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Twenty-fifth session  
Agenda item 29

URGENT NEED FOR SUSPENSION OF NUCLEAR AND THERMONUCLEAR TESTS

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Zdenek CLERNIK (Czechoslovakia)

1. The item entitled "Urgent need for suspension of nuclear and thermonuclear tests: report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament" was included by the Secretary-General in the provisional agenda of the twenty-fifth session on the basis of General Assembly resolution 2604 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969.
2. At its 1843rd plenary meeting, on 18 September 1970, the General Assembly on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in the agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee for consideration and report.
3. At its 1726th meeting, on 3 October, the First Committee decided to hold a combined general debate on all seven agenda items relating to disarmament allocated to it, namely:
  - (1) Question of general and complete disarmament: report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (item 27);
  - (2) Question of chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons: report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (item 28);
  - (3) Urgent need for suspension of nuclear and thermonuclear tests: report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (item 29);
  - (4) Implementation of the results of the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States: report of the Secretary-General (item 30);

(5) Establishment, within the framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency, of an international service for nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes under appropriate international control: report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (item 31);

(6) Status of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 2456 B (XXIII), concerning the signature and ratification of Additional Protocol II of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Treaty of Tlatelolco) (item 93);

(7) Economic and social consequences of the armament race and its extremely harmful effects on world peace and security (item 94).

4. The general debate on these seven items took place at the 1748th to 1762nd meetings, from 2 November to 16 November 1970.

5. The First Committee had before it, in connexion with agenda item 29, the following documents: (1) the report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (A/8059), and (2) a note by the Secretary-General on information relating to the creation of a world-wide exchange of seismological data (A/7967 and Add.1 and 2, Add.3 and Corr.1 and 2, Add.4, Add.5 and Corr.1 and 2).

6. On 11 November, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, the Central African Republic, Chile, Denmark, Ethiopia, Finland, Ghana, Guyana, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Liberia, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Senegal, Singapore, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela, Yugoslavia submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.529), subsequently co-sponsored by Cyprus, Ecuador, Indonesia, Italy, Lebanon, Nepal, New Zealand, Peru, Sierra Leone and Somalia. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Canada at the 1764th meeting, on 18 November.

7. Also on 11 November, Burma, Ethiopia, India, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Sweden, the United Arab Republic and Yugoslavia submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.530), subsequently co-sponsored by Ireland and Peru. This draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Sweden at the 1764th meeting, on 18 November.

8. At the 1764th meeting, on 18 November, the First Committee took up the consideration of the draft resolutions and voted upon them.

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9. The forty-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.529) was adopted by a roll-call vote of 74 to none, with 14 abstentions (see paragraph 12 below, draft resolution A). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Burma, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, France, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, Sudan, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

10. The eleven-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.530) was adopted by a vote of 88 to none, with 1 abstention (see paragraph 12 below, draft resolution B).

11. Later, at the same meeting, the representative of Paraguay stated that had his delegation been present during the voting, it would have voted in favour of the forty-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.529).

#### RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

##### Urgent need for suspension of nuclear and thermonuclear tests

A

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the urgent need for the cessation of nuclear and thermonuclear weapon tests, including those carried out underground,

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Taking into account the determination expressed by the parties in the preamble of the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water to continue negotiations to achieve the discontinuance of all test explosions of nuclear weapons for all time,

Taking also into account the undertaking by the parties in article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to the cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control,

Recalling its resolutions 2163 (XXI) of 5 December 1966, 2343 (XXII) of 19 December 1967, 2455 (XXIII) of 20 December 1968, and 2604 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969,

Recalling further that the above-mentioned resolutions expressed the hope that States would contribute to an effective international exchange of seismic data,

Noting the responses submitted up to the present date to the request for information circulated by the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 2604 (XXIV),

Having considered the report submitted on 11 September 1970 by the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament and in particular the attachments to it concerned with facilitating the achievement of a comprehensive test ban through the international exchange of seismic data,

1. Expresses appreciation of the information received thus far in response to the request made by the Secretary-General pursuant to General Assembly resolution 2604 (XXIV);

2. Urges Governments to consider and, wherever possible, to implement methods of improving their capability to contribute high quality seismic data with assured international availability, taking into account the suggestions contained in documents annexed to the report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament,<sup>1/</sup> and invites those Governments that are in a position to do so to consider assistance in the improvement of world-wide seismological capabilities in order to facilitate, through the assured international availability of seismic data, the achievement of a comprehensive test ban;

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<sup>1/</sup> A/8059.

3. Invites members of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to co-operate in further study of this issue.

B

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of the urgent need for suspension of nuclear and thermonuclear tests and the report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament,<sup>2/</sup>

Recalling its resolutions 1762 (XVII) of 6 November 1962, 1910 (XVIII) of 27 November 1963, 2032 (XX) of 3 December 1965, 2163 (XXI) of 5 December 1966, 2343 (XXII) of 19 December 1967, 2455 (XXIII) of 20 December 1968 and 2604 B (XXIV) of 16 December 1969,

Noting with regret that all States have not yet adhered to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water, signed in Moscow on 5 August 1963,

Noting with increasing concern that nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere and underground are continuing,

Taking into account that several concrete suggestions have been set forth in the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament as to possible provisions in a treaty banning underground nuclear weapon tests,

1. Urges all States that have not done so to adhere without further delay to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water;

2. Calls upon all nuclear-weapon States to suspend nuclear weapon tests in all environments;

3. Requests the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to continue, as a matter of urgency, its deliberations on a treaty banning underground nuclear weapon tests, taking into account the proposals already made in the Conference as well as the views expressed at the current session of the General Assembly, and to submit to the Assembly at its twenty-sixth session a special report on the results of its deliberations.

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