

UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/3514
28 January 1957

ORIGINAL - ENGLISH

Eleventh session

Agenda item 22

REGULATION, LIMITATION AND BALANCED REDUCTION OF ALL ARMED FORCES
AND ALL ARMAMENTS; CONCLUSION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION (TREATY)
ON THE REDUCTION OF ARMAMENTS AND THE PROHIBITION OF ATOMIC, HYDROGEN
AND OTHER WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION: REPORT OF THE DISARMAMENT
COMMISSION

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Dr. Franz MATSCH (Austria)

1. By resolution 914 (X) of 16 December 1955, the General Assembly inter alia, urged the States concerned and particularly those on the Sub-Committee of the Disarmament Commission to continue their endeavours to reach agreement and suggested that the Disarmament Commission should reconvene its Sub-Committee.
2. At its 577th plenary meeting on 15 November 1956, the General Assembly decided to include in the agenda of its session the item "Regulation, limitation and balanced reduction of all armed forces and all armaments; conclusion of an international convention (treaty) on the reduction of armaments and the prohibition of atomic, hydrogen and other weapons of mass destruction: report of the Disarmament Commission," and referred it to the First Committee for consideration and report.
3. On 17 November, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics requested the distribution of a statement by the Soviet Government on disarmament and the lessening of international tension (A/3366).
4. On 20 December, the Chairman of the Disarmament Commission addressed a letter (A/3470) to the Secretary-General transmitting to the General Assembly the third report of the Sub-Committee of the Disarmament Commission (DC/83) together with relevant documents and the records of the meetings of the Commission.

57-03591

/...

59-

5. The First Committee considered the item at its 821st to 829th meetings held between 14 and 25 January 1957.
6. At the 821st meeting on 14 January the United States of America presented a memorandum (A/C.1/783), embodying the outline of a number of disarmament proposals.
7. At the same meeting, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics introduced two draft resolution by which (a) the General Assembly would call upon the States conducting atomic and hydrogen weapons tests to discontinue them forthwith (A/C.1/L.160); (b) the General Assembly would instruct the Disarmament Commission and its Sub-Committee to examine the proposals concerning the reduction of armed forces and armaments and the prohibition of nuclear weapons presented by the USSR, the United Kingdom, the United States, France and other States, and would decide to convene a special session of the General Assembly on matters of disarmament, and instruct the Disarmament Commission to propose the date of its convening (A/C.1/L.161).
8. On 14 January, in accordance with paragraph 6 of article II of the Agreement between the United Nations and the International Labour Organisation, the Secretary-General distributed to the Members of the General Assembly a communication (A/C.1/784) from the Director-General of the International Labour Office drawing attention to resolution No. IV adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 39th session, which reaffirmed the hope that the work of the Disarmament Commission and its Sub-Committee might be brought to a speedy and fruitful conclusion.
9. On 18 January, Canada, Japan and Norway introduced a joint draft resolution (A/C.1/L.162) by which the General Assembly would (a) recommend that the States concerned and particularly those on the Sub-Committee of the Disarmament Commission should give particular and urgent attention to the question of establishing, as a preliminary step toward eventual prohibition of nuclear weapons through progressive stages, a system for registration with the United Nations of nuclear test explosions; and (b) request the Secretary-General and the Scientific Committee established by General Assembly resolution 913 (X) to co-operate with the States concerned in the operation of such a system with a view to keeping the total actual and expected radiation in the world under constant observation.

