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Agenda item 29

QUESTION OF GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Report of the First Committee

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

1. The item, entitled "Question of general and complete disarmament:
(a) Report of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament;^{1/}
(b) Report of the Secretary-General", was included by the Secretary-General in the provisional agenda of the twenty-fourth session (A/7600) on the basis of General Assembly resolution 2454 (XXIII).
2. At its 1758th plenary meeting, on 20 September 1969, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee (A/7700), included the item as agenda item 29 and allocated it to the First Committee for consideration and report.
3. At its 1764th and 1765th plenary meetings, on 24 and 25 September 1969, the General Assembly decided to replace the above item by the following two separate items: item 29, entitled "Question of general and complete disarmament: report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament", and item 104, entitled "Question of chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons", which were

^{1/} At its 431st plenary meeting, on 26 August 1969, the Conference decided to change its name to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament. The new designation appears in the agenda as adopted by the General Assembly.

allocated to the First Committee for consideration and report (A/7702/Rev.1). As the report of the Secretary-General mentioned under paragraph 1 above dealt with the question of chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons, it was included in the agenda under item 104 (see paragraph 5 of the report of the First Committee on agenda item 104, A/7890).

4. At its 1686th meeting on 12 November, the First Committee decided that the general debate should be held simultaneously on all four agenda items relating to disarmament allocated to it, namely, (1) item 29: Question of general and complete disarmament, (2) item 30: Urgent need for suspension of nuclear and thermonuclear tests, (3) item 31: Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States, and (4) item 104: Question of chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons, and that, following the conclusion of the general debate, the Committee would consider separately, the draft resolutions relating to each item.

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

6. The First Committee had before it, in connexion with agenda item 29, the following documents: (a) report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (A/7741); (b) a letter dated 16 July 1969 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/7639), transmitting the Final Act of the Preliminary Meeting on the establishment of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America; (c) a letter dated 16 September 1969 from the Chairman of the delegation of Mexico addressed to the Secretary-General (A/7681), transmitting the text of the resolutions adopted by the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America at its first session (first part) from 2 to 9 September 1969; (d) a letter dated 8 October 1969 from the Permanent Representative of Poland addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/C.1/989), transmitting a message from the President of the People's Chamber of the German Democratic Republic; (e) two working papers (A/C.1/992 and Add.1 and A/C.1/993/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Corr.1). The first, submitted by Canada and subsequently co-sponsored by Italy, the second by Brazil, on the provisions of article III of the draft Treaty on the prohibition of the emplacement of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction on the sea-bed and ocean

floor and the subsoil thereof (A/7741, annex A); (f) a working paper (A/C.1/994), submitted by Sweden, containing the text of an article to be added to the draft Treaty; (g) a working paper (A/C.1/995), submitted by Mexico, containing considerations and proposals concerning the draft Treaty; (h) a working paper (A/C.1/997), submitted by Argentina, containing a revised version of articles I and II and adding an article IV to the draft Treaty on the prohibition of the emplacement of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction on the ocean floor and in the subsoil thereof.

7. The following draft resolutions and amendments were submitted under agenda item 29:

(a) A draft resolution submitted on 26 November 1969, by Argentina, Brazil, Burma, Ethiopia, India, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sweden, United Arab Republic and Yugoslavia (A/C.1/L.490), subsequently co-sponsored by Ireland (A/C.1/L.490/Add.1) and Cyprus and Mali (A/C.1/L.490/Add.2). The representative of Mexico, on behalf of the sponsors, introduced this draft resolution at the 1715th meeting on 9 December (see paragraph 17 below, draft resolution A).

(b) Amendments to the above draft resolution were submitted on 8 December 1969 by Canada, Hungary, the Netherlands, Poland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (A/C.1/L.501) and introduced by the representatives of the Netherlands and Canada at the 1714th and 1715th meetings, on 8 and 9 December, respectively. The text of these amendments read as follows:

"1. Delete the third and fourth preambular paragraphs.

"2. Replace the operative paragraph by the following:

'1. Expresses its sincere hope that these talks will, in due course, lead to substantial agreements on the limitation and subsequent reduction of strategic armaments;

'2. Calls upon the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America to refrain from any action which might be prejudicial to the achievement of this aim'".

