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MEMORANDUM OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST
REPUBLICS CONCERNING URGENT MEASURES TO STOP THE ARMS RACE
AND ACHIEVE DISARMAMENT

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Maxime-Léopold ZOLLNER (Dahomey)

1. By a letter dated 16 September 1968 (A/7223), the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics requested the inclusion of the item entitled "Memorandum of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics concerning urgent measures to stop the arms race and achieve disarmament" in the agenda of the twenty-third session of the General Assembly.
2. At its 174th meeting, on 25 September, the General Committee recommended the inclusion of the item in the agenda (A/7250).
3. At its 1676th plenary meeting, on 27 September 1968, the General Assembly approved the recommendation of the General Committee and allocated the item to the First Committee for consideration and report.
4. The item was considered at the 1606th to 1617th meetings, from 12-22 November 1968, and at the 1623rd to 1632nd meetings, from 27 November to 6 December.
5. The Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) A letter dated 5 July 1968 from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (A/7134) with an attached memorandum of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics concerning urgent measures to stop the arms race and achieve disarmament;

(b) A letter dated 13 November from the Permanent Representative of Hungary (A/C.1/974) transmitting a letter dated 8 November from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic, together with a statement of the German Democratic Republic on the item.

6. The Committee also had before it a draft resolution submitted on 12 November by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (A/C.1/L.443), also submitted under agenda item 27,^{1/} which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 1953 (XVI) of 24 November 1961, 2162 (XXI) of 5 December 1966, 2165 (XXI) of 5 December 1966, 2289 (XXII) of 8 December 1967, 2343 (XXII) of 19 December 1967 and 2373 (XXII) of 12 June 1968,

"Convinced that the arms race, particularly the nuclear arms race, is a threat to the peace and security of peoples,

"Recognizing the urgency and tremendous importance of taking measures to stop the arms race and achieve disarmament,

"Considering that it is essential to make every effort to avert the danger of nuclear war and to take measures to safeguard the security of peoples,

"Desiring to contribute to the easing of international tension and the strengthening of trust between States in order to promote the cessation of the manufacture of nuclear weapons, the destruction of all stockpiles of such weapons and the elimination from national arsenals of nuclear weapons and means of delivery of such weapons in accordance with a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control,

"Recalling the undertaking contained in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to pursue negotiations in good faith on the cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and on nuclear disarmament,

"Believing that the conclusion of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons must be followed by the simultaneous or phased implementation of measures to stop the arms race and achieve disarmament,

"Having considered the memorandum of 1 July 1968 of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics concerning urgent measures to stop the arms race and achieve disarmament,

^{1/} See A/7441, para. 5 (a).

"Bearing in mind the fact that the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament has reached agreement on the provisional agenda for its future work,

"1. Attaches great importance to the measures for stopping the nuclear arms race and achieving disarmament which are contained in the Memorandum of 1 July 1968 of the Government of the USSR;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to transmit the Memorandum of 1 July 1968 of the Government of the USSR concerning urgent measures to stop the arms race and achieve disarmament and the records of the meetings of the First Committee of the General Assembly relating to the discussion of the relevant agenda item to the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament;

"3. Requests the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament to undertake negotiations, as a matter of urgency and taking account of the agreement reached on the provisional agenda for its future work, concerning the urgent measures for stopping the arms race and achieving disarmament which are contained in the Memorandum of 1 July 1968 of the Government of the USSR and to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session."

7. At the 1632nd meeting, on 6 December, the Chairman stated that he had been informed by the delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics that it had taken into account the fact that, during the course of the debate on the various items relating to disarmament, the importance of the memorandum of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics had been noted and that, furthermore, the revised draft resolution (A/C.1/L.448/Rev.2), submitted under item 27^{2/} took note of this memorandum and transmitted to the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament all the documents and records of the meetings of the First Committee concerning all matters relating to the disarmament question. In the circumstances, the Soviet delegation had asked the Chairman to inform the Committee that it would not insist on a vote on the USSR draft resolution (A/C.1/L.443). The Committee thus concluded its consideration of the item at this session.

^{2/} See A/7741, para. 5 (e).