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Agenda item 31

CONFERENCE OF NON-NUCLEAR-WEAPON STATES

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. L.M.H. BARNETT (Jamaica)

1. The item entitled "Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States: (a) implementation of the results of the Conference: report of the Secretary-General; (b) establishment, within the framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency, of an international service for nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes under appropriate international control: report of the Secretary-General; (c) contributions of nuclear technology to the economic and scientific advancement of the developing countries: report of the Secretary-General" was included by the Secretary-General in the provisional agenda of the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly (A/7600) on the basis of General Assembly resolution 2456 (XXIII) of 20 December 1968.
2. At its 1758th plenary meeting, on 20 September 1969, the General Assembly included the item in the agenda and allocated it to the First Committee for consideration and report on the basis of the recommendation of the General Committee (A/7700).
3. At its 1686th meeting, on 12 November, the First Committee decided that the general debate on all four agenda items relating to disarmament allocated to it, namely, (1) agenda item 29 (Question of general and complete disarmament); (2) agenda item 30 (Urgent need for suspension of nuclear and thermonuclear tests); (3) agenda item 31 (Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States) and

(4) agenda item 104 (Question of chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons), should be held simultaneously and that, following the conclusion of the general debate, the Committee would consider separately the draft resolutions relating to each item.

4. The general debate on the four items took place at the 1691st to 1707th meetings, from 17 November to 1 December, and at the 1710th and 1711th meetings, on 3 December 1969.

5. The First Committee had before it in connexion with agenda item 31 the following documents: (a) report of the Secretary-General on implementation of the results of the Conference (A/7677 and Corr.1 and Add.1-2); (b) report of the Secretary-General on establishment, within the framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency, of an international service for nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes under appropriate international control (A/7678 and Add.1-3); (c) report of the Secretary-General on contributions of nuclear technology to the economic and scientific advancement of the developing countries: (A/7568 and Add.1); (d) note by the Secretary-General on contributions of nuclear technology to the economic and scientific advancement of the developing countries (A/7743).

6. At the 1718th meeting, on 10 December, the First Committee took up for consideration and voted on the two draft resolutions submitted under the item.

7. The representative of the Netherlands, on behalf of the sponsors, introduced a draft resolution, which had been submitted on 5 December in the name of Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands and Pakistan (A/C.1/L.497) and subsequently co-sponsored by Madagascar (A/C.1/L.497/Add.1).

8. The representative of the United States, on behalf of the sponsors, introduced a draft resolution, submitted on 8 December in the name of Austria, Canada, Denmark, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands and the United States of America (A/C.1/L.502).

9. The twelve-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.497 and Add.1) was adopted by 87 votes to none, with 11 abstentions (see paragraph 11 below, draft resolution A). The seven-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.502) was adopted by 68 votes to none, with 33 abstentions (see paragraph 11 below, draft resolution B).

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10. At the 1718th meeting, on 10 December, the representative of Iran raised the question of the status of the provision contained in paragraph 7 (a) of General Assembly resolution 2456 (XXIII) concerning the question of convening early in 1970 a meeting of the United Nations Disarmament Commission to consider disarmament and the related question of the security of nations. At the 1722nd meeting, on 12 December, the First Committee decided that the wording of paragraph 9 of draft resolution A/C.1/L.497, adopted on 10 December, (see paragraph 11 below, draft resolution A) would cover the inclusion in the provisional agenda of the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly the question of convening a session of the Disarmament Commission early in 1971.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

11. The First Committee therefore recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

#### Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States

A

The General Assembly,

Recalling resolution 2456 A (XXIII) of 20 December 1968, in which the General Assembly invited the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other international bodies concerned to report to the Secretary-General on the action taken by them in connexion with the relevant recommendations contained in the resolutions of the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States,

Recalling also that in the same resolution it requested the Secretary-General to appoint a group of experts to prepare a full report on all possible contributions of nuclear energy to the economic and scientific advancement of developing countries,

Appreciating the importance of ensuring the implementation of the proposals of the Conference through appropriate action by the international bodies and Governments concerned, in order to promote better international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the interest of a more

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harmonized development of relations among the nuclear and the non-nuclear States;

Having reviewed the comprehensive report submitted by the Secretary-General<sup>1/</sup> on the basis of the reports of the International Atomic Energy Agency and of the specialized agencies concerned on the steps they have taken to implement the results of the Conference;

Noting with appreciation that:

(a) The International Atomic Energy Agency has had under way or has initiated several activities that are directly responsive to several resolutions adopted by the Conference;

(b) That the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, at its thirteenth regular session, commended the intention of the Agency's Board of Governors to continue the study of article VI of the Agency's statute as an urgent matter and requested the Board to make every effort to present a draft amendment in sufficient time to permit its consideration by the General Conference of the Agency at its fourteenth session;

(c) The question of a "fund of special fissionable materials" was considered by the General Conference at its thirteenth regular session and that some Member States of the Agency that produce special fissionable material indicated their willingness, in principle, to consider making further contributions to the already existing fund when it is necessary;

Noting also the comments received from the International Atomic Energy Agency and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, which deal with the question of current arrangements for financing nuclear projects,

Having studied the report of the Secretary-General on Contributions of nuclear technology to the economic and scientific advancement of the developing countries,<sup>2/</sup>

Aware of the potential contribution that atomic energy will make in fostering technical and economic progress throughout the world,

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1/ A/7677.