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(c) A draft resolution submitted on 1 December 1969 by Malta (A/C.1/L.492), which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Noting with approval the proposal of the Secretary-General in the introduction to his annual report, to dedicate the decade of the 1970s as a Disarmament Decade,

"Noting that the publication entitled The United Nations and Disarmament 1945-1965 was issued as a reference guide to the work of the Organization in the field of disarmament,

"Noting further that arms control negotiations have been intensified since 1965 and that important agreements in this area have been, or are being, negotiated,

"Believing that an updated reference publication on deliberations and negotiations on disarmament would provide useful background information for Member States engaged in disarmament negotiations,

"Requests the Secretary-General to issue an updated edition of the publication entitled The United Nations and Disarmament 1945-1965 before the convening of the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly and subsequently at periodic intervals of five years."

(d) A draft resolution submitted on 1 December 1969 by Malta (A/C.1/L.493), a revised text of which was introduced at the 1714th meeting on 8 December (A/C.1/L.493/Rev.1)(see paragraph 17 below, draft resolution C).

(e) A draft resolution submitted on 1 December 1969, by Malta (A/C.1/L.494), a revised text of which was introduced at the 1714th meeting on 8 December (A/C.1/L.494/Rev.1)(see paragraph 17 below, draft resolution D).

(f) A draft resolution submitted on 1 December 1969 by Canada, Ecuador, Iran, Mexico and Nigeria (A/C.1/L.495), a revised text of which was introduced at the 1714th meeting on 8 December (A/C.1/L.495/Rev.1)(see paragraph 17 below, draft resolution E).

(g) A draft resolution submitted on 8 December 1969 by Ireland, Italy and Japan (A/C.1/L.499) and introduced by the representative of Italy at the 1714th meeting on that day. The text read as follows:

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"The General Assembly,

"Reaffirming its resolution 1378 (XIV) of 20 November 1959, in which it considered that the question of general and complete disarmament is the most important one facing the world today,

"Reaffirming further the responsibility of the United Nations in the attainment of disarmament,

"Recalling its resolution 1722 (XVI) of 20 December 1961, by which it welcomed the joint statement on agreed principles for disarmament negotiations submitted on 20 September 1961, by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America, and reaffirming the recommendation that further disarmament negotiations be based on those principles,

"Recalling its resolution 2454 B (XXIII) of 20 December 1968, whereby it requested the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee to pursue renewed efforts towards achieving substantial progress in reaching agreement on the question of general and complete disarmament under effective international control, and to continue its urgent efforts to negotiate collateral measures of disarmament,

"Convinced that the process of disarmament would be encouraged and stimulated by the entry into force at the earliest possible stage and the strengthening of multilateral international instruments in the field of disarmament,

"Convinced that the participation of all nuclear Powers in the efforts to contain the nuclear arms race and to reduce and eliminate all armaments is indispensable for a full measure of success in these efforts,

"Convinced that peace and security, like development in the world, are indivisible and recognizing the universal responsibilities and obligations in this regard,

"Further convinced of the need to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a Treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control,

"Having received the report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, 2/

"Noting that, in spite of the fact that some limited progress has been accomplished during the past two sessions of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament both in specific fields and in the general

approach to the disarmament question, an imbalance still exists between the magnitude of the tasks in front of the Conference and the achievements so far reached, having in mind in particular the danger of a new spiral in the nuclear arms race,

"Believing that the diversion of enormous resources and energy, human and material, from peaceful economic and social pursuits to unproductive and wasteful military purposes places a great burden on both the developing and developed countries and was an important factor in the failure to make greater progress in the advancement of the developing countries during the First United Nations Development Decade,

"Believing that the security and the economic and social well-being of all countries would be tremendously enhanced as progress is made towards the goal of general and complete disarmament,

"Reaffirming its resolution 2499 (XXIV) of 31 October 1969, and in particular its paragraph 9, endorsing the call of the Secretary-General for the proclamation of a Disarmament Decade, and its paragraph 17 which appeals to Member States to consider the possibility of signing or ratifying the multilateral international instruments in the field of disarmament,

"1. Resolves to dedicate the Decade of the 1970s as a Disarmament Decade;

