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CONVERSION TO PEACEFUL NEEDS OF THE RESOURCES RELEASED BY DISARMAMENT

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. J.K.D. APPIAH (Ghana)

1. The General Assembly, at its 1129th plenary meeting on 20 September 1963, allocated to the Second Committee item 34 of its agenda, "Conversion to peaceful needs of the resources released by disarmament".
2. The Committee had before it, in connexion with its consideration of this item, the following documents: a note by the Secretary-General on conversion to peaceful needs of the resources released by disarmament (A/5537); a preliminary report by the Secretary-General on development plans and projects for an economic programme for disarmament (A/5538); a report by the Secretary-General and replies of Governments on economic and social consequences of disarmament (E/3736 and Add.1-9).
3. The Committee considered this question, in conjunction with all the other questions before it, during the general debate, which took place at its 881st to 902nd meetings, inclusive.
4. The Committee received, in connexion with this item, one draft resolution submitted by Nigeria (A/C.2/L.767) and one submitted by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America (A/C.2/L.770).
5. Before the Committee took up the draft resolution by Nigeria, the sponsor submitted a revised text (A/C.2/L.767/Rev.1), which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 1378 (XIV) of 20 November 1959, 1516 (XV) of 15 December 1960, Economic and Social Council resolution 891 (XXXIV) of 26 July 1962, as well as the Declaration of the Governments of Member States contained in General Assembly resolution 724 A (VIII) of 7 December 1953,

"Recalling its resolution 1837 (XVII) on the 'Declaration on the conversion to peaceful needs of the resources released by disarmament' and Economic and Social Council resolution 982 (XXXVI) on the 'Economic and social consequences of disarmament', concerning, inter alia, the advantages which disarmament would have for economic and social progress throughout the world,

"Taking note of the preliminary reports of the Secretary-General under General Assembly resolution 1837 (XVII) (E/3736; A/5538) concerning progress of international action by States Members and United Nations bodies and agencies, and in regard to development plans and projects for an economic programme for disarmament,

"Encouraged by the agreement reached to ban nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere, in outer space, and under water; and hopeful that further agreements will be reached on general and complete disarmament under effective international control, which will promote the progressive release of resources for development of the peaceful needs of mankind in the economic and social fields,

"Noting with satisfaction that a number of Governments as well as some specialized agencies and regional economic commissions have already initiated, or expressed their readiness to start, in co-operation with the Secretary-General, the study of economic and social consequences of disarmament,

"1. Endorses the recommendations by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 982 (XXXVI) concerning the intensification of studies and activities relating to the economic and social consequences of disarmament;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to appoint a group of twelve experts, representatives of Member States, having due regard to equitable geographical representation, charged with the task of the encouragement of the processes and study of the problems, including those of co-ordination, of conversion to peaceful uses of the resources released by disarmament, and of formulating the relevant recommendations thereon; and requests the group of experts to make progress reports to the General Assembly as necessary, and at every session of the General Assembly;

"3. Expresses the hope that the Governments of all States will intensify their efforts to achieve an agreement on general and complete disarmament under effective international control with the desire to realize the benefit for mankind to which the Declaration on the conversion to peaceful needs of the resources released by disarmament is addressed;

"4. Hopes also that Member States, particularly those significantly involved, will continue, in the light of developments bearing on disarmament, to pursue studies and activities relating to the economic and social consequences of disarmament and the problems which it will entail from them and means for dealing with those problems and invite their co-operation in carrying out the above-mentioned studies with the group of experts;

"5. Invites the regional economic commissions and subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council as well as the specialized agencies, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Labour Organisation, the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency, to co-operate with the group of experts in advancing its studies and activities designed to contribute to international action for dealing with the economic and social problems that would be involved in the reconversion process;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General in connexion with the aforementioned tasks to afford all possible assistance to the groups of experts."

6. The draft resolution by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America (A/C.2/L.770) read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 1837 (XVII) 'Declaration on the conversion to peaceful needs of the resources released by disarmament' and Economic and Social Council resolution 982 (XXXVI) 'Economic and social consequences of disarmament', concerning, inter alia, the advantages which disarmament could have for economic and social programmes throughout the world,

"Encouraged by the agreement reached to ban nuclear weapons tests in the atmosphere, in outer space, and under water,

"Hopeful that further agreements will be reached which will lessen world tensions and lead ultimately to general and complete disarmament under effective international control,

"Noting the report (E/3736) submitted by the Secretary-General to the Economic and Social Council and made available to the General Assembly pursuant to paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 1837 (XVII) in regard to the activities of Member States, the various United Nation bodies, the specialized agencies, and the International Atomic Energy Agency in studying the economic and social consequences of disarmament and of Economic and Social Council resolution 982 (XXXVI),

"Noting further the report (A/5538) submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly pursuant to paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 1837 (XVII) in regard to development plans and projects for an economic programme for disarmament,

