Fortieth session
Agenda item 57

PREVENTION OF AN ARMS RACE IN OUTER SPACE

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Yannis SOULIOTIS (Greece)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space: report of the Conference on Disarmament" was included in the provisional agenda of the fortieth session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 39/59 of 12 December 1984.

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 the 32nd meetings, from 14 October to 8 November (see A/C.1/40/PV.3-32).

4. In connection with item 57, the First Committee had before it the following documents:

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

   (b) Letter dated 30 January 1985 from the representatives of Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden and the United Republic of Tanzania to the United

---


85-35648 0317P (E) /...
Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Delhi Declaration adopted and issued at New Delhi on 28 January 1985 by the Heads of State or Government of Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden and the United Republic of Tanzania (A/40/114-S/16921);

(c) Letter dated 11 February 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/40/125);

(d) Letter dated 15 February 1985 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the German Democratic Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/40/130-S/16958);

(e) Letter dated 1 May 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the Declaration of the Commemorative Meeting in Observance of the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Asian-African Conference, held at Bandung, Indonesia, on 24 and 25 April 1985 (A/40/276-S/17138);

(f) Letter dated 17 June 1985 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the communiqué issued by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the North Atlantic Council at Lisbon on 7 June 1985 (A/40/388);

(g) 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);

(h) Letter dated 28 October 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/40/821-S/17594);

(i) Letter dated 30 October 1985 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 message dated 24 October 1985 addressed to the President of the United States of America and the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union by the Heads of State or Government of Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden and the United Republic of Tanzania (A/40/825-S/17596);

(j) Letter dated 6 November 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/40/859-S/17613);

(k) Letter dated 5 November 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Angola to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Final Political Declaration and the Economic Declaration adopted by the Conference of Foreign Ministers of the Non-Aligned Countries, held at Luanda from 4 to 7 September 1985 (A/40/854-S/17610 and Corr.1);
(1) Letter dated 12 November 1985 from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/40/888-S/17629);

(m) Letter dated 18 November 1985 from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/40/900 and Corr.1);

(n) Letter dated 25 October 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Declaration issued on 23 October 1985 at Sofia by the Political Consultative Committee (A/C.1/40/7).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.4

5. On 25 October, China submitted a draft resolution entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space" (A/C.1/40/L.4), which was introduced by its representative at the 30th meeting, on 7 November. The draft resolution read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Reaffirming that the peaceful exploration and use of outer space including the Moon and other celestial bodies, as a common aspiration of all countries of the world, shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries and shall be the province of all mankind,

"Recalling the principles and objectives of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies and in particular articles III and IV thereof,

"Further recalling paragraph 80 of the Final Document of its tenth special session and its relevant resolutions since 1981,

"Especially bearing in mind its resolution 39/59 adopted on 12 December 1984,

"Convinced that the development of outer space weapon systems entails a qualitative escalation of the already serious arms race and further aggravates the world situation,

"Fully taking note of the urgent demand of the international community that immediate and effective measures be taken to prevent an arms race in outer space,

"Believing that the two countries with the largest space capabilities bear a special responsibility for the prevention of an arms race in outer space,
"Taking note" of the consideration by the Conference on Disarmament of this question,

"welcoming" the establishment of an ad hoc committee on this question by the Conference on Disarmament during its 1985 session,

1. Calls upon all States, especially those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the realization of the objective of peaceful uses of outer space and to adopt prompt and effective measures to prevent an arms race in outer space;

2. Requests the Conference on Disarmament, the single multilateral disarmament negotiating body, to speed up the consideration of the question of preventing an arms race in outer space in all its aspects as a matter of priority and urgency, taking into account all the relevant draft resolutions and proposals;

3. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to initiate negotiations without delay for concluding an agreement, or agreements, as appropriate, on the prohibition and destruction of all outer space weapon systems;

4. Calls upon all States possessing outer space capabilities to refrain from developing, testing and deploying outer space weapons, so as to create propitious conditions for negotiations;

5. Urges the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to conduct serious bilateral negotiations on the prevention of an arms race in outer space and to keep the Conference on Disarmament properly informed of the progress of these negotiations;

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

7. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to submit its report on its consideration of this subject to the General Assembly at its forty-first session;

8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-first session an item entitled 'Prevention of an arms race in outer space'."