"2. Calls on Governments to intensify without delay their concerted and concentrated efforts for effective measures relating to the cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament and elimination of other weapons of mass destruction, and for a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control;

"3. Requests the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to resume its work as early as possible, along the lines set forth in paragraph 37 of its report to the General Assembly, bearing in mind that the ultimate goal is general and complete disarmament;

"4. Further requests the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, while continuing intensive negotiations with a view to reaching the widest possible agreement on collateral measures, at the same time to work towards a comprehensive programme, dealing with all aspects of the problem of the cessation of the armaments race and disarmament, which would provide the Conference with a guideline charting the course of its further work and of its further negotiations, and report thereon to the twenty-fifth General Assembly;

"5. Decides to this effect to draw the attention of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to all pertinent proposals and suggestions formulated during the debates on disarmament, referring to the Conference all documents and records of the meetings of the First Committee relating to the disarmament items;

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"6. Recommends further that consideration be given to channelling a substantial part of the resources freed by measures in the field of disarmament to promote the economic development of developing countries and, in particular, their scientific and technological progress;

"7. Requests the Secretary-General and the Governments to publicize the Disarmament Decade by all appropriate means at their disposal in order to acquaint public opinion with its purposes and objectives and with the negotiations and developments related thereto;

"8. Requests the Secretary-General to provide all appropriate facilities and assistance with a view to furthering the fullest implementation of this resolution."

(h) Amendments to draft resolution A/C.1/L.499, submitted on 8 December 1969 by Cyprus and Ghana (A/C.1/L.503) and introduced by the representative of Cyprus at the 1715th meeting on 9 December, which read as follows:

"1. Replace the tenth preambular paragraph by the following:

'Bearing in mind the grave dangers involved in the development of nuclear weapons, through a spiralling nuclear arms race,'.

"2. In operative paragraph 4, third line, the word 'towards' should be replaced by the word 'out'."

(i) Amendments to the same draft resolution (A/C.1/L.499) submitted on 9 December by Brazil, Burma, Chile, Ethiopia, India, Pakistan and Sweden (A/C.1/L.504) and introduced by the representative of India at the 1716th meeting on that day, which read as follows:

"1. In the sixth preambular paragraph, add the word 'weapon' after the word 'nuclear'.

"2. Replace the eleventh preambular paragraph by the following:

'Believing that the diversion of enormous resources and energy, human and material, from peaceful, economic and social pursuits to an unproductive and wasteful armaments race, particularly in the nuclear field, places a great burden on both the developing and developed countries.'

"3. In the twelfth preambular paragraph delete the word 'tremendously'.

"4. In operative paragraph 1, replace the words 'Resolves to dedicate' by the word 'Declares'.

"5. Replace operative paragraphs 3 and 4 by the following:

'3. Calls on the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to intensify its efforts towards the early conclusion of an agreement on general and complete disarmament under effective international control with a view in particular to the speedy halting and reversal of the nuclear arms race and, to this end, to draw up a comprehensive programme listing appropriate priorities for consideration by the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session;'

"6. Renumber the remaining operative paragraphs accordingly."

(j) A draft resolution (A/C.1/L.512) was introduced at the 1722nd meeting, on 12 December, by the representative of the United States of America on behalf of the following sponsors: Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, Finland, Ghana, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Mexico, Mongolia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Romania, Sudan, Sweden, Syria, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America. The text of the draft resolution read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recognizing the common interest of mankind in the reservation of the sea-bed and ocean floor exclusively for peaceful purposes,

"Having considered the report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament of 31 October 1969 3/ and noting with appreciation the work of that Committee in the elaboration of a draft treaty on the prohibition of the emplacement of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction on the sea-bed and the ocean floor and the subsoil thereof,

"Noting the suggestions and proposals in relation to the draft Treaty contained in annex A of the report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, which were made during the course of discussion in the First Committee on this matter, as well as the suggestions made during the special session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction,

"Considering that the prevention of a nuclear arms race on the sea-bed and ocean floor serves the interests of maintaining world peace, reducing international tensions, and strengthening friendly relations among States,

"Convinced that the conclusion of a treaty on the prohibition of the emplacement of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction on the sea-bed and ocean floor and in the subsoil thereof will constitute a step towards the exclusion of the sea-bed, the ocean floor and the subsoil thereof from the arms race,

"1. Welcomes the submission to this Assembly of the Draft Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and the Subsoil Thereof, contained in annex A of the report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament and the various proposals and suggestions made in regard to the draft treaty,

"2. Calls upon the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to take into account all proposals and suggestions that have been made at this session of the General Assembly and to continue its work on this subject so that the text of a draft treaty can be submitted to the General Assembly for its consideration."