10. On 24 January, Australia, Brazil, Canada, El Salvador, France, India, Japan, Norway, the USSR, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Yugoslavia, introduced a joint draft resolution (A/C.1/L.163) which (a) recommended that the Disarmament Commission and its Sub-Committee should give (i) prompt attention to the various proposals which had been submitted to the United Nations, including the proposal of the Governments of Canada, Japan and Norway of 18 January 1957; the Anglo-French comprehensive proposals of 11 June 1954, 19 March 1956 and 3 May 1956; the proposals of the United States of 14 January 1957; the proposals of the USSR of 10 May 1955, 27 March 1956, 12 July 1956, 17 November 1956, 14 January 1957 and 24 January 1957; the proposals of India of 25 July 1956; and the proposals of Yugoslavia of 10 July 1956; and also (ii) continued consideration to the plan of President Eisenhower for exchanging military blueprints and mutual aerial inspection, and the plan of Prime Minister Bulganin for establishing control posts at strategic centres; (b) recommended further that the Disarmament Commission should request its Sub-Committee to prepare a progress report for consideration by the Commission not later than 1 August 1957; (c) decided to transmit to the Disarmament Commission the records of the meetings of the First Committee pertaining to disarmament; (d) invited the Disarmament Commission to consider the advisability of recommending that a special session of the General Assembly or a general disarmament conference should be convened at the appropriate time.
11. On the same date, the USSR introduced a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.164) by which (a) the membership of the Disarmament Commission would be increased by adding Egypt, India, Poland and a Latin American country to the States referred to in resolution 1 (I) of 24 January 1946; (b) the Disarmament Commission would be invited to increase the membership of its Sub-Committee by adding to it India and Poland.
12. At the 829th meeting on 25 January, the representative of the Philippines proposed that the joint draft resolution introduced by Canada, Japan and Norway (A/C.1/L.162) should be amended by adding the word "advance" before the word "registration" in the first operative paragraph. The amendment was accepted by the authors of the joint draft resolution.

13. At the same meeting, the representative of the USSR withdrew one of the draft resolutions (A/C.1/L.161), submitted by his delegation and agreed that the other two draft resolutions (A/C.1/L.160, L.164) should not be put to the vote, as they would be referred to the Disarmament Commission and its Sub-Committee for their prompt attention.
14. Also, at the same meeting, and for the same reason, Canada, Japan and Norway agreed that their revised draft resolution (A/C.1/L.162/Rev.1) should not be put to the vote.
15. The twelve-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.163) was then put to the vote and was adopted unanimously.
16. The First Committee, therefore, recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

REGULATION, LIMITATION AND BALANCED REDUCTION OF ALL ARMED FORCES AND ALL ARMAMENTS; CONCLUSION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION (TREATY) ON THE REDUCTION OF ARMAMENTS AND THE PROHIBITION OF ATOMIC, HYDROGEN AND OTHER WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION: REPORT OF THE DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 808 (IX) of 4 November 1954,

Recognizing that the achievement of an agreement on the problem of disarmament would contribute to the strengthening of international peace and security,

Welcoming the progress made on certain aspects of the disarmament problem by the Disarmament Commission and its Sub-Committee since the tenth session of the General Assembly,

1. Requests the Disarmament Commission to reconvene its Sub-Committee at an early date;
2. Recommends that the Disarmament Commission and its Sub-Committee give prompt attention to the various proposals that have been submitted to the United Nations including the proposal of the Governments of Canada, Japan and Norway of 18 January 1957; the Anglo-French comprehensive proposals of 11 June 1954, 19 March 1956 and 3 May 1956; the proposals of the United States of America made under date of 14 January 1957; the proposals of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics made under date of 10 May 1955, 27 March 1956, 12 July 1956, 17 November 1956, 14 January 1957 and

24 January 1957; the proposals of the Government of India made under date of 25 July 1956; and the proposals of the Government of Yugoslavia of 10 July 1956; and give continued consideration to the plan of Mr. Eisenhower, President of the United States of America, for exchanging military blueprints and mutual aerial inspection, and the plan of Mr. Bulganin, Prime Minister of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, for establishing control posts at strategic centres;

3. Recommends further that the Disarmament Commission request its Sub-Committee to prepare a progress report for consideration by the Commission not later than 1 August 1957;

4. Transmits to the Disarmament Commission the records of the meetings of the First Committee at which the problem of disarmament was discussed, with the request that the Commission and its Sub-Committee give careful and early consideration to the views expressed in those documents;

5. Invites the Disarmament Commission to consider the advisability of recommending that a special session of the General Assembly or a general disarmament conference be convened at the appropriate time.