At the request of the sponsor, no action was taken on draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.4.

B. Draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.22 and Rev.1

7. On 6 November, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Federal Republic of, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland submitted a draft resolution entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space" (A/C.1/40/L.22). The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Italy at the 34th meeting, on 12 November, and read as follows:
"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its relevant resolutions and the applicable provisions of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 2/

"Reaffirming that the exploration and use of outer space shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interest of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development,

"Recalling that the States parties to the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, 3/ have undertaken, in article III, to carry on activities in the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, in accordance with international law, and the Charter of the United Nations, in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and of promoting international co-operation and understanding,

"Emphasizing the paramount importance of strict compliance with existing international arms control and disarmament agreements relevant to outer space,

"Aware of the fundamental contribution that space activities can make to international security and strategic stability, to the goal of averting the danger of war and to the implementation of disarmament agreements,

"Convinced that further efforts should be made in the search for effective and verifiable agreements on the interrelated questions of preventing an arms race in outer space and terminating it on Earth, of limiting and reducing nuclear arms and of strengthening strategic stability,

"Aware of the crucial role that pertains to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America in the pursuance of these goals,

"Noting the work so far undertaken in the Conference on Disarmament and its Ad Hoc Committee to consider all issues relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space and convinced that those issues can be dealt with in a manner consistent with and complementary to the ongoing bilateral negotiations,

"1. Recalls the obligation of all States, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, to refrain from the threat or use of force;

"2. Expresses its great satisfaction at the agreement reached in 1985 in the Conference on Disarmament, the single multilateral negotiating forum, on the establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee on item 5 of its agenda, entitled 'Prevention of an arms race in outer space';

2/ Resolution S-10/2.

3/ Resolution 2222 (XXI), annex.
3. Notes furthermore that the Ad Hoc Committee initiated examination of issues relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, taking into account all existing agreements and proposals;

4. Deems it necessary, as recognized by the Ad Hoc Committee, that all efforts should be made to assure that substantive work on the agenda item entitled 'Prevention of an arms race in outer space' will continue at the next session of the Conference;

5. Emphasizes the great responsibility towards mankind as a whole which falls on the major space and nuclear Powers in the search for effective and verifiable agreements on the prevention of an arms race in outer space and its termination on Earth;

6. Welcomes the fact that the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America have initiated bilateral negotiations on both strategic and intermediate-range, space and nuclear arms, with all these questions to be resolved in their interrelationship;

7. Expresses its satisfaction at the agreed objective of these negotiations, that is, to work out effective agreements aimed at preventing an arms race in space and terminating it on Earth, at limiting and reducing nuclear arms and at strengthening strategic stability;

8. Emphasizes the necessity of preventing the erosion of relevant existing treaties;

9. Calls upon the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America to spare no effort to reach early agreement in conformity with the agreed objective of the negotiations;

10. Calls upon all States to encourage an early and successful outcome of these negotiations;

11. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to report on its consideration of this subject to the General Assembly at its forty-first session;

12. Decides to resume consideration of this issue at its forty-first session under the item entitled 'Prevention of an arms race in outer space'."

On 20 November, the sponsors submitted a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/40/L.22/Rev.1), containing the following revisions:

(a) A new second preambular paragraph was added reading:

"Recognizing the common interest of all mankind in the progress of the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes;"

(b) In the original second preambular paragraph, now third preambular paragraph, the words "and shall be the province of all mankind," were added at the end of the paragraph;
(c) The original fifth preambular paragraph, now sixth preambular paragraph, was revised to read as follows:

"Aware of the fundamental contribution that space activities can make both to the economic and social progress of mankind, and to international trust, implementation of arms control agreements, peace and stability."

(d) In the original sixth preambular paragraph, now seventh preambular paragraph, the words "of limiting and reducing nuclear arms and of strengthening strategic stability" at the end of the paragraph were deleted;

(e) The original eighth preambular paragraph, now ninth preambular paragraph, was revised to read as follows:

"Noting the work so far undertaken in the Conference on Disarmament and its Ad Hoc Committee to consider all issues relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space and convinced that such a multilateral process and bilateral negotiations are both complementary and essential,";

(f) At the end of operative paragraph 1, the word "which applies in all environments including outer space" were added;

(g) A new operative paragraph 2 was added as follows:

"Reiterates that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral negotiating forum, has a primary role in the question of preventing an arms race in outer space;"

and the subsequent paragraphs were renumbered accordingly;

(h) In the original operative paragraph 2, now operative paragraph 3, the word "great" after the words "Expresses its" was deleted.

