



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/9364
30 November 1973
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/SPANISH

Twenty-eighth session
Agenda item 36

URGENT NEED FOR SUSPENSION OF NUCLEAR AND THERMONUCLEAR TESTS

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Alvaro de SOTO (Peru)

1. The following item "Urgent need for suspension of nuclear and thermonuclear tests: (a) report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament; (b) report of the Secretary-General" was included by the Secretary-General in the provisional agenda of the twenty-eighth session on the basis of General Assembly resolution 2934 A to C (XXVII) of 29 November 1972.
2. At its 2123rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 1973, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in the agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee for consideration and report.
3. At its 1923rd meeting, on 5 October, the First Committee decided to have a combined general debate on the items allocated to it, relating to disarmament and the Indian Ocean, namely:
 - Item 29: Economic and social consequences of the armaments race and its extremely harmful effects on world peace and security.
 - Item 32: World Disarmament Conference.
 - Item 33. General and complete disarmament.
 - Item 34: Napalm and other incendiary weapons and all aspects of their possible use.
 - Item 35: Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons.
 - Item 36: Urgent need for suspension of nuclear and thermonuclear tests.

Item 37: Implementation of General Assembly resolution 2935 (XXVII) concerning the signature and ratification of Additional Protocol II of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Treaty of Tlatelolco).

Item 38: Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace.

4. The general debate on these items took place at the 1934th, 1935th, 1938th and 1940th to 1953rd meetings, from 23 October to 8 November.

5. The First Committee had before it, in connexion with agenda item 36, the following documents:

- (a) Report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (A/9141-DC/236);
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to General Assembly resolution 2934 C (XXVII) (A/9208);
- (c) Letter dated 23 June 1973 from the Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/9081);
- (d) Letter dated 26 June 1973 from the Permanent Representatives of Chile, Ecuador, and Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/9084);
- (e) Letter dated 3 July 1973 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Mongolia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/9086);
- (f) Note by the Secretary-General, dated 20 July 1973, transmitting a letter, dated 3 July 1973, from the Director-General of the World Health Organization to the Secretary-General (A/9093);
- (g) Letter dated 24 July 1973 from the Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/9107);
- (h) Letter dated 25 July 1973 from the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/9109);
- (i) Telegram dated 26 July 1973 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Colombia to the Secretary-General (A/9110);
- (j) Letter dated 9 August 1973 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Mongolia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/9117);
- (k) Letter dated 24 September 1973 from the Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/9166);

/...

- (l) Letter dated 28 September 1973 from the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.1/1031);
- (m) Letter dated 17 October 1973 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.1/L.1036);
- (n) Letter dated 30 October 1973 from the Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.1/L.1039).

6. On 5 November, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mauritius, Mexico, Panama, Venezuela and Yugoslavia submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.651). The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Mexico at the 1954th meeting, on 9 November.

7. On 7 November, Australia, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, Fiji, Finland, Ghana, Iceland, Indonesia, Japan, Liberia, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Sweden and Venezuela submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.652) which, subsequently, was also sponsored by Barbados, Mauritius, Norway and Sierra Leone. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Canada at the 1954th meeting, on 9 November. The operative paragraphs of the draft resolution read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"1. Emphasizes its deep concern at the continuance of nuclear weapon tests, both in the atmosphere and underground, and at the lack of progress towards a comprehensive test ban agreement;

"2. Calls anew upon all nuclear-weapon States to seek, as a matter of urgency, the end of all nuclear weapon tests in all environments;

"3. Insists that the nuclear-weapon States which have been carrying out nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere discontinue such tests forthwith;

"4. Urges States which have not yet adhered to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water to do so without further delay;

"5. Reminds the States members of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, especially those which are nuclear-weapon States and parties to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water, of their particular responsibility immediately to start negotiations for elaborating a treaty designed to achieve discontinuance of all test explosions of nuclear weapons for all time;

"6. Requests the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to continue, as a matter of highest priority, its deliberations on this treaty, taking into full account the suggestions already made in the Committee, as well as the views expressed at the current session of the General Assembly

/...

and at previous sessions, and to submit a special report to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session on the results of its deliberations on this vitally important matter;

"7. Decides to place on the provisional agenda of its twenty-ninth session an item entitled "Urgent need for cessation of nuclear and thermonuclear tests and the conclusion of a treaty banning nuclear weapon tests in all environments" in place of item 36 on the agenda of the twenty-eighth session entitled "Urgent need for suspension of nuclear and thermonuclear tests."

8. On 13 November, the same sponsors submitted a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/L.652/Rev.1) which, subsequently, was also sponsored by Nigeria. In the revised draft, introduced by the representative of Canada at the 1956th meeting, on 13 November, certain changes were made in the last preambular paragraph and in operative paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 of the original text.

9. At its 1960th meeting, on 15 November, the Committee proceeded to vote on draft resolutions A/C.1/L.651 and A/C.1/L.652/Rev.1.

10. At the request of Pakistan, a separate vote was taken on operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/C.1/L.651. The paragraph was adopted by 83 votes to 4, with 41 abstentions. Thereupon, draft resolution A/C.1/L.651 as a whole was adopted by a roll-call vote of 92 to 5, with 27 abstentions (see paragraph 12 below, draft resolution A). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Barbados, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burma, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Dahomey, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Khmer Republic, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Republic, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: Albania, China, France, Gabon, Portugal.

