



UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



Distr.  
GENERAL

A/36/224  
28 April 1981  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

Thirty-sixth session  
Item 52 of the preliminary list\*

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS OF USE  
OF CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS WHICH MAY BE DEEMED TO BE  
EXCESSIVELY INJURIOUS OR TO HAVE INDISCRIMINATE EFFECTS

Letter dated 10 April 1981 from the Permanent Representative  
of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-  
General

Following the signing by Italy on Friday, 10 April 1981, of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, 1/ concluded at Geneva on 10 October 1980, and the annexed Protocols, 2/ I have the honour, on instructions from my Government, to make the following policy statement:

"On 10 October 1980 in Geneva, the representative of Italy to the United Nations Conference which adopted the texts of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects and of the annexed Protocols stated at the closing meeting that the Conference, in an effort to compromise between what was desirable and what was possible, had probably achieved the maximum results that current circumstances allowed.

"He nevertheless pointed out in his statement that the inclusion in the text of the Convention, in accordance with a proposal made on the initiative of the Federal Republic of Germany, of a clause concerning the establishment of a consultative committee of experts competent to inquire into the facts in case of any alleged breaches of the obligations assumed, was one of the objectives which, to the great regret of the Italian Government, it had not been possible to attain at the Conference.

\* A/36/50.

1/ See A/CONF.95/15 and Corr.2, annex I, appendix A.

2/ Ibid., appendices B to D.

"On the same occasion, the representative of Italy expressed the hope that that proposal, the aim of which was to enhance the credibility and indeed the effectiveness of the Convention, would as soon as possible be given further consideration under the amendment procedure expressly provided for in the Convention itself.

"Subsequently, through the representative of the Netherlands speaking on behalf of the nine States members of the European Community on 20 November 1980, Italy had a further opportunity to express, in the First Committee of the General Assembly (see A/C.1/35/PV.37) on the occasion of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.1/35/L.15/Rev.1 (subsequently approved as resolution 35/153), its regret that the States participating in the drafting of the Convention and its Protocols had been unable to agree on provisions to ensure that the obligations arising from them would be honoured.

"In the same spirit, Italy, upon becoming a signatory to the Convention in accordance with the wishes expressed by the General Assembly in its resolution 35/153, would like solemnly to reaffirm its intention of working actively for the earliest possible reconsideration, in any competent forum, of the problem of establishing a mechanism which will make good an omission in the Convention and thus give it maximum effectiveness and credibility in the eyes of the international community."

I have the honour to request that the above statement should be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 52 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Umberto LA ROCCA  
Ambassador

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