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CESSATION OF ALL TEST EXPLOSIONS OF NUCLEAR  
WEAPONS

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Alemayehu MAKONNEN (Ethiopia)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Cessation of all test explosions of nuclear weapons: report of the Committee on Disarmament" was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-sixth session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 35/145 A of 12 December 1980.
2. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 18 September 1981, 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 7 October, the First Committee decided to hold a combined general debate on the items allocated to it relating to disarmament, namely, items 39 to 56, 128 and 135. The general debate on these items took place at the 3rd to 26th meetings from 19 October to 4 November (see A/C.1/36/PV.3-26).
4. In connexion with item 45, the First Committee had before it the report of the Committee on Disarmament. 1/

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/36/L.22

5. On 13 November, Ecuador, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Sweden and Yugoslavia submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/36/L.22), which was subsequently also sponsored by Bangladesh, the Niger and Panama. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Mexico at the 32nd meeting, on 17 November.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/36/27).

6. At the 39th meeting, on 23 November, the Committee voted on draft resolution A/C.1/36/L.22 as follows:

(a) Operative paragraph 5 was adopted by a recorded vote of 84 to 2, with 38 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Burundi, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, Cyprus, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire.

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

Abstaining: Afghanistan, Australia, Bahamas, Belgium, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Central African Republic, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Fiji, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Samoa, Spain, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Viet Nam, Zambia.

(b) The draft resolution as a whole was adopted by a recorded vote of 103 to 2, with 21 abstentions 2/ (see para. 7). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Ivory Coast, Jamaica,

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2/ Subsequently, the delegation of the Congo advised the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour, and the delegation of Israel advised the Secretariat that it had intended to abstain.

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Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire.

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

Abstaining: Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, Fiji, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Portugal, Samoa, Spain, Turkey, Zambia.

### III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

#### Cessation of all test explosions of nuclear weapons

##### The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind that the complete cessation of nuclear-weapon tests, which has been examined for more than twenty-five years and on which the General Assembly has adopted more than forty resolutions, is a basic objective of the United Nations in the sphere of disarmament, to whose attainment it has repeatedly assigned the highest priority,

Stressing that on seven different occasions it has condemned such texts in the strongest terms and that, since 1974, it has stated its conviction that the continuance of nuclear-weapon testing will intensify the arms race, thus increasing the danger of nuclear war,

Reiterating the assertion made in several previous resolutions that, whatever may be the differences on the question of verification, there is no valid reason for delaying the conclusion of an agreement on a comprehensive test ban,

Recalling that since 1972 the Secretary-General has declared that all the technical and scientific aspects of the problem have been so fully explored that

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only a political decision is now necessary in order to achieve final agreement, that when the existing means of verification are taken into account it is difficult to understand further delay in achieving agreement on an underground test ban, and that the potential risks of continuing underground nuclear-weapon tests would far outweigh any possible risks from ending such tests,

Recalling also that the Secretary-General, 3/ in his foreword to the report entitled "Comprehensive nuclear test ban", has reiterated with special emphasis the opinion he expressed nine years ago and, after specifically referring to it, has added: "I still hold that belief. The problem can and should be solved now",

Noting that in the same report, which was prepared in compliance with General Assembly decision 34/422 of 11 December 1979, the experts have emphasized that non-nuclear-weapon States in general have come to regard the achievement of a comprehensive test ban as a litmus test of the determination of the nuclear-weapon States to halt the arms race, adding that verification of compliance no longer seems to be an obstacle to reaching agreement,

Taking into account that the three nuclear-weapon States which act as depositaries of the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water 4/ undertook in that Treaty, almost twenty years ago, to seek the achievement of the discontinuance of all test explosions of nuclear weapons for all time and that such an undertaking was explicitly reiterated in 1968 in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, 5/

Recalling that in its resolution 35/145 A of 12 December 1980 it urged all States members of the Committee on Disarmament to support the creation, upon initiation of its session in 1981, of an ad hoc working group which should begin the multilateral negotiations of the treaty for the prohibition of all nuclear-weapon tests,

Deploring that the Committee on Disarmament, as stated in paragraph 44 of its report to the Assembly, 6/ was prevented from carrying out that exhortation owing to the negative attitude of two nuclear-weapon States,

1. Reiterates once again its grave concern that nuclear-weapon testing continues unabated against the wishes of the overwhelming majority of Member States;
2. Reaffirms its conviction that a treaty to achieve the prohibition of all

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3/ A/35/257.

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

5/ Resolution 2373 (XXII), annex.

6/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/36/27).

nuclear-test explosions by all States for all time is a matter of the highest priority and constitutes a vital element for the success of efforts to prevent both vertical and horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons and a contribution to nuclear disarmament;

3. Urges all States that have not yet done so to adhere without further delay to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water and, meanwhile, to refrain from testing in the environments covered by that Treaty;

4. Urges likewise all States members of the Committee on Disarmament:

(a) To bear in mind that the consensus rule should not be used in such a manner as to prevent the establishment of subsidiary bodies for the effective discharge of the functions of the Committee;

(b) To support the creation by the Committee, upon initiation of its session in 1982, of an ad hoc working group which should begin the multilateral negotiation of a treaty for the prohibition of all nuclear-weapon tests;

(c) To use their best endeavours in order that the Committee may transmit to the General Assembly at its second special session devoted to disarmament the multilaterally negotiated text of such a treaty;

5. Calls upon the States depositaries of the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, by virtue of their special responsibilities under those two treaties and as a provisional measure, to bring to a halt without delay all nuclear-test explosions, either through a trilaterally agreed moratorium or through three unilateral moratoria;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-seventh session the item entitled "Cessation of all test explosions of nuclear weapons".