



Eighteenth session
Agenda item 26

QUESTION OF GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT: REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE
OF THE EIGHTEEN-NATION COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT

Report of the First Committee (part II)

Rapporteur: Mr. Fernando VOLIO JIMENEZ (Costa Rica)

1. At its 1310th meeting on 15 October 1963, the First Committee decided to adjourn its debate on item 73 - "Urgent need for suspension of nuclear and thermo-nuclear tests" - to consider as a matter of urgency one aspect of item 26: "Question of general and complete disarmament: report of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament". Following the adoption at its 1311th meeting on 16 October of the draft resolution concerning the placing in orbit or stationing in outer space of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, which subsequently became resolution 1884 (XVIII), the Committee re-opened debate on item 73.
2. At its 1319th meeting on 28 October, the First Committee resumed consideration of item 26. The general debate continued until the 1331st meeting on 7 November.
3. On 5 November, Israel submitted a document (A/C.1/891 and Corr.1) containing a Declaration on the question of disarmament signed on 18 February 1963 by a large number of members of the International Scientific Community attending the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology and presented to the Co-Chairmen of the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee.

4. On 5 November, the representative of Nigeria introduced a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.328) co-sponsored by Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Ceylon, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Peru, Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, the United Arab Republic, Venezuela, Yemen and Yugoslavia. Subsequently the Philippines, Syria, Tanganyika, Trinidad and Tobago (A/C.1/L.328/Add.1) and Morocco (A/C.1/L.328/Add.2) were added to the list of sponsors.

5. By the operative paragraphs of the joint draft resolution, the General Assembly would:

I

(1) Call upon the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament to resume, with energy and determination, its negotiations on general and complete disarmament under effective international control, in accordance with the joint statement of agreed principles for disarmament negotiations, and in a spirit of good will and mutual accommodation;

(2) Recommend the Committee to continue to encourage the widening of the areas of basic agreement or similarity in the principal parties' approaches to the fundamental issues of general and complete disarmament;

II

(1) Call upon the Committee, meanwhile, to pursue its objective of giving urgent and sustained attention to the study of the various collateral measures which, for technical or other reasons, seem promising of early agreement, thereby contributing to alleviating international tension and setting in motion the process of disarmament;

(2) Urge the continuation of efforts to seek agreement on measures aiming at reducing the risk of war by accident or by surprise attack, as well as on measures intended to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons;

(3) Request the Committee to submit to the General Assembly an interim report on the progress of its work at an early appropriate date, and a comprehensive report not later than 1 September 1964;

(4) Commend the Secretariat of the United Nations for its services to the Committee and request the Secretary-General to continue to make available to the Committee the necessary assistance and services.

6. At the 1338th meeting on 15 November, Nigeria introduced on behalf of the co-sponsors a revised joint draft resolution (A/C.1/L.328/Rev.1), which (1) deleted the seventh preambular paragraph of the draft resolution which reads: "Noting that the parties concerned have brought about certain changes and modifications in relation to their respective disarmament plans, and that a certain accommodation has occurred on important issues pertaining to disarmament, all of which have the effect of narrowing the differences and of improving the prospects of constructive negotiations," and (2) deleted operative paragraphs 1 and 2 of section II, substituting the following as operative paragraph 1 of section II:

"Urges the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament to make efforts to seek agreement on measures which could serve to reduce international tension, lessen the possibility of war and facilitate agreement on general and complete disarmament."

7. The representative of Afghanistan announced that his delegation had not been consulted about the revision of the draft resolution and therefore withdrew its co-sponsorship. Cyprus, Madagascar and Sierra Leone were added as co-sponsors of the revised draft resolution.

8. The Chairman suggested that for the sake of clarity operative paragraphs 2 and 3 of section II of the revised draft resolution should constitute a new section III. The sponsors of the revised joint draft resolution accepted the change.

9. At the same meeting, the representative of Albania orally proposed (1) the deletion of the part of the new seventh preambular paragraph which, inter alia, would express satisfaction that agreement had been reached on a partial test ban treaty and on the establishment of a direct communications link between Moscow and Washington; and (2) the deletion of the eighth preambular paragraph of the revised draft resolution which would note that all signatories to the partial test ban treaty have proclaimed in its preamble as "their principal aim, the speediest

achievement of an agreement on general and complete disarmament under strict international control"; and that they have emphasized the advisability that the partial test ban should be followed by other initial steps.

10. In response to an appeal from Algeria, Albania agreed to withdraw its amendments and announced that it would not participate in the vote.

11. At its 1338th meeting, on 15 November, the First Committee adopted the revised joint draft resolution (A/C.1/L.328/Rev.1) by acclamation.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

Question of general and complete disarmament

The General Assembly,

Conscious of its responsibility under the Charter of the United Nations for disarmament and the consolidation of peace,

Convinced that the goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control is the surest safeguard for world peace and the national security,

Recognizing that mankind demands with increasing urgency that decisive measures be taken towards the realization of that goal,

Recalling its resolution 1378 (XIV) of 20 November 1959,

Reaffirming its resolutions 1722 (XVI) of 20 December 1961 and 1767 (XVII) of 21 November 1962,

Having considered the report of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament of 29 August 1963,^{1/}

Expressing its satisfaction that agreement has been reached on a partial test ban treaty and on the establishment of a direct communications link between Moscow and Washington, and over the expressions of intention recorded in its resolution 1884 (XVIII) of 17 October 1963 not to station or place in orbit in outer space any objects carrying nuclear weapons or other kinds of weapons of mass destruction,

Noting that all signatories to the partial test ban treaty have proclaimed in its preamble, as their principal aim, the speediest possible achievement of an agreement on general and complete disarmament under strict international control, and that they have emphasized the advisability that the partial test ban should be followed by other initial steps,

Noting further that the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament, in fulfilment of paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 1767 (XVII), has under consideration various proposals for other collateral measures,

I

1. Calls upon the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament to resume, with energy and determination, its negotiations on general and complete disarmament under effective international control, in accordance with the joint statement of agreed principles for disarmament negotiations and in a spirit of good will and mutual accommodation;

2. Recommends the Eighteen-Nation Committee to continue to encourage the widening of the areas of basic agreement or similarity in the principal parties' approaches to the fundamental issues of general and complete disarmament;

II

Urges the Eighteen-Nation Committee to make efforts to seek agreement on measures which could serve to reduce international tension, lessen the possibility of war and facilitate agreement on general and complete disarmament;

III

1. Requests the Eighteen-Nation Committee to submit to the General Assembly an interim report on the progress of its work at an early appropriate date, and a comprehensive report not later than 1 September 1964;

2. Commends the Secretariat of the United Nations for its services to the Eighteen-Nation Committee and requests the Secretary-General to continue to make available to the Committee the necessary assistance and services.