At the same meeting, the representative of Ceylon, supported by the representatives of Chile, Kuwait and Malta, orally proposed an amendment to this draft resolution by which there would be added at the end of the third preambular paragraph the words "as well as the suggestions made during the special session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction".

8. At the 1713th to 1716th meetings on 8 and 9 December and at the 1722nd meeting on 12 December, the First Committee considered the above draft resolutions and amendments.

9. At the 1716th meeting on 9 December, the representative of Malta stated that he would withdraw draft resolution A/C.1/L.492, provided the Committee would adopt the following consensus on the subject of that draft resolution:

"It is the feeling of the First Committee that the volume prepared by the Secretariat entitled The United Nations and Disarmament 1945-1965 contains a useful reference guide to the work of the United Nations in the field of disarmament, and that, in view of the arms control agreements that have been or are being negotiated, it would be desirable to revise this publication and to issue an updated edition. The twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations would seem an appropriate occasion for this updating, which should subsequently be undertaken at periodic intervals of five years."

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Following a statement by the Secretary of the First Committee on the financial implications of the draft consensus, the Committee adopted the consensus, subject to the reservations made by the representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Ecuador.

10. At the 1716th meeting, the representative of Italy accepted, on behalf of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/L.499, the amendments contained in document A/C.1/L.503 and amendments 2, 3 and 4 contained in document A/C.1/L.504.

11. At the same meeting, the representative of India, on behalf of the sponsors of the amendments contained in document A/C.1/L.504, indicated that those delegations would not press to a vote the amendment in paragraph 1 of that document, and withdrew the amendment in paragraph 5 after the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/L.499 had accepted modifications in the language of paragraphs 3 and 4 of the draft resolution, which would delete, in operative paragraph 3, the words "along the lines set forth in paragraph 37 of its report to the General Assembly", and in operative paragraph 4, would substitute the phrase "arms race and complete and general disarmament under effective international control" for the phrase "armaments race and disarmament".

12. At the same meeting, the representative of Iran proposed that revised draft resolution A/C.1/L.495/Rev.1 be put to the vote immediately after the voting on draft resolution A/C.1/L.490 and the amendments thereto. There being no objection, the proposal was accepted.

13. At the same meeting, the Committee voted on the draft resolutions contained in documents A/C.1/L.490 and Add.1 and 2, A/C.1/L.495/Rev.1, A/C.1/L.493/Rev.1, A/C.1/L.494/Rev.1 and A/C.1/L.499/Rev.1, which incorporated the amendments referred to in paragraphs 10 and 11 above, and the amendments thereto as follows:

(a) The amendments to draft resolution A/C.1/L.490 and Add.1 and 2 contained in document A/C.1/L.501 were rejected by a roll-call vote of 50 to 40, with 16 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Congo (Democratic Republic of), Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Laos, Liberia, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, South Africa, Swaziland, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay.

Against: Algeria, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Burundi, Ceylon, Chile, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Dahomey, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Somalia, Sudan, Sweden, Uganda, United Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

Abstaining: Afghanistan, Cuba, Guyana, Iran, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Senegal, Spain, Syria, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia.

(b) Draft resolution A/C.1/L.490 and Add.1 and 2 was then adopted by a roll-call vote of 67 to none, with 40 abstentions (see paragraph 17 below, draft resolution A). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Burundi, Ceylon, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Dahomey, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Algeria, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, China, Congo (Democratic Republic of), Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Laos, Liberia, Madagascar, Malta, Mauritius, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, South Africa, Swaziland, Syria, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

(c) The five-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.495/Rev.1) was adopted by 101 votes to none, with 5 abstentions (see paragraph 17 below, draft resolution B);

(d) The revised draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/L.493/Rev.1 was adopted by 51 votes to none, with 52 abstentions (see paragraph 17 below, draft resolution C);

(e) The revised draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/L.494/Rev.1 was adopted by 51 votes to none, with 53 abstentions (see paragraph 17 below, draft resolution D);

(f) The revised 35-Power draft resolution A/C.1/L.499/Rev.1 was adopted by a roll-call vote of 98 to none, with 10 abstentions (see paragraph 17 below, draft resolution E). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Ceylon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo (Democratic Republic of), Costa Rica, Cyprus, Dahomey, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syria, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, France, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

14. At the 1722nd meeting, on 12 December, the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/L.512 accepted the oral amendment introduced by Ceylon (see paragraph 7 (j) above) and Ceylon and Malta became co-sponsors of the draft resolution.

