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CONCLUSION OF A CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF
THE USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. C. Torsten W. ÖRN (Sweden)

1. By a letter dated 22 September 1967 (A/6834), the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics requested the inclusion in the agenda of the twenty-second regular session of the General Assembly of an item entitled "Conclusion of a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons". An explanatory memorandum and a draft convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons were attached.
2. At its 169th meeting, on 26 September, the General Committee recommended the inclusion of the item in the agenda and its allocation to the First Committee (A/6840/Add.1).
3. At its 1572nd plenary meeting, on 28 September, the General Assembly approved the recommendation of the General Committee (A/6850/Rev.1) and referred the item to the First Committee for consideration and report (A/6851/Rev.1). It was considered at the 1532nd, 1534th to 1537th, and 1539th to 1541st meetings of the Committee, between 20 November and 4 December.
4. On 1 December, a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.409) was submitted by Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Mongolia, Nigeria, Romania, Sudan, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Arab Republic and Yugoslavia, by which the General Assembly would: (1) express its conviction that it was essential to continue urgently the examination of the question of the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons and of the conclusion of an appropriate international convention;

(2) urge all States in this connexion to examine in the light of the Declaration adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 1653 (XVI) the question of the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons proposed by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (A/6834) and such other proposals as might be made on this question and to undertake negotiations concerning the conclusion of an appropriate convention through the convening of an international conference, by the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament, or directly between States; (3) request the Secretary-General to transmit the draft convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons proposed by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the records of the meetings of the First Committee relating to the discussion of this item to all States Members of the United Nations and to the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament.

5. At its 1541st meeting, on 4 December, the Committee adopted the draft resolution (A/C.1/L.409) by 56 votes to none, with 33 abstentions.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

Conclusion of a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Declaration on the prohibition of the use of nuclear and thermonuclear weapons, contained in resolution 1653 (XVI) of 24 November 1961,

Reaffirming its conviction, expressed in resolution 2164 (XXI) of 5 December 1966, that the signing of a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear and thermonuclear weapons would greatly facilitate negotiations on general and complete disarmament under effective international control and give further impetus to the search for a solution of the urgent problem of nuclear disarmament,

Considering that it is necessary, in view of the present international situation, to make new efforts aimed at expediting the solution of the question of the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons,

1. Expresses its conviction that it is essential to continue urgently the examination of the question of the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons and of the conclusion of an appropriate international convention;

2. Urges all States, in this connexion, to examine in the light of the Declaration adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 1653 (XVI) the question of the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons and the draft convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons proposed by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics^{1/} and such other proposals as may be made on this question and to undertake negotiations concerning the conclusion of an appropriate convention through the convening of an international conference by the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament, or directly between States;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit the draft convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons proposed by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the records of the meetings of the First Committee relating to the discussion of the item entitled "Conclusion of a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons" to all States Members of the United Nations and to the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament.

^{1/} A/6834.