



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/40/932
27 November 1985
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

Fortieth session
Agenda item 63

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) WEAPONS

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Yannis SOULIOTIS (Greece)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament" was included in the provisional agenda of the fortieth session in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 39/65 A, B and C of 12 December 1984.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1985, 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, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on the disarmament items allocated to it, namely, items 48 to 69 and item 145, followed by statements on specific disarmament agenda items and continuation of general debate, as necessary. The deliberations on those items took place between the 3rd and the 32nd meetings, from 14 October to 8 November (see A/C.1/40/PV.3-32).

4. In connection with item 63, the First Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Conference on Disarmament; 1/

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/40/27 and Corr.1).

(b) Letter dated 5 February 1985 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/40/118-S/16941);

(c) Letter dated 27 February 1985 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/40/154-S/16987 and Corr.1);

(d) Letter dated 12 March 1985 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/40/174-S/17027);

(e) Letter dated 13 March 1985 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/40/176-S/17028);

(f) Letter dated 20 March 1985 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/40/189-S/17046);

(g) Letter dated 26 March 1985 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/40/209);

(h) Letter dated 11 April 1985 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/40/231);

(i) Letter dated 21 May 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Democratic Kampuchea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/40/331-S/17209);

(j) Letter dated 16 July 1985 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/40/487-S/17342);

(k) Letter dated 19 September 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué adopted at the Sixteenth South Pacific Forum, held at Rarotonga, Cook Islands, on 5 and 6 August 1985 (A/40/672-S/17488);

(l) Letter dated 4 November 1985 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/40/849-S/17606);

(m) Letter dated 11 November 1985 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/40/873-S/17623);

(n) Letter dated 18 November 1985 from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/40/900);

(o) Letter dated 20 September 1985 from the Permanent Representatives of Czechoslovakia and the German Democratic Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.1/40/2);

(p) Letter dated 25 October 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Declaration issued on 23 October 1985 at Sofia by the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty Organization (A/C.1/40/7);

(q) Letter dated 25 October 1985 addressed to the Chairman of the First Committee by the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany on the First Committee (A/C.1/40/8);

(r) Letter dated 20 November 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Czechoslovakia to the United Nations and the Chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Mission of the German Democratic Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.1/40/11).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.15 and Rev.1

5. On 5 November 1985, Afghanistan, Angola, Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Poland, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Viet Nam submitted a draft resolution entitled "Prohibition of chemical and bacteriological weapons" (A/C.1/40/L.15). The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of the German Democratic Republic at the 36th meeting, on 13 November, and read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling paragraph 75 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 2/ which states that the complete and effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and their destruction represents one of the most urgent measures of disarmament,

"Recalling its previous resolutions relating to the complete and effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and to their destruction,

2/ Resolution S-10/2.

"Convinced of the need for the earliest conclusion of a convention on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and on their destruction, which would significantly contribute to general and complete disarmament under effective international control,

"Stressing the continuing importance of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous and Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed sixty years ago at Geneva, 3/

"Determined, for the sake of all mankind, to exclude completely the possibility of the use of chemical weapons, through the earliest conclusion and implementation of a convention on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all types of chemical weapons and on their destruction, thereby complementing the obligations assumed under the Geneva Protocol of 17 June 1925,

"Taking into consideration the work of the Conference on Disarmament during its session in 1985 regarding the prohibition of chemical weapons and, in particular, the work of its Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons,

"Expressing profound concern at recent decisions on the production of binary chemical weapons, as well as at their intended deployment,

"Deeming it desirable for States to refrain from taking any action that could delay or further complicate negotiations and to display a constructive approach to such negotiations and the political will to reach an early agreement on the chemical weapons convention,

"Aware that the qualitative improvement and development of chemical weapons complicate ongoing negotiations on the prohibition of chemical weapons,

"Taking note of proposals on the creation of chemical-weapon-free zones aimed at facilitating the complete prohibition of chemical weapons and at contributing to the achievement of stable regional and international security,

"1. Reaffirms the necessity of the speediest elaboration and conclusion of a convention on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and on their destruction;

"2. Appeals to all States to facilitate in every possible way the conclusion of such a convention;

"3. Urges the Conference on Disarmament to intensify the negotiations in the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons with a view to achieving accord on a chemical weapons convention at the earliest possible date and, for this purpose, to proceed immediately to drafting such a convention for submission to the General Assembly at its forty-first session;

3/ League of Nations, Treaty Series, vol. XCIV (1929), No. 2138, p. 65.

