CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) WEAPONS

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Alvaro de SOTO (Peru)

1. The item entitled "Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons: report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament" was included by the Secretary-General in the provisional agenda of the twenty-eighth session on the basis of General Assembly resolution 2933 (XXVII) of 29 November 1972.

2. At its 2123rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 1973, 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 its 1923rd meeting, on 5 October 1973, the First Committee decided to have a combined general debate on the items allocated to it, relating to disarmament and the Indian Ocean, namely:

   Item 29: Economic and social consequences of the armaments race and its extremely harmful effects on world peace and security.

   Item 32: World Disarmament Conference.

   Item 33: General and complete disarmament.

   Item 34: Nepalm and other incendiary weapons and all aspects of their possible use.

   Item 35: Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons.

   Item 36: Urgent need for suspension of nuclear and thermonuclear tests.
Item 37: Implementation of General Assembly resolution 2935 (XXVII) concerning the signature and ratification of Additional Protocol II of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Treaty of Tlatelolco).

Item 38: Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace.

4. The general debate on these items took place at the 1934th, 1935th, 1936th and 1940th to 1953rd meetings, from 23 October to 8 November.

5. In connexion with agenda item 35, the First Committee had before it the report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (A/9141-DC/236).

6. On 7 November, Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Cuba, Cyprus, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Sri Lanka, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire and Zambia submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.653) which, subsequently, was also sponsored by Guyana, Mauritius and Pakistan. The draft resolution, introduced by the representative of Yugoslavia at the 1954th meeting, on 9 November, read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Reaffirming its resolutions 2603 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, 2662 (XXV) of 7 December 1970, 2827 A (XXVI) of 16 December 1971 and 2933 (XXVII) of 29 November 1972,

"Expressing its determination to act with a view to achieving effective progress towards general and complete disarmament, including the prohibition and elimination of all types of weapons of mass destruction, such as those using chemical or bacteriological (biological) agents,

"Mindful of the increasing concern of the international community over developments in the field of chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons,

"Considering that chemical and biological methods of warfare have always been viewed with horror and been justly condemned by the international community,

"Recalling that the General Assembly has repeatedly condemned all actions contrary to the principles and objectives of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva on 17 June 1925,

"Reaffirming the need for the strict observance by all States of the principles and objectives of that Protocol,

"Noting that the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction has already been signed by a large number of States,

/...
"Having considered the report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament,

"Noting that a draft convention on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and on their destruction, a ten-nation working paper of 26 April 1973 and other working papers, proposals and suggestions have been submitted to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament,

"Convinced that an early agreement on the complete prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and on their destruction would improve the prospects of international peace and security,

"1. Reaffirms the recognized objective of effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and of their elimination from the arsenal of all States;

"2. Urges Governments to work towards the complete realization of the objective as set forth in the present resolution;

"3. Requests the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to continue negotiations, as a matter of high priority, of the problem of chemical and bacteriological (biological) methods of warfare, with a view to reaching an early agreement for the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and for their elimination from the arsenal of all States;

"4. Reaffirms its hope for the widest possible adherence to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction;

"5. Invites all States that have not yet done so to accede to the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare of 17 June 1925 and/or to ratify this Protocol, and calls anew for the strict observance by all States of the principles and objectives contained therein;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament all documents of the First Committee relating to questions connected with the problem of chemical weapons and chemical methods of warfare;

"7. Requests the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to report on the results of its negotiations to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session."

7. On 16 November, the same sponsors submitted a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/L.653/Rev.1). In the revised draft, introduced by the representative of Yugoslavia at the 1968th meeting, on 23 November, certain changes were made in the fourth and ninth preambular paragraphs and in operative paragraph 3. The new preambular paragraphs read as follows:
"Considering that chemical and bacteriological (biological) methods of warfare have always been viewed with horror and been justly condemned by the international community,

"...

"Noting that a draft convention on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and on their destruction, that a ten-nation working paper of 26 April 1973, that a working paper on the main points of an international agreement of 21 August 1973 and that other working papers, proposals and suggestions have been submitted to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament;".

Revised operative paragraph 3 read as follows:

"3. Requests the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to continue negotiations, as a matter of high priority, on the problem of chemical and bacteriological (biological) methods of warfare, with a view to reaching an early agreement for the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and for their elimination from the arsenals of all States;".

8. On 26 November, at the 1970th meeting, the representative of Yugoslavia, on behalf of the sponsors, made oral amendments to the first preambular paragraph and to operative paragraph 3 of the revised draft. Resolution "2603 (XXIV)" in the first preambular paragraph was changed to "2603 B (XXIV)"; and operative paragraph 3 was amended to read as follows:

"3. Requests the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to continue negotiations, as a matter of high priority, on the problem of chemical and bacteriological (biological) methods of warfare, with a view to reaching early agreement on effective measures for the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and for their elimination from the arsenals of all States, for the complete realization of the objective as set forth in the present resolution;".

9. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the revised draft resolution (A/C.1/L.653/Rev.1), as orally amended, by 98 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

10. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:
Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 2603 B (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, 2662 (XXV) of 7 December 1970, 2827 A (XXVI) of 16 December 1971 and 2933 (XXVII) of 29 November 1972,

Expressing its determination to act with a view to achieving effective progress towards general and complete disarmament, including the prohibition and elimination of all types of weapons of mass destruction, such as those using chemical or bacteriological (biological) agents,

Mindful of the increasing concern of the international community over developments in the field of chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons,

Considering that chemical and bacteriological (biological) methods of warfare have always been viewed with horror and been justly condemned by the international community,

Recalling that the General Assembly has repeatedly condemned all actions that are contrary to the principles and objectives of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva on 17 June 1925, 1/

Reaffirming the need for the strict observance by all States of the principles and objectives of that Protocol,

Noting that the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction 2/ has already been signed by a large number of States,

Having considered the report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, 3/

Noting that a draft convention on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and on their destruction, a ten-nation working paper dated 26 April 1973, a working paper dated 21 August 1973, on the main points of an international agreement and other working papers, proposals and suggestions have been submitted to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament,

Convinced that an early agreement on the complete prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and on their destruction would improve the prospects of international peace and security,

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2/ See General Assembly resolution 2826 (XXVI), annex.
3/ A/9141-DC/236.
1. **Reaffirms** the recognized objective of effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and of their elimination from the arsenal of all States;

2. **Urges** Governments to work towards the complete realization of the objective as set forth in the present resolution;

3. **Requests** the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to continue negotiations, as a matter of high priority, on the problem of chemical and bacteriological (biological) methods of warfare, with a view to reaching early agreement on effective measures for the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons, for their elimination from the arsenal of all States and for the complete realization of the objective as set forth in the present resolution;

4. **Reaffirms** its hope for the widest possible adherence to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction;

5. **Invites** all States that have not yet done so to accede to the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare of 17 June 1925 and/or to ratify this Protocol, and calls anew for the strict observance by all States of the principles and objectives contained therein;

6. **Requests** the Secretary-General to transmit to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament all documents of the First Committee relating to questions connected with the problem of chemical weapons and chemical methods of warfare;

7. **Requests** the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to report on the results of its negotiations to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session.