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GENERAL ASSEMBLY ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

SEVENTEENTH REGULAR SESSION

Additional Items

[These notes refer to Items 11, 12, 13 and 14 as indicated in the supplementary item lists, Docs. A/5197, A/5198, A/5218 and A/5219.]

1. Question of general and complete disarmament: report of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament [item submitted for inclusion on the agenda by the Secretary-General]

In submitting this item, the Secretary-General noted that on 7 September 1962, the 18-Nation Committee adopted a "Report to the United Nations," for transmission to the UN Disarmament Commission and the seventeenth session of the General Assembly, which was described as a second interim progress report on the Committee deliberations in 82 plenary sessions between 1 June and 8 September 1962. [Doc.A/5197; report to be submitted to Disarmament Commission as Doc.DC/205 and to the General Assembly as Doc.A/5200.]

The note by the Secretary-General also pointed out that pursuant to General Assembly resolution 1722 (XVI), the Committee had previously submitted a progress report to the Disarmament Commission on 31 May 1962 covering the period 14 March to 1 June 1962 (Doc.DC/203).

The 18-Nation Committee was formed on 13 December 1961 following unanimous adoption by the Disarmament Commission of a joint USSR-United States draft resolution to establish a new committee of 18 nations to undertake, as a matter of utmost urgency, negotiations with a view to reaching an agreement on general and complete disarmament on the basis of the agreed principles arrived at between the USSR and the United States. [Doc.A/C.1/L.307; Press Release GA/PS/1084.]

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One main feature of the agreed principles between the USSR and the United States was that the principle of cooperation would be followed in the negotiations. The operative part of the agreement states that all states should work, not only for the widest agreement and the earliest date, but also for agreement on, and implementation of, whatever specific disarmament measures could be applied quickly. The agreement also provides for the continuation of a pattern of relationship between the negotiating body and the United Nations (Doc. A/4879).

The 18 nations composing the committee included the following: Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, France, India, Italy, Mexico, Nigeria, Poland, Romania, Sweden, USSR, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom and United States. The committee held its first meeting on 14 March 1962 at Geneva (Press Release DC/242).

(France has not taken part in the meetings of the Committee.)

From its first session, the General Assembly has been discussing the question of disarmament under various headings and various bodies have been established either under the Security Council or the General Assembly to pursue work on this issue.

Assembly discussions on this question are provided under Article 11(1) of the Charter which states: "The General Assembly may consider the general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, including the principles governing disarmament and the regulation of armaments, and may make recommendations with regard to such principles to the members or to the Security Council or to both."

In its session in 1952, the Assembly established a Disarmament Commission to carry out the tasks carried out previously by the various other bodies on disarmament [Res. 502 (VI)].

The Disarmament Commission has been directed to prepare proposals to be embodied in a draft treaty, or treaties, for the regulation, limitation and balanced reduction of all armed forces and all armaments, for the elimination of all major weapons adaptable to mass destruction, and for effective international control of atomic energy to ensure the prohibition of atomic weapons and the use of atomic energy for peaceful purpose only.

The resolution called for a conference of all states to consider the proposals for a draft treaty (or treaties) as soon as the work of the commission shall have progressed to where it is ready for submission to the governments. During this period, the commission was to submit reports periodically to the Security Council and to the General Assembly.

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The Disarmament Commission, as it is composed now, consists of all Member of the United Nations [Res. 1252 (XIII) of 1959].

2. Measures to be adopted in connection with the earthquake in Iran, [item proposed by 62 nations]

This item was submitted for the Assembly's agenda on 17 September (Doc. A/5198 and A/5198/Add.1).

In an accompanying explanatory memorandum, the 62 nations call attention to the tragedy that took place in the northwestern region of Iran as a result of the earthquake on 2 September 1962. It states that in the earthquake, affecting about 8,000 square miles, 10,000 human lives were lost and many people seriously injured.

