

throughout the world and that the situation in that regard was one which the United Nations should keep under constant review.

21. The Scientific Committee itself had proposed in 1972 that it should not meet during 1973 or report until 1974.³ That proposal had been taken up by a number of delegations, including the French delegation and had been incorporated in General Assembly resolution 2905 (XXVII) of 17 October 1972. However, at the 857th meeting of the Special Political Committee, the New Zealand representative had shown interest in the question and had stated that his delegation considered that, while nuclear testing continued, evaluation by the Scientific Committee should also continue, because the radiation resulting from atmospheric nuclear testing constituted the largest variable in the radiation sources to which man was exposed. His Government interpreted paragraph 4 of resolution 2905 (XXVII) as leaving the way open, if a particular development seemed to require it, for calling a meeting of the Scientific Committee in 1973 and for submitting a report to the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session; and it reserved the right to raise the subject of atomic radiation under other items of the General Assembly agenda in future years. His delegation was glad to learn that the French Government now considered that a further report should be made by the Scientific Committee in the current year and should be considered by the General Assembly.

22. There had been a considerable number of nuclear explosions during 1973 and widespread manifestations of government and public concern. Moreover, many leaders of delegations at the current session of the General Assembly had referred to the question of nuclear weapons testing during the general debate. International concern had, however, been building up steadily over a number of years. What did seem new to his delegation was the perception and acknowledgement by one of the nuclear Powers which had been conducting a programme of test explosions in the atmosphere that at least one of the effects of such a programme was a matter of genuine and legitimate international concern, that that concern was growing, and that there was a need for the Assembly to discuss the issue as a matter of the "highest priority".

³ *Ibid.*, para. 4.

23. The problem of radiation was only one aspect of the problem of nuclear weapons testing which, in turn, was one aspect of the problem of ending the arms race. There was already an item on nuclear weapons testing on the agenda of the First Committee (item 35) and the General Committee might wish to consider whether the additional item, if included, should also be referred to that body. Although such a course would certainly seem logical, his delegation would be happy to discuss it in the Special Political Committee if the General Committee decided, in accordance with previous practice, to refer the item to it.

24. Mr. ARITA QUIÑÓNEZ (Honduras) asked whether the item would be discussed if no report could be submitted by the Scientific Committee.

25. The CHAIRMAN said that a report could be requested, and could be considered if it arrived in time.

The General Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the item entitled "Effects of Atomic Radiation: report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation" should be included in the agenda.

26. Mr. LECOMPT (France) proposed that the item should be allocated to the Special Political Committee.

The General Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the item should be allocated to the Special Political Committee.

Mr. Templeton (New Zealand) withdrew.

27. The CHAIRMAN recalled, with reference to paragraph 5 of the Secretary-General's memorandum (A/BUR/180/Add.1), that, by letter dated 1 October 1973 (A/9193), 19 Member States had requested the inclusion in the agenda of the following additional item: "Inclusion of Arabic among the official and working languages of the General Assembly, its committees and sub-committees".

The General Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the item entitled "Inclusion of Arabic among the official and working languages of the General Assembly, its committees and sub-committees" should be included in the agenda.

28. Mr. DRISS (Tunisia) proposed that the item should be allocated to the Fifth Committee.

The General Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the item should be allocated to the Fifth Committee.

The meeting rose at 10.45 a.m.

209th meeting

Tuesday, 9 October 1973, at 9.55 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Leopoldo BENITES (Ecuador).

A/BUR/SR.209

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. de Piniés (Spain), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

Adoption of the agenda and allocation of items: memorandum by the Secretary-General (continued) (A/BUR/180 and Corr.1 and 2 and A/BUR/180/Add.1 and 2)

1. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to the memorandum by the Secretary-General (A/BUR/180/Add.2), paragraph 2 of which listed three items of the draft agenda proposed for inclusion in the agenda, while paragraph 3 contained a request for the inclusion of an additional item.

2. Mr. GONZÁLEZ GÁLVEZ (Mexico) said that consultations which he had held as Chairman of the Sixth Committee had led him to believe that consideration of the three items listed in paragraph 2 of the Secretary-General's memorandum—items 100, 101 and 102 of the draft agenda—should be postponed for a further year. He had made a suggestion to that effect in the Sixth Committee, inviting comments on it on two occasions. In the absence of any such comments, he formally proposed that the General Committee should recommend the inclusion of the three items in the provisional agenda of the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

3. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee agreed to the proposal by the Chairman of the Sixth Committee.

The General Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that items 100, 101 and 102 of the draft agenda should be included in the provisional agenda of the twenty-ninth session.

4. Mr. BENNETT (United States of America), in reference to paragraph 3 of the Secretary-General's memorandum, recalled that, on 24 September 1973, the United States Secretary of State had proposed to the General Assembly (2124th plenary meeting) that a world food conference should be organized under United Nations auspices in 1974 to discuss ways to maintain

adequate food supplies and to harness the efforts of all nations to meet the hunger and malnutrition resulting from natural disasters. On 4 October, the Permanent Representative of the United States had set forth the rationale of that proposal in a letter to the Secretary-General (A/9194) requesting the inclusion in the agenda of an additional item entitled "Convocation of a world food conference under the auspices of the United Nations". The situation which the United States delegation had described was urgent and one which affected every country. It was convinced that the problems to which it had called attention fell easily and rightly within the mandate of the United Nations. He therefore hoped that the General Committee would recommend forthwith, firstly, to include the item in the agenda of the current session, and, secondly, to allocate the item, once inscribed, to the Second Committee.

5. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the General Committee agreed to the United States proposal.

The General Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the item entitled "Convocation of a world food conference under the auspices of the United Nations" should be included in the agenda and allocated to the Second Committee.

The meeting rose at 10.15 a.m.

210th meeting

Friday, 12 October 1973, at 3.45 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Leopoldo BENITES (Ecuador).

A/BUR/SR.210

Organization of the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly: scheduling of agenda item 102

1. The CHAIRMAN said that the meeting had been called under rules 41 and 42 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. A proposal had been made to begin the plenary debate on item 102 (Reduction of the military budgets of States permanent members of the Security Council by 10 per cent and utilization of part of the funds thus saved to provide assistance to developing countries) on 15 October. He recalled that it had been agreed that the plenary would not discuss disarmament questions concurrently with the First Committee. The First Committee would not be discussing disarmament questions from 15 to 22 October. He therefore wished to know the views of members of the Committee, concerning item 102, in order to prepare the work programme. In the future, he intended to follow that procedure for other items on the agenda.

2. Mr. MALIK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, if there were no objections, the Committee could agree without discussion to the proposal to begin

the debate on item 102 on 15 October. The other important items were not yet ready for consideration since there were no documents available. Item 102 was the only one ready and many non-aligned countries had shown an interest in using the time between 15 and 22 October to discuss it.

3. Mr. CHUANG Yen (China) said that his delegation considered that agenda item 102, proposed by the Soviet Union, was not at all a serious item. It was aimed totally at deceiving the people of the world and at covering up the Soviet Union's arms expansion and war preparations. It deserved no attention. Many of the items to be discussed in the plenary were realistic, urgent and important questions which should be given priority; for example, there were the questions of the Middle East and decolonization. It was completely unnecessary for the General Assembly at its current session to spend time and energy discussing the deceptive item proposed by the Soviet Union.

4. Mr. AMERASINGHE (Sri Lanka) said that it was his understanding that the First Committee would begin its discussion on the sea-bed (item 40) on 15 Oc-