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Agenda item 38

IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 32/78

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Miodrag MIHAJLOVIĆ (Yugoslavia)

1. The item entitled "Implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/78: report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament" was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-third session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/78 of 12 December 1977.
2. At its 4th and 5th plenary meetings, on 22 September 1978, 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 3rd meeting, on 6 October, the First Committee decided to consider separately agenda items 125 and 128 and then to hold a combined general debate on the other items allocated to it relating to disarmament, namely, items 35 to 49. The general debate on these items took place at the 29th to 50th meetings, from 6 to 24 November (see A/C.1/33/PV.29-50).
4. In connexion with item 38, the First Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament; 1/
 - (b) Letter dated 6 September 1978 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the documents of the Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Belgrade from 25 to 30 July 1978 (A/33/206).

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/33/27).

5. On 30 October 1978, Australia, Austria, Ecuador, Ireland, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Sweden and Venezuela submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/33/L.7), which in its operative part read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"1. Reiterates its grave concern that nuclear weapon testing has continued unabated against the wishes of the overwhelming majority of Member States of the United Nations;

"2. Reaffirms its conviction that a Treaty on the subject of this resolution is a matter of the highest priority;

"3. Regrets that a draft Treaty has not been concluded during the past year;

"4. Notes that the three negotiating nuclear-weapon States acknowledge the need to bring their negotiations to a speedy and successful conclusion;

"5. Urges those three States to expedite their negotiations with a view to bringing them to a positive conclusion as a matter of urgency and to use their utmost endeavours to transmit the results for full consideration by the multilateral negotiating body before the end of 1978;

"6. Requests the multilateral negotiating body to take up immediately the agreed text resulting from the negotiations in paragraph 5 above with a view to the submission as soon as possible of a draft Treaty, which will attract the widest possible adherence, to a resumed session of the thirty-third General Assembly;

"7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-fourth session an item relating to the implementation of the present resolution.

6. Subsequently, the draft resolution was revised (A/C.1/33/L.7/Rev.1) and sponsored by Australia, Austria, Canada, Colombia, the Congo, Denmark, Ecuador, Ghana, Ireland, Japan, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Qatar, Singapore, Sweden and Venezuela and later also by the Philippines. The revised draft resolution was introduced by New Zealand at the 40th meeting, on 16 November.

7. At the 57th meeting, on 30 November, the Committee proceeded to vote on the revised draft resolution (A/C.1/33/L.7/Rev.1). A statement of financial implications was read out by the Committee Secretary (see A/C.1/33/PV.57). The revised draft resolution was adopted by a recorded vote of 122 to 1, with 6 abstentions (see para. 8 below). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Empire, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: China.

Abstaining: Argentina, Cuba, Ethiopia, Fiji, France, Gambia.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

Implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/78

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its conviction that the cessation of nuclear-weapon testing by all States in all environments would be in the interest of all mankind, both as a major step towards ending the qualitative improvement, development and proliferation of nuclear weapons and as a means of relieving the deep apprehension concerning the harmful consequences of radioactive contamination for the health of present and future generations,

Recalling the determination of the parties to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapons Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water, 2/ and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, 3/ expressed in those Treaties, to continue negotiations to achieve the discontinuance of all test explosions for all time,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the subject, in particular resolution 32/78 of 12 December 1977 and paragraph 51 of resolution S-10/2 of 30 June 1978,

Recognizing the importance to a treaty prohibiting nuclear testing of the study being carried out by the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Co-operation Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events on a global network of stations for the exchange of seismological data.

Taking note of that part of the report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament 4/ relating to the question of a comprehensive test-ban treaty,

1. Reiterates its grave concern that nuclear-weapon testing has continued unabated against the wishes of the overwhelming majority of Member States;
2. Reaffirms its conviction that a treaty on the subject of the present resolution is a matter of the highest priority;
3. Regrets that a draft treaty has not been concluded during the past year;
4. Notes that the three negotiating nuclear-weapon States acknowledge the need to bring their negotiations to a speedy and successful conclusion;
5. Urges those three States to expedite their negotiations with a view to bringing them to a positive conclusion as a matter of urgency and to use their utmost endeavours to transmit the results for full consideration by the Committee on Disarmament before the beginning of its 1979 session;
6. Requests the Committee on Disarmament to take up immediately the agreed text resulting from the negotiations in paragraph 5 above with a view to the submission as soon as possible of a draft treaty, which will attract the widest possible adherence, to a resumed thirty-third session of the General Assembly;
7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-fourth session an item relating to the implementation of the present resolution.

2/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 480, No. 6964, p. 43.

3/ Resolution 2373 (XXIII), annex.

4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/33/27), paras. 54-115.