

REPORT
OF THE
DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 42 (A/37/42)



UNITED NATIONS

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New York, 1982

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its thirty-sixth session, the General Assembly, in resolution 36/92 B of 9 December 1981, took note of the report of the Disarmament Commission. 1/ The operative part of the resolution reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"1. Takes note of the report of the Disarmament Commission;

"2. Notes that the Disarmament Commission was not able to conclude its consideration of the items on its agenda;

"3. Requests the Disarmament Commission to continue its work in accordance with its mandate, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, and to continue consideration of the items included in the agenda of its session in 1981 and, to that end, to meet for a period not exceeding four weeks during 1982;

"4. Requests the Disarmament Commission to submit a substantive report on its work to the General Assembly at its second special session devoted to disarmament, to be held from 7 June to 9 July 1982;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Disarmament Commission the report of the Committee on Disarmament, together with all the official records of the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly relating to disarmament matters, and to render all assistance that it may require for implementing the present resolution;

"6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-seventh session the item entitled 'Report of the Disarmament Commission';".

2. At the same session, the General Assembly also adopted resolution 36/82 A of 9 December 1981. The operative part of the resolution, relating to the Disarmament Commission, reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"1. Reaffirms the urgent need to reinforce the endeavours of all States and international action in the area of the reduction of military budgets, with a view to reaching international agreements to freeze, reduce or otherwise restrain military expenditures;

"2. Reiterates the appeal to all States, in particular the most heavily armed States, pending the conclusion of agreements on the reduction of military expenditures, to exercise self-restraint in their military expenditures with a view to reallocating the funds thus saved to economic and social development, particularly for the benefit of developing countries;

"3. Requests the Disarmament Commission to continue at its session to be held in 1982 the consideration of the item entitled 'Reduction of military budgets', taking into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 35/142 A as well as those of the present resolution and other relevant proposals and ideas, with a view to identifying and elaborating on the principles which should govern further actions of States in the field of the freezing and reduction of military expenditures, keeping in mind the possibility of embodying such principles into a suitable document at an appropriate stage;

"4. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-seventh session the item entitled 'Reduction of military budgets'."

3. Also at the same meeting, the General Assembly adopted resolution 36/97 A of 9 December 1981. The operative part of the resolution, relating to the Disarmament Commission, reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"1. Requests the Secretary-General to establish the Group of Experts on All Aspects of the Conventional Arms Race and on Disarmament relating to Conventional Weapons and Armed Forces, in accordance with the provisions contained in paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 35/156 A;

"2. Requests the Disarmament Commission at its substantive session in 1982 to complete its consideration of the general approach to, and the structure and scope of the study and to transmit the conclusions of its deliberations to the Group of Experts;

"3. Agrees that the Group of Experts should pursue its work after the above-mentioned session of the Disarmament Commission, taking into consideration such conclusions as the Commission may submit to it, and, if necessary, the deliberations at the substantive session of the Commission in 1981, in particular those reflected in paragraph 21 and annex III of the report on that session; 1/

"4. Requests the Secretary-General, in accordance with paragraph 4 of resolution 35/156 A, to submit a final report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session."

4. The Disarmament Commission met at United Nations Headquarters on 10 and 11 December 1981 for a brief organizational session. During this period, the Commission held two meetings (A/CN.10/PV.55 and 56). In the course of its deliberations, the Commission considered various questions regarding the organization of its work, in particular the question of the election of the officers of the Commission, taking into account the principle of rotation of the Chairmanship. In this connexion, the Commission elected its Chairman; however, it decided to postpone the election of the Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteur to the substantive session in 1982 (see A/CN.10/PV.55). The Commission also considered the elements of the provisional agenda for its next substantive session, particularly in the light of the convening of the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

II. ORGANIZATION AND WORK DURING 1982

A. Substantive session held in May

5. The Disarmament Commission met at United Nations Headquarters from 17 to 28 May 1982. During the course of its session, it held five plenary meetings (A/CN.10/PV.57-61) and a number of informal meetings. The Chairman also conducted informal consultations during that period.

