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: Albania.

Abstaining: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cape Verde, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Hungary, India, Iraq, Madagascar, Mongolia, Mozambique, Niger, Pakistan, Poland, Sao Tome and Principe, Syrian Arab Republic, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Upper Volta.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

10. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Conclusion of an international convention to assure the non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the need to allay the legitimate concern of the States of the world with regard to ensuring lasting security for their peoples,

Convinced that nuclear weapons pose the greatest threat to mankind and to the survival of civilization,

Deeply concerned at the continuation of the arms race, in particular the nuclear arms race, and the threat to mankind due to the possibility of the use of nuclear weapons,

/...

Convinced that nuclear disarmament and the complete elimination of nuclear weapons are essential to remove the danger of nuclear war,

Taking into account the principle of the non-use of force or threat of force enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Deeply concerned about the possibility of the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Recognizing that the independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of non-nuclear-weapon States need to be safeguarded against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Considering that, until nuclear disarmament is achieved on a universal basis, it is imperative for the international community to develop, as appropriate, effective measures to ensure the security of non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons from any quarter,

Recognizing that effective measures to assure the non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons can constitute a positive contribution to the prevention of the spread of nuclear weapons,

Recalling its resolution 3261 G (XXIX) of 9 December 1974,

Further recalling its resolution 31/189 C of 21 December 1976,

Bearing in mind paragraph 59 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 4/ in which it requested the nuclear-weapon States urgently to conclude, as appropriate, effective arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Desirous of promoting the implementation of the relevant provisions of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session,

Recalling its resolution 33/72 of 14 December 1978,

Welcoming the in-depth consideration of the item entitled "Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons" by the Committee on Disarmament and the establishment of an ad hoc working group under the aegis of the Committee to conduct negotiations on the subject, 5/

Noting the drafts of an international convention submitted on this item in the Committee on Disarmament,

4/ Resolution S-10/2.

5/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/34/27), paras. 44-51.

Further noting the report of the Committee on Disarmament, including the report of the ad hoc working group in its appendix II, 6/

Noting the decision of the Sixth Conference of the Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Countries 7/ calling on the Committee on Disarmament to elaborate the international convention to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons during its next session in 1980,

Also noting similar recommendations made in the relevant resolution of the Tenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, 8/

Further noting the general support expressed during its thirty-fourth session for the elaboration of an international convention to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

1. Affirms the conclusion of the Committee on Disarmament that there is wide recognition of the urgent need to reach agreement on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;

2. Notes with satisfaction that in the Committee on Disarmament there is no objection, in principle, to the idea of an international convention to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;

3. Endorses the decision of the Committee on Disarmament to continue negotiations on this subject at the beginning of its 1980 session;

4. Recommends that the Committee on Disarmament should conclude effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons during its 1980 session, taking into account the widespread support for the conclusion of an international convention and giving consideration to any other proposals designed to secure the same objective;

5. Decides to consider at its thirty-fifth session the question of the "Conclusion of an international convention to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons".

6/ Ibid., appendix II.

7/ A/34/542, annex, part I, paras. 219-220.

8/ A/34/389 and Corr.1, annex II, resolution 15/10/P.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Strengthening of the security of non-nuclear-weapon States
against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons

The General Assembly,

Convinced of the need to promote international peace and security,

Recognizing the legitimate security concerns of all States,

Convinced of the importance of effective efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons,

Recognizing that effective measures to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons can constitute a positive contribution to the prevention of the spread of nuclear weapons,

Taking note of paragraph 59 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly 9/ which called upon the nuclear-weapon States to pursue, as appropriate, effective arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Noting that the five nuclear-weapon States have recognized the significance of action to meet the concerns of the great majority of States, which have not sought to acquire or develop, alone or with others, any nuclear explosive devices,

Recalling that each of the five nuclear Powers has stated its willingness to take action to affirm its support for and to conclude, as appropriate, effective arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or the threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Taking note of the various proposals and suggestions made in this regard,

1. Notes the statements that the nuclear-weapon States have made on assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States with respect to the use of nuclear weapons;
2. Welcomes the report of the Committee on Disarmament 10/ in which it reported on the initial consideration of and negotiation on effective international arrangements further to strengthen the security of the non-nuclear-weapon States;
3. Requests the Committee on Disarmament to continue its efforts at its next session with a view to reaching agreement on such arrangements and report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session;

9/ Resolution S-10/2.

10/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/34/27).

4. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Committee on Disarmament all documents relating to the discussion of the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session of the items entitled "Strengthening of guarantees of the security of non-nuclear-weapon States" and "Strengthening of the security of non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons";

5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-fifth session an item entitled "Strengthening of the security of non-nuclear-weapon States".
