Twenty-ninth session
Agenda item 29

URGENT NEED FOR CESSION OF NUCLEAR AND THERMONUCLEAR
TESTS AND CONCLUSION OF A TREATY DESIGNED TO ACHIEVE A
COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. António da COSTA LOBO (Portugal)

1. The following item was included by the Secretary-General in the provisional
agenda of the twenty-ninth session on the basis of General Assembly resolutions
3078 A and B (XXVIII) of 6 December 1973:

"Urgent need for cessation of nuclear and thermonuclear tests and
conclusion of a treaty designed to achieve a comprehensive test ban: report
of the Committee on Disarmament."

2. At its 2236th plenary meeting, on 21 September 1974, 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 1987th meeting, on 25 September, the First Committee decided to have a
combined general debate on the items allocated to it relating to disarmament and
the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace, namely:

   Item 24: Reduction of the military budgets of States permanent members of
            the Security Council by 10 per cent and utilization of part of
            the funds thus saved to provide assistance to developing countries.

   Item 27: Napalm and other incendiary weapons and all aspects of their
            possible use.

   Item 28: Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons.

   Item 29: Urgent need for cessation of nuclear and thermonuclear tests and
            conclusion of a treaty designed to achieve a comprehensive test
            ban.
Item 30: Implementation of General Assembly resolution 3079 (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).

Item 31: Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace.

Item 34: World Disarmament Conference.

Item 35: General and complete disarmament.

Item 100: Implementation of General Assembly resolution 2286 (XXII) concerning the signature and ratification of Additional Protocol I of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Treaty of Tlatelolco).

Item 101: Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East.

Item 103: Prohibition of action to influence the environment and climate for military and other purposes incompatible with the maintenance of international security, human well-being and health.

Item 107: Declaration and establishment of a nuclear-free zone in South Asia.

4. The general debate on these items took place at the 1998th to 2016th meetings, from 21 October to 11 November.

5. The First Committee had before it, in connexion with agenda item 29, the following documents:

(a) Report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (A/9708-DC/237);

(b) Letter dated 11 April 1974 from the Permanent Representatives of Australia, Fiji and New Zealand to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/9593);

(c) Letter dated 21 June 1974 from the Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/9650);

(d) Letter dated 8 August 1974 from the representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/9698);

(e) Letter dated 14 November 1974 from the Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.1/1051).

/.../
6. On 7 November, Australia, Fiji, Finland, Ghana, Iceland, Liberia, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, the Philippines, Sweden, Thailand and Venezuela submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.683) which was subsequently also sponsored by Ecuador, Morocco and Peru. The draft resolution was introduced by New Zealand at the 2013th meeting, on 8 November.

7. At the 2019th meeting, on 14 November, draft resolution A/C.1/L.683 was adopted by a recorded vote of 72 to 3, with 30 abstentions (see para. 8 below). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bhutan, Brazil, Burma, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Khmer Republic, Kuwait, Laos, Liberia, Libyan Arab Republic, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

Against: Albania, China, France.

Abstaining: Algeria, Bulgaria, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Central African Republic, Congo, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Germany (Federal Republic of), Greece, Guinea, Hungary, Iraq, Italy, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Tunisia, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Zaire.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

1/ Subsequently, the delegation of Colombia stated that, had it been present at the voting, it would have voted in favour of the draft resolution; and the delegation of Gabon stated that, had it been present at the voting, it would have voted against the draft resolution.
Urgent need for cessation of nuclear and thermonuclear tests and conclusion of a treaty designed to achieve a comprehensive test ban

The General Assembly,

Gravely disturbed at the continuance of nuclear weapon testing since the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on this subject,

Recalling the stated aim of the parties to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water 2/ and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons 3/ to seek to achieve the discontinuance of all test explosions of nuclear weapons for all time,

Taking note of the special report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament on the question of a treaty banning underground nuclear weapons tests, 4/,

Believing that the continuance of nuclear weapon testing will intensify the arms race, thus increasing the danger of nuclear war,

Convinced that cessation of nuclear weapon testing would be in the supreme interest of mankind, both as a major step towards controlling the development and proliferation of nuclear weapons and to relieve the deep apprehension concerning the harmful consequences of radio-active contamination for the health of present and future generations,

1. Condemns all nuclear weapons tests, in whatever environment they may be conducted;

2. Reaffirms its deep concern at the continuance of such testing, both in the atmosphere and underground, and at the lack of progress towards a comprehensive test ban agreement;

3. Calls upon all States not yet parties to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water to adhere to it forthwith;


3/ General Assembly resolution 2373 (XXII).

4/ A/9708-DC/237, sect. III.
4. Emphasizes once more the urgency of concluding a comprehensive test ban agreement;

5. Reminds the nuclear-weapon States of their special responsibility to initiate proposals to this end;

6. Calls upon all States to refrain from the testing of nuclear weapons, in any environment, pending conclusion of such an agreement;

7. Requests the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to give the highest priority to the conclusion of a comprehensive test ban agreement and to report to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session on the progress achieved;

8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirtieth session the item entitled "Urgent need for cessation of nuclear and thermonuclear tests and conclusion of a treaty designed to achieve a comprehensive test ban".