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Agenda item 31

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) WEAPONS

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Gustavo SANTISO GALVEZ (Guatemala)

1. The item entitled "Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons: report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament" was included by the Secretary-General in the provisional agenda of the twenty-seventh session (A/8760) on the basis of General Assembly resolution 2827 (XXVI) of 16 December 1971.
2. At its 2037th plenary meeting, on 23 September 1972, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in the agenda (A/8801) and to allocate it to the First Committee for consideration and report.
3. At its 1860th meeting, on 9 October, the First Committee decided to have a combined general debate on the items relating to disarmament allocated to it, namely:
 - I. Item 26: World Disarmament Conference: report of the Secretary-General.
 - II. Item 27: Implementation of the results of the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States: report of the International Atomic Energy Agency.Item 30: General and complete disarmament:
 - (a) Report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament;
 - (b) Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency;
 - (c) Report of the Secretary-General under General Assembly resolution 2852 (XXVI), paragraph 5.Item 31: Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons: report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament.

Item 32: 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.

Item 33: Implementation of General Assembly resolution 2830 (XXVI) concerning the signature and ratification of Additional Protocol II of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Treaty of Tlatelolco): report of the Secretary-General.

III. Item 34: Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace: report of the Secretary-General.

It was also decided that any delegation would be free, if it so wished, to make more than one statement in the general debate and that, on the conclusion of that debate, the Committee would consider the draft proposals or resolutions under each item separately.

4. The general debate on the seven disarmament items took place at the 1872nd to 1890th meetings, from 23 October to 13 November.

5. The First Committee had before it, in connexion with agenda item 31, the report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (A/8818).

6. On 17 November, Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Egypt, Ethiopia, Hungary, Japan, Mongolia, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Poland, Sweden, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and Yugoslavia submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.628), which subsequently was also sponsored by Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, India, Kenya, Malta and Pakistan, and introduced by the representative of Egypt at the 1897th meeting, on 20 November.

7. At the 1898th meeting, on 21 November, draft resolution A/C.1/L.628 was adopted by 93 votes to none, with 2 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:

Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 2454 A (XXIII) of 20 December 1968, 2603 B (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, 2662 (XXV) of 7 December 1970 and 2827 A (XXVI) of 16 December 1971,

/...

Expressing its determination to act with a view to achieving effective progress towards general and complete disarmament, including the prohibition and elimination of all types of weapons of mass destruction such as those using chemical or bacteriological (biological) agents,

Noting that the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction 1/ has been opened for signature and has already been signed by a large number of States,

Convinced that the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction is a first possible step towards the achievement of early agreement on the effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and on the elimination of such weapons from military arsenals of all States, and determined to continue negotiations to this end,

Recalling the provisions of article IX of that Convention,

Recalling that the General Assembly has repeatedly condemned all actions contrary to the principles and objectives of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva on 17 June 1925, 2/

Reaffirming the need for the strict observance by all States of the principles and objectives of that Protocol,

Having considered the report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, 3/

Noting that a work programme, a draft convention on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and on their destruction, and other working papers, proposals and suggestions were submitted to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament,

Conscious of the benefits to mankind that would result from the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons,

Desiring to create a favourable atmosphere for a successful outcome of these negotiations,

1/ General Assembly resolution 2826 (XXVI).

2/ League of Nations, Treaty Series, vol. XCIV, 1929, No. 2138.

3/ A/8818-DC/235.

1. Reaffirms the recognized objective of effective prohibition of chemical weapons;
2. Reiterates, to this end, the request made to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, in resolution 2827 A (XXVI), to continue negotiations, as a matter of high priority, with a view to reaching early agreement on effective measures for the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and for their destruction;
3. Stresses the importance of working towards the complete realization of the objective of effective prohibition of chemical weapons as set forth in the present resolution and urges Governments to work to that end;
4. Reaffirms its hope for the widest possible adherence to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction;
5. Invites all States that have not yet done so to accede to the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare of 17 June 1925 and/or ratify this Protocol and calls anew for the strict observance by all States of the principles and objectives contained therein;
6. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament all documents of the First Committee relating to questions connected with the problem of chemical weapons and chemical methods of warfare;
7. Requests the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to report on the results of its negotiations to the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session.
