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Forty-sixth session
Agenda item 47

REDUCTION OF MILITARY BUDGETS

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Pablo Emilio SADER (Uruguay)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled:

"Reduction of military budgets:

"(a) Reduction of military budgets;

"(b) Transparency and reduction of military budgets"

was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolutions 40/91 B of 12 December 1985 and 44/114 A and B of 15 December 1989.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1991, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 10 October 1991, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on the disarmament items allocated to it, namely, items 47 to 65. The deliberations on those items took place between the 3rd and 24th meetings, from 14 October to 30 October (see A/C.1/46/PV.3-24). Consideration of and action on draft resolutions on those items took place between the 25th and 37th meetings, from 4 to 15 November (see A/C.1/46/PV.25-37).

4. In connection with item 47, the First Committee had before it the following documents:

- (a) Report of the Disarmament Commission; 1/
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General on reduction of military budgets (A/46/311 and Add.1);
- (c) Report of the Secretary-General on military expenditures in standardized form reported by States (A/46/381 and Add.1 and 2);
- (d) Letter dated 23 September 1991 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/493);
- (e) Letter dated 23 October 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/598-S/23166);
- (f) Letter dated 2 October 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.1/46/4);
- (g) Letter dated 7 October 1991 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Albania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.1/46/6).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/46/L.27

5. On 1 November 1991, Belarus, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lesotho, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America submitted a draft resolution entitled "Transparency of military expenditures" (A/C.1/46/L.27), which was later also sponsored by Argentina, Austria, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria and Turkey. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Germany at the 31st meeting, on 7 November.

6. At its 34th meeting, on 12 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.27 without a vote (see para. 7).

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/46/42).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

Transparency of military expenditures

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 35/142 B of 12 December 1980, which introduced the United Nations standardized reporting system on military expenditures,

Noting that since then national reports on military expenditures have voluntarily been submitted by a number of Member States belonging to different geographic regions,

Expressing its appreciation to the Secretary-General for providing Member States with the reports on military expenditures,

Welcoming the decision of the States participating in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, as contained in the 1990 Vienna document of the negotiations on confidence- and security-building measures, to exchange annually information on their military budgets, on the basis of the categories of the United Nations standardized reporting system on military expenditures,

Welcoming the recent progress achieved in arms limitations and disarmament, which, in the long term, will lead to significant reductions in military expenditures,

Convinced that the end of the East-West confrontation and the resulting improvement of international relations form a sound basis for promoting further openness and transparency on all military matters,

Emphasizing that an increased flow and exchange of information on military expenditures will contribute to the predictability of military activities, thus strengthening international peace and security on a global and regional level,

Recalling that the Disarmament Commission in dealing with objective information on military matters is currently developing principles, mechanisms and guidelines aimed at the enhancement of openness and transparency in military matters, including military expenditures,

1. Calls upon all Member States to participate in the standardized reporting system on military expenditures as adopted by the General Assembly;

2. Encourages the Disarmament Commission to finalize its work on objective information on military matters in 1992;

3. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-eighth session an item entitled "Transparency of military expenditures".