Abstaining: Algeria, Bahamas, Belgium, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Central African Republic, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, German Democratic Republic, Germany (Federal Republic of), Greece, Hungary, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mongolia, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, South Africa, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

11. At the request of Sri Lanka, a separate vote was taken on operative paragraph 3 of draft resolution A/C.1/L.652/Rev.1. The paragraph was adopted by 58 votes to 6, with 55 abstentions. Thereupon, draft resolution A/C.1/L.652/Rev.1 as a whole was adopted by a roll-call vote of 67 to 7, with 50 abstentions (see paragraph 12 below, draft resolution B). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burma, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Dahomey, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Khmer Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Republic, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

Against: Albania, China, France, Gabon, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Senegal.

Abstaining: Algeria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Belgium, Bulgaria, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Central African Republic, Congo, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Egypt, German Democratic Republic, Germany (Federal Republic of), Greece, Hungary, Iraq, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jordan, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Mongolia, Morocco, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, South Africa, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Upper Volta, Yemen, Zaire.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

Urgent need for suspension of nuclear and thermonuclear tests

A

The General Assembly,

Stressing its deep apprehension concerning the harmful consequences of nuclear weapon tests for the acceleration of the arms race and for the health of present and future generations of mankind,

Bearing in mind that in 1975 a conference of the parties to the Treaty on the

/...

Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons 1/ shall be held, one of whose principal aims will be assuring that the purposes set forth in its preamble, among which there is the achievement of the discontinuance of all test explosions of nuclear weapons for all time, are being realized,

Recalling its resolutions 914 (X) of 16 December 1955, 1148 (XII) of 14 November 1957, 1252 (XIII) of 4 November 1958, 1379 (XIV) of 20 November 1959, 1402 (XIV) of 21 November 1959, 1577 (XV) of 20 December 1960, 1578 (XV) of 20 December 1960, 1632 (XVI) of 27 October 1961, 1648 (XVI) of 6 November 1961, 1649 (XVI) of 8 November 1961, 1762 (XVII) of 6 November 1962, 1910 (XVIII) of 27 November 1963, 2032 (XX) of 3 December 1965, 2163 (XXI) of 5 December 1966, 2343 (XXII) of 19 December 1967, 2455 (XXIII) of 20 December 1968, 2604 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, 2663 (XXV) of 7 December 1970, 2828 (XXVI) of 16 December 1971 and 2934 (XXVII) of 29 November 1972,

1. Condemns once again with the utmost vigour all nuclear weapon tests;
2. Reiterates its conviction that, whatever may be the differences on the question of verification, there is no valid reason for delaying the conclusion of a comprehensive test ban of the nature contemplated as long as ten years ago in the preamble to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water; 2/
3. Urges once more the Governments of nuclear-weapon States to bring to a halt without delay all nuclear weapon tests either through a permanent agreement or through unilateral or agreed moratoria.

B

The General Assembly,

Convinced of the urgent need for the cessation of nuclear and thermonuclear weapon tests, to contribute to a deceleration of the nuclear arms race, the promotion of arms control and disarmament measures, and a reduction of world tension,

Having considered the report submitted on 7 September 1973 by the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, 3/ in particular the section thereof concerned with achieving a comprehensive nuclear weapon test ban,

Reaffirming its earlier resolutions on this subject, particularly resolution 2934 (XXVII) of 29 November 1972,

1/ General Assembly resolution 2373 (XXII).

2/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 480, No. 6964, p. 43.

3/ A/9141-DC/236.

Noting that 5 August 1973 was the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water,

Noting with regret that some States have not yet adhered to that Treaty,

Gravely disturbed at the fact that, ten years after the signature of that Treaty, wherein the parties seek to achieve the discontinuance of all test explosions of nuclear weapons for all time, and despite the repeated appeals of the General Assembly, nuclear weapon testing continues at an active pace,

Deeply concerned that, notwithstanding the opposition of the vast majority of States as expressed in that Treaty and in the resolutions of the General Assembly and other world bodies, nuclear weapon tests continue to take place in the atmosphere, despite the danger of radio-active contamination,

Distressed that, despite their intent expressed in that Treaty, which was reiterated in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, ^{4/} to seek to achieve the discontinuance of all test explosions of nuclear weapons for all time and to carry out negotiations to this end, the nuclear-weapon States party to these Treaties have not yet engaged in the active negotiation for a comprehensive nuclear test ban and that States party to these Treaties continue to test nuclear weapons underground,

1. Emphasizes its deep concern at the continuance of nuclear weapon tests, both in the atmosphere and underground, and at the lack of progress towards a comprehensive test ban agreement;
2. Calls anew upon all nuclear-weapon States to seek, as a matter of urgency, the end of all nuclear weapon tests in all environments;
3. Insists that the nuclear-weapon States which have been carrying out nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere discontinue such tests forthwith;
4. Urges States which have not yet adhered to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water to do so without further delay;
5. Vigorously urges the States members of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, especially those which are nuclear-weapon States and parties to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water, immediately to start negotiations for elaborating a treaty designed to achieve the objective of a comprehensive test ban;

^{4/} General Assembly resolution 2373 (XXII).

6. Requests the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to continue, as a matter of highest priority, its deliberations on this treaty, taking into full account the suggestions already made in the Committee, as well as the views expressed at the current session of the General Assembly and at previous sessions, and to submit to the Assembly at its twenty-ninth session a special report on its deliberations on this vitally important matter, including the areas of agreement on the achievement of a draft treaty;

7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its twenty-ninth session an item entitled "Urgent need for cessation of nuclear and thermonuclear tests and the conclusion of a treaty designed to achieve a comprehensive test ban" in place of the item entitled "Urgent need for suspension of nuclear and thermonuclear tests" which appears on the agenda of the twenty-eighth session.
