

UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



Distr.  
GENERAL

A/8575 and Corr.1  
13 December 1971

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Twenty-sixth session  
Agenda item 29

URGENT NEED FOR SUSPENSION OF NUCLEAR AND THERMONUCLEAR TESTS

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Giovanni MIGLIUOLO (Italy)

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-sixth session on the basis of General Assembly resolution 2663 (XXV) of 7 December 1970.
2. At its 1939th plenary meeting, on 25 September 1971, 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 the 1803rd meeting, on 11 October, the First Committee decided to hold a combined general debate on all seven agenda items relating to disarmament allocated to it, namely:
  - (1) 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) 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 30);

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- (5) Status of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 2666 (XXV) concerning the signature and ratification of Additional Protocol II of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Treaty of Tlaltelolco): report of the Secretary-General (item 31)
- (6) Economic and social consequences of the armaments race and its extremely harmful effects on world peace and security: report of the Secretary-General (item 32);
- (7) Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace (item 98).

The Committee also decided that, on the conclusion of the general debate, it would consider the draft resolutions or proposals under each item separately.

4. The general debate on these seven items took place at the 1827th to 1842nd meetings, from 11 November to 1 December 1971.
5. The First Committee had before it, in connexion with agenda item 29, the report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (A/8457).
6. On 19 November, Saudi Arabia submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.583), which was introduced at the 1833rd meeting on 22 November. The draft resolution was later revised (A/C.1/L.583/Rev.1).
7. On 22 November, Mexico submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.584), which was introduced at the 1834th meeting, on 23 November. This draft resolution was later co-sponsored also by Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Peru, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uruguay.
8. Also on 22 November, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Ethiopia, Finland, Ghana, Ireland, Japan, Morocco, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway and Sweden submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.585), later co-sponsored by Iran, which was introduced by Canada at the 1847th meeting, on 9 December.
9. On 1 December, New Zealand submitted draft amendments (A/C.1/L.595) to the 16-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.585), reading as follows:

"1. At the end of the fifth preambular paragraph, after the words '5 August 1963', add the following: 'and that some continue to test in the atmosphere,'.

"2. At the end of operative paragraph 2, after the words 'and under Water' add the following: 'and meanwhile to refrain from testing in the environments covered by that Treaty;''.

10. At its 1847th meeting on 9 December, the First Committee proceeded to vote on the three draft resolutions and the draft amendments.
11. On the proposal of Mexico, the Committee agreed to give priority in the vote to the 12-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.584).
12. The 12-Power draft resolution was adopted by a roll-call vote of 66 to 2, with 39 abstentions (see paragraph 16, draft resolution A). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Argentina, Austria, Bhutan, Brazil, Burma, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Ceylon, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Republic, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Peru, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

Against: Albania, China.

Abstaining: Algeria, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Central African Republic, Congo, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Equatorial Guinea, Finland, France, Gabon, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Khmer Republic, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Mongolia, Netherlands, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Thailand, Togo, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Zaire.

13. The revised draft resolution submitted by Saudi Arabia (A/C.1/L.583/Rev.1) was then adopted by a vote of 49 to 2, with 51 abstentions (see paragraph 16, draft resolution B).
14. The New Zealand amendments (A/C.1/L.595) to the 16-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.585) were adopted by a roll-call vote of 53 to 3, with 49 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Australia, Bhutan, Bulgaria, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Khmer Republic, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, Thailand, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Against: Albania, Algeria, China.

Abstaining: Afghanistan, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Burma, Canada, Ceylon, Chile, Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Finland, France, Gabon, Ghana, Guyana, Iceland, India, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Libyan Arab Republic, Madagascar, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Norway, Pakistan, Portugal, Romania, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

15. The 16-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.585), as amended, was then adopted by a roll-call vote of 82 to 2, with 22 abstentions (see paragraph 16, draft resolution C). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bhutan, Burma, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Khmer Republic, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Portugal, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: Albania, China.

Abstaining: Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Ceylon, Chile, Congo, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, France, Hungary, India, Libyan Arab Republic, Mongolia, Peru, Poland, Romania, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

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RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

16. 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,

Viewing with the utmost apprehension the harmful consequences of nuclear weapon tests for the acceleration of the arms race and for the health of present and future generations of mankind,

Fully conscious that world opinion has, over the years, demanded the immediate and complete cessation of all nuclear weapon tests in all environments,

Recalling that the item on the question of a comprehensive test ban has been included in the agenda of the General Assembly every year since 1957,

Deploring the fact that the General Assembly has not yet succeeded in its aim of achieving a comprehensive test ban, despite eighteen successive resolutions on the subject.