"4. Reaffirms its call to all States to conduct serious negotiations in good faith and to refrain from any action that could impede negotiations on the prohibition of chemical weapons and specifically to refrain from the production and deployment of binary and other new types of chemical weapons, as well as from stationing chemical weapons on the territory of other States;

"5. Calls upon all States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Geneva Protocol of June 1925."

6. On 13 November, Afghanistan, Angola, Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Viet Nam submitted a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/40/L.15/Rev.1), containing the following changes:

(a) The sixth preambular paragraph was revised to read:

"Taking into consideration the work of the Conference on Disarmament during its session in 1985 regarding the prohibition of chemical weapons, and, in particular, highly appreciating the work of its Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons";

(b) Operative paragraph 3 was revised to read:

"Urges the Conference on Disarmament to intensify the negotiations in the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons with a view to achieving accord on a chemical weapons convention at the earliest possible date and, for this purpose, to intensify the drafting process of such a convention for submission to the General Assembly at its forty-first session".

7. At its 39th meeting, on 15 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.15/Rev.1 by a recorded vote of 81 to 13, with 38 abstentions (see para. 12, draft resolution A). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Angola, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

/...

Against: Belgium, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burma, Canada, Chile, China, Comoros, Democratic Kampuchea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Finland, Gabon, Greece, Honduras, India, Ireland, Israel, Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire), Japan, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritania, Morocco, New Zealand, Paraguay, Rwanda, Senegal, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Uruguay.

B. Draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.24

8. On 6 November, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, the German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Kenya, Mongolia, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Rwanda, Spain, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and Viet Nam submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/40/L.24) entitled "Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons", which was later also sponsored by Greece. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Canada at the 36th meeting, on 13 November.

9. At its 39th meeting, on 15 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.24 without a vote (see para. 12, draft resolution B).

C. Draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.31

10. On 6 November, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Sierra Leone, Sweden, Thailand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/40/L.31) entitled "Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons", which was later also sponsored by Samoa and Spain. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of the United States of America at the 30th meeting, on 7 November.

11. At its 39th meeting, on 15 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.31 by a recorded vote of 96 to 16, with 21 abstentions (see para. 12, draft resolution C). The voting was as follows: 4/

In favour: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Central

4/ The delegation of Burkina Faso subsequently indicated that it had intended to abstain on the draft resolution.

African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Democratic Kampuchea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire), Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: Afghanistan, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mongolia, Poland, Syrian Arab Republic, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Viet Nam.

Abstaining: Angola, Bahrain, Benin, Congo, Cyprus, Ethiopia, India, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Madagascar, Mexico, Nicaragua, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zimbabwe.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons

A

Prohibition of chemical and bacteriological weapons

The General Assembly,

Recalling paragraph 75 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 5/ which states that the complete and effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and their destruction represents one of the most urgent measures of disarmament,

Recalling its previous resolutions relating to the complete and effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and to their destruction,

Convinced of the need for the earliest conclusion of a convention on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and on their destruction, which would significantly contribute to general and complete disarmament under effective international control,

Stressing the continuing importance of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous and Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed sixty years ago at Geneva, 6/

Determined, for the sake of all mankind, to exclude completely the possibility of the use of chemical weapons, through the earliest conclusion and implementation of a convention on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all types of chemical weapons and on their destruction, thereby complementing the obligations assumed under the Geneva Protocol of 17 June 1925,

Taking into consideration the work of the Conference on Disarmament during its session in 1985 regarding the prohibition of chemical weapons and, in particular, highly appreciating the work of its Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons,