9. At the request of the sponsors, no action was taken on draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.22/Rev.1.

C. Draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.45 and Rev.1*

10. On 7 November, Poland submitted a draft resolution entitled "Expert study of the various consequences of the militarization of outer space" (A/C.1/40/L.45), which was introduced by its representative at the 34th meeting, on 12 November. The draft resolution read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

Gravely concerned at the impending danger posed to all mankind by the real prospect of extending the arms race into outer space,

See also the report of the First Committee on agenda item 145 (A/40/965).
"Reaffirming that outer space is the common heritage of mankind and its peaceful exploration and use shall be the province of all mankind,

"Recalling that the States parties to the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, have undertaken, in article IV, not to place in orbit around the earth any objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction, install such weapons on celestial bodies or station such weapons in outer space in any other manner,

"Determined to prevent the militarization of outer space,

"Aware of the various proposals submitted to that end by Member States to the General Assembly in recent years,


"Taking note of paragraph 99 of the report of the Conference on Disarmament, A/ containing the report of its Ad Hoc Committee on the agenda item entitled 'Prevention of an arms race in outer space',

"1. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive study of the various consequences of the militarization of outer space;

"2. Recommends that the study be prepared on the basis of accessible material, with the assistance of eminent consultant experts of various nationalities appointed by the Secretary-General, taking into account the views expressed and the suggestions made during the discussion of this subject at the fortieth session of the General Assembly;

"3. Calls upon Governments and international scientific institutions and organizations to co-operate with the Secretary-General in the preparation of the study;

"4. Requests that the study be transmitted to the Conference on Disarmament, the Security Council and the General Assembly by 1 July 1987, and to the Governments of Member States in time to permit its consideration at the forty-second session of the General Assembly;

"5. Recommends that Member States give the study wide distribution in their respective languages, through various media of communication, so as to acquaint public opinion with its contents."

A/40/964
11. On 14 November, Poland submitted a revised draft resolution
(A/C.1/40/L.45/Rev.1), containing the following revisions:

(a) In the first preambular paragraph, the word "real" in the first line was deleted;

(b) Operative paragraph 2 was revised to read as follows:

"Recommends that the study be prepared on the basis of accessible material, with the assistance of eminent consultant experts of various nationalities appointed by the Secretary-General, and in co-operation with the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, taking in account the views expressed and the suggestions made during the discussion of this subject at the fortieth session of the General Assembly'.'"

(c) Operative paragraph 5 was revised to read as follows:

"Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-second session an item entitled: 'Consequences of the militarization of outer space: report of the Secretary-General'.'"

12. On 20 November, the Secretary-General, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, submitted a statement (A/C.1/40/L.81) on the programme budget implications of the revised draft resolution.

13. At the request of the sponsor, no action was taken on draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.45/Rev.1.

D. Draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.68 and Rev.1

14. On 7 November, Algeria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Romania, Sri Lanka, the Sudan and Yugoslavia submitted a draft resolution entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space" (A/C.1/40/L.68), which was later also sponsored by Venezuela and Zimbabwe. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Egypt at the 35th meeting, on 12 November, and read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Inspired by the great prospects opening up before mankind as a result of man's entry into outer space,

"Recognizing the common interest of all mankind in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

"Reaffirming that the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interest of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development, and shall be the province of all mankind,

/...
"Reaffirming further the will of all States that the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, shall be for peaceful purposes,

"Recalling that the States parties to the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, have undertaken, in article III, to carry on activities in the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international co-operation and understanding,

"Reaffirming, in particular, article IV of the above-mentioned Treaty, which stipulates that States parties to the Treaty undertake not to place in orbit around the Earth any objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction, install such weapons on celestial bodies or station such weapons in outer space in any other manner,

"Reaffirming also paragraph 80 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament, in which it is stated that, in order to prevent an arms race in outer space, further measures should be taken and appropriate international negotiations held in accordance with the spirit of the Treaty,


