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Agenda item 38

PROHIBITION OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURE OF NEW TYPES OF
WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AND NEW SYSTEMS OF SUCH WEAPONS

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Ernst SUCHARIPA (Austria)

1. The item entitled "Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Committee on Disarmament" was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-fourth session in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 33/66 A and B of 14 December 1978.
2. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 21 September 1979, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.
3. At its 3rd meeting, on 1 October, the First Committee decided to have a combined general debate on the items allocated to it relating to disarmament, namely, items 30 to 45, 120 and 121. The general debate on these items took place at the 4th to 30th meetings, from 16 October to 5 November (A/C.1/34/PV.4-30).
4. In connexion with item 38, the First Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Report of the Committee on Disarmament: 1/
 - (b) Letter dated 1 October 1979 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Final Declaration of the Sixth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Havana from 3 to 9 September 1979 (A/34/542).

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/34/27).

5. On 2 November, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/34/L.6) which subsequently was also sponsored by Bulgaria, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic at the 40th meeting on 23 November.

6. At its 41st meeting, on 23 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/34/L.6 by a recorded vote of 88 to none, with 25 abstentions (see para. 7). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cape Verde, Chile, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Guatemala, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Upper Volta.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3479 (XXX) of 11 December 1975, 31/74 of 10 December 1976, 32/34 A of 12 December 1977 and 33/66 B of 14 December 1978 on the prohibition of new types of weapons of mass destruction,

Bearing in mind paragraph 39 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly as contained in its resolution S-10/2 of 30 June 1978 to the effect that qualitative and quantitative disarmament measures are both important for halting the arms race and that efforts to that end must include negotiations on the limitation and cessation of the qualitative improvement of armaments, especially weapons of mass destruction, and the development of new means of warfare,

Recalling the decision contained in paragraph 77 of the Final Document to the effect that, in order to help prevent a qualitative arms race and so that scientific and technological achievements might ultimately be used solely for peaceful purposes, effective measures should be taken to prevent the emergence of new types of weapons of mass destruction based on new scientific principles and achievements, and that efforts should be appropriately pursued aiming at the prohibition of such new types and new systems of weapons of mass destruction,

Expressing, in the light of the decisions adopted at its tenth special session, its firm belief in the importance of concluding an agreement or agreements to prevent the use of scientific and technological progress for the development of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons,

Noting with satisfaction the submission for consideration by the Committee on Disarmament of the joint proposal by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America on major elements of a treaty prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of radiological weapons, agreed upon during the negotiations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America,

Taking into account that in the course of the session of the Committee on Disarmament in 1979 a discussion took place on the agenda item entitled "New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons",

Taking note of the section of the report of the Committee on Disarmament relating to this question, 2/

1. Requests the Committee on Disarmament, in the light of its existing priorities, actively to continue negotiations, with the assistance of qualified governmental experts, with a view to preparing a draft comprehensive agreement on the prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons and, where necessary, specific agreements on particular types of such weapons;

2. Requests the Committee on Disarmament to submit a report on the results achieved to the General Assembly for consideration at its thirty fifth session;

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty fourth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/34/27), part III, paras. 55-57.

3. Once again urges all States to refrain from any action which could adversely affect the talks aimed at working out an agreement or agreements to prevent the emergence of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Committee on Disarmament all documents relating to the discussion of this item by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session

5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-fifth session the item entitled "Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Committee on Disarmament".