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Agenda item 48

URGENT NEED FOR A COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY

Report of the First CommitteeRapporteur: Mr. Latévi Modem LAWSON-BETUM (Togo)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The **item** entitled "Urgent need for a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-fifth **session** of the General Assembly *in* accordance with Assembly resolution **44/107** of 15 December 1989,
2. **At** its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 1990, 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 2nd meeting**, on 9 October 1990, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on the disarmament items allocated to **it**, namely, **items 45 to 66**. At its 4th meeting, on 16 October, the First Committee decided to consider jointly with other disarmament **items** agenda item 155, which was allocated to the First Committee upon a decision of the General Assembly at its 30th plenary meeting on 15 October. The deliberations on those items took place between the 3rd and 23rd meetings, from 15 to 30 October (see **A/C.1/45/PV.3-23**). Consideration of and action on draft resolutions on those items **took** place between the 24th and 39th meetings, from 2 to 16 November (see **A/C.1/45/PV.24-39**).
4. In connection with **item 48**, the **First Committee** had before **it** the **following documents**:
 - (a) Letter dated 15 June 1990 **from** the representatives of Chile, **Colombia**, Ecuador and Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the statement issued by the General Secretariat of the Permanent South Pacific Commission on 3 June 1990 (**A/45/314**);

(b) Letter dated 9 July 1990 from the representatives of Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the statement issued by the General Secretariat of the Permanent South Pacific Commission on 27 June 1990 (A/45/339);

(c) Letter dated 11 July 1990 from the representatives of Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the statement issued by the General Secretariat of the Permanent South Pacific Commission on 6 July 1990 (A/45/352);

(d) Letter dated 19 September 1990 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the document⁶ adopted by the Nineteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held at **Cairo** from 31 July to 5 August 1990 (A/45/421-S/21797);

(e) Letter dated 12 October 1990 from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.1/45/3).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/45/L.41

5. On 31 October, ~~Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Fiji, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sweden, Thailand, Vanuatu, and Zaire~~ submitted a draft resolution, entitled "Urgent need for a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty" (A/C.1/45/L.41) which was later also sponsored by **Hungary** and **Suriname**. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Australia at the 38th meeting on 16 November,

6. At its 39th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.41 by a recorded vote of 122 to 2, with 6 abstentions (see para. 7). The voting was as follows :

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, **Angola**, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, **Côte d'Ivoire**, Cuba, Cyprus, **Czechoslovakia**, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, **Guinea**, **Guinea-Bissau**, Guyana, Hungary, **Iceland**, **Indonesia**, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, **Japan**, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, **Mexico**, **Mongolia**, **Morocco**, Mozambique, **Myanmar**, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, **Nigeria**, Norway, Oman, Pakistan,

Panama, Peru, **Philippines**, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, **Romania**, **Rwanda**, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, **Somalia**, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, **Swaziland**, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, **Viet Nam**, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: France, United States of America.

Abstaining: Argentina, Brazil., China, India, **Israel**, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

7. The First Committee recommends to the General **Assembly** the adoption of the following draft resolution;

Urgent need for a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty

The General Assembly,

Convinced that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought,

Convinced also of the consequent urgent **need** for an end to the nuclear-arms race and the immediate and verifiable **reduction** and ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons,

Convinced further that an end to nuclear testing by all States in all environments for all **time** is an essential step in order to prevent the qualitative improvement and development of nuclear weapons and their further proliferation and to contribute, along with other concurrent efforts to reduce **nuclear arms**, to the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons,

Noting concerns **expressed** about the environmental and health risks associated with underground nuclear testing,

Recognizing the agreement on and signature of, in Washington on 1 **June** 1993, the verification protocols to the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist **Republics** on the Limitation of Underground Nuclear **Tests**, ^{1/} signed on 3 July 1974, and to the Treaty **between the** United States of

^{1/} **Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/9627), annex II, document CCD/431.**

America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on Underground **Nuclear Explosions for Peaceful Purposes**, **2/** signed on 28 May 1976, and looking forward to the conclusion of all ratification processes,