"Gravely concerned at the danger posed to all mankind by an arms race in outer space and in particular by the impending threat of exacerbating the current state of insecurity by developments that could further undermine international peace and security and retard the pursuit of general and complete disarmament,

"Mindful of the widespread interest expressed by Member States in the course of the negotiations on and following the adoption of the above-mentioned Treaty in ensuring that the exploration and use of outer space should be for peaceful purposes, and taking note of proposals submitted to the General Assembly at its tenth special session devoted to disarmament, and at its regular sessions and to the Conference on Disarmament,

"Noting the grave concern expressed by the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space over the extension of an arms race into outer space and the recommendations made to the competent organs of the United Nations, in particular, the General Assembly, and also to the Committee on Disarmament,

"Convinced that further measures are needed for the prevention of an arms race in outer space,
"Recognizing that, in the context of multilateral negotiations for preventing an arms race in outer space, bilateral negotiations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America could make a significant contribution to such an objective, in accordance with paragraph 27 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session,

"Noting with satisfaction that bilateral negotiations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America have begun in 1985, on a complex of questions concerning space and nuclear arms, both strategic and intermediate range, and in their interrelationship, with the declared objective of working out effective agreements aimed, inter alia, at preventing an arms race in outer space,

"Anxious that concrete results should emerge from these negotiations as soon as possible, as was urged in resolution 39/59,

"Taking note of the report of the Conference on Disarmament,

"Welcoming the establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee during the 1985 session of the Conference on Disarmament, in the exercise of the negotiating responsibilities of this sole negotiating body on disarmament, to examine, as a first step at this stage, issues relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space,

"Expressing concern that consensus had not yet been reached in the Conference on Disarmament on concrete proposals for re-establishing the Ad Hoc Committee on this question during the 1986 session of the Conference on Disarmament in accordance with resolution 39/59 of 12 December 1984,

"1. Recalls the obligation of all States to refrain from the threat or use of force in their space activities;

"2. Reaffirms that general and complete disarmament under effective international control warrants that outer space shall be used exclusively for peaceful purposes and that it shall not become an arena for an arms race;

"3. Emphasizes that further measures with appropriate and effective provisions for verification to prevent an arms race in outer space should be adopted by the international community;

"4. Calls upon all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the objective of the peaceful use of outer space and to take immediate measures to prevent an arms race in outer space in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international co-operation and understanding;

"5. Reiterates that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, has the primary role in the negotiation of a multilateral agreement or agreements, as appropriate, on the prevention of an arms race in all its aspects in outer space;
"6. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to consider as a matter of priority the question of preventing an arms race in outer space;

"7. Also requests the Conference on Disarmament to intensify its consideration of the question of the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects, taking into account all relevant proposals including those presented in the Ad Hoc Committee of its 1985 session and at the fortieth session of the United Nations General Assembly;

"8. Further requests the Conference on Disarmament to re-establish an Ad Hoc Committee with an adequate mandate at the beginning of its session in 1986 to undertake negotiations for the conclusion of an agreement or agreements, as appropriate, to prevent an arms race in all its aspects in outer space;

"9. Urges the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America seriously to pursue their bilateral negotiations in a constructive spirit aimed at reaching early agreement for preventing an arms race in outer space, and to advise the Conference on Disarmament regularly of the progress of their bilateral sessions so as to facilitate its work;

"10. Calls on all States especially those with major space capabilities, to refrain from developing, testing or deploying weapons and weapons systems in outer space, pending the negotiation and conclusion of an agreement or agreements on the prevention of an arms race in outer space;

"11. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to report on its consideration of this subject to the General Assembly at its forty-first session;

"12. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Conference on Disarmament all documents relating to the consideration of this subject by the General Assembly at its fortieth session;

"13. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-first session the item entitled 'Prevention of an arms race in outer space'."

