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Agenda item 98

ELIMINATION OF FOREIGN MILITARY BASES IN THE COUNTRIES OF
ASIA, AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. G.G. TCHERNOUCHTCHENKO (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic)

1. By a letter dated 23 September 1966 (A/6399), the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics requested the President of the General Assembly to include in the agenda of the twenty-first session the item entitled "Elimination of foreign military bases in the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America". An explanatory memorandum and a draft resolution were attached to the request for the inclusion of the item.
2. At its 164th meeting, on 24 September, the General Committee recommended the inclusion of the item in the agenda and its allocation to the First Committee (A/6438).
3. At its 1415th plenary meeting, on 24 September, the General Assembly approved the recommendation of the General Committee and allocated the item to the First Committee for consideration and report.
4. At its 1430th meeting, on 13 October, the First Committee decided to consider the item as the sixth on its agenda (A/C.1/933). The item was considered at the 1463rd to 1471st meetings, from 24 November to 2 December.
5. The Committee had before it the above-mentioned draft resolution submitted by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (A/C.1/L.369), which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Noting with concern that foreign military bases in the territory of independent States of Asia, Africa and Latin America are used for direct

military intervention in the internal affairs of peoples, for suppression of their struggle for independence and freedom and for dangerous activities which threaten world peace,

"Considering that the existence of military bases in dependent Territories is incompatible with the General Assembly resolution on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (resolution 2105 (XX)), requesting the colonial Powers to dismantle the military bases established in colonial Territories and to refrain from establishing new ones,

"1. Invites States with military bases in the territory of independent States or dependent Territories in Asia, Africa and Latin America immediately to eliminate these bases and never to establish others;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to supervise the fulfilment of the terms of this resolution and to report on the results of its implementation to the General Assembly at its twenty-second session."

6. On 28 November, Togo submitted amendments (A/C.1/L.385) to draft resolution A/C.1/L.369, by which: (1) in the first preambular paragraph, the words "and Latin America" would be replaced by the words "America and Europe"; and (2) in operative paragraph 1, the words "and Latin America" would be replaced by the words "America and Europe" and the words "Subject to agreements between countries" would be inserted before the word "Invites". Operative paragraph 1, as amended, would then read:

"1. Subject to agreements between countries, invites States with military bases in the territory of independent States or dependent Territories in Asia, Africa, America and Europe immediately to eliminate these bases and never to establish others;"

7. On 28 November, Liberia submitted amendments (A/C.1/L.386) to draft resolution A/C.1/L.369, by which:

(1) A new first paragraph of the preamble would be inserted to read as follows:

"Believing that foreign military bases should never be established in the territory of the independent States of Asia, Africa and Latin America against the sincere and freely expressed wishes of the peoples directly concerned,";

(2) The present first preambular paragraph would be replaced by the following, which would become the second preambular paragraph:

"Believing further that military bases established contrary to this principle are likely to be used for direct military intervention in the internal affairs of peoples, for suppression of their struggle for independence and freedom and for dangerous activities which threaten world peace,";

(3) Operative paragraph 1 would be redrafted to read as follows:

"1. Invites States with military bases in the territory of independent States to eliminate these bases and never to establish others unless the States in exercise of their sovereign rights wish to retain the bases in their territories,";

(4) Before the present operative paragraph 2, a new operative paragraph 2 would be added as follows:

"2. Requests States with military bases in dependent Territories of Asia, Africa and Latin America to immediately demilitarize such Territories,";

(5) The present operative paragraph 2 would become operative paragraph 3.

8. At the 1471st meeting, on 2 December, the representative of Liberia submitted oral changes in those amendments, by which:

(1) In the first amendment, in the second line of the new first paragraph of the preamble, the words "and Latin" would be deleted, and the words "and Europe" added after the word "America";

(2) In the second amendment, in the first two lines of the new second preambular paragraph, the word "foreign" would be inserted before the words "military bases", the words "established contrary to this principle are likely to" would be replaced by the word "can" and the word "direct" between the words "for" and "military intervention" would be deleted;

(3) In the third amendment, in the first line of operative paragraph 1, the word "established" would be inserted between the words "bases" and "in the territory of", in the third line the word "States" would be replaced by the words "host countries", and the words "wish to retain the" would be replaced by the words "favour the establishment or retention of the";

(4) In the fourth amendment, in the new operative paragraph 2, the words "and Latin" would be deleted and the words "and Europe" added after the word "America", the word "demilitarize" would be replaced by the words "close down" and the word "territories" would be replaced by the word "bases".

9. On 30 November, a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.387) was submitted by India, the United Arab Republic and Yugoslavia, by which the General Assembly would decide to transmit to the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament all the documents and records of the First Committee and the General Assembly during the discussion of this item for further consideration and report.
10. At the 1469th meeting, on 30 November, the representative of the United Arab Republic, on behalf of the sponsors, moved that priority in voting be given to the three-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.387) and that, if that draft resolution were adopted, draft resolution A/C.1/L.369 should not be put to the vote.
11. At the 1471st meeting, on 2 December, the Committee decided by 100 votes to none, with 8 abstentions, to give priority to draft resolution A/C.1/L.387.
12. At the same meeting, the First Committee adopted the three-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.387) by 99 votes to none, with 10 abstentions. The Committee then decided by 99 votes to 1, with 8 abstentions, not to vote on draft resolution A/C.1/L.369 and the amendments thereto.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

Elimination of Foreign Military Bases in the Countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America

The General Assembly,

Having discussed the question entitled "Elimination of foreign military bases in the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America",

Considering that this question is of paramount importance and therefore necessitates serious discussion because of its implications for international peace and security,

Decides to transmit to the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament all the documents and records of the First Committee and the General Assembly during the discussion of this item for further consideration and report.