The memorandum adds that more than 30,000 persons in the area have now been rendered homeless and a larger number left without any means of livelihood. Immediate relief measures had been taken by the Government of Iran with the assistance of various friendly nations; but that the rehabilitation task and "associated long-term measures regarding the economy of the region called for multi-lateral assistance in material resources as well as skill.

The memorandum also points out that the tragedy in Iran is not an isolated event, since on an average there are about 40 earthquakes each year in different parts of the world; and that the experience gained by international organizations from rehabilitation and other tasks in Iran could be utilized for developing effective methods of assistance in similar disasters in the future.

The memorandum concludes that, in this light, the General Assembly should place this item on the agenda as an additional one of an important and urgent character.

The Acting Secretary-General has appointed Dr. Susumu Kobe, a Japanese economist, as coordinator of all emergency reconstruction programs to be conducted by the United Nations and its related agencies in Iran. (Press Release M/1443.)

3. Restoration of the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations [item proposed by the USSR]

This item was submitted for the agenda on 18 September (Doc. A/5218).

An accompanying explanatory memorandum states that for "almost 13 years one of the world's greatest states, the People's Republic of China, had so far had no opportunity to occupy its rightful place in the United Nations."

The memorandum states that the United Nations as a whole is suffering irreparable damage as a result of the fact that it has so far failed to restore the lawful rights of the People's Republic in the Organization. This failure, it adds, is also "seriously impeding the solution in the United Nations of such major international problems as general and complete disarmament and the development of

international economic cooperation."

Continued postponement of a positive solution to this question of representation, the memorandum states, will further impair the prestige of the Organization and diminish its role as an instrument of peace and international security.

The memorandum concludes that it is absolutely necessary for the Assembly, at this session, to examine this question and to remove from all its organs "the representatives of the Chiang Kai-shek clique, who are illegally occupying the place of great China in the United Nations."

The question of the representation of China in the United Nations was first raised in 1949 in communications from the Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China. It came before the Security Council in January 1950 and later that year was raised in the General Assembly.

From 1951 through 1960 the Assembly decided at successive sessions not to consider the matter at that session and did not include the item on the agenda.

In 1961, the Assembly discussed the matter as an agenda item, as proposed by the USSR, for the first time. After 10 days of debate on this item and another item proposed by New Zealand regarding the "question of representation of China in the United Nations," the Assembly adopted a five-power resolution by which it decided "in accordance with Article 18 of the Charter, that any proposal to change the representation of China is an important question" and therefore requires a two-thirds majority. [Res. 1668 (XVI) of 15 December 1961]

This five-power resolution was adopted by the vote of 61 against 34, with 7 abstentions and 2 absent. The five-nation resolution was by Australia, Colombia, Italy, Japan, and the United States. The USSR resolution was rejected by a vote of 48 against 36, with 20 abstentions; and also the three-nation amendment by Cambodia, Ceylon and Indonesia, to the USSR resolution by a vote of 45 against 30, with 29 abstentions.

4. Convening of an international conference on trade problems [Item proposed by the USSR/

This item was proposed on 17 September (Doc. A/5219).

In an accompanying memorandum, the USSR states that the task of "restoring international trade to normal" is assuming increasing importance for all states in the world; but that, unfortunately, increasing use is now being made of various forms of discriminatory practices in international trade.

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The memorandum adds that the appearance of the Common Market in western Europe is extending and intensifying the use of such discriminatory restrictions in international trade. These practices, it adds, tend only to widen the gulf between the economic development of the under developed and the industrially highly-developed countries.

The memorandum calls for all possible measures to promote a radical improvement in international trade and the development of mutually profitable economic ties between all countries so as to clear the air for peaceful international economic cooperation.

The memorandum concludes that the convening of such a conference on trade problems is a highly important and necessary step toward the establishment of an international trade organization that will embrace all regions and countries in the world; and, accordingly, that the Assembly should discuss this question as a separate agenda item.

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