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GENERAL ASSEMBLY ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

SEVENTEENTH REGULAR SESSION

Additional Items

[These notes refer to Items 15 and 16 as indicated
in the supplementary item lists, Doc. A/5232 and
A/5233.]

1. Condemnation of Propaganda Favoring Preventive Nuclear War: [item
proposed by the USSR]

This item was submitted for the agenda on 21 September (Doc. A/5232).

In an accompanying explanatory memorandum, the USSR states that the world faces a "threatening situation" fraught with the danger of a nuclear war, and that the Assembly should condemn as aggressive acts "all appeals for preventive nuclear war and for the dealing of the first nuclear blow."

"Serious alarm" is aroused, the memorandum states, by the increasingly extensive propaganda calling for "military revenge" and for a revision of the national frontiers established in Europe, as a result of the Second World War. Such propaganda, it states, "harbors the danger of a military explosion capable of developing into a world conflict."

The memorandum concludes that, in the view of the Soviet Government, the existing conditions require immediate and urgent action for all states to put a stop to propaganda favoring preventive nuclear war, and that the realization of this object would be served by the Assembly adoption of an appropriate resolution.

A draft resolution by the USSR, attached to the memorandum, proposes to all states that they enact legislation, within six months, declaring any form of war propaganda as a "most grave offense" and prescribing severe penalties for persons guilty of conducting such propaganda.

In 1947, the Assembly discussed the matter as an agenda item and passed a resolution on "Measures to be taken against propaganda and the inciters of a new war," [Res. 110 (XI) of 3 November 1947].

[This was reaffirmed in the Assembly during its Fourth Session [Res. 290 (IV) of 1 December 1949]

(more).

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The resolution was again adopted in the Fifth Session of the General Assembly as "Condemnation of propaganda against peace." [Res. 381 (V) of 17 November 1950.]

In 1954, a resolution on "The strengthening of peace through the removal of barriers to free exchange of information and ideas," was adopted in the General Assembly's Ninth Session in 1954 [Res. 819 (IX) of 11 December 1954.]

2. Economic program for disarmament: [Item proposed by the USSR (A/5233)]

This item was proposed on 21 September 1962.

In an accompanying memorandum, the USSR states that the struggle of the peace-loving peoples for the discontinuance of the "senseless arms race" has brought to the forefront of the international scene the question of an economic program for disarmament.

On this question, the memorandum refers to the vast opportunities for economic development in all countries of the world if the "incalculable resources now poured into the bottomless pit of the arms race were diverted to peaceful, productive purposes." This development, the memorandum adds, could provide for the equalizing of the level of economic development in all states and continents, within the lifetime of this present generation.

The memorandum states that it is the duty of the United Nations to "raise the banner" of a comprehensive economic program for disarmament without waiting for a treaty on general and complete disarmament to be concluded.

In urging inclusion of the item for consideration by the Assembly in plenary meeting, the USSR also presents a draft "Declaration concerning the conversion to peaceful needs of the resources released by disarmament."

The draft proposal calls for, in concrete terms, the setting up of 30 to 40 new power-based industrial centers, of world significance, in the underdeveloped countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, and for the harnessing and making extensive use of the rich resources of these countries in water power, petroleum, gas, ferrous and non-ferrous metal ores and other natural wealth.

The Assembly at its 15th session, in Res. 1516 (XV) of 15 December 1960, recognizing that effective action at the national and international levels would be needed to make use of material and human resources becoming available as a consequence of disarmament, requested the Secretary-General to examine certain specific problems in this area with the assistance of expert consultants.

It also requested him to submit a preliminary report on the results of the examination to the Economic and Social Council and asked the Council to transmit that report, with its observations, to the Assembly at the present session.

[Doc. A/5199].

The report of the Secretary-General, in which the experts have set forth their unanimous conclusion that "the achievement of general and complete disarmament would be an unqualified blessing to all mankind," and the information furnished by various governments and international organizations will be found in Doc. E/3593/Rev.1 and E/3593/Add.1-5 respectively.

A summary of the Economic and Social Council's discussions on the economic and social consequences of disarmament will be found in Chapter II of its annual report to the Assembly (Official Records of the General Assembly, 17th Session, Supplement No. 3, Doc. A/5203).

The Council concluded its work on the subject by the unanimous adoption of Res. 891 (XXXIV).

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