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. Giovanni MIGLIUOLO (Italy)

1. The item entitled "Economic and social consequences of the armaments race and its extremely harmful effects on world peace and security" was included by the Secretary-General in the provisional agenda of the twenty-sixth session on the basis of General Assembly resolution 2667 (XXV) of 7 December 1970.

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

3. At the 1803rd meeting, on 11 October, 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.

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

5. The First Committee had before it, in connexion with agenda item 32, the report of the Secretary-General on the economic and social consequences of the arms race and of military expenditures (A/8469 and Add.1) prepared in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 2667 (XXV).

6. On 30 November 1971, a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.593) was submitted by Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Cyprus, Denmark, Ethiopia, Finland, France, India, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Lebanon, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Norway, Romania, Rwanda, Singapore, Tunisia and Yugoslavia and subsequently also sponsored by Japan, the Netherlands and Pakistan. The draft resolution was introduced by Romania at the 1848th meeting, on 10 December.

7. On 7 December 1971, the Secretary-General submitted a statement (A/C.1/L.597) on the administrative and financial implications of the 28-Power draft resolution A/C.1/L.593.

8. At the 1848th meeting, on 10 December, the Committee proceeded to vote on the draft resolution. At the request of Indonesia paragraph 3 of the draft resolution was voted upon separately and was adopted by 86 votes to 1, with 9 abstentions. Then the draft resolution as a whole was adopted by 94 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.
RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

9. 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,

Concerned about the ever-spiralling arms race and military expenditures, which constitute a heavy burden for all peoples and have extremely harmful effects on world peace and security,

Deeply convinced that the common aspirations of mankind for peace, security and progress require the urgent cessation of the arms race, particularly of the nuclear arms race, and the reduction of military expenditures, as well as the adoption of effective measures leading towards general and complete disarmament,

Considering that a halt in the arms race and a significant reduction in military expenditures would promote the social and economic development of all countries and would increase the possibilities of providing additional resources to developing countries,

Recalling its resolution 2667 (XXV) of 7 December 1970 in which it requested the Secretary-General to prepare, with the assistance of qualified consultant experts appointed by him, a report on the economic and social consequences of the arms race and of military expenditures,

1. Welcomes with satisfaction the report of the Secretary-General on the consequences of the arms race and military expenditures and expresses the hope that it will help to focus future disarmament negotiations on nuclear disarmament and on the goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control;

2. Extends its thanks to the Secretary-General and to the consultant experts as well as to the Governments and international organizations that have rendered assistance in the preparation of the report;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to arrange for the reproduction of the report as a United Nations publication and to give it the widest possible publicity in as many languages as is considered desirable and practicable;
4. **Recommend**s to all Governments the widest possible distribution of the report so as to acquaint public opinion in their countries with its contents, and invites the specialized agencies as well as intergovernmental, national and non-governmental organizations to use their facilities to make the report widely known;

5. **Recommend**s that the conclusions of the Secretary-General's report on the economic and social consequences of the arms race and of military expenditures should be taken into account in future disarmament negotiations;

6. **Calls upon** all States to intensify their efforts during the Disarmament Decade with a view to promoting negotiations on effective measures for the cessation of the nuclear arms race, at the earliest possible date and for nuclear disarmament, as well as on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control;

7. **Decides** to keep the item entitled "Economic and social consequences of the arms race and its extremely harmful effects on world peace and security" under constant review and to place it on the provisional agenda of the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly.