



Fourteenth session
Agenda item 69

SUSPENSION OF NUCLEAR AND THERMO-NUCLEAR TESTS

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Dr. Mohieddine FEKINI (Libya)

1. On 16 August 1959 India requested (A/4186) the inclusion of the item entitled "Suspension of nuclear and thermo-nuclear tests" in the agenda of the fourteenth session of the General Assembly.
2. On 16 September 1959 the General Committee recommended (A/4214) its inclusion as sub-item (d) under the heading "Question of disarmament".
3. The General Assembly, at its 803rd plenary meeting on 22 September 1959, considered the General Committee's report (A/4214) and decided to include as separate items in the agenda each of the questions listed by the General Committee under the heading "Question of disarmament", leaving to the First Committee the manner and order in which they would be discussed.
4. The First Committee, on 8 October 1959, adopted without objection the Chairman's suggestion that "Suspension of nuclear and thermo-nuclear tests" should be the fourth item in its agenda. The item was considered at the 1057th to 1060th meetings of the First Committee from 18 to 20 November 1959.
5. On 31 October 1959, Australia, Japan and Sweden submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.236) whereby the General Assembly would: (1) express appreciation for the efforts of the parties to reach an agreement on the prohibition of nuclear weapons tests and an appropriate international control system; (2) express the hope that their efforts would be intensified to reach an early successful conclusion of such an agreement; and (3) request the parties concerned to report to the General Assembly the results of their negotiations. On 17 November 1959, the sponsors

submitted a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/L.236/Rev.1) with some changes in the operative part and an additional paragraph whereby the General Assembly would urge the States concerned in the negotiations to continue their present voluntary discontinuance of the testing of nuclear weapons.

6. On 31 October 1959, India submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.237) whereby the General Assembly would: (1) request the States concerned to reach agreement speedily on the total cessation of nuclear and thermo-nuclear tests; (2) call upon the States concerned to refrain from further tests or preparations pending agreement on total cessation; (3) call upon all other States to desist from conducting such tests and from making decisions or preparations in regard to them; (4) remind such States that any such action was contrary to the expressed desires of the General Assembly and to the spirit which had enabled progress at Geneva, and was inimical to further progress and agreement on total cessation; and (5) request the States concerned to report to the General Assembly, at a special session if necessary, on the results of the conference so that it might take further appropriate action.

7. On 17 November 1959, a revised version of this draft resolution was submitted by Afghanistan, Burma, Ceylon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Liberia, Morocco, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, Tunisia, the United Arab Republic, Yemen and Yugoslavia (A/C.1/L.237/Rev.1), whereby the General Assembly would: (1) express its appreciation to the States concerned for their patient and sincere efforts to reach agreement on the discontinuance of nuclear and thermo-nuclear tests with effective international control, and for the progress hitherto achieved; (2) express the hope that the States concerned would reach such agreement at an early date; (3) appeal to the States concerned in the Geneva discussions to continue their present voluntary suspension of tests, and to other States to desist from such tests; and (4) request the States concerned to report to the Disarmament Commission and the General Assembly the results of their negotiations. On 18 November 1959, Cambodia, Cuba, Japan and Libya were added to the list of sponsors (A/C.1/L.237/Rev.1/Add.1 and 2).

8. At its 1059th meeting on 19 November 1959, the First Committee adopted the three-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.236/Rev.1) by a roll-call vote of 76 to none, with 2 abstentions (see para. 11, draft resolution I, below). The voting was as follows:

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In favour: Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cambodia, Canada, Ceylon, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Federation of Malaya, Finland, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of South Africa, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Afghanistan, France.

1. The twenty-four-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.237/Rev.1 and Add.1 and 2) was adopted by a roll-call vote of 60 to 1, with 17 abstentions (see para. 11, draft resolution II, below). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cambodia, Canada, Ceylon, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Federation of Malaya, Finland, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Japan, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Sweden, Tunisia, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: France.

Abstaining: Belgium, Brazil, China, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Thailand, Turkey, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

10. At the 1060th meeting on 20 November 1959, the representative of Luxembourg, who had been absent at the time of the voting, requested that his country be recorded as having voted in favour of the three-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.236/Rev.1) and as having abstained on the twenty-four-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.237/Rev.1 and Add.1 and 2).

Recommendations of the First Committee

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

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Suspension of nuclear and thermo-nuclear tests

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1252 B (XIII) of 4 November 1958,

Noting that the negotiations on the discontinuance of nuclear weapons tests and on the establishment of an appropriate international control system, which began at Geneva on 31 October 1958, are still continuing,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the States concerned for their efforts to reach an agreement relating to the prohibition of nuclear weapons tests and including an appropriate international control system;
2. Expresses the hope that these States will intensify their efforts to reach such an agreement at an early date;
3. Urges the States concerned in these negotiations to continue their present voluntary discontinuance of the testing of nuclear weapons;
4. Requests the States concerned to report to the General Assembly the results of their negotiations.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Suspension of nuclear and thermo-nuclear tests

The General Assembly,

Desiring to safeguard mankind from the increasing hazards resulting from tests of nuclear and thermo-nuclear weapons,

Bearing in mind the profound concern evinced by the peoples of all countries regarding the testing of nuclear and thermo-nuclear weapons,

Welcoming the endeavours at Geneva of the States concerned to reach an agreement on the discontinuance of these tests, and the progress so far achieved,

Noting with appreciation that the States concerned have voluntarily suspended such tests, enabling progress in the discussions at Geneva,

Considering that an agreement on the cessation of nuclear and thermo-nuclear tests with effective international control is urgent,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the States concerned for their patient and sincere efforts to reach agreement on the discontinuance of nuclear and thermo-nuclear tests with effective international control, and for the progress hitherto achieved;

2. Expresses further the hope that the States concerned will reach such agreement at an early date;

3. Appeals to the States concerned in the Geneva discussions to continue their present voluntary suspension of tests, and to other States to desist from such tests;

4. Requests the States concerned to report to the Disarmament Commission and to the General Assembly the results of their negotiations.
