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Agenda item 39

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) WEAPONS

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Francisco CORREA (Mexico)

1. The item entitled "Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons: report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament" was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-second session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 31/65 of 10 December 1976.
2. At its 5th plenary meeting, on 23 September 1977, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.
3. At its 7th meeting, on 18 October, the First Committee decided to hold a combined general debate on the items allocated to it relating to disarmament, namely items 33, 34, 38 to 49 and 51 to 53. The general debate on these items took place at the 7th to 27th meetings, from 18 October to 7 November. 1/
4. In connexion with item 39, the First Committee had before it the report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament. 2/
5. On 2 November, Afghanistan, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, the German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Poland, Sweden, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic,

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1/ For an index to statements by delegations on disarmament items, see A/32/383.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/32/27).

the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Yugoslavia submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/32/L.9), which was subsequently also sponsored by Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Ethiopia, Ghana, Ireland and the Ivory Coast. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Canada at the 25th meeting, on 4 November.

6. At its 29th meeting, on 10 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/32/L.9 by consensus (see para. 7 below).

#### RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

7. 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 2454 A (XXIII) of 20 December 1968, 2603 B (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, 2662 (XXV) of 7 December 1970, 2827 A (XXVI) of 16 December 1971, 2933 (XXVII) of 29 November 1972, 3077 (XXVIII) of 6 December 1973, 3256 (XXIX) of 9 December 1974, 3465 (XXX) of 11 December 1975 and 31/65 of 10 December 1976,

Convinced that the continuing arms race calls for urgent disarmament measures and that the process of international détente is conducive to the achievement of progress towards general and complete disarmament under effective international control,

Reaffirming the necessity of strict observance by all States of 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, 3/

Convinced that the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction 4/ constitutes an important step towards early agreement on the effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and on their elimination from arsenals of all States,

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3/ League of Nations, Treaty Series, vol. XCIV (1929), No. 2138, p. 65.

4/ General Assembly resolution 2826 (XXVI), annex.

Recalling in that connexion the undertaking contained in article IX of the Convention to continue negotiations in good faith 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 destruction,

Stressing the importance of early agreement on the complete prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and on their destruction, which would contribute to general and complete disarmament under effective international control,

Noting the risk of continued development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons in the absence of such agreement,

Having considered the report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, 5/

Noting that drafts of a convention on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and on their destruction, 6/ as well as other working documents, proposals and suggestions, have been submitted to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament and constitute valuable contributions to reaching appropriate agreement,

Taking into account the comments made on this item and relevant documents submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session,

Stressing the need for early submission of the joint initiative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament in order to assist it in achieving early agreement on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and on their destruction,

Noting that sustained and intensive efforts in the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament have led to increased understanding in identifying practical approaches towards the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and their destruction,

Recognizing the importance of developing methods for providing adequate assurance of compliance with effective measures for the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons, including methods of verifying the destruction of stockpiles of such weapons,

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5/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/32/27).

6/ See Official Records of the Disarmament Commission, Supplement for 1972, document DC/235, annex B, document CCD/361; Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/9627), annex II, document CCD/420; ibid., Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/10027), annex II, document CCD/452; and ibid., Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/31/27), annex III, document CCD/512.

Having in mind that agreement on the complete prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and on their destruction should not impede the utilization of science and technology for the economic development of States,

Desiring to contribute to an early and successful conclusion of the negotiations on effective and strict measures for the complete prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and for their destruction,

1. Urges all States to reach early agreement on the effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and on their destruction;

2. Requests the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to continue negotiations and, as a matter of high priority, to undertake the elaboration of an agreement on effective measures for the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and for their destruction, taking into account all existing proposals and future initiatives submitted for its consideration;

3. Invites all States that have not yet done so to accede to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, as well as to accede to or ratify 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, and calls again for strict observance by all States of the principles and objectives of those instruments;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament all documents of the thirty-second session of the General Assembly relating to chemical weapons and to chemical means of warfare;

5. Requests the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to report on the results of its negotiations to the General Assembly at its special session devoted to disarmament, to be held in May/June 1978, and at its thirty-third session.

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