Twenty-sixth session
Agenda item 27

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Giovanni MIGLIUOLO (Italy)

1. The item entitled "General and complete disarmament: (a) report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament; (b) report of the International Atomic Energy Agency" was included by the Secretary-General in the provisional agenda of the twenty-sixth session on the basis of General Assembly resolution 2661 (XXV) of 7 December 1970.

2. At its 191st meeting, on 22 September 1971, the General Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it should postpone consideration of subitem (b) of item 27 until the twenty-seventh session and that the remainder of the item should be included in the agenda.

3. At its 1939th plenary meeting, on 25 September 1971, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the remainder of the item in the agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee for consideration and report.

4. At its 1803rd meeting, on 11 October 1971, the First Committee decided to hold a combined general debate on all seven agenda items relating to disarmament allocated to it, namely:

   (1) General and complete disarmament: report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (item 27);
(2) Question of chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons: report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (item 28);

(3) Urgent need for suspension of nuclear and thermonuclear tests: report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (item 29);

(4) Establishment, within the framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency, of an international service for nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes under appropriate international control: report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (item 30);

(5) Status of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 2666 (XXV) concerning the signature and ratification of Additional Protocol II of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Treaty of Tlatelolco): report of the Secretary-General (item 31);

(6) Economic and social consequences of the armaments race and its extremely harmful effects on world peace and security: report of the Secretary-General (item 32);

(7) Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace (item 98).

The Committee also decided that, on the conclusion of the general debate, it would consider the draft resolutions or proposals under each item separately.

5. The general debate on these seven agenda items took place at the 1827th to 1842nd meetings, from 11 November to 1 December 1971.

6. The First Committee had before it, in connexion with agenda item 27, the following documents:

   (a) the report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (A/8457);

   (b) a letter dated 23 June 1971 from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics addressed to the Secretary-General (A/8328), transmitting a statement of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the question of convening a conference of the five nuclear-weapon Powers;

   (c) a letter dated 6 July 1971 from the Permanent Representative of Czechoslovakia addressed to the Secretary-General (A/8337), transmitting a statement of the Government of Czechoslovakia concerning a conference on nuclear disarmament.

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7. On 18 November, a letter dated 9 November 1971 from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic addressed to the Chairman of the First Committee concerning this item (A/C.1/1018) was circulated at the direction of the Chairman.

8. On 29 November, Malta submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.588), which was introduced by the sponsor at the 1842nd meeting, on 1 December.

9. On 30 November, Denmark, Ethiopia, Ghana, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, the Philippines, Sweden, Uruguay and Yugoslavia submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.589 and Corr.1). The draft resolution was introduced on behalf of its sponsors by the representative of Italy at the 1842nd meeting, on 1 December.

10. On 30 November, Ireland, Mexico, Morocco and Pakistan submitted a draft resolution, which was later revised (A/C.1/L.591/Rev.1) and also sponsored by the Philippines. It was introduced on behalf of its sponsors by the representative of Ireland at the 1846th meeting, on 8 December.

11. At the same meeting, the Committee proceeded to vote on these draft resolutions.

12. The draft resolution submitted by Malta A/C.1/L.588 was adopted by a roll-call vote of 76 to none, with 17 abstentions (see paragraph 16, draft resolution A). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Australia, Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Ceylon, Chile, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Khmer Republic, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Republic, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Central African Republic, Colombia, France, India, Israel, Kuwait, Congo, Peru, Romania, Senegal, Spain, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Zambia.
13. At the same meeting, the representative of Afghanistan stated that had his delegation been present at the voting, it would have voted in favour of the draft resolution submitted by Malta (A/C.1/L.588).

14. The 12-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.589 and Corr.1) was adopted by 92 votes to none, with 1 abstention (see paragraph 16 below, draft resolution B).

15. The 5-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.591/Rev.1) was adopted by 94 votes to none, with 2 abstentions (see paragraph 16, draft resolution C).

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

16. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

   General and complete disarmament

   A

   The General Assembly,

   Recalling its resolution 2661 B (XXV) of 7 December 1970,

   Noting with appreciation the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency, 1/

   Noting with satisfaction the success of the International Atomic Energy Agency in drawing up detailed guidelines for the structure and content of agreements between the Agency and States required in connexion with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

   Noting that the procedures embodied in such agreements are applicable to all stages of the nuclear fuel cycle and are to be concentrated on those stages involving the production, processing, use or storage of nuclear material from which nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices could readily be made,

Noting from the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency that detailed safeguards procedures with respect to nuclear enrichment plants, including those employing new techniques of uranium enrichment, have still to be elaborated and applied,

1. **Expresses its confidence** in the ability of the International Atomic Energy Agency to meet, without delay, the obligations likely to be placed upon it in respect of the application of safeguards to nuclear material in all types of civil nuclear facilities, including uranium enrichment plants;

2. **Requests** the International Atomic Energy Agency to include in its annual report to the General Assembly full information on the progress of its work on the application of safeguards in connexion with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, including safeguards on nuclear material in uranium enrichment plants using both existing and new techniques.

B

The General Assembly,

**Recalling** its resolution 1722 (XVI) of 20 December 1961 and 2602 E (XXIV) of 16 December 1969,

**Further recalling** its resolution 2661 C (XXV) of 7 December 1970, which urged the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to make more intensive efforts to bring about a faster pace towards the achievement of disarmament measures, expressed its appreciation of the important and constructive documents and views submitted at the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, and recommended to the Conference that it take into account in its further work and its negotiations the comprehensive programme of disarmament\(^2\) as well as in other documents presented on the same subject,

**Considering** that it has declared the decade of the 1970s as the Disarmament Decade,

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Taking into account the proposals, suggestions and views put forward in the General Assembly and in the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament,

1. **Reaffirms** the responsibility of the United Nations in the fundamental goal of the attainment of general and complete disarmament;

2. **Urges** the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, at its next session, to resume its efforts on the question of general and complete disarmament along the lines set forth in resolution 2661 C (XXV);

3. **Requests** the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session on the results of these efforts.

C

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1149 (XII) of 14 November 1957 on collective action to inform and enlighten the peoples of the world as to the dangers of the armaments race, and particularly as to the destructive effects of modern weapons,

Recalling its resolution 2602 E (XXIV) of 16 December 1969 in which it declared the decade of the 1970s as a Disarmament Decade and requested the Secretary-General and Governments to publicize the Decade by all appropriate means at their disposal,

Recalling its resolution 2661 C (XXV) of 7 December 1970 which dealt *inter alia* with the comprehensive programme of disarmament, 3/

Considering that public opinion should be adequately informed about the problems of the arms race and of disarmament so that it might bring its influence to bear on the strengthening of disarmament efforts,

1. **Affirms** the value of holding conferences of experts and scientists from various countries on the problems of the arms race and disarmament;

2. **Expresses its support** for the practice of requesting the Secretary-General to prepare, with the assistance of consultant experts, authoritative reports on concrete questions relating to the arms race and disarmament;

3. **Declares that progress** would be promoted towards general and complete disarmament if universities and academic institutes in all countries were to establish continuing courses and seminars to study problems of the arms race;

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3/ Ibid.
4. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Members of the United Nations and to the attention of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization with a view to its wide publication and dissemination.