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URGENT NEED FOR CESSATION OF NUCLEAR AND THERMONUCLEAR
TESTS AND CONCLUSION OF A TREATY DESIGNED TO ACHIEVE A
COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Horacio ARTEAGA-ACOSTA (Venezuela)

1. The item entitled "Urgent need for cessation of nuclear and thermonuclear tests and conclusion of a treaty designed to achieve a comprehensive test ban: report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament" was included by the Secretary-General in the provisional agenda of the thirtieth session on the basis of General Assembly resolution 3257 (XXIX) of 9 December 1974.
2. At its 2353rd plenary meeting, on 19 September 1975, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in the agenda of the thirtieth session and to allocate it to the First Committee for consideration and report.
3. At its 2072nd meeting, on 30 October, the First Committee decided to hold a combined general debate on the items allocated to it relating to disarmament and the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace, namely, items 31, 34 to 48, 120, 122 and 126. The general debate on these items took place at the 2072nd to 2095th meetings, from 30 October to 21 November.
4. The First Committee had before it, in connexion with agenda item 37, the following documents:
 - (a) Report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (A/10027-DC/238);
 - (b) Letter dated 22 September 1975 from the Chairman of the Delegation of Mexico to the thirtieth session of the General Assembly addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.1/1055);
 - (c) Letter dated 27 October 1975 from the Personal Representative of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.1/1067).

5. On 28 November, Australia, Colombia, Finland, Ireland, Mexico, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, the Philippines, Sweden and Venezuela submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.738). The draft resolution was introduced by Australia at the 2101st meeting, on 1 December. At the 2104th meeting, on 3 December, the sponsors agreed to an oral amendment suggested by Yugoslavia to make clear, in operative paragraph 7 of the draft, that the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament should give the highest priority to the conclusion of a comprehensive test ban agreement.

6. At the 2106th meeting, on 4 December, draft resolution A/C.1/L.738, as orally amended, was put to the vote:

(a) The fourth preambular paragraph was adopted by a recorded vote of 88 to none, with 28 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Burma, Burundi, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Germany (Federal Republic of), Ghana, Guinea, Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Laos, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Republic, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Cameroon, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, China, Congo, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, France, German Democratic Republic, Greece, Hungary, India, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Mongolia, Mozambique, Poland, Spain, Sri Lanka, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America, Yugoslavia.

(b) Operative paragraph 1 was adopted by a recorded vote of 80 to 5, with 33 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

/...

In favour: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Ghana, Guinea, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Laos, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Republic, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Nepal, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: Albania, China, France, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

Abstaining: Afghanistan, Algeria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Congo, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, German Democratic Republic, Germany (Federal Republic of), Greece, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mongolia, Mozambique, Netherlands, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

(c) Operative paragraph 5 was adopted by a recorded vote of 96 to none, with 22 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burma, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Ghana, Guinea, Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Laos, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Republic, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Algeria, Bulgaria, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany (Federal Republic of), Greece, Hungary, India, Madagascar, Mongolia, Mozambique, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America, Zaire.

(d) The draft resolution as a whole was adopted by a recorded vote of 92 to 2, with 24 abstentions (see para. 7 below). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burma, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Ghana, Guinea, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Laos, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Republic, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: Albania, China.

Abstaining: Algeria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Congo, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany (Federal Republic of), Greece, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mongolia, Mozambique, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

Urgent need for cessation of nuclear and thermonuclear tests and conclusion of a treaty designed to achieve a comprehensive test ban

The General Assembly,

Deeply concerned that a number of States have engaged in underground nuclear weapon testing since the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly, while welcoming the fact that there have been no atmospheric nuclear weapon tests in the same period,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the subject, most recently resolution 3257 (XXIX) of 9 December 1974,

Recalling the stated aim of the parties to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water 1/ to seek to achieve the discontinuance of all test explosions of nuclear weapons for all time,

Noting:

(a) That the Final Declaration of the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, adopted by consensus in May 1975:

- (i) Expressed the view that the conclusion of a treaty banning all nuclear weapon tests is one of the most important measures to halt the nuclear arms race,
- (ii) Expressed the hope that the nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons will take the lead in reaching an early solution to the technical and political difficulties on this issue,
- (iii) Appealed to these States to make every effort to reach agreement on the conclusion of an effective comprehensive test ban,

(b) That the final documentation of the Conference included a draft resolution and a draft additional protocol to the Treaty, submitted by a considerable number of States which attended the Conference, concerning nuclear weapon tests, 2/ whereby the nuclear-weapon States depositaries to the Treaty would agree on a moratorium which could in due course become a comprehensive test ban embracing all nuclear-weapon States,

1/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 480, No. 6964, p. 43.

2/ NPT/CONF/L.2/Rev.1.

(c) That the desire was expressed by a considerable number of delegations at the Conference that the nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty should, as soon as possible, enter into an agreement, open to all States and containing appropriate provisions to ensure its effectiveness, to halt all nuclear weapon tests of adhering States for a specified time, whereupon the terms of such an agreement would be reviewed in the light of the opportunity at that time to achieve a universal and permanent cessation of all nuclear weapon tests,

Taking note of the section of the report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament relating to the question of a comprehensive test ban agreement, 3/

Reaffirming its conviction that the cessation of nuclear weapon testing would be in the supreme interest of mankind, both as a major step towards controlling the development and proliferation of nuclear weapons and to relieve the deep apprehension concerning the harmful consequences of radioactive contamination for the health of present and future generations,

1. Condemns all nuclear weapon tests, in whatever environment they may be conducted;
2. Deplores the continued lack of progress towards a comprehensive test ban agreement;
3. Emphasizes the urgency of reaching agreement on the conclusion of an effective comprehensive test ban;
4. Calls upon all nuclear-weapon States to bring to a halt all nuclear weapon tests through an agreed suspension subject to review after a specified period, as an interim step towards the conclusion of a formal and comprehensive test ban agreement;
5. Emphasizes in this regard the particular responsibility of the nuclear-weapon States which are party to international agreements in which they have declared their intention to achieve at the earliest possible date the cessation of the nuclear arms race;
6. Calls upon all States not yet parties to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water to adhere to it forthwith;
7. Urges the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to give the highest priority to the conclusion of a comprehensive test ban agreement and to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-first session on the progress achieved;
8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-first session the item entitled "Urgent need for cessation of nuclear and thermonuclear tests and conclusion of a treaty designed to achieve a comprehensive test ban".