Twentieth session
Agenda 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)

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Alvaro de Soto (Peru)

1. The item entitled "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):
   report of the Secretary-General" was included by the Secretary-General in the
   provisional agenda of the twentieth session on the basis of General Assembly
   resolution 2935 (XXVII) of 29 November 1972.

2. At its 2123rd plenary session, 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, 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: Napalm and other incendiary weapons and all aspects of their
   possible use.

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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, 1938th and 1940th to 1953rd meetings, from 23 October to 8 November.

5. The First Committee had before it, in connexion with agenda item 37, the following documents: (a) a letter dated 30 August 1973 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/9137); (b) the report of the Secretary-General pursuant to General Assembly resolution 2935 (XXVII) (A/9209).

6. On 7 November, Barbados, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.654), which was introduced by the representative of Mexico at the 1953rd meeting, on 8 November. The operative part of the draft resolution read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"1. Takes note with satisfaction that Additional Protocol II of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Treaty of Tlatelolco), which entered into force for the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America in 1969 and 1971, respectively, has been signed in 1973 by France and by the People's Republic of China;

"2. Invites the French and Chinese Governments to ratify Additional Protocol II as soon as possible;

"3. Deplores that one of the five nuclear-weapon States has not yet heeded the repeated calls of the General Assembly and urges it once again to sign and ratify without further delay Additional Protocol II of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Treaty of Tlatelolco);

"4. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its twenty-ninth session an item entitled 'Implementation of General Assembly resolution ... (XXVIII) concerning the signature and ratification of Additional Protocol II of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Treaty of Tlatelolco)';
7. On 12 November, the same sponsors submitted a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/654/Rev.1). In the revised draft resolution, introduced by the representative of Mexico at the 1956th meeting, on 13 November, changes were made in operative paragraphs 1 and 3 of the original text, paragraph 2 was eliminated and paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 were renumbered.

8. At the same meeting, draft resolution A/C.1/654/Rev.1 was adopted by 104 votes to none, with 14 abstentions (see paragraph 9 below).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

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 (Tlatelolco)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 1911 (XVIII) of 27 November 1963, 2286 (XXII) of 5 December 1967, 2456 B (XXIII) of 20 December 1968, 2666 (XXV) of 7 December 1970, 2830 (XXVI) of 16 December 1971 and 2935 (XXVII) of 29 November 1972, in five of which there have been appeals to the nuclear-weapon States regarding the signature and ratification of Additional Protocol II of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Tlatelolco),

Reiterating its conviction that, for the maximum effectiveness of any treaty establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone, the co-operation of the nuclear-weapon States is necessary and that such co-operation should take the form of commitments likewise undertaken in a formal international instrument that is legally binding, such as a treaty, convention or protocol,

1. Notes with satisfaction that Additional Protocol II of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Tlatelolco), which entered into force for the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America in 1969 and 1971, respectively, has been signed in 1973 by France and by the People's Republic of China and that the Governments of both countries have already decided to take the necessary measures for its ratification;

2. Urges the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to sign and ratify Additional Protocol II of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Tlatelolco), in conformity with the repeated appeals of the General Assembly;
3. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its twenty-ninth session an item entitled "Implementation of General Assembly resolution ... (XXVIII) concerning the signature and ratification of Additional Protocol II of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Tlatelolco);

4. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit the present resolution to the nuclear-weapon States and to inform the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session of any measure adopted by them in order to implement it.