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15. The 36-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.512), as orally amended, was then adopted by acclamation (draft resolution F in paragraph 17 below).

16. The representative of France stated that, had the draft resolution been put to the vote, his delegation would have abstained.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

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Question of general and complete disarmament

A

The General Assembly,

Recalling resolution 2456 D (XXIII) of 20 December 1969,

Noting with satisfaction that, on 17 November 1969, the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America initiated bilateral negotiations on the limitations of offensive and defensive strategic nuclear-weapon systems,

Expressing the hope that these negotiations will bring about early and positive results which would pave the way for further efforts in the field of nuclear disarmament,

Convinced of the necessity for creating the most favourable conditions for the achievement of that aim,

Appeals to the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America to agree, as an urgent preliminary measure, on a moratorium on further testing and deployment of new offensive and defensive strategic nuclear-weapon systems.

B

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1660 (XVI) of 28 November 1961 on the question of disarmament,

Recalling further its resolution 1722 (XVI) of 20 December 1961 on the same question by which the Assembly endorsed the agreement reached on the composition of a Disarmament Committee, the membership of which was as follows: Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, France, India, Italy, Mexico, Nigeria, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America,

Bearing in mind that in the debates of the First Committee during the twenty-third session, attention was drawn to the convenience of enlarging the composition of the Committee in order to make it more representative of the international community,

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Noting that the representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America have reached agreement for the inclusion of eight additional members, who have already been participating in the deliberations of the Committee,

Recognizing that all States have a deep interest in disarmament negotiations,

1. Endorses the agreement that has been reached on the title and on the following composition of the "Conference of the Committee on Disarmament":
Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, France, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Yugoslavia;

2. Welcomes the eight new members of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament;

3. Expresses its conviction that, to effect any change in the composition of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament specified in paragraph 1, the procedure followed at the sixteenth session of the General Assembly should be observed;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to render the necessary assistance and provide the necessary services to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament.

C

The General Assembly,

Noting with grave concern that among the possible effects of radiological warfare could be the destruction of mankind,

Aware that radiological warfare may be conducted both by maximizing the radioactive effects of nuclear explosions and through the use of radioactive agents independently of nuclear explosion,

1. Invites the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to consider, without prejudice to existing priorities, effective methods of control against the use of radiological methods of warfare conducted independently of nuclear explosions;

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2. Recommends that the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament consider, in the context of nuclear arms control negotiations, the need for effective methods of control of nuclear weapons that maximize radioactive effects;

3. Requests the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to inform the General Assembly, at its twenty-fifth session of the results of its consideration of this subject.

D

The General Assembly,

Noting that continued scientific and technological advancement creates new opportunities for the application of science and technology both for peaceful and for military purposes,

Noting the rapid development of laser technology, which is becoming increasingly important in many civilian and military fields,

Concerned at the possible military applications of laser technology,

Recommends that the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament give consideration, without prejudice to existing priorities, to the implications of the possible military applications of laser technology.

E

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 1373 (XIV) of 20 November 1959, in which it considered that the question of general and complete disarmament was the most important one facing the world today,

Reaffirming further the responsibility of the United Nations in the attainment of disarmament,

Recalling its resolution 1722 (XVI) of 20 December 1961, by which it welcomed the joint statement of agreed principles for disarmament negotiations submitted on 20 September 1961 by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America,^{4/} and reaffirming the recommendation that further disarmament negotiations be based on those principles,

^{4/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixteenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 19, document A/4379.