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,

Deploring the fact that the determination expressed by the original parties to that Treaty to continue negotiations to achieve the discontinuance of all test explosions of nuclear weapons for all time has not so far produced the desired results,

Noting with special concern that the continuation of nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere is a source of growing pollution and that the number and magnitude of underground tests has increased at an alarming rate since 1963,

Having considered the special report submitted by the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament<sup>1/</sup> in response to resolution 2663 B (XXV) of 7 December 1970,

Recalling its resolution 1762 A (XVII) of 6 November 1962, whereby all nuclear weapon tests, without exception, were condemned,

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<sup>1/</sup> A/8457, section IV.

Convinced that, whatever may be the differences on the question of verification, there is no valid reason for delaying the conclusion of a comprehensive test ban of the nature contemplated in the preamble to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water,

1. Reiterates solemnly and most emphatically its condemnation of all nuclear weapon tests;

2. Urges the Governments of nuclear-weapon States to bring to a halt all nuclear weapon tests at the earliest possible date and, in any case, not later than \_\_\_\_\_;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit the present resolution to the nuclear-weapon States and to inform the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session of any measures they have taken to implement it.

B

The General Assembly,

Noting that one of the first steps in the strengthening of international security is to dissipate world-wide fears that nuclear, thermonuclear and other weapons of mass destruction may be used by miscalculation in what could appear to be a desperate situation,

Considering that for the last few years the United Nations has been preoccupied with finding ways and means of diminishing the pollution of the earth's atmosphere,

Noting that scientists have been unanimous in the conclusion that the fall-out from nuclear tests is injurious to human and animal life and that such fall-out may poison the earth's atmosphere for many decades to come,

Taking into account that underground nuclear and thermonuclear tests may not only create serious health hazards but may also cause as yet undetermined injury to humans and animals of the region where such tests are conducted,

Recognizing that there already exist sufficient nuclear, thermonuclear and other lethal weapons of mass destruction in the arsenals of certain Powers to decimate the world's population and possibly render the earth uninhabitable,

1. Appeals to the nuclear Powers to desist from carrying out further nuclear and thermonuclear tests, whether underground, under water or in the earth's atmosphere;

2. Urges the nuclear Powers to reach an agreement without delay on the cessation of all nuclear and thermonuclear tests;

3. Reassures the peoples of the world that the United Nations will continue to raise its voice against nuclear and thermonuclear tests of any kind and earnestly requests the nuclear Powers not to deploy such weapons of mass destruction.

C

The General Assembly,

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

Recalling that this subject has been included in the agenda of the General Assembly every year since 1959,

Recalling in particular its resolutions 914 (X) of 16 December 1955, 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, 2604 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, and 2663 (XXV) of 7 December 1970,

Expressing serious concern that the objectives of those resolutions have not been fulfilled,

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 and that some continue to test in the atmosphere,

Taking into account the determination expressed by the parties to that Treaty to continue negotiations to achieve the discontinuance of all test explosions of nuclear weapons for all times,

Noting the appeal for progress on this issue, made by the Secretary-General in the introduction to his report on the work of the Organization,

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

Having considered the special report submitted by the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament<sup>2/</sup> in response to resolution 2663 B (XXV) of 7 December 1970,

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<sup>2/</sup> A/8457 - DC/234, section III.

1. Stresses anew the urgency of bringing to a halt all nuclear weapon testing in all environments by all States;
  2. Urges all States that have not yet done so to adhere without further delay to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water and meanwhile to refrain from testing in the environments covered by that Treaty;
  3. Calls upon all Governments that have been conducting nuclear weapon tests, particularly those of parties to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water, immediately to undertake unilateral or negotiated measures of restraint that would suspend nuclear weapon testing or limit or reduce the size and number of nuclear weapon tests, pending the early entry into force of a comprehensive ban on all nuclear weapon tests in all environments by all States;
  4. Urges Governments to take all possible measures to develop further, and to use more effectively, existing capabilities for the seismological identification of underground nuclear tests, in order to facilitate the monitoring of a comprehensive test ban;
  5. Requests the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to continue as a matter of highest priority its deliberations on a treaty banning underground nuclear weapon tests, taking into account the suggestions already made in the Conference, as well as the views expressed at the current session of the General Assembly;
  6. Requests particularly Governments that have been carrying out nuclear tests to take an active and constructive part in developing, in the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (or in any successor body), specific proposals for an underground test ban treaty;
  7. Expresses the hope that these efforts will enable all States to sign, in the near future, a treaty banning underground nuclear weapon tests.
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