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Agenda item 31

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) WEAPONS

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Ernst SUCHARIPA (Austria)

1. The item entitled "Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons: report of the Committee on Disarmament" was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-fourth session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 33/59 A of 14 December 1978.
2. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 21 September 1979, 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 3rd meeting, on 1 October, the First Committee decided to hold a combined general debate on the items allocated to it relating to disarmament, namely, items 30 to 45, 120 and 121. The general debate on these items took place at the 4th to 30th meetings, from 16 October to 5 November (A/C.1/34/PV.4-30).
4. In connexion with item 31, the First Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Report of the Committee on Disarmament: 1/
 - (b) Letter dated 13 December 1978 from the Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of a note containing an invitation from the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany to all States Members of the United Nations to participate in an expert meeting on the verification of a ban on the manufacture of chemical weapons (A/34/56).

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/34/27).

5. On 16 November, Afghanistan, Argentina, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, the Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Finland, the German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, India, Ireland, Italy, the Ivory Coast, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Morocco, Mongolia, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Spain, Sweden, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Uruguay and Yugoslavia submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/34/L.29), which was subsequently also sponsored by Brazil, France, the Philippines and Qatar. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Canada at the 39th meeting, on 21 November.

6. At its 42nd meeting, on 26 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/34/L.29 without a vote (see para. 7).

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, 31/65 of 10 December 1976, 32/77 of 12 December 1977, S-10/2 of 30 June 1978 and 33/59 A of 14 December 1978, relating to the complete prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and of their destruction,

Reaffirming also 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, 2/ and of the adherence by all States to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, 3/

Having considered the report of the Committee on Disarmament, 4/

1. Expresses its regret that the agreement on the complete and effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and on their destruction has not yet been elaborated;

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

3/ Resolution 2826 (XXVI), annex.

4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/34/27).

2. Urges the Committee on Disarmament to undertake, at the beginning of its 1980 session, negotiations on an agreement on the complete and effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and on their destruction, as a matter of high priority, taking into account all existing proposals and future initiatives;

3. Requests the Committee on Disarmament to report on the results of its negotiations to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session.
