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**CONCLUSION OF EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS ON THE
STRENGTHENING OF THE SECURITY OF NON-NUCLEAR-WEAPON STATES
AGAINST THE USE OR THREAT OF USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Virgilio A. REYES (Philippines)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Conclusion of effective international arrangements on the strengthening of the security of non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-third session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 42/31 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 57, the First Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Conference on Disarmament; 1/

(b) 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);

(c) Note verbale dated 19 July 1988 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/43/471);

(d) 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);

(e) 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);

(f) Letter dated 21 October 1988 from the Permanent Representative of the German Democratic Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/43/741).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION

5. On 31 October 1988, Angola, Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics submitted a draft resolution entitled "Conclusion of effective international arrangements on the strengthening of the security of non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons" (A/C.1/43/L.21). The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Bulgaria at the 31st meeting, on 9 November.

6. At its 33rd meeting on 10 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.21 by a recorded vote of 99 to 17, with 16 abstentions (see para. 7). The voting was as follows: 2/

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

2/ Subsequently, the delegation of Niger indicated that it had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution, and the delegation of Colombia indicated that it had intended to abstain.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, 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, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Chile, China, Fiji, Greece, Honduras, Ireland, Israel, Malta, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Sweden, Uruguay.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

7. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Conclusion of effective international arrangements on the strengthening of the security of non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons

The General Assembly,

Deeply concerned at the continuing escalation of the arms race, in particular the nuclear arms race, and the possibility of the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Convinced that nuclear disarmament and the complete elimination of nuclear weapons are essential to remove the danger of war,

Considering that, until complete nuclear disarmament is achieved on a universal basis, it is imperative for the international community to develop

effective arrangements to ensure the security of non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Noting the general desire to conclude effective international measures to that end at an early date,

Noting also the unilateral declarations on the security of non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, made by all nuclear-weapon States,

Desirous of promoting the implementation of paragraph 59 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 3/ the first special session devoted to disarmament,

Recognizing that effective measures of such security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States would constitute an important contribution to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons,

Aware of the in-depth negotiations on this subject in the Conference on Disarmament during the past ten years,

Recalling the relevant parts of the special report of the Committee on Disarmament 4/ submitted to the General Assembly at its twelfth special session, 5/ the second special session devoted to disarmament, and of the special report of the Conference on Disarmament submitted to the Assembly at its fifteenth special session, 6/ the third special session devoted to disarmament, as well as of the annual report of the conference on its 1988 session, 7/

Welcoming the unanimous support in the Conference on Disarmament to continuing the search for a common approach to the substance of negative security assurances and, in particular, to a "common formula", which could be included in a legally binding instrument,

3/ Resolution S-10/2.

4/ The Committee on Disarmament was redesignated the Conference on Disarmament as from 7 February 1984.

5/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twelfth Special Session, Supplement No. 2 (A/S-12/2), sect. III.c.

6/ A/S-15/2.

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

Recognizing the need for a fresh look at the issue, in particular by the nuclear-weapon States, in order to overcome the difficulties encountered at the negotiations in previous years,

Noting the proposals on this subject submitted to the Conference on Disarmament, 8/

Considering that the non-nuclear-weapons States having no nuclear weapons on their territories have every right to receive reliable, uniform and unconditional international legal assurances against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

1. Reaffirms the urgent need, pending the achievement of complete nuclear disarmament, to reach an early agreement on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;

2. Recommends that the Conference on Disarmament pursue intensive negotiations in its Ad Hoc Committee on Effective International Arrangements to Assure Non-Nuclear Weapon States against the Use or Threat of Use of Nuclear Weapons at the beginning of its 1989 session, with a view to reaching such an agreement, taking into account the widespread support in the Conference for the conclusion of an international convention;

3. Appeals to all States, in particular the nuclear-weapon States, to demonstrate willingness and exercise the flexibility necessary to reach agreement on a common approach to, including the possibility of a common formula in, an international instrument or instruments of a legally binding character, to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;

4. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fourth session the item entitled "Conclusion of effective international arrangements on the strengthening of the security of non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons".

8/ Ibid., chap. III, sect. F.