2/ A/7568.

Observing that at its thirteenth regular session the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency adopted resolution GC(XIII)/RES/256 calling on the Agency to make a comprehensive study of the likely capital and foreign exchange requirements for nuclear projects in developing countries during the next decade and of ways and means to secure financing for such projects from international and other sources on favourable terms, particularly in the form of grants or long-term loans at low interest and to make suggestions concerning a constructive role which the Agency could play in this regard,

Mindful that a meaningful evaluation of projects in this field of atomic energy will depend not only on an assessment of their individual economic merit but also on the long-term contribution such projects will make in a country's technological and economic development,

1. Invites the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations Development Programme, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the interested specialized agencies to take further appropriate action on the recommendations of the Conference of the Non-Nuclear-Weapon States in planning and carrying out their activities;

2. Commends with appreciation the Secretary-General's report on the possible contributions of nuclear technology to the economic and scientific advancement of the developing countries;

3. Draws the attention of the international sources of finance to the recommendation contained in the aforementioned report which expressed the hope that they review the position taken on the prospects, criteria and condition for financing major nuclear projects, bearing in mind not only the immediate benefits from initial projects but also the long-term contributions that such projects could make to developing countries;

4. Recommends to the International Atomic Energy Agency, the various international and regional financing institutions, including the United Nations Development Programme and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development to co-operate in finding ways and means for financing meritorious nuclear projects, bearing in mind not only the near but also the long-range contribution such projects may make to economic and technical development;

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5. Draws the attention of the member States of the International Atomic Energy Agency to the appeals which have been made by the Director-General of the Agency to increase the funds available to the Agency for multilateral assistance in the nuclear field;

6. Notes with satisfaction the action taken so far by the International Atomic Energy Agency regarding the "fund of special fissionable materials" and requests the Agency to continue its efforts to ensure the supply to member States, when required and on a regular and long-term basis, of such materials, including materials for power reactors;

7. Invites the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other international bodies concerned to report to the Secretary-General on further action taken by them concerning the recommendations contained in the resolutions of the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States which were transmitted to them by the Secretary-General in pursuance of resolution 2456 A (XXIII);

8. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a progress report based on the information supplied by those concerned on the progress achieved in the implementation of the said resolutions for consideration by the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session;

9. Further requests the Secretary-General to place on the provisional agenda of the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly the question of the implementation of the results of the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States.

B

The General Assembly,

Recalling that by resolution 2456 C (XXIII) of 20 December 1968 it requested the Secretary-General to prepare "in consultation with the States Members of the United Nations, of the specialized agencies and of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and with the co-operation of the latter and of those specialized agencies that he may consider pertinent, a report on the establishment within the framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency, of an international service for nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes under appropriate international control",

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Having reviewed the report on the establishment within the framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency of an international service for nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes under appropriate international control,<sup>3/</sup> which the Secretary-General prepared in compliance with the aforementioned resolution,

Noting that over the past year the International Atomic Energy Agency has been studying, with the active participation of many Member States, the role that the Agency may play in this field, and that the Agency's report, reproduced in the Secretary-General's report,<sup>4/</sup> was approved without objection by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its thirteenth regular session,

Noting further that the conclusions of the Agency's report state, inter alia, that the Agency's prospective responsibilities in the field of peaceful nuclear explosions fall within its statutory objectives and functions "to accelerate and enlarge the contributions of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world",

Aware that the Agency's prospective responsibilities in this field will have to be defined on an evolutionary basis taking into account the still experimental state of the technology,

Recognizing that the International Atomic Energy Agency has certain programmes under way, such as the convening of expert groups, designed to assure a wider appreciation of the status of this technology, and that certain nuclear-weapon States have furnished the Agency with useful information on the status of their experimental programmes in this field,

1. Expresses its appreciation for the studies recently performed by the Secretary-General and the International Atomic Energy Agency on this subject;

2. Urges all Members of the United Nations to communicate any further views they may have on this subject to the International Atomic Energy Agency so that the Agency may take these comments into account in its further studies;

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<sup>3/</sup> A/7678 and Add.1-3.

<sup>4/</sup> A/7678, section III.

3. Invites the nuclear-weapon States to continue to make available to the International Atomic Energy Agency full and current information concerning the technology of applying nuclear explosions to peaceful uses for the benefit of all its members;

4. Invites the International Atomic Energy Agency to keep the development of this technology under continuing review and in particular to take steps to assure the widest exchange of information concerning developments in this field, including the benefits that may be derived from peaceful nuclear explosions;

5. Suggests that the International Atomic Energy Agency continue to give particular attention over the next year to the convening of further technical meetings to discuss the scientific and technical aspects of this technology and that the Agency initiate studies on the character of the international observation that it might perform pursuant to article V of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;

6. Invites the International Atomic Energy Agency to submit to the Secretary-General, not later than 1 October 1970, a special report on the progress of its further studies and activities in this field to be considered by the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session;

7. Notes that the nature and contents of the special international agreement or agreements to be concluded pursuant to the provisions of article V of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, will remain open for appropriate consideration and will be the subject of further consultations;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to include in the agenda of the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session an item entitled "Establishment within the framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency of an international service for nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes under appropriate international control".

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