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ADOPTION OF A DECLARATION ON INTERNATIONAL
CO-OPERATION FOR DISARMAMENT

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Ernst SUCHARIPA (Austria)

1. The item entitled "Adoption of a declaration on international co-operation for disarmament" was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly at the request of Czechoslovakia (A/34/141 and Add.1).
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 on its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.
3. At its 3rd meeting, on 1 October, the First Committee decided to hold 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 those items took place at the 4th to 30th meetings, from 16 October to 5 November (A/C.1/34/PV.4-30).
4. On 16 November, Afghanistan, Angola, Benin, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Ethiopia, Guinea, Hungary, Indonesia, Jordan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Mongolia, Mozambique, Poland, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/34/L.32), entitled "Declaration on International Co-operation for Disarmament" which later was also sponsored by the German Democratic Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Qatar and Viet Nam. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Czechoslovakia at the 39th meeting, on 21 November.
5. At the 41st meeting, on 23 November, before the Committee proceeded to a vote on draft resolution A/C.1/34/L.32, the Secretary of the Committee, at the request of the sponsors, brought the following technical changes in the draft resolution to the attention of the Committee:

(a) in the third line of operative paragraph 5, the phrase "to refrain from any impeding of such negotiations" should read "to refrain from impeding such negotiations";

(b) in the third and fourth lines of operative paragraph 7, the phrase "a central role and primary responsibility of the United Nations in the sphere of disarmament" should read "that the United Nations has a central role and primary responsibility in the sphere of disarmament".

The Committee then adopted draft resolution A/C.1/34/L.32 by 98 votes to none, with 29 abstentions (see para. 6)

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

Declaration on International Co-operation for Disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling once again the affirmation in the Charter of the United Nations of the determination of the peoples of the United Nations to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war and to this end to unite their strength to maintain international peace and security,

Stressing again the importance of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session, devoted to disarmament, and recalling the principles proclaimed in the Final Document of that session, 1/

Convinced that there is an urgent need for active and combined efforts further to intensify the comprehensive implementation of the recommendations and decisions unanimously adopted at its tenth special session and that, to this end, a continuing and sustained effort by all States, in a more co-ordinated manner and on the basis of world-wide co-operation in the interests of security and peace, is essential,

Recalling the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, 2/ in which the General Assembly proclaimed the duty of all States to pursue in good faith negotiations for the early conclusion of a universal treaty on general and complete disarmament and to strive to adopt appropriate measures to reduce international tensions and strengthen confidence among States,

Stressing the inalienable right of every nation and every human being to live in peace, free from the threat of war, in freedom and independence, as was solemnly reaffirmed by the United Nations in the Declaration on the Preparation of

1/ Resolution S-10/2.

2/ Resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.

Societies for Life in Peace, 3/ the strict observance of which is in the highest interests of mankind and is an essential prerequisite for its full development,

Conscious that a dynamic development of détente in all spheres of international relations throughout the world would contribute to the achievement of the aims of disarmament,

Deeply disturbed by the fact that international peace and security of peoples continue to be threatened by the arms race, particularly in the nuclear field, and the accumulation of stockpiles of highly destructive weapons and that at the same time the continuation of the arms race conflicts with the interest of the economic development and the social and spiritual progress of mankind,

Noting in particular that the arms race is incompatible with and contrary to the efforts directed to the establishment of the new international economic order,

Stressing that the Governments of all countries, particularly of nuclear-weapon States, bear a historic responsibility for eliminating war from human life, primarily through the adoption of effective and decisive disarmament measures aimed at the achievement of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control,

Noting that special responsibility for achieving general and complete disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and for averting nuclear war rests with all States possessing nuclear weapons and other militarily significant States,

Proceeding from the principle that the effective, constructive and continuing co-operation among all States based on mutual confidence and political will, irrespective of their social system and level of economic development is essential for the achievement of disarmament and the attainment of its goals,

Convinced that such co-operation must be demonstrated, developed and intensified in mutual contacts and in any forum where States conduct negotiations on disarmament, particularly in the Committee on Disarmament, in order that the aims of the negotiations may be achieved as speedily as possible,

Convinced also that such co-operation must express a common determination by States to bring about a decisive shift in disarmament negotiations and, at the same time, must be sustained by the creation of a favourable atmosphere of trust in relations among States,

Bearing in mind the central role and primary responsibility of the United Nations in promoting the uniting of efforts and the establishment of co-operation among States aimed at the solution of disarmament problems,

I

Solemnly calls upon all States actively to promote the development, strengthening and intensification of international co-operation designed to achieve the goals of disarmament, as defined by the General Assembly at its tenth special session, and to that end, in particular:

(a) To take initiatives aimed at eliminating the threat of nuclear war and adopting effective new measures to halt and reverse the arms race and pave the way for the ultimate objective of the efforts in the disarmament process, that is general and complete disarmament under effective international control;

(b) To exercise actively their inalienable right to take part in disarmament negotiations, as confirmed by the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly;

