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Agenda item 52

CESSATION OF ALL NUCLEAR-TEST EXPLOSIONS

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Virgilio A. REYES (Philippines)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Cessation of all nuclear-test explosions" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-third session in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 42/26 A and B of 30 November 1987.
2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 23 September 1988, 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 12 October, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on the disarmament items allocated to it, namely items 51 to 69 and 139, 141 and 145. The deliberations on those items took place between the 3rd and the 25th meetings, from 17 October to 2 November (see A/C.1/43/PV.3-25). Consideration of and action on draft resolutions on those items took place between 3 and 18 November (see A/C.1/43/PV.26-43).
4. In connection with item 52, the First Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Report of the Conference on Disarmament; 1/

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/43/27).

(b) Letter dated 2 February 1988 from the representatives of Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden and the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the Stockholm Declaration, adopted on 21 January 1988 (A/43/125-S/19478);

(c) Letter dated 27 May 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the seventy-ninth session of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held at Guatemala City from 8 to 16 April 1988 (A/43/370);

(d) Note verbale dated 26 July 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/43/487);

(e) Letter dated 29 July 1988 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/43/495);

(f) Note verbale dated 25 August 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of letters addressed to the Secretary-General by the General Secretariat of the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific and the text of the statements issued by the Commission on 11 May and 8 June of this year on the subject of nuclear explosions conducted at the Mururoa Atoll (A/43/571);

(g) Letter dated 1 September 1988 from the representatives of Indonesia, Mexico, Peru, Sri Lanka and Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/43/597);

(h) Letter dated 29 September 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final documents adopted by the Conference of Foreign Ministers of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Nicosia from 5 to 10 September 1988 (A/43/667-S/20212);

(i) Letter dated 6 October 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the final communiqué of the Meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries to the forty-third session of the General Assembly, held in New York on 3 October 1988 (A/43/709);

(j) Letter dated 26 October 1988 from the Permanent Representative of the Solomon Islands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the final communiqué of the Nineteenth South Pacific Forum, held at Nukualofa, Tonga, on 20 and 21 September 1988 (A/43/762).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.13

5. On 28 October 1988, Ecuador, Indonesia, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Venezuela and Yugoslavia submitted a draft resolution entitled "Cessation of all nuclear-test explosions" (A/C.1/43/L.13), which was later also sponsored by Ireland and Romania. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Mexico at the 28th meeting, on 7 November.

6. At its 37th meeting, on 15 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.13 by a recorded vote of 118 to 3, with 13 abstentions (see para. 9, draft resolution A). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: France, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Belgium, Canada, China, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Turkey.

B. Draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.23

7. On 31 October 1988, Indonesia, Mexico, Peru, Sri Lanka, Venezuela and Yugoslavia, submitted a draft resolution entitled "Cessation of all nuclear-test explosions" (A/C.1/43/L.23), which was later also sponsored by Ecuador and

Romania. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Mexico at the 29th meeting, on 7 November.

8. At its 37th meeting, on 15 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.23 by a recorded vote of 108 to 3, with 21 abstentions (see para. 9, draft resolution B). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: France, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Turkey.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

9. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Cessation of all nuclear-test explosions

A

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind that the complete cessation of nuclear-weapon tests, which has been examined for more than 30 years and on which the General

Assembly has adopted more than 50 resolutions, is a basic objective of the United Nations in the sphere of disarmament, to the attainment of which it has repeatedly assigned the highest priority,

Stressing that on eight different occasions it has condemned such tests in the strongest terms and that, since 1974, it has stated its conviction that the continuance of nuclear-weapon testing will intensify the arms race, thus increasing the danger of nuclear war,

Recalling that the Secretary-General, addressing a plenary meeting of the General Assembly on 12 December 1984, after appealing for a renewed effort towards a comprehensive test-ban treaty, emphasized that no single multilateral agreement could have a greater effect on limiting the further refinement of nuclear weapons and that a comprehensive test-ban treaty is the litmus test of the real willingness to pursue nuclear disarmament, 2/

