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Agenda item 62

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Report of the First Committee (Part I)

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled:

"General and complete disarmament:

"(a) Prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of radiological weapons:

"(i) Report of the Conference on Disarmament;

"(ii) Report of the Secretary-General;

"(b) Objective information on military matters: report of the Secretary-General;

"(c) Conventional disarmament: report of the Disarmament Commission;

"(d) Nuclear disarmament;

"(e) Naval armaments and disarmament: report of the Disarmament Commission;

"(f) Prohibition of the production of fissionable material for weapons purposes: report of the Conference on Disarmament;

"(g) Conventional disarmament on a regional scale;

"(h) Notification of nuclear tests;

"(i) Review of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament:
report of the Disarmament Commission"

was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-second session in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 41/59 A, B, C, F, G, I, K, L, M, N and O of 3 December 1986.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 18 September 1987, 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 1 October, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on the disarmament items allocated to it, namely, items 48 to 69, followed by statements on specific disarmament agenda items and a continuation of the general debate, as necessary. The deliberations on those items began at the 3rd meeting, on 12 October.

4. In connection with item 62, the First Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Conference on Disarmament; 1/

(b) Report of the Disarmament Commission; 2/

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on objective information on military matters (A/42/435);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of radiological weapons (A/42/517);

(e) Note by the Secretary-General on notification of nuclear tests (A/42/541);

(f) Letter dated 2 March 1987 from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/42/160-S/18733);

(g) Letter dated 30 March 1987 from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the concluding documents of the regular session of the Committee of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States parties to the Warsaw Treaty of Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Assistance, held in Moscow on 24 and 25 March 1987 (A/42/189-S/18768);

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/42/27).

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/42/42).

(h) Letter dated 14 April 1987 from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of a proposal from the States parties to the Warsaw Treaty to the member States of NATO on the question of a moratorium on the increase in military expenditures (A/42/228-S/18811);

(i) Letter dated 15 April 1987 from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/42/231-S/18816);

(j) Letter dated 29 May 1987 from the Permanent Representative of the German Democratic Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the communiqué and documents adopted at the session of the Political Consultative Committee of the States parties to the Warsaw Treaty on Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Assistance, held at Berlin on 28 and 29 May 1987 (A/42/313-S/18888);

(k) Letter dated 28 May 1987 from the representatives of Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden and the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the joint statement dated 22 May 1987 of the President of Argentina, the Prime Minister of Greece, the Prime Minister of India, the President of Mexico, the Prime Minister of Sweden and the First President of the United Republic of Tanzania (A/42/319-S/18894);

(l) Letter dated 10 June 1987 from the Permanent Representative of Czechoslovakia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/42/333);

(m) Letter dated 10 June 1987 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the statement on East-West relations issued at the Venice Economic Summit on 9 June 1987 (A/42/337);

(n) Letter dated 15 June 1987 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the German Democratic Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/42/343);

(o) Letter dated 12 June 1987 from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/42/346-S/18922);

(p) Letter dated 17 June 1987 from the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/42/353);

(q) Letter dated 15 July 1987 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the declaration concerning East-West relations adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Twelve States members of the European Community at Copenhagen on 13 July 1987 (A/42/402-S/18979);

(r) Letter dated 15 July 1987 from the Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the final statement of the fifth session of the InterAction Council, held at Kuala Lumpur from 19 to 21 April 1987 (A/42/407);

(s) Letter dated 23 July 1987 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Poland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/42/413);

(t) Letter dated 23 July 1987 from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/42/418-S/18994);

(u) Letter dated 13 August 1987 from the Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting documents issued at the Twentieth Ministerial Meeting of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), held in Singapore on 15 and 16 June 1987 (A/42/477-S/19048);

(v) Note verbale dated 14 August 1987 from the Permanent Mission of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/42/509);

(w) Letter dated 5 October 1987 from the head of the delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the forty-second session of the General Assembly addressed to the Secretary-General (A/42/621-S/19180);

(x) Letter dated 9 October 1987 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden and the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the joint statement issued on 7 October 1987 by the President of Argentina, the Prime Minister of Greece, the Prime Minister of India, the President of Mexico, the Prime Minister of Sweden and the First President of the United Republic of Tanzania (A/42/652-S/19201);

(y) Note verbale dated 18 September 1987 from the Permanent Representative of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.1/42/2).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

5. The consideration of proposals submitted under this agenda item is divided into two parts. Part I deals with draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.1 and draft decision A/C.1/42/L.3. Part II will deal with all other proposals submitted under the agenda item.

A. Draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.1

6. On 13 October, Romania submitted a draft resolution entitled "General and complete disarmament: nuclear disarmament" (A/C.1/42/L.1). The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Romania at the 4th meeting, on 13 October, and read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Noting the joint statement released by the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics at the end of the meeting of their Secretary of State and Minister of Foreign Affairs, held at Washington, D.C. from 15 to 17 September 1987,

"Expressing its satisfaction on the agreement in principle reached at that meeting to conclude a treaty on the elimination of intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles in Europe and all over the world,

"Noting with satisfaction that at the same meeting a full spectrum of questions regarding nuclear, conventional and chemical weapons was reviewed and the two parties agreed to intensify their effort to achieve a 50 per cent reduction in strategic offensive arms within the framework of nuclear and space talks at Geneva and to begin nuclear-test-ban negotiations,

"Convinced that an early conclusion of the treaty on the elimination of intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles would be of crucial importance for the betterment of the international political climate and would create conditions conducive to further disarmament agreements,

"Reaffirming the central role and primary responsibility of the United Nations in the sphere of disarmament,

"1. Appeals to the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and to the Government of the United States of America to spare no effort in concluding at an earliest date, during 1987, the treaty on the elimination of intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles in Europe and elsewhere;

"2. Calls upon all European States as well as all interested States to do their utmost in order to assist the process of negotiation and its successful conclusion;

"3. Calls upon all States to undertake concrete measures to halt the arms race and to proceed to disarmament, and first of all to nuclear disarmament, as well as to contribute to the relaxation of international tension and the resumption of the policy of détente, to the strengthening of international co-operation and respect for the national independence of all peoples."

7. At the request of the sponsor, no action was taken on draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.1.

B. Draft decision A/C.1/42/L.3

8. On 20 October, the Chairman of the First Committee submitted a draft decision entitled "General and complete disarmament" (A/C.1/42/L.3), which he introduced at the 13th meeting, on the same date.

9. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.3 without a vote (see para. 10).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

10. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

General and complete disarmament

The General Assembly, noting the joint statement released by the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics at the end of the meeting between the Secretary of State and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, held at Washington, from 15 to 17 September 1987, urges the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and of the United States of America to spare no effort in concluding, in accordance with the agreement in principle reached at that meeting, at the earliest possible date a treaty on the elimination of their intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles to be signed at a summit meeting to be held in the fall of 1987 between President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev, as it was agreed, and to make a similarly intensive effort to achieve a treaty on 50 per cent reductions in their strategic offensive arms within the framework of the Geneva Nuclear and Space Talks.