(c) To participate actively, as appropriate, in measures taken in the field of disarmament, bearing in mind the interests of maintaining both international and national security in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations, and actively to promote such measures;

(d) To conduct disarmament negotiations in good faith on all priority items concurrently, including appropriate confidence-building measures, with a view to ensuring that such negotiations will complement one another and will be conducive to the early achievement of a decisive breakthrough in the sphere of disarmament;

(e) To make every effort to secure continuous and accelerated progress in the negotiations on halting the arms race and achieving disarmament and, to these ends, to refrain from impeding such negotiations, in particular with issues unrelated to disarmament;

(f) To strive in the course of disarmament negotiations to ensure that they outstrip the qualitative development and stockpiling of weapons to which the negotiations relate and, wherever possible, to prevent the emergence of new types of weapons and weapon systems, particularly weapons of mass destruction;

(g) To ensure that multilateral, regional and bilateral negotiations on disarmament questions are consistently conducted in accordance with the respective provisions of the Final Document, bearing in mind that the United Nations has a central role and primary responsibility in the sphere of disarmament;

(h) To develop joint efforts in achieving concrete disarmament measures the implementation of which would progressively enable a significant portion of the resources made available through such measures to be used for social and economic needs, thus contributing to the bridging of the economic gap between developed and developing countries, taking into account the close relationship between disarmament and development;

II

Urges all States, with a view to further improving the international climate required for the full implementation of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly and accelerating the progress of the appropriate disarmament negotiations, in particular:

(a) To exert determined efforts to expedite measures and pursue policies to strengthen international peace and security and to build confidence among States with a view to reducing the danger of the outbreak of military conflicts and facilitating decisive advance of the process of disarmament, including the creation of a favourable international atmosphere which would be conducive to the strengthening of international peace and security;

(b) To take effective measures for setting in motion the security system provided for in the Charter of the United Nations and to strengthen it by eliminating tensions and settling disputes by peaceful means, and to these ends, in particular, to refrain from seeking military superiority and from any other steps which might adversely affect efforts in the field of disarmament, and accordingly to refrain from using their military potential for aggressive purposes, notably the threat or use of force against the sovereignty, territorial integrity or political independence of any State or against peoples under colonial or foreign domination which are striving to exercise their right to self-determination and the achievement of independence, or for interference in the internal affairs of other States;

(c) To strive consistently for the repudiation of all concepts which are based on military intimidation and policies of acting from a position of strength and which lead to the intensification or perpetuation of the arms race and the further accumulation of armaments;

(d) To affirm, wherever possible, in their constitutional norms or by any other appropriate means, their political will and determination to promote with all their strength the cause of peace and international security and the achievement of progress in the field of disarmament;

(e) To intensify steps, both through the United Nations system and individually, to promote a better understanding by world opinion of the danger of the arms race and the need for disarmament, and to ensure that world opinion exerts a positive influence on the efforts of Governments to resolve disarmament issues, utilizing to this end the educational systems, the mass media and all other appropriate institutions;

(f) On the basis of the principles of the Charter, to take all appropriate measures, including legislative ones, to prevent and prohibit propaganda for war and the arms race and the dissemination of views asserting their necessity or usefulness on political, economic or other grounds;

(g) To take vigorous measures, individually or collectively, to disseminate the ideals of peace, disarmament, co-operation and friendly relations between peoples;

III

Urges all States, in implementing the common political will expressed in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, to strive to achieve concrete measures of disarmament and, in that connexion:

(a) To be guided, in all disarmament negotiations, by the generally recognized principles of international law, as well as by their adherence to the principles of peaceful coexistence;

(b) To ensure that the problems of disarmament are solved in the spirit of the Final Document in such a manner that, as a result of the measures adopted, no individual State or group of States may obtain advantages over others at any stage and both the security of the States participating in the negotiations and the security of the entire international community will be strengthened and that the principle of undiminished security of each party will not be impaired;

(c) To consult with one another on disarmament matters at all levels, including the highest level, in order that, in a spirit of goodwill and in an endeavour to harmonize their positions, they may establish the political pre-conditions for the solution of those problems, and also, in the interests of disarmament, to make maximum use of all opportunities for co-operation created by States in other fields of their relations with one another;

(d) To consider in a fully responsible manner and in a spirit of co-operation all proposals and initiatives aimed at promoting the achievement of mutually acceptable concrete measures of disarmament and helping to accelerate progress in disarmament negotiations;

IV

1. Declares that the provisions of the present Declaration are interrelated in their interpretation and implementation and that each of them is a component of a joint approach by States in their determination fully to respect and apply all the principles of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly and to develop broad international co-operation for achieving the objectives of real disarmament as defined by the General Assembly at its tenth special session;

2. Declares further that no provision of this Declaration may be interpreted as contradicting the purposes and principles of the Charter or superseding the Final Document and that no provision of the Declaration may interfere with the immediate realization of the right of every State to individual or collective self-defence or its legitimate right to defend its territorial integrity, to liberate its occupied territories in accordance with the Charter, or with the right of colonial or displaced peoples to struggle by every possible means for their national freedom, independence and self-determination.