15. On 21 November, Algeria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cameroon, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Romania, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Venezuela, Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe submitted a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/40/68/Rev.1), which was later also sponsored by the German Democratic Republic and Sweden. The revised draft resolution contained the following revisions:

(a) In the ninth preambular paragraph, fourth line, a comma was inserted after the word "security", the word "and" was deleted and after the word "disarmament" the words "and risk creating obstacles to the development of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space" were added;
(b) In the seventh preambular paragraph, third line, the word "multilateral" was inserted after the word "sole";

(c) The eighteenth preambular paragraph was revised to read:

"Mindful that consensus had not yet been reached in the Conference on Disarmament on concrete proposals for re-establishing the Ad Hoc Committee on this question during the 1986 session of the Conference on Disarmament,";

(d) A new operative paragraph 5 was added, reading:

"Requests the Secretary-General to invite Member States to submit their views on the possibility of enhancing international co-operation in the field of preventing an arms race in outer space and the peaceful uses of outer space, including the desirability of establishing relevant machinery for that purpose, and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-first session;"

and the subsequent paragraphs were renumbered accordingly;

(e) The original operative paragraph 8, now operative paragraph 9, was revised to read as follows:

"Further requests the Conference on Disarmament to re-establish an Ad Hoc Committee with an adequate mandate at the beginning of its session of 1986, with a view to undertaking negotiations for the conclusion of an agreement or agreements, as appropriate, to prevent an arms race in all its aspects in other space;";

(f) In the original operative paragraph 9, now operative paragraph 10, in the second line, the word "seriously" was deleted and the word "intensively" was inserted after the word "pursue" and, in the fourth line, the word "regularly" was replaced by the word "periodically";

(g) The original operative paragraph 10, now operative paragraph 11, was revised to read:

"Calls on all States, especially those with major space capabilities, to refrain in their activities relating to outer space, from actions contrary to the observance of the relevant existing treaties or to the objective of preventing an arms race in outer space;"

(h) A new operative paragraph 12 was added, reading:

"Invites the Member States to transmit to the Secretary-General, not later than 1 April 1986, their views on the scope and content of the UNIDIR (United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research) study 5/ being undertaken on disarmament problems relating to outer space and the consequences of

5/ A/40/725, paras. 47-54.
extending the arms race into outer space; and requests the Secretary-General to convey the above-mentioned views of the Member States to the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies for consideration in order to enable it, in its capacity of Board of Trustees of UNIDIR, to give the Institute such possible guidance with respect to the elaboration of its study as it may derive from those views;"

and the subsequent paragraphs were renumbered accordingly.

16. At its 47th meeting, on 22 November, the Committee voted on draft resolution A/C.1/L.68/Rev.1 as follows:

(a) Operative paragraph 5 was adopted by a recorded vote of 105 to 1, with 21 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

**In favour:** Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Comoros, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire), Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, 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, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Portugal, Samoa, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

(b) Operative paragraph 9 was adopted by a recorded vote of 118 to 1, with 11 abstentions. 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 Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire), Jamaica, 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, Qatar, Romania, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, 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:** Belgium, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

(c) Draft resolution A/C.1/40/68/Rev.1, as a whole, was adopted by a recorded vote of 131 to none, with 1 abstention (see para. 17). The voting was as follows:

**In favour:** Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, 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, France, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, 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, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, 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, 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 Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: United States of America.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

**Prevention of an arms race in outer space**

The General Assembly,

Inspired by the great prospects opening up before mankind as a result of man's entry into outer space,

Recognizing the common interest of all mankind in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Reaffirming that the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interest of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development, and shall be the province of all mankind,

Reaffirming further the will of all States that the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, shall be for peaceful purposes,

Recalling that the States parties to the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, 5/ have undertaken, in article III, to carry on activities in the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international co-operation and understanding,

Reaffirming, in particular, article IV of the above-mentioned Treaty, which stipulates that States parties to the Treaty undertake not to place in orbit around the Earth any objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other kinds

5/ Resolution 2222 (XXI), annex.
of weapons of mass destruction, install such weapons on celestial bodies or station such weapons in outer space in any other manner,

Reaffirming also paragraph 80 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 7/ the first special session devoted to disarmament, in which it is stated that, in order to prevent an arms race in outer space, further measures should be taken and appropriate international negotiations held in accordance with the spirit of the Treaty,


Gravely concerned at the danger posed to all mankind by an arms race in outer space and in particular by the impending threat of exacerbating the current state of insecurity by developments that could further undermine international peace and security, retard the pursuit of general and complete disarmament, and risk creating obstacles to the development of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space,