6. At its 57th meeting, on 17 May, the Commission elected eight Vice-Chairmen. At its 59th meeting, on 18 May, the Commission elected the Rapporteur, and thus completed its bureau (see para. 4 above) which was constituted as follows:

Chairman: Mr. Eugeniusz Wyzner (Poland)

Vice-Chairmen: Representatives from the following States:

Bahamas	Liberia
Belgium	Pakistan
Czechoslovakia	Sweden
Iraq	Zaire

Rapporteur: Mr. Max de la Fuente (Peru)

7. At its 57th meeting, on 17 May, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda (A/CN.10/L.9), as follows:

1. Opening of the session.
 2. Election of officers.
 3. Adoption of the agenda.
 4. (a) Consideration of the various aspects of the arms race, particularly the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament, in order to expedite negotiations aimed at effective elimination of the danger of nuclear war;
 - (b) Consideration of the agenda items contained in section II of resolution 33/71 H, with the aim of elaborating, within the framework and in accordance with the priorities established at the tenth special session, a general approach to negotiations on nuclear and conventional disarmament.
5. Reduction of military budgets:
- (a) Harmonization of views on concrete steps to be undertaken by States regarding a gradual, agreed reduction of military budgets and reallocation of resources now being used for military purposes to economic and social development, particularly for the benefit of the developing countries, noting the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

(b) Examination and identification of effective ways and means of achieving agreements to freeze, reduce or otherwise restrain, in a balanced manner, military expenditures, including adequate measures of verification satisfactory to all parties concerned, taking into account the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 34/83 F, 35/142 A and 36/82 A, with a view to identifying and elaborating on the principles which should govern further actions of States in the field of the freezing and reduction of military expenditures, keeping in mind the possibility of embodying such principles into a suitable document at an appropriate stage.

6. Elaboration of the general approach to the study on all aspects of the conventional arms race and on disarmament relating to conventional weapons and armed forces, as well as its structure and scope, taking into account General Assembly resolution 36/97 A.
7. Preparation and adoption of a report of the Disarmament Commission on its work to the General Assembly at its second special session devoted to disarmament.
8. Letter dated 1 February 1979 from the Secretary-General addressed to the Chairman of the Disarmament Commission (A/CN.10/3).
9. Letter dated 8 March 1979 from the Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid addressed to the Secretary-General (A/CN.10/4).
10. Report of the Disarmament Commission to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session.
11. Other business.

8. In accordance with a decision taken at the same meeting, the Commission held, from 17 to 18 May (A/CN.10/PV.57-59), a general exchange of views on all agenda items.

9. At its 58th meeting, on 17 May, the Commission decided to establish two informal, open-ended working groups: Working Group I dealing with (a) the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament (agenda item 4) and (b) nuclear plans and capability of South Africa (agenda item 9); and Working Group II dealing with (a) reduction of military budgets (agenda item 5) and (b) elaboration of a mandate for the study group on conventional disarmament (agenda item 6). As a result of their deliberations, the Working Groups submitted reports containing recommendations on the respective agenda items to the Commission for consideration at its 60th meeting, on 25 May. The Commission approved those reports at its 61st meeting, on 28 May.

10. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted its report to the General Assembly at its twelfth special session devoted to disarmament. 2/

11. The report of the Disarmament Commission was included in the agenda of the twelfth special session as item 9 (c).

12. During the substantive session of the Commission, held in May 1982, a number of documents were submitted by delegations in connexion with the various agenda items under consideration. They are listed in annex I of the report of the Disarmament Commission to the General Assembly at its second special session devoted to disarmament.

B. Session held in October

13. At its 61st meeting, on 28 May, the Commission decided to hold a brief session in the autumn in order to consider and adopt the report of the Disarmament Commission to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session (see A/CN.10/PV.61).

14. In accordance with that decision, the Disarmament Commission met at United Nations Headquarters on 14 October. In the course of its session, it held one plenary meeting (A/CN.10/PV.62).

15. At its 62nd meeting, on 14 October, the Commission was informed of the resignation of its Chairman, Mr. Eugeniusz Wyzner (Poland), and agreed that Mr. Włodzimierz Natorf (Poland) would assume the Chairmanship as his successor for the remaining period of 1982.

16. At the same meeting, the Disarmament Commission adopted its agenda (A/CN.10/L.10), as follows:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Organizational matters.
4. Adoption of the report of the Disarmament Commission to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session.
5. Other business.

17. Also at the same meeting, the Commission considered its report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session. In that regard, the Commission took note of the decision of the General Assembly at its twelfth special session, contained in paragraph 64 of its Concluding Document (A/S-12/32), which reads as follows:

"64. The other items on the agenda on which the special session has not reached decisions should be taken up at the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly for further consideration."

18. The Commission also took note of the note by the Secretary-General (A/37/493) which, inter alia, referred the documents related to the items mentioned in paragraph 64 of the Concluding Document to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session.

19. Bearing in mind that the General Assembly at its twelfth special session had neither considered nor taken a decision on the report of the Commission, the

Disarmament Commission accordingly decided that its report to the twelfth special session 2/ should be resubmitted as recommendations to the Assembly at its thirty-seventh session.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/36/42).

2/ Ibid., Twelfth Special Session, Supplement No. 3, (A/S-12/3).

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