United Nations
General Assembly

Twenty-ninth session
Agenda item 34

World Disarmament Conference
Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. António da Costa Lobo (Portugal)

1. The item entitled "World Disarmament Conference: report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference" was included by the Secretary-General in the provisional agenda of the twenty-ninth session on the basis of General Assembly resolution 3183 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973.

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).

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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 34, the following documents:

   (a) Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference; 1/

   (b) Letter dated 2 April 1974 from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/9590);

   (c) Letter dated 16 May 1974 from the Permanent Representative of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/9636).

6. On 22 November, Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, India, Mexico and Yugoslavia submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.703), which was also sponsored by Nepal. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Mexico at the 2030th meeting, on 27 November.

7. At the same meeting, the First Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/L.703 without a vote (see para. 8 below).

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RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

World Disarmament Conference

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2833 (XXVI) of 16 December 1971, 2930 (XXVII) of 29 November 1972 and 3183 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973,

Reaffirming the responsibility of the United Nations under the Charter for the maintenance of international peace and for disarmament,

Reiterating its conviction that all peoples of the world have a vital interest in the success of disarmament negotiations and that all States should be in a position to contribute to the adoption of measures for the achievement of this goal,

Stressing anew its belief that a world disarmament conference, adequately prepared and convened at an appropriate time, could promote the realization of such aims and that the co-operation of all nuclear Powers would considerably facilitate their attainment,

Bearing in mind the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference 2/ and its annex containing a summary of views and suggestions expressed by Governments on the convening of a world disarmament conference and related problems, including conditions for the realization of such a conference,

Considering that it does not yet seem possible to reach a final conclusion with regard to the convening of a world disarmament conference,

1. Invites all States to communicate to the Secretary-General, before 31 March 1975, their comments on the main objectives of a world disarmament conference in the light of the views and suggestions compiled in section II of the summary appended to the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference;

2. Decides that the Ad Hoc Committee shall resume its work, in accordance with the procedure established in General Assembly resolution 3183 (XXVIII), on 1 April 1975 and that in discharging its assigned task it shall give priority to the following two functions:

(a) To prepare and to submit to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session, on the basis of consensus, an analytical report, including any conclusions and recommendations it may deem pertinent, concerning the comments received pursuant to paragraph 1 above,

(b) To maintain close contact with the representatives of the States possessing nuclear weapons in order to keep currently informed of any change in their respective positions;

3. **Renews its invitation** to the States possessing nuclear weapons to co-operate or maintain contact with the Ad Hoc Committee, it being understood that they will enjoy the same rights as the appointed members of the Committee;

4. **Requests** the Secretary-General to render all necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Committee in its work, including the preparation of summary records;

5. **Decides** to include in the provisional agenda of its thirtieth session the item entitled "World Disarmament Conference".

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