Twenty-first session
Agenda item 29

QUESTION OF CONVENING A CONFERENCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF SIGNING A
CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE OF NUCLEAR AND
THERMONUCLEAR WEAPONS

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. G.G. TCHERNCUHTCHENKO (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic)

1. The item "Question of convening a conference for the purpose of signing a
convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear and thermonuclear weapons:
report of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Conference on Disarmament" was
included by the Secretary-General in the provisional agenda for the twenty-first
session (A/6550) on the basis of the General Assembly's decision of 5 December 1965.
2. At its 163rd meeting, on 22 September 1966, the General Committee recommended
the inclusion of the item in the agenda and its allocation to the First Committee
(A/6595). At its 1415th plenary meeting, on 24 September, the General Assembly
approved the recommendation of the General Committee and referred the item to the
First Committee for consideration and report.
3. At its 1430th meeting, on 13 October, the First Committee decided to consider
the item as the fifth on its agenda (A/C.1/933). The item was considered at the
1463rd to 1465th meetings, on 24, 25 and 28 November.
4. On 22 November, a draft resolution was submitted by Ethiopia, India, Nigeria,
the United Arab Republic and Yugoslavia (A/C.1/L.384), by which, inter alia, the
General Assembly, convinced that the signing of a convention on the prohibition of
the use of nuclear and thermonuclear weapons would greatly facilitate negotiations
on general and complete disarmament and give further impetus to the urgent problem
of nuclear disarmament, and believing that the widest possible attendance at a
conference for signing a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear and

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thermonuclear weapons is of vital importance for the effective and universal observance of the provisions of such a convention, would request that the forthcoming World Disarmament Conference give priority to the consideration of the question of signing a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear and thermonuclear weapons.

5. On 25 November, the sponsors submitted a revised text of the draft resolution (A/ C.1/L.384/Rev.1), whereby, inter alia, the General Assembly, believing that the signing of a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear and thermonuclear weapons would greatly facilitate negotiations on general and complete disarmament under effective international control and give further impetus to the urgent problem of nuclear disarmament, and believing further that the widest possible attendance at a conference for signing a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear and thermonuclear weapons is of vital importance for the effective and universal observance of the provisions of such a convention, would request that the forthcoming World Disarmament Conference give serious consideration to the question of signing a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear and thermonuclear weapons.

6. At the 1465th meeting, on 28 November, the Committee adopted the revised draft resolution (A/C.1/L.384/Rev.1) by 58 votes to none, with 22 abstentions.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

Question of convening a conference for the purpose of signing a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear and thermonuclear weapons

The General Assembly,
Recalling the declaration on the prohibition of the use of nuclear and thermonuclear weapons contained in its resolution 1653 (XVI) of 24 November 1961,
Cognizant of the fact that the consultations carried out by the Secretary-General, pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 1653 (XVI) and 1801 (XVII), with the Governments of Member States to ascertain their views on the possibility of
convening a conference for the purpose of signing a convention on the prohibition of
the use of nuclear and thermonuclear weapons have not been conclusive,

Recalling that, by General Assembly resolution 1509 (XVIII) of
27 November 1963, the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament was
requested to give urgent consideration to this question,

Believing that the signing of a convention on the prohibition of the use of
nuclear and thermonuclear weapons would greatly facilitate negotiations on general
and complete disarmament under effective international control and give further
impetus to the urgent problem of nuclear disarmament,

Believing further that the widest possible attendance at a conference for the
purpose of signing such a convention is of vital importance to the effective and
universal observance of its provisions,

Requests that the forthcoming World Disarmament Conference give serious
consideration to the question of signing a convention on the prohibition of the use
of nuclear and thermonuclear weapons.