Twenty-third session
Agenda item 28

URGENT NEED FOR SUSPENSION OF NUCLEAR AND THERMONUCLEAR TESTS

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Maxime-Léopold ZOLLNER (Dahomey)

1. The item entitled "Urgent need for suspension of nuclear and thermonuclear tests: report of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Commission" was included by the Secretary-General in the provisional agenda of the twenty-third session (A/7150) on the basis of General Assembly resolution 2343 (XXII) of 19 December 1967.

2. At its 174th meeting, on 25 September 1968, the General Committee recommended the inclusion of the item in the agenda (A/7250).

3. At its 1676th plenary meeting, on 27 September 1968, the General Assembly approved the recommendation of the General Committee and allocated the item to the First Committee for consideration and report.

4. It was considered at the 1606th to 1617th meetings, from 12 to 22 November, and at the 1623rd to 1655th meetings, from 27 November to 10 December.

5. On 21 November 1968, Brazil, Burma, Ethiopia, India, Mexico, Nigeria, Sweden and the United Arab Republic submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.447), subsequently co-sponsored by Finland (A/C.1/L.447/Add.1), Denmark (A/C.1/L.447/Add.2), Libya (A/C.1/L.447/Add.3), New Zealand (A/C.1/L.447/Add.4) and Chile (A/C.1/L.447/Add.5), by which the General Assembly would: (1) urge all States which had not done so to adhere without further delay to the Treaty banning nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water; (2) call upon all nuclear-weapon States to suspend nuclear weapon tests in all environments; (3) express the hope that States would contribute to an effective international
exchange of seismic data; (4) request the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament to take up as a matter of urgency the elaboration of a treaty banning underground nuclear weapon tests and to report to the General Assembly on this matter at its twenty-fourth session.

6. At its 1635th meeting, on 10 December, the Committee adopted the draft resolution (A/C.1/L.447 and Add.1-5) by a vote of 108 to none, with 6 abstentions.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

Urgent need for suspension of nuclear and thermonuclear tests

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of the urgent need for suspension of nuclear and thermonuclear tests and the report of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament, 1/

Recalling its resolutions 1762 (XVII) of 6 November 1962, 1910 (XVIII) of 27 November 1963, 2032 (XX) of 5 December 1965, 2163 (XXI) of 5 December 1966 and 2343 (XXII) of 19 December 1967,

Recalling further the Joint Memorandum on a comprehensive test ban treaty submitted on 26 August 1968 by Brazil, Burma, Ethiopia, India, Mexico, Nigeria, Sweden and the United Arab Republic and annexed to the report of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament,

Noting with regret the fact that all States have not yet adhered to the Treaty banning nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water, signed in Moscow on 5 August 1963,

Noting with increasing concern that nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere and underground are continuing,

Taking into account the existing possibilities of establishing, through international co-operation, an exchange on a voluntary basis of seismic data so as to create a better scientific basis for national evaluation of seismic events,

1/ A/7189-IC251.
Recognizing the importance of seismology in the verification of the observance of a treaty banning underground nuclear weapon tests,

Noting in this connexion that experts from various countries, including four nuclear-weapon States, have recently met unofficially in order to exchange views and hold discussions in regard to the adequacy of seismic methods for monitoring underground explosions, and the hope expressed that such discussions would be continued,

1. Urges all States which have not done so to adhere without further delay to the Treaty banning nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water;

2. Calls upon all nuclear-weapon States to suspend nuclear weapon tests in all environments;

3. Expresses the hope that States will contribute to an effective international exchange of seismic data;

4. Requests the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament to take up as a matter of urgency the elaboration of a treaty banning underground nuclear weapon tests and to report to the General Assembly on this matter at its twenty-fourth session.