Mindful of the widespread interest expressed by Member States in the course of the negotiations on and following the adoption of the above-mentioned Treaty in ensuring that the exploration and use of outer space should be for peaceful purposes, and taking note of proposals submitted to the General Assembly at its tenth special session devoted to disarmament, and at its regular sessions and to the Conference on Disarmament,

Noting the grave concern expressed by the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space over the extension of an arms race into outer space and the recommendations made to the competent organs of the United Nations, in particular the General Assembly, and also to the Committee on Disarmament, 8/

Convinced that further measures are needed for the prevention of an arms race in outer space,

Recognizing that, in the context of multilateral negotiations for preventing an arms race in outer space, bilateral negotiations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America could make a significant contribution to such an objective, in accordance with paragraph 27 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session, 7/

---

7/ Resolution S-10/2.

Noting with satisfaction that bilateral negotiations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America have begun in 1985, on a complex of questions concerning space and nuclear arms, both strategic and intermediate range, and in their interrelationship, with the declared objective of working out effective agreements aimed, inter alia, at preventing an arms race in outer space,

Anxious that concrete results should emerge from these negotiations as soon as possible, as was urged in its resolution 39/59,

Taking note of the report of the Conference on Disarmament, 9/

Welcoming the establishment of an ad hoc committee on the prevention of an arms race in outer space during the 1985 session of the Conference on Disarmament, in the exercise of the negotiating responsibilities of this sole multilateral negotiating body on disarmament, to examine, as a first step at this stage, issues relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space,

Mindful that consensus had not yet been reached in the Conference on Disarmament on concrete proposals for re-establishing the ad hoc committee on this question during the 1986 session of the Conference on Disarmament,

1. Recalls the obligation of all States to refrain from the threat or use of force in their space activities;

2. Reaffirms that general and complete disarmament under effective international control warrants that outer space shall be used exclusively for peaceful purposes and that it shall not become an arena for an arms race;

3. Emphasizes that further measures with appropriate and effective provisions for verification to prevent an arms race in outer space should be adopted by the international community;

4. Calls upon all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the objective of the peaceful use of outer space and to take immediate measures to prevent an arms race in outer space in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international co-operation and understanding;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to invite Member States to submit their views on the possibility of enhancing international co-operation in the field of preventing an arms race in outer space and the peaceful uses of outer space, including the desirability of establishing relevant machinery for that purpose, and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-first session;

6. **Reiterates** that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, has the primary role in the negotiation of a multilateral agreement or agreements, as appropriate, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects;

7. **Requests** the Conference on Disarmament to consider as a matter of priority the question of preventing an arms race in outer space;

8. **Also requests** the Conference on Disarmament to intensify its consideration of the question of the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects, taking into account all relevant proposals including those presented in the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space at its 1985 session and at the fortieth session of the General Assembly;

9. **Further requests** the Conference on Disarmament to re-establish an ad hoc committee with an adequate mandate at the beginning of its session in 1986, with a view to undertaking negotiations for the conclusion of an agreement or agreements, as appropriate, to prevent an arms race in outer space in all its aspects;

10. **Urges** the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America to pursue intensively their bilateral negotiations in a constructive spirit aimed at reaching early agreement for preventing an arms race in outer space, and to advise the Conference on Disarmament periodically of the progress of their bilateral sessions so as to facilitate its work;

11. **Calls on** all States, especially those with major space capabilities, to refrain in their activities relating to outer space, from actions contrary to the observance of the relevant existing treaties or to the objective of preventing an arms race in outer space;

12. **Invites** Member States to transmit to the Secretary-General, not later than 1 April 1986, their views on the scope and content of the study of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research 10/ being undertaken on disarmament problems relating to outer space and the consequences of extending the arms race into outer space, and requests the Secretary-General to convey the views of the Member States to the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies for consideration in order to enable it, in its capacity of Board of Trustees of the Institute, to give the Institute such possible guidance with respect to the elaboration of its study as it may derive from those views;

13. **Requests** the Conference on Disarmament to report on its consideration of this subject to the General Assembly at its forty-first session;

---

10/ A/40/725, paras. 47-54.
14. **Requests** the Secretary-General to transmit to the Conference on Disarmament all documents relating to the consideration of this subject by the General Assembly at its fortieth session;

15. **Decides** to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-first session the item entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space".