Welcoming the ongoing implementation of the Treaty between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles **3/** and the agreement in principle on and further progress **made** towards a first treaty *on* significant reductions **in their** strategic nuclear forces, and urging the earliest possible conclusion of such a treaty,

Recalling the final document on international security and disarmament adopted by the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or **Government** of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Belgrade from 4 to 7 September 1989, **4/**

Recalling also the proposals by the leaders of the Six-Nation Initiative **5/** to promote an end to nuclear testing,

Convinced that the most effective way to achieve the discontinuance of all nuclear tests by all States in all environments for all time is through the conclusion, at an early date, of a verifiable, comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty that will attract the adherence of all States,

Reaffirming the particular **responsibilities** of the Conference on Disarmament in the negotiation of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty, and in this context welcoming the re-establishment of an **ad hoc** committee on a nuclear-test ban in the Conference on Disarmament,

2/ The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook, vol. I: 1976 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.77.JX.2), appendix III.

3/ Ibid., v o l . 12: 1987 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.88.IX.2), appendix VI I.

4/ See A/44/551-S/2:1870, annex.

5/ See the Joint Declaration issued on 22 May 1984 by the heads of State or Government of Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden and the United Republic of Tanzania (A/39/277-S/16587, annex; for the printed text, see Official Records of the Security Council, Thirty-ninth Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1984, document S/ 16567, annex), reaffirmed in the Delhi Declaration issued on 28 January 1985 (A/40/114-S/16921, annex; for the printed text, see Official Records of the Security Council, Fortieth Year, Supplement for January, February and March 1985, document S/16921, annex), the Mexico Declaration issued on 7 August 1986 (A/41/518-S/18277, annex I), the Stockholm Declaration issued on 21 January 1988 (A/43/125-S/19474, annex) and the Declaration issued on 22 May 1989 on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the launching of the Six-Nation Initiative (A/44/318-S/20689, annex).

Taking note of the work being undertaken within the Conference on Disarmament by the **Ad Hoc** Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Co-operative Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events and the conduct of the second technical **test concerning** the global exchange and analysis of **seismic** data,

Noting that a Conference of States **parties to** the Treaty Banning Nuclear **Weapon** Tests in the **Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water** ^{6/} will be held in January 1991 to consider an amendment to extend the **scope** of the treaty to include underground nuclear testing,

1. **Reaffirms its conviction** that a treaty to achieve the prohibition of all nuclear-test **explosions** by all States in all environments for all **time** is a **matter** of fundamental **importance**;

2. **Urges** the Conference on Disarmament, in order that a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty **may** be concluded at an early date, to re-establish the **Ad Hoc** Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban at **the beginning of the** 1991 **session to** carry forward the work begun in the Conference in 1990, focusing on **substantive** work on specific and interrelated test-ban **issues**, including structure and scope as well as verification and **compliance**;

3 **Also urges** the Conference on Disarmament:

(a) To take into account, in this context, **the** progress achieved by the **Ad Hoc** Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Co-operative Measures to Detect and Identify **Seismic Events**, including work on the routine exchange and **use** of wave-form data, and other relevant initiatives or experiments by individual States **and** groups **of States**;

(b) To encourage the widest possible participation by States in the technical test that is now under way concerning the global exchange and analysis of **seismic** data;

(c) To **take** immediate steps for the establishment, with the widest possible participation, of **an** international **seismic** monitoring network with a view to developing further a **system** for the effective monitoring and verification of compliance with a comprehensive **nuclear-test-ban treaty**;

(d) To initiate detailed investigation of other measures to monitor and verify compliance with such **a** treaty, including on-site inspections and an international network to monitor atmospheric radioactivity;

4. **urges**:

(a) The nuclear-weapon States, especially those which possess the most important nuclear arsenals, to agree promptly to **appropriate** verifiable and

^{6/} United Nations, **Treaty Series**, vol. 480, No. 6964.

militarily significant interim measures, with a view to concluding a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty

(b) Those nuclear-weapon States which have not yet done so to adhere to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon **Tests** in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water ;

5. ~~Calls upon~~ the Conference **on Disarmament** to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth **session** on progress made;

6. **Decides** to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth **session** the item entitled "Urgent need for a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty".