Recalling its resolution 2454 B (XXIII) of 20 December 1968, whereby it requested the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee to pursue renewed efforts towards achieving substantial progress in reaching agreement on the question of general and complete disarmament under effective international control, and to continue its urgent efforts to negotiate collateral measures of disarmament,

Convinced that the process of disarmament would be encouraged and stimulated by the entry into force at the earliest possible stage and the strengthening of multilateral international instruments in the field of disarmament,

Convinced that the participation of all nuclear Powers in the efforts to contain the nuclear arms race and to reduce and eliminate all armaments is indispensable for a full measure of success in these efforts,

Convinced that peace and security, like development in the world, are indivisible and recognizing the universal responsibilities and obligations in this regard,

Further convinced of the need to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to the cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control,

Having received the report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament,^{5/}

Bearing in mind the grave dangers involved in the development of new nuclear weapons, through a spiralling nuclear arms race,

Believing that the diversion of enormous resources and energy, human and material, from peaceful, economic and social pursuits to an unproductive and wasteful arms race, particularly in the nuclear field, places a great burden on both the developing and developed countries,

Believing that the security and the economic and social well-being of all countries would be enhanced as progress is made towards the goal of general and complete disarmament,

Reaffirming its resolution 2499 (XXIV) of 31 October 1969, and in particular its paragraph 9, in which the General Assembly endorses the call of the Secretary-General for the proclamation of a Disarmament Decade, and its paragraph 17, in which the Assembly appeals to all Member States to consider the possibility of signing or ratifying the multilateral international instruments in the field of disarmament,

1. Declares the Decade of the 1970s as a Disarmament Decade;
2. Calls on Governments to intensify without delay their concerted and concentrated efforts for effective measures relating to the cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament and the elimination of other weapons of mass destruction, and for a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control;
3. Requests the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to resume its work as early as possible, bearing in mind that the ultimate goal is general and complete disarmament,
4. Further requests the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, while continuing intensive negotiations with a view to reaching the widest possible agreement on collateral measures, at the same time to work out a comprehensive programme, dealing with all aspects of the problem of the cessation of the arms race and general and complete disarmament, under effective international control, which would provide the Conference with a guideline to chart the course of its further work and its negotiations, and report thereon to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session;
5. Decides to this effect to draw the attention of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to all pertinent proposals and suggestions formulated during the debates on disarmament, referring to the Conference all documents and records of the meetings of the First Committee relating to the disarmament items;
6. Recommends further that consideration be given to channelling a substantial part of the resources freed by measures in the field of disarmament to promote the economic development of developing countries and, in particular, their scientific and technological progress;
7. Requests the Secretary General and the Governments to publicize the Disarmament Decade by all appropriate means at their disposal in order to acquaint public opinion with its purposes and objectives and with the negotiations and developments related thereto;
8. Requests the Secretary-General to provide all appropriate facilities and assistance with a view to furthering the fullest implementation of this resolution.

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The General Assembly,

Recognizing the common interest of mankind in the reservation of the sea-bed and the ocean floor exclusively for peaceful purposes,

Having considered the report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament^{6/} and noting with appreciation the work of that Committee in the elaboration of a draft treaty on the prohibition of the emplacement of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction on the sea-bed and the ocean floor and the subsoil thereof,

Noting the suggestions and proposals in relation to the draft Treaty annexed to the report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament,^{7/} which were made during the course of the discussion of this matter in the First Committee, as well as the suggestions made during the special session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction,

Considering that the prevention of a nuclear arms race on the sea-bed and the ocean floor serves the interests of maintaining world peace, reducing international tensions and strengthening friendly relations among States,

Convinced that the conclusion of a treaty on the prohibition of the emplacement of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction on the sea-bed and the ocean floor and in the subsoil thereof will constitute a step towards the exclusion of the sea-bed, the ocean floor and the subsoil thereof from the arms race,

1. Welcomes the submission to the General Assembly at its present session of the "Draft Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-bed and the Ocean Floor and the Subsoil Thereof", annexed to the report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament^{8/} and the various proposals and suggestions made in regard to the draft Treaty;

^{6/} Ibid.

^{7/} Ibid., annex A.

^{8/} Ibid.

2. Calls upon the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to take into account all proposals and suggestions that have been made at this session of the General Assembly and to continue its work on this subject so that the text of a draft treaty can be submitted to the General Assembly for its consideration.
