

PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE GENERAL REGULATION AND REDUCTION OF ARMAMENTS

REPORT OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

Rapporteur: Dr. Homero VITERI LAFRONTE (Ecuador)

1. The General Assembly, at its forty-sixth plenary meeting, held on 31 October 1946, referred to the First Committee for consideration and report item 7, "Proposal concerning the General Reduction of Armaments" (document A/BUR/42) submitted by the head of the delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

2. The original proposal made by the delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was supplemented on 26 November by document A/C.1/83, and on 29 November these two proposals were replaced by a combined proposal concerning the general reduction of armaments (document A/C.1/87).

On 28 November, the delegation of Canada submitted an amendment to the proposal of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (document A/C.1/81 later revised as A/C.1/81/Rev.1) which accepted the main ideas of and added to the proposal which had been submitted by the delegation of Australia (document A/C.1/82). On 30 November the delegation of the United States of America submitted a proposal (documents A/C.1/90 and A/C.1/90/Corr.1), and the delegation of France presented a draft amendment to the proposal of the delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (document A/C.1/94).

3. On 2 December 1946, at its thirty-first meeting, the First Committee began consideration of this question. On 4 December at its thirty-eighth meeting, the head of the delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics accepted the United States draft proposal as a basis for further discussion, but submitted

his own amendments (document A/C.1/113) and declared that if these amendments were adopted, his delegation would not insist on the wording of its original resolution submitted in document A/C.1/87.

4. The First Committee, at its thirty-eighth meeting, appointed Sub-Committee 3 to study all the relevant resolutions which had been submitted to the Committee and to draft, if possible, a unanimously acceptable resolution. The composition of the Sub-Committee was as follows: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, France, India, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Syria, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom and United States of America.

5. On 5 December, at the first meeting of Sub-Committee 3, Mr. SPAAK (BELGIUM) was elected Chairman, and Mr. CLEMENTIS (CZECHOSLOVAKIA) Rapporteur.

The following documents were before the Sub-Committee, submitted by the delegations of Argentina, Canada, Australia, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States, France and Egypt: documents A/C.1/75, A/C.1/81/Rev.1, A/C.1/82, A/C.1/87/Add.1/Corr.1, A/C.1/90, A/C.1/90/Corr.1, A/C.1/94, A/C.1/113, and A/C.1/125.

6. On 5 December, the Sub-Committee adopted the proposal of the delegation of the United States, (document A/C.1/90) as the basis of its work. The Sub-Committee considered, in addition to amendments presented as working drafts by the delegations of India and the United Kingdom, the following further documents presented by the delegations of Canada and the United Kingdom: documents A/C.1/Sub.3/1, A/C.1/Sub.3/2, A/C.1/Sub.3/3, and A/C.1/Sub.3/4.

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7. After a full discussion, a drafting group consisting of the Chairman, and of representatives of Canada, China, Egypt, France, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom, the United States of America and of the Rapporteur was appointed to draft the text of the resolution for presentation to the Sub-Committee.

8. On 11 December the drafting group submitted to the Sub-Committee at its fifth meeting a draft proposal (document A/C.1/Sub.3/W.1) which, with some additions and changes, was adopted by the Sub-Committee at its sixth meeting on 12 December.

9. The Sub-Committee decided unanimously to forward to the First Committee the draft resolution contained in the report of Sub-Committee 3 (document A/C.1/132).

On 13 December at its forty-fourth meeting, the First Committee, after making a few minor drafting changes, adopted unanimously and by acclamation the resolution submitted by Sub-Committee 3.

10. The First Committee therefore recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE GENERAL REGULATION AND REDUCTION OF ARMAMENTS

1. In pursuance of Article 11 of the Charter and with a view to strengthening international peace and security in conformity with the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations,

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECOGNIZES the necessity of an early general regulation and reduction of armaments and armed forces.

2. Accordingly,

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECOMMENDS that the Security Council give prompt consideration to formulating the practical measures, according to their priority, which are essential to provide for the general regulation and reduction of

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armaments and armed forces and to assure that such regulation and reduction of armaments and armed forces will be generally observed by all participants and not unilaterally by only some of the participants. The plans formulated by the Security Council shall be submitted by the Secretary General to the Members of the United Nations for consideration at a special session of the General Assembly. The treaties or conventions approved by the General Assembly shall be submitted to the signatory States for ratification in accordance with Article 26 of the Charter.

3. As an essential step towards the urgent objective of prohibiting and eliminating from national armaments atomic and all other major weapons adaptable now and in the future to mass destruction, and the early establishment of international control of atomic energy and other modern scientific discoveries and technical developments to ensure their use only for peaceful purposes,

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

URGES the expeditious fulfilment by the Atomic Energy Commission of its terms of reference as set forth in Section 5 of the General Assembly Resolution of 24 January 1946.

4. In order to ensure that the general prohibition, regulation and reduction of armaments are directed towards the major weapons of modern warfare and not merely towards the minor weapons,

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECOMMENDS that the Security Council expedite consideration of the reports which the Atomic Energy Commission will make to the Security Council and that it facilitate the work of that Commission, and also that the Security Council expedite consideration of a draft convention or conventions for the creation of an international system of control and inspection, these conventions to include the prohibition of atomic and all other major weapons adaptable now and in the future to mass destruction and the control of atomic energy to the extent necessary to ensure its use only for peaceful purposes.

5. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

FURTHER RECOGNIZES that essential to the general regulation and reduction of armaments and armed forces is the provision of practical and effective safeguards by way of inspection and other means to protect complying States against the hazards of violations and evasions.

Accordingly,

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECOMMENDS to the Security Council that it give prompt consideration to the working out of proposals to provide such practical and effective safeguards in connection with the control of atomic energy and the general regulation and reduction of armaments.

6. To ensure the adoption of measures for the early general regulation and reduction of armaments and armed forces, for the prohibition of the use of atomic energy for military purposes and the elimination from national armaments of atomic and all other major weapons adaptable now or in the future to mass destruction, and for the control of atomic energy to the extent necessary to ensure its use only for peaceful purposes,

THERE SHALL BE ESTABLISHED,

within the framework of the Security Council, which bears the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, an international system, as mentioned in paragraph 4, operating through special organs, which organs shall derive their powers and status from the convention or conventions under which they are established.

7. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

regarding the problem of security as closely connected with that of disarmament,

RECOMMENDS the Security Council to accelerate as much as possible the placing at its disposal of the armed forces mentioned in Article 43 of the Charter;

IT RECOMMENDS the Members to undertake the progressive and balanced withdrawal, taking account of the needs of occupation, of their armed

of armed forces stationed in the territories of Members without their consent freely and publicly expressed in treaties or agreements consistent with the Charter and not contradicting international agreements;

IT FURTHER RECOMMENDS a corresponding reduction of national armed forces, and a general progressive and balanced reduction of national armed forces.

8. Nothing herein contained shall alter or limit the resolution of the General Assembly passed on 24 January 1946, creating the Atomic Energy Commission.

9. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CALLS upon all Members of the United Nations to render every possible assistance to the Security Council and the Atomic Energy Commission in order to promote the establishment and maintenance of international peace and collective security with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources.