Taking into account that the three nuclear-weapon States that act as depositaries of the 1963 Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water 3/ undertook in article I of that Treaty to conclude a treaty resulting in the permanent banning of all nuclear-test explosions, including all those explosions underground, and that such an undertaking was reiterated in 1968 in the preamble to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, 4/ article VI of which further embodies their solemn and legally binding commitment to take effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear-arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament,

Noting that the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, in its Final Declaration 5/ adopted on 21 September 1985, called upon the nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty to resume trilateral negotiations in 1985 and upon all the nuclear-weapon States to participate in the urgent negotiation and conclusion of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty, as a matter of the highest priority, in the Conference on Disarmament,

2/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Plenary Meetings, 97th meeting, para. 302.

3/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 480, No. 6964.

4/ Resolution 2373 (XXII), annex.

5/ Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, Part I (NPT/CONF.III/64/I) (Geneva, 1985), annex I.

Recalling that the leaders of the six States associated with the five-continent peace and disarmament initiative affirmed in the Stockholm Declaration, 6/ adopted on 21 January 1988, that "any agreement that leaves room for continued testing would not be acceptable",

Taking note with satisfaction of the progress made in the Conference on Disarmament by the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Co-operative Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events on the seismic verification of a comprehensive test ban, 7/

1. Reiterates once again its grave concern that nuclear-weapon testing continues unabated, against the wishes of the overwhelming majority of Member States;

2. Reaffirms its conviction that a treaty to achieve the prohibition of all nuclear-test explosions by all States for all time is a matter of the highest priority;

3. Reaffirms also its conviction that such a treaty would constitute a contribution of the utmost importance to the cessation of the nuclear-arms race;

4. Urges once more all nuclear-weapon States, in particular the three depositary Powers of the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water and of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to seek to achieve the early discontinuance of all test explosions of nuclear weapons for all time and to expedite negotiations to this end;

5. Appeals to all States members of the Conference on Disarmament to promote the establishment by the Conference at the beginning of its 1989 session of an ad hoc committee with the objective of carrying out the multilateral negotiation of a treaty on the complete cessation of nuclear-test explosions;

6. Recommends to the Conference on Disarmament that such an ad hoc committee should comprise two working groups dealing, respectively, with the following interrelated questions: contents and scope of the treaty, and compliance and verification;

7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fourth session the item entitled "Cessation of all nuclear-test explosions".

6/ See A/43/125-S/19478.

7/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/42/27), para. 31.

B

The General Assembly.

Bearing in mind the determination, proclaimed since 1963 in the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water, 8/ to seek to achieve the discontinuance of all test explosions of nuclear weapons for all time and to continue negotiations to this end,

Bearing in mind also that in 1968 the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons 9/ recalled such determination and included in its article VI an undertaking by each of its parties to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to the cessation of the nuclear-arms race at an early date,

Recalling that, in its resolution 2023 (XX) of 19 November 1965, adopted unanimously, it had stressed that one of the basic principles on which the treaty to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons should be based was that such treaty, which was then to be negotiated, should embody an acceptable balance of mutual responsibilities and obligations of the nuclear and non-nuclear Powers,

Recalling also that the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, in its Final Declaration 10/ adopted by consensus on 21 September 1985, expressed its deep regret that a comprehensive multilateral nuclear-test-ban treaty had not been concluded so far and called for the urgent negotiation and conclusion of such a treaty as a matter of the highest priority,

Noting that article II of the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water provides a procedure for the consideration and eventual adoption of amendments to the Treaty by a conference of its parties,

1. Welcomes the submission to the Depositary Governments of the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water of an amendment proposal for consideration at a conference of the parties to the Treaty convened for that purpose in accordance with Article II of the Treaty;

8/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 480, No. 6964.

9/ Resolution 2373 (XXII), annex.

10/ Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, Part I (NPT/CONF.III/64/I) (Geneva, 1985), annex I.

2. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fourth session an item entitled "Amendment of the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water".
