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Agenda item 46

CESSATION OF ALL NUCLEAR-TEST EXPLOSIONS

Report of the First CommitteeRapporteur: Mr. Latévi Modem LAWSON-BETUM (Togo)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Cessation of all nuclear-test explosions" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 44/105 of 15 December 1989.
2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 1990, 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 9 October 1990, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on the disarmament items allocated to it, namely, items 45 to 66. At its 4th meeting, on 16 October, the First Committee decided to consider jointly with other disarmament items agenda item 155, which was allocated to the First Committee upon a decision of the General Assembly at its 30th plenary meeting, on 15 October. The deliberations on those items took place between the 3rd and 23rd meetings, from 15 to 30 October (see A/C.1/45/PV.3-23). Consideration of and action on draft resolutions on those items took place between the 24th and 39th meetings, from 2 to 16 November (see A/C.1/45/PV.24-39).
4. In connection with item 46, the First Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Letter dated 15 June 1990 from the representatives of Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the statement issued by the General Secretariat of the Permanent South Pacific Commission on 3 June 1990 (A/45/314);

(b) Letter dated 9 July 1990 from the representatives of Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the statement issued by the General Secretariat of the Permanent South Pacific Commission on 27 June 1990 (A/45/339);

(c) Letter dated 11 July 1990 from the representatives of Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the statement issued by the General Secretariat of the Permanent South Pacific Commission on 6 July 1990 (A/45/352);

(d) Letter dated 27 August 1990 from the Permanent Representative of Vanuatu to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the final communiqué of the Twenty-first South Pacific Forum, held at Port Vila from 31 July to 1 August 1990 (A/45/456);

(e) Letter dated 12 October 1990 from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.1/45/3).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/45/L.30

5. On 31 October, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Indonesia, Ireland, Mexico, Myanmar, Peru, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Venezuela and Yugoslavia submitted a draft resolution entitled "Cessation of all nuclear-test explosions" (A/C.1/45/L.30), which was later also sponsored by Afghanistan, Bolivia and Ghana. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Mexico at the 38th meeting, on 16 November.

6. At the same meeting, the representative of Mexico orally revised the draft resolution, replacing "50" by "70" in the second preambular paragraph.

7. At its 39th meeting, on 16 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.30, as orally revised, by a recorded vote of 107 to 3, with 18 abstentions (see para. 8). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka,

Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: France, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Turkey.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

Cessation of all nuclear-test explosions

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the highest priority which, in the sphere of disarmament, it has repeatedly assigned to the attainment of the complete cessation of nuclear-weapon tests,

Recalling that for over 30 years it has been examining this question, on which it has adopted more than 70 resolutions,

Taking into account the undertakings by the three depositary States of the 1963 Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water 1/ to seek to achieve the early discontinuance of all test explosions of nuclear weapons for all time, as well as the reiteration of this commitment in the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, 2/

Recalling that the Secretary-General, addressing a plenary meeting of the General Assembly on 12 December 1984, after appealing for a renewed effort towards a comprehensive test-ban treaty, emphasized that no single multilateral agreement could have a greater effect on limiting the further refinement of nuclear weapons

1/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 480, No. 6964.

2/ Ibid., vol. 729, No. 10485.

and that a comprehensive test-ban treaty is the litmus test of the real willingness to pursue nuclear disarmament, 3/

Recalling also that the leaders of the States associated with the Six-Nation Initiative on peace and disarmament affirmed in the Stockholm Declaration, adopted on 21 January 1988, 4/ that "Any agreement that leaves room for continued testing would not be acceptable",

Recalling further the final document on international security and disarmament adopted by the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Belgrade from 4 to 7 September 1989, 5/ which underlined that the immediate suspension of and comprehensive ban on nuclear tests remained one of the highest priorities of nuclear disarmament,

Taking note with satisfaction of the continuing progress made in the Conference on Disarmament by the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Co-operative Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events on the seismic verification of a comprehensive test ban,

Taking note of the establishment, without a negotiating mandate, of an Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban by the Conference on Disarmament at its summer session in 1990,

1. Reiterates once again its grave concern that nuclear testing continues unabated, against the wishes of the overwhelming majority of Member States;

2. Reaffirms its conviction that a treaty to achieve the prohibition of all nuclear-test explosions by all States for all time is a matter of the highest priority;

3. Reaffirms also its conviction that such a treaty would constitute a contribution of the utmost importance to the cessation of the nuclear-arms race;

4. Urges once more all nuclear-weapon States, in particular the three depositary States of the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapons Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water and of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to seek to achieve the early discontinuance of all test explosions of nuclear weapons for all time and to expedite negotiations to this end;

3/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Plenary Meetings, 97th meeting, para. 302.

4/ A/43/125-S/19478, annex.

5/ See A/44/551-S/20870, annex.

5. Appeals to all States members of the Conference on Disarmament to promote the re-establishment by the Conference at the beginning of its 1991 session of the Ad Hoc Committee with the objective of carrying out the multilateral negotiation of a treaty on the complete cessation of nuclear-test explosions;

6. Recommends to the Conference on Disarmament that such an ad hoc committee should comprise two working groups dealing, respectively, with the following interrelated questions: contents and scope of the treaty, and compliance and verification;

7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session the item entitled "Cessation of all nuclear test explosions".
