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Forty-fourth session
Agenda item 52URGENT NEED FOR A COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY:
REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENTReport of the First CommitteeRapporteur: Mr. Dimitris PLATIS (Greece)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Urgent need for a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty: report of the Conference on Disarmament" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-fourth session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 43/64 of 7 December 1988.
2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 22 September 1989, 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 13 October, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on the disarmament items allocated to it, namely, items 49 to 69 and 151. The deliberations on those items took place between the 3rd and 25th meetings, from 16 October to 1 November (see A/C.1/44/PV.3-25). Consideration of and action on draft resolutions on those items took place between the 26th and 41st meetings, from 2 to 17 November (see A/C.1/44/PV.26-41).
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-fourth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/44/27).

(b) Letter dated 18 April 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the Final Communiqué of the Eighteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (session on Islamic fraternity and solidarity) held at Riyadh from 6 to 9 Sha'ban A.H. 1409 (13 to 16 March A.D. 1989) (A/44/235-S/20600);

(c) Letter dated 22 May 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the Final Statement of the Palme Commission on Disarmament and Security Issues, issued at Stockholm on 14 April 1989 (A/44/293-S/20653);

(d) Letter dated 9 June 1989 from the Permanent 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 Declaration issued on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the launching of the Six-Nation Initiative (A/44/318-S/20689);

(e) Letter dated 23 June 1989 from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/44/347-S/20702);

(f) Letter dated 19 July 1989 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Zimbabwe to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the final documents of the Ministerial Meeting of the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Harare from 17 to 19 May 1989 (A/44/409-S/20743 and Corr.1 and 2);

(g) Letter dated 11 August 1989 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Solomon Islands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the Final Communiqué of the Twentieth South Pacific Forum, held at Tarawa on 10 and 11 July 1989 (A/44/463);

(h) Letter dated 22 September 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the texts of the final documents of the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Belgrade from 4 to 7 September 1989 (A/44/551-S/20870);

(i) Letter dated 2 November 1989 from the Permanent Representatives of Finland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/44/705-S/20940).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/44/L.50 AND Rev.1

5. On 30 October 1989, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, Fiji, Finland, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sweden, Vanuatu and Zaire submitted a draft resolution, entitled "Urgent need for a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban

treaty" (A/C.1/44/L.50), which was later also sponsored by Thailand. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of New Zealand at the 29th meeting, on 7 November.

6. On 15 November 1989, the sponsors submitted a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/44/L.50/Rev.1), which was later also sponsored by the Bahamas. The revised draft resolution contained an additional sixth preambular paragraph, which read as follows:

"Recalling the disarmament declaration adopted by the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Belgrade, from 4 to 7 September 1989". 2/

7. At its 38th meeting, on 16 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/44/L.50/Rev.1 by a recorded vote of 124 to 2, with 7 abstentions (see para. 8). The voting was as follows: 3/

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, 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, Zimbabwe.

Against: France, United States of America.

2/ See A/44/551-S/20870, annex.

3/ Subsequently, the delegation of Egypt indicated that it had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

Abstaining: Argentina, Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

Urgent need for a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty

The General Assembly,

Convinced that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought,

Convinced also of the consequent urgent need for an end to the nuclear-arms race and the immediate and verifiable reduction and ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons,

Convinced further that an end to nuclear testing by all States in all environments for all time is an essential step in order to prevent the qualitative improvement and development of nuclear weapons and their further proliferation, and to contribute, along with other concurrent efforts to reduce nuclear arms, to the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons,

Recognizing the recent progress made in the negotiations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America as reflected in their joint statement of 23 September 1989 4/ towards improved verification arrangements and the ratification of the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Limitation of Underground Nuclear Weapons Tests, 5/ signed on 3 July 1974, and the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on Underground Nuclear Explosions for Peaceful Purposes, 6/ signed on 28 May 1976, and urging both countries to complete that process,

Welcoming the ongoing implementation by the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics of their Treaty on the Elimination of

4/ A/44/578-S/20868, annex.

5/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/9627), annex II, document CCD/431.

6/ The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook, vol. I: 1976 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.77.IX.2), appendix III.

Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles 7/ and the agreement in principle on and further progress made towards an agreement for 50 per cent reductions in their strategic nuclear forces,

Recalling the disarmament declaration adopted by the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Belgrade from 4 to 7 September 1989, 8/

Recalling also the proposals by the leaders of the Six-Nation Initiative 9/ to promote an end to nuclear testing,

Convinced that the most effective way to achieve the discontinuance of all nuclear tests by all States in all environments for all time is through the conclusion, at an early date, of a verifiable, comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty that will attract the adherence of all States,

Reaffirming the particular responsibilities of the Conference on Disarmament in the negotiation of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty,

Noting the work being undertaken within the Conference on Disarmament by the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Co-operative Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events in preparation for the next phase of the technical test, to take place in 1990, concerning the global exchange and analysis of seismic data,

1. Reaffirms its conviction that a treaty to achieve the prohibition of all nuclear-test explosions by all States in all environments for all time is a matter of fundamental importance;

2. Urges, therefore, that the following actions be taken in order that a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty may be concluded at an early date:

7/ Ibid., vol. 12: 1987 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.88.IX.2), appendix VII.

8/ See A/44/551-S/20870, annex.

9/ See the Joint Declaration issued on 22 May 1984 by the heads of State or Government of Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden and the United Republic of Tanzania (A/39/277-S/16587, annex; for the printed text, see Official Records of the Security Council, Thirty-ninth Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1984, document S/16587, annex), reaffirmed in the Delhi Declaration issued on 28 January 1985 (A/40/114-S/16921, annex; for the printed text, see Official Records of the Security Council, Fortieth Year, Supplement for January, February and March 1985, document S/16921, annex), the Mexico Declaration issued on 7 August 1986 (A/41/518-S/18277, annex I), the Stockholm Declaration issued on 21 January 1988 (A/43/125-S/19478, annex) and the Declaration issued on 22 May 1989 on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the launching of the Six-Nation Initiative (A/44/318-S/20689).

(a) The Conference on Disarmament should intensify its consideration of item 1 of its agenda entitled "Nuclear test ban" and initiate substantive work on all aspects of a nuclear-test-ban treaty at the beginning of its 1990 session;

(b) States members of the Conference on Disarmament, in particular the nuclear-weapon States, and all other States should co-operate in order to facilitate and promote such work;

(c) The nuclear-weapon States, especially those which possess the most important nuclear arsenals, should agree promptly to appropriate verifiable and militarily significant interim measures, with a view to realizing a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty;

(d) Those nuclear-weapon States which have not yet done so should adhere to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water; 10/

3. Also urges the Conference on Disarmament:

(a) To take immediate steps for the establishment, with the widest possible participation, of an international seismic monitoring network with a view to the further development of its potential to monitor and verify compliance with a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty;

(b) To take into account, in this context, the progress achieved by the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Co-operative Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events, including work on the routine exchange and use of wave-form data, and other relevant initiatives or experiments by individual States and groups of States;

(c) To encourage the widest possible participation by States in the technical test that will take place in 1990 concerning the global exchange and analysis of seismic data;

(d) To initiate detailed investigation of other measures to monitor and verify compliance with such a treaty, including an international network to monitor atmospheric radioactivity;

4. Calls upon the Conference on Disarmament to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session on progress made;

5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fifth session the item entitled "Urgent need for a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty".
