Thirty-ninth session
Agenda item 58

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. Ngaré KESSELY (Chad)

1. INTRODUCTION

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
Conference on Disarmament" was included in the provisional agenda of the
thirty-ninth session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 38/128 of
20 December 1983.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 1984, 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 2nd meeting, on 15 October, the First Committee decided to hold a
general debate on the disarmament items allocated to it, namely, items 45 to 65 and
item 142 which was allocated to the First Committee at its 27th plenary meeting, on
9 October, followed by statements on specific disarmament agenda items and
continuation of the general debate, as necessary. The deliberations on those items
took place between the 3rd and the 36th meetings, from 17 October to 12 November
(see A/C.1/39/PV.3-36).

4. In connection with item 58, the First Committee had before it the following
documents:

(a) Report of the Conference on Disarmament, 1/

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session,
Supplement No. 27 (A/39/27).
(b) Letter dated 23 May 1984 from the representatives of Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden and the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Joint Declaration by Mrs. Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India, Mr. Miguel de la Madrid, President of Mexico, Mr. Julius Nyerere, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Mr. Olof Palme, Prime Minister of Sweden, Mr. Andreas Papandreou, Prime Minister of Greece and Mr. Raúl Alfonsín, President of Argentina, issued on 22 May 1984 at Athens, Buenos Aires, Dar es Salaam, Mexico City, New Delhi and Stockholm (A/39/277-S/16587);

(c) Note verbale dated 7 June 1984 from the Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the United Nations Secretariat (A/39/296-S/16619);

(d) Letter dated 27 September 1984 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Togo to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/39/529);

(e) Letter dated 8 October 1984 from the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Final Communiqué of the Meeting of Ministers and Heads of Delegation of the Non-Aligned Countries to the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly, held in New York from 1 to 5 October 1984 (A/39/560-S/16773).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/39/L.63

5. On 12 November, Afghanistan, Angola, Benin, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Congo, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Ethiopia, the German Democratic Republic, Guinea, Hungary, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Mozambique, Poland, Romania, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe, submitted a draft resolution entitled "Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons" (A/C.1/39/L.63), which was later also sponsored by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. The draft was introduced by the representative of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic at the 39th meeting, on 15 November.

6. At its 43rd meeting, on 20 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/39/L.63 by a recorded vote of 111 to 1, with 24 abstentions (see para. 7). The voting was as follows: 2/

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian

2/ The delegation of Egypt subsequently indicated that it had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

/...
Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, 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 Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:
United States of America.

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

III. 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,


**Bearing in mind the provisions of paragraph 39 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 3/ according to which qualitative and quantitative disarmament measures are both important for halting the arms race and efforts to that end must include negotiations on the**

3/ Resolution S-10/2.
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 aiming at the prohibition of such new types and new systems of weapons of mass destruction should be appropriately pursued,

Expressing once again its firm belief, in the light of the decisions adopted at the tenth special session, 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 that in the course of its session in 1984 the Conference on Disarmament considered the item entitled "New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: radiological weapons",

Convinced that all ways and means should be utilized to prevent the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons,

Taking into consideration the section of the report of the Conference on Disarmament relating to this question, 4/

1. Requests the Conference on Disarmament, in the light of its existing priorities, to intensify 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 to draft possible agreements on particular types of such weapons;

2. 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;

3. Calls upon the States permanent members of the Security Council as well as upon other militarily significant States to make declarations, identical in substance, concerning the refusal to create new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons, as a first step towards the conclusion of a comprehensive agreement on this subject, bearing in mind that such declarations would be approved thereafter by a decision of the Security Council;

4. **Calls again upon** all States to undertake efforts to ensure that ultimately scientific and technological achievements may be used solely for peaceful purposes;

5. **Requests** the Secretary-General to transmit to the Conference on Disarmament all documents relating to the consideration of this item by the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session;

6. **Requests** the Conference on Disarmament to submit a report on the results achieved to the General Assembly for consideration at its fortieth session;

7. **Decides** to include in the provisional agenda of its fortieth 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 Conference on Disarmament".