"Noting with satisfaction that a number of Governments as well as some specialized agencies and regional economic commissions have already initiated, or expressed their readiness to start, in co-operation with the Secretary-General, the study of economic and social consequences of disarmament,

"1. Endorses Economic and Social Council resolution 982 (XXXVI) and urges that Member States do everything possible to facilitate the carrying out of General Assembly resolution 1837 (XVII) and Council resolution 982 (XXXVI);

"2. Invites the specialized agencies concerned and the regional economic commissions to co-operate with the Secretary-General in advancing studies, within their fields of competence, of various problems in the field of international economic and trade relations relevant to the economic and social aspects of disarmament, as requested in Economic and Social Council resolution 982 (XXXVI), and General Assembly resolution 1837 (XVII), and in particular, as requested in paragraph 5 of the Council's resolution, an adequate survey of possibilities of undertaking studies of the problems that might arise in relation to primary commodities;

"3. Endorses intentions and plans of the Secretary-General to proceed in carrying out a work programme pursuant to General Assembly resolution 1837 (XVII) as described in his report A/5538 and requests that he present to the General Assembly at its nineteenth session a further report on this matter."

7. The draft resolution by Nigeria (A/C.2/L.767/Rev.1) was introduced by its sponsor at the 948th meeting, and the two-Power draft resolution (A/C.2/L.770) was introduced by the representatives of the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics at the same meeting. These draft resolutions were considered by the Committee at the 948th to 950th meetings.

8. At the 950th meeting, the Committee received another draft resolution sponsored by the delegations of Nigeria, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America (A/C.2/L.785), which replaced the two draft resolutions set forth in the preceding paragraphs (A/C.2/L.767/Rev.1 and A/C.2/L.770). The Committee approved this draft resolution (A/C.2/L.785) unanimously.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

9. The Second Committee therefore recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Conversion to peaceful needs of the resources
released by disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1837 (XVII) of 18 December 1962 entitled

'Declaration on the conversion to peaceful needs of the resources released by disarmament' and Economic and Social Council resolution 982 (XXXVI) of 2 August 1963 entitled "Economic and social consequences of disarmament", concerning, inter alia, the advantages which disarmament could have for economic and social programmes throughout the world,

Encouraged by the conclusion of the Treaty banning nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water,

Hopeful that further agreements will be reached which will lessen world tensions and lead ultimately to general and complete disarmament under effective international control,

Noting the report submitted by the Secretary-General to the Economic and Social Council^{1/} and made available to the General Assembly pursuant to paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 1837 (XVII)^{2/} with regard to the activities of Member States, the various United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency in studying the economic and social consequences of disarmament and to Economic and Social Council resolution 982 (XXXVI),

Noting further the report submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly^{3/} pursuant to paragraph 8 of Assembly resolution 1837 (XVII) in regard to development plans and projects for an economic programme for disarmament,

^{1/} E/3736 and Add.1-9.

^{2/} A/5537.

^{3/} A/5538.

Noting with satisfaction that a number of Governments as well as some specialized agencies and regional economic commissions have already initiated, or expressed their readiness to start, in co-operation with the Secretary-General, the study of the economic and social consequences of disarmament,

1. Endorses Economic and Social Council resolution 982 (XXXVI) and urges that Member States do everything possible to facilitate the carrying out of General Assembly resolution 1837 (XVII) and Council resolution 982 (XXXVI);

2. Invites the specialized agencies concerned, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the regional economic commissions to co-operate with the Secretary-General in advancing studies, within their fields of competence, of various problems concerning international economic and trade relations relevant to the economic and social aspects of disarmament, as requested in Economic and Social Council resolution 982 (XXXVI) and General Assembly resolution 1837 (XVII), and in particular, as requested in paragraph 5 of Council resolution 982 (XXXVI), an adequate survey of possibilities of undertaking studies of the problems that might arise in relation to primary commodities;

3. Expresses the hope that the Governments of all States will intensify their efforts to achieve an agreement on general and complete disarmament under effective international control, with the desire to realize the benefits for mankind to which the Declaration on the conversion to peaceful needs of the resources released by disarmament is addressed;

4. Hopes also that Member States, particularly those significantly involved, will continue, in the light of developments bearing on disarmament, to pursue studies and activities relating to the economic and social consequences of disarmament, to the problems which it will entail for them and to means for dealing with those problems, and invites their co-operation with the Secretary-General;

5. Requests the Economic and Social Council at its thirty-seventh session to consider all pertinent aspects of the question of conversion of resources released by general disarmament to peaceful uses, including, inter alia, the possibility of the establishment of an ad hoc group, having

due regard to equitable geographical distribution, for the purpose of accelerating activities in this field of study, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its nineteenth session;

6. Endorses the intentions and plans of the Secretary-General to proceed in carrying out a work programme pursuant to General-Assembly resolution 1837 (XVII) as described in his report,^{3/} and requests that he present to the General Assembly at its nineteenth session a further report on this matter.
