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SETTLEMENT BY PEACEFUL MEANS OF DISPUTES BETWEEN STATES

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Ernst SUCHARIPA (Austria)

1. The item entitled "Settlement by peaceful means of disputes between States" was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-fourth session at the request of Romania contained in a letter dated 16 July 1979 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Romania addressed to the Secretary-General (A/34/143).
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. The First Committee considered the item at its 45th to 48th meetings, on 28 and 29 November (A/C.1/34/PV.45-48).
4. The Committee had before it for this debate the following documents:
 - (a) Letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Romania addressed to the Secretary-General (A/34/143);
 - (b) Working paper submitted by Romania, containing a draft declaration on settlement by peaceful means of disputes between States (A/C.1/34/L.49);
 - (c) Letter dated 1 October 1979 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Final Declaration of the Sixth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Havana from 3 to 9 September 1979 (A/34/542);

- (d) Letter dated 16 October 1979 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the text of the Final Communiqué adopted by the Extraordinary Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of Non-Aligned Countries, held in New York from 4 to 6 October 1979 (A/34/599).

5. At the 45th meeting, on 28 November, the representative of Romania introduced a draft resolution entitled "Settlement by peaceful means of disputes between States" (A/C.1/34/L.45), sponsored by Bangladesh, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Egypt, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Romania, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Spain and Yugoslavia, subsequently joined by Chile, Colombia, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, the Ivory Coast, Madagascar, the Niger, Togo and Uruguay.

6. At its 48th meeting, on 29 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/34/L.45 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:

Settlement by peaceful means of disputes between States

The General Assembly,

Having examined the item entitled "Settlement by peaceful means of disputes between States",

Recalling that, under the Charter of the United Nations, the Member States have expressed the determination of their peoples to practise tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours and to unite their strength to maintain international peace and security,

Recalling also that the Member States have pledged through the Charter to settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security and justice are not endangered,

Reaffirming its Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, 1/

Recognizing the important role of the United Nations in promoting the peaceful settlement of international disputes and the prevention of the outbreak of armed conflicts among States and in bringing about by peaceful means, in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace,

1/ General Assembly resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.

Bearing in mind the report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization 2/ especially the consensus contained in it, 3/ namely, that the idea of preparing a declaration on peaceful settlement of disputes to be adopted by the General Assembly awakened special interest and is one on which general agreement may be possible,

Recognizing the importance of the elaboration of a declaration of the General Assembly on the peaceful settlement of disputes between States,

Taking into account the opinions and suggestions submitted at the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly regarding the content of a declaration on the peaceful settlement of disputes between States, as well as those made on the subject by Member States in connexion with the work of the Special Committee;

1. Calls upon all States to adhere strictly in their international relations to the principle that States shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security and justice are not endangered;
2. Urges all States to co-operate in the elaboration of a declaration of the General Assembly on the peaceful settlement of disputes between States;
3. Invites Member States to transmit to the Secretary-General their opinions, suggestions and proposals regarding the elaboration of a declaration on the peaceful settlement of disputes between States and to bring up to date their views on this subject submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 3499 (XXX) of 15 December 1975;
4. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session a report containing the opinions, suggestions and proposals regarding the declaration on the peaceful settlement of disputes between States;
5. Decides to include an item entitled "Peaceful settlement of disputes between States"¹⁷ in the provisional agenda of its thirty-fifth session.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 33 (A/34/33).

3/ Ibid., para. 13.