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Agenda item 128

CONCLUSION OF A TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE STATIONING OF WEAPONS OF ANY KIND IN OUTER SPACE

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Alemayehu MAKONNEN (Ethiopia)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Conclusion of a treaty on the prohibition of the stationing of weapons of any kind in outer space" was included in the supplementary list of items proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the thirty-sixth session on the basis of a request contained in a letter dated 10 August 1981 from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics addressed to the Secretary-General (A/36/192).
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 26th to 32nd meetings, from 19 October to 4 November (see A/C.1/36/PV.3-26).
4. In connexion with item 128, the Committee had before it a letter dated 10 August 1981 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics addressed to the Secretary-General (A/36/192).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/36/L.8

5. On 11 November, Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Poland, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Viet Nam submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/36/L.8), which was subsequently also sponsored by Angola. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Mongolia at the 29th meeting, on 12 November.

6. At its 39th meeting, on 23 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/36/L.8 by a recorded vote of 105 to none, with 20 abstentions (see para. 7). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, 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, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, 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, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

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III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

Conclusion of a treaty on the prohibition of the stationing of
weapons of any kind in outer space

The General Assembly,

Guided by the goals of strengthening peace and international security,

Expressing the common interest of all mankind in furthering the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes for the good of all States and in the interests of developing friendly relations and mutual understanding between them,

Conscious of the danger which would threaten mankind if outer space became an arena for the arms race,

Desiring not to allow outer space to become an arena for the arms race and a source of strained relations between States,

Taking into account the draft Treaty on the Prohibition of the Stationing of Weapons of Any Kind in Outer Space, submitted to the General Assembly by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and the views and comments expressed during the consideration of that item at the thirty-sixth session,

1. Considers it necessary to take effective steps, by concluding an appropriate international treaty, to prevent the spread of the arms race to outer space;
2. Requests the Committee on Disarmament to embark on negotiations with a view to achieving agreement on the text of such a treaty;
3. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-seventh session the item entitled "Conclusion of a treaty on the prohibition of the stationing of weapons of any kind in outer space".