Expressing profound concern at recent decisions on the production of binary chemical weapons, as well as at their intended deployment,

Deeming it desirable for States to refrain from taking any action that could delay or further complicate negotiations and to display a constructive approach to such negotiations and the political will to reach an early agreement on the chemical weapons convention,

Aware that the qualitative improvement and development of chemical weapons complicate ongoing negotiations on the prohibition of chemical weapons,

Taking note of proposals on the creation of chemical-weapon-free zones aimed at facilitating the complete prohibition of chemical weapons and at contributing to the achievement of stable regional and international security,

1. Reaffirms the necessity of the speediest elaboration and conclusion of a convention on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and on their destruction;

2. Appeals to all States to facilitate in every possible way the conclusion of such a convention;

6/ League of Nations, Treaty Series, vol. XCIV (1929), No. 2138, p. 65.

3. Urges the Conference on Disarmament to intensify the negotiations in the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons with a view to achieving accord on a chemical weapons convention at the earliest possible date and, for this purpose, to intensify the drafting process of such a convention for submission to the General Assembly at its forty-first session;

4. Reaffirms its call to all States to conduct serious negotiations in good faith and to refrain from any action that could impede negotiations on the prohibition of chemical weapons and specifically to refrain from the production and deployment of binary and other new types of chemical weapons, as well as from stationing chemical weapons on the territory of other States;

5. Calls upon all States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva on 17 June 1925.

B

Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions relating to the complete and effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and to their destruction,

Reaffirming the urgent necessity of strict observance by all States of the principles and objectives of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva on 17 June 1925, 6/ and of the adherence by all States to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, signed in London, Moscow and Washington on 10 April 1972, 7/

Having considered the report of the Conference on Disarmament, which incorporates, inter alia, the report of its Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, 8/

Convinced of the necessity that all efforts be exerted for the continuation and successful conclusion of negotiations on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and on their destruction,

7/ Resolution 2826 (XXVI), annex.

8/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/40/27 and Corr.1).

1. Takes note of the work of the Conference on Disarmament during its session in 1985 regarding the prohibition of chemical weapons and, in particular, appreciates the work of its Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons on that question and the progress recorded in its report;
2. Expresses again its regret and concern that an agreement on the complete and effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and on their destruction has not yet been elaborated;
3. Urges again the Conference on Disarmament, as a matter of high priority, to intensify, during its session in 1986, the negotiations on such a convention and to reinforce further its efforts, inter alia, by increasing the time during the year that the Conference on Disarmament devotes to such negotiations, taking into account all existing proposals and future initiatives, with a view to the final elaboration of a convention at the earliest possible date, and to re-establish its Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons for this purpose with the 1985 mandate;
4. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to report to the General Assembly at its forty-first session on the results of its negotiations.

C

Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the urgent necessity of strict observance by all States of the principles and objectives of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva on 17 June 1925, 6/ and of the adherence by all States to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, signed in London, Moscow and Washington, D.C., on 10 April 1972, 7/

Noting with concern reports that chemical weapons have been used, as well as indications of their emergence in an increasing number of national arsenals,

Expressing concern over the increasing risk that chemical weapons may be resorted to again,

Noting international efforts to strengthen relevant international prohibitions, including efforts to develop appropriate fact-finding mechanisms,

Recalling its resolution 39/65 A of 12 December 1984 on chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons,

Rededicating its efforts to protect mankind from chemical and biological warfare,

/...

1. Reaffirms the need for strict observance of existing international obligations regarding prohibitions on chemical and biological weapons and condemns all actions that contravene those obligations;
 2. Welcomes the ongoing efforts to ensure the most effective prohibitions possible on chemical and biological weapons;
 3. Urges the Conference on Disarmament to accelerate its negotiations of a multilateral convention on the complete and effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and on their destruction;
 4. Calls upon all States, pending the conclusion of such a comprehensive ban, to co-operate in efforts to prevent the use of chemical weapons.
-