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Agenda item 24

REDUCTION OF THE MILITARY BUDGETS OF STATES PERMANENT MEMBERS  
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL BY 10 PER CENT AND UTILIZATION OF PART  
OF THE FUNDS THUS SAVED TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING  
COUNTRIES

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. António da COSTA LOBO (Portugal)

1. The following item was included by the Secretary-General in the provisional agenda of the twenty-ninth session on the basis of General Assembly resolutions 3093 A and B (XXVIII) of 7 December 1973:

"Reduction of the military budgets of States permanent members of the Security Council by 10 per cent and utilization of part of the funds thus saved to provide assistance to developing countries:

- (a) Report of the Special Committee on the Distribution of the Funds Released as a Result of the Reduction of Military Budgets;
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General."

2. At its 2236th plenary meeting, on 21 September 1974, 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 1987th meeting, on 25 September, the First Committee decided to have a combined general debate on the items allocated to it relating to disarmament and the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace, namely:

Item 24: Reduction of the military budgets of States permanent members of the Security Council by 10 per cent and utilization of part of the funds thus saved to provide assistance to developing countries.

Item 27: Napalm and other incendiary weapons and all aspects of their possible use.

- Item 28: Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons.
- Item 29: Urgent need for cessation of nuclear and thermonuclear tests and conclusion of a treaty designed to achieve a comprehensive test ban.
- Item 30: Implementation of General Assembly resolution 3079 (XXVIII) 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 31: Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace.
- Item 34: World Disarmament Conference.
- Item 35: General and complete disarmament.
- Item 100: Implementation of General Assembly resolution 2286 (XXII) concerning the signature and ratification of Additional Protocol I of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Treaty of Tlatelolco).
- Item 101: Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East.
- Item 103: Prohibition of action to influence the environment and climate for military and other purposes incompatible with the maintenance of international security, human well-being and health.
- Item 107: Declaration and establishment of a nuclear-free zone in South Asia.

4. The general debate on these items took place at the 1998th to the 2016th meetings, from 21 October to 11 November.

5. The First Committee had before it, in connexion with agenda item 24, the following documents:

- (a) Letter dated 25 July 1974 from the President of the General Assembly to the Secretary-General (A/9565);
- (b) Letter dated 14 August 1974 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/9713);
- (c) Note by the Secretary-General dated 16 October 1974 (A/9800);
- (d) Report of the Secretary-General (A/9770) prepared in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 3093 B (XXVIII).

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6. On 18 November, Ethiopia, Mexico, Nigeria and Sweden submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.695), which was subsequently revised (A/C.1/L.695/Rev.1) and also sponsored by the United Republic of Cameroon. The revised draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Mexico at the 2027th meeting, on 22 November.

7. At its 2028th meeting, on 22 November, the First Committee adopted the revised draft resolution (A/C.1/L.695/Rev.1) by 89 votes to 2, with 13 abstentions (see para. 8 below).

#### RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

Reduction of the military budgets of States permanent members of the Security Council by 10 per cent and utilization of part of the funds thus saved to provide assistance to developing countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling that in its resolution 3093 B (XXVIII) of 7 December 1973 it requested the Secretary-General to prepare, with the assistance of qualified consultant experts appointed by him, a report on the reduction of the military budgets of the States permanent members of the Security Council, which should also cover other States with a major economic and military potential, and on the utilization of a part of the funds thus saved to provide international assistance to developing countries,

Having examined the report of the Group of Consultant Experts on the Reduction of Military Budgets, transmitted to the General Assembly by the Secretary-General on 14 October 1974, 1/

Noting that Governments have not had the time necessary to study that report with the attention and care which the important and complex questions covered in it merit,

Considering, therefore, that it would be advisable to postpone any assessment by the General Assembly regarding the substance of those questions,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General and to the consultant experts, as well as to the Governments and international organizations which rendered assistance in the preparation of the report requested in General Assembly resolution 3093 B (XXVIII);

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1/ A/9770.

2. Requests the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements for the report to be issued as a United Nations publication and widely distributed;

3. Invites all States to communicate to the Secretary-General, before 30 June 1975, their views and suggestions on all those points they deem pertinent with regard to the matters covered in the report, including the following:

(a) Meaning and scope of a definition of "military budgets" which has the greatest probability of receiving general acceptance;

(b) Feasible and adequate procedures so that the United Nations may establish a system of standardized military budgets of the States envisaged in resolution 3093 B (XXVIII);

(c) Per cent reduction advisable for the States permanent members of the Security Council, bearing in mind that a 10 per cent reduction has been proposed;

(d) Definition of what should be understood by "other States with a major economic and military potential";

(e) Per cent reduction advisable for these States;

(f) Part of the resources released through the reduction of military budgets which should be allotted to international assistance for developing countries;

(g) International system or mechanism, within the framework of the United Nations, which should be employed in order to achieve the best distribution and utilization of the additional assistance allotted to the developing countries, taking into account the goals set for the Second United Nations Development Decade;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to distribute as a document of the thirtieth session of the General Assembly, not later than 1 August 1975, a report containing a compilation, by countries, of the views and suggestions requested in the present resolution and a tabulation of the same according to the matters covered therein, particularly regarding the seven points specified in paragraph 3 above;

5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirtieth session an item entitled "Implementation of General Assembly resolution ... (XXIX): report of the Secretary-General".

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