Fortieth session
Agenda item 48

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE ARMAMENTS RACE AND ITS
EXTREMELY HARMFUL EFFECTS ON WORLD PEACE AND SECURITY

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Yannis SOULIOTIS (Greece)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Economic and social consequences of the armaments race and
its extremely harmful effects on world peace and security" was included in the
provisional agenda of the fortieth session in accordance with General Assembly
resolution 37/70 of 9 December 1982.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1985, 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 9 October, the First Committee decided to hold a
general debate on the disarmament items allocated to it, namely, items 48 to 69 and
item 145, followed by statements on specific disarmament agenda items and
continuation of general debate, as necessary. The deliberations on those items
took place between the 3rd and 32nd meetings, from 14 October to 8 November (see
A/C.1/40/PV.3-32).

4. In connection with item 48, the First Committee had before it the following
documents:

(a) Letter dated 28 May 1985 from the Permanent Representative of
Czechoslovakia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General,
transmitting the text of the declaration of the socialist countries on the
situation in the International Labour Organisation (A/40/342-E/1985/119);
(b) Letter dated 3 July 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/40/458-E/1985/135);

(c) Letter dated 9 July 1985 from the representatives of Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/40/489-E/1985/143);

(d) Letter dated 19 September 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué adopted at the Sixteenth South Pacific Forum, held at Rarotonga, Cook Islands, on 5 and 6 August 1985 (A/40/672-S/17488);


II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/40/L.30

5. On 6 November 1985, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, Egypt, Indonesia, Ireland, Mexico, Peru, Romania, Rwanda, Sweden, Uruguay, Venezuela and Yugoslavia submitted a draft resolution entitled "Economic and social consequences of the armaments race and its extremely harmful effects on world peace and security" (A/C.1/40/L.30), which was also co-sponsored by Bolivia, Cameroon, Cuba, Greece and Samoa. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Romania at the 35th meeting, on 12 November.

6. In connection with the draft resolution, the Secretary-General submitted a statement on the programme budget implications (A/C.1/40/L.77).

7. At its 42nd meeting, on 19 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.30 by a recorded vote of 126 to 1, with 6 abstentions (see para. 8). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq,
Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire), Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zimbabwe.

**Against:** United States of America.

**Abstaining:** Belgium, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Luxembourg, Netherlands, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

**Economic and social consequences of the armaments race and its extremely harmful effects on world peace and security**

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "Economic and social consequences of the armaments race and its extremely harmful effects on world peace and security",

Recalling its resolutions 2267 (XXV) of 7 December 1970, 2831 (XXVI) of 16 December 1971, 3075 (XXVIII) of 6 December 1973, 32/75 of 12 December 1977, 35/141 of 2 December 1980 and 37/70 of 9 December 1982,

Deeply concerned that the arms race, particularly in nuclear armaments and military expenditures, has continued to increase at an alarming speed, absorbing enormous material and human resources, which represents a heavy burden for the peoples of all countries and constitutes a grave danger for world peace and security,

Convinced that, as disarmament is a matter of universal concern, there is a pressing need for all Governments and peoples to be informed about and be aware of the problems created by the armaments race and of the need for disarmament and that the United Nations has a central role in this connection,
Recalling also paragraph 93 (c) of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, \(^1\) in which it is provided that the Secretary-General shall periodically submit reports to the Assembly on the economic and social consequences of the armament race and its extremely harmful effects on world peace and security,

Noting that, since the preparation of the updated report of the Secretary-General entitled **Economic and Social Consequences of the Arms Race and of Military Expenditures**, \(^2\) new developments have taken place in the fields covered by the report that are of particular relevance in the present economic and political conditions of the world,

Considering that the elaboration of such reports should be viewed as a measure aimed at building confidence among States,

Recalling further its resolution 39/160 of 17 December 1984, in which it decided to convene an International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development at which inevitably the issue of the economic and social consequences of the arms race and of military expenditures would be discussed,

1. **Requests** the Secretary-General to bring up to date, with the assistance of a group of qualified consultant experts appointed by him and making appropriate use of the capabilities of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research in a consultant capacity, the report entitled **Economic and Social Consequences of the Arms Race and Military Expenditures**, \(^2\) taking into account the significant developments that have taken place since the preparation of that report;

2. **Invites** all Governments to extend to the Secretary-General their support and full co-operation to ensure that the study will be carried out in the most effective way;

3. **Calls upon** the specialized agencies, other international organizations and institutions as well as non-governmental organizations to co-operate with the Secretary-General, upon his request, in the preparation of the report;

4. **Requests** the Secretary-General to present the report to the General Assembly at its forty-second session;

5. **Decides** to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-second session the item entitled "Economic and social consequences of the arms race and its extremely harmful effects on world peace and security".

---

\(^1\) Resolution S-10/2.

\(^2\) United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.IX.2.