

UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



Distr.  
GENERAL

A/7862  
11 December 1969

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Twenty-fourth session  
Agenda item 30

URGENT NEED FOR SUSPENSION OF NUCLEAR AND THERMONUCLEAR TESTS

Report of the First Committee

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

1. The item entitled "Urgent need for suspension of nuclear and thermonuclear tests: report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament" 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 2455 (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 agenda 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 30 the Report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (A/7741).

6. On 17 November, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Japan, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.485), subsequently co-sponsored by Ghana, Morocco (A/C.1/L.485/Add.1), Italy, Norway (A/C.1/L.485/Add.2) Belgium, Ethiopia, Guyana, India, Liberia, Swaziland (A/C.1/L.485/Add.3) and the Central African Republic, Chile, Cyprus, Ireland, Malta, Trinidad and Tobago and Uganda (A/C.1/L.485/Add.4). The operative part of this draft resolution which was introduced by the representative of Canada at the 1692nd meeting on 18 November read as follows:

"The General Assembly,...

"1. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Governments of all States members of the United Nations or of any of the specialized agencies or of the IAEA or Parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice, the request for information contained in annex I of the resolution.

"2. Invites those Governments to co-operate with the Secretary-General in providing the information requested as soon as possible before 1 May 1970; and

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to circulate forthwith, after receipt, all responses to those Governments mentioned in paragraph 1 and to members of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to assist in its further consideration of the achievement of a Comprehensive Test Ban."

7. On 20 November, Brazil, Burma, Ethiopia, India, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Sweden, the United Arab Republic and Yugoslavia submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.486), subsequently co-sponsored by Chile, Ireland and Jamaica (A/C.1/L.486/Add.1). The operative part of this draft resolution, which was introduced by the representative of Sweden at the 1695th meeting, on 20 November, read as follows:

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"The General Assembly,...

"1. Urges all States which have not done so to adhere without further delay to the Treaty banning nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water;

"2. Calls upon all nuclear-weapon States to suspend nuclear weapon tests in all environments;

"3. Requests the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to continue, as a matter of urgency, its deliberations on a treaty banning underground nuclear weapon tests, taking into account the proposals already made in the Conference as to the contents of such a treaty as well as the views expressed in the current session of the General Assembly, and to submit a special report to the General Assembly as early as possible and not later than 15 July 1970 on the results of their deliberations."

8. At the 1712th meeting, on 4 December, the First Committee took up for consideration the above draft resolutions submitted under agenda item 30.

9. At the same meeting, in response to suggestions from certain delegations, the representative of Sweden, on behalf of the sponsors of the 13-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.486 and Add. 1-4), orally amended the last two lines of operative paragraph 3 by deleting the words "as early as possible, and not later than 15 July 1970", so that the last part of the sentence would read "and to submit a special report to the General Assembly on the results of their deliberations". At the 1713th meeting on 8 December, the representative of Sweden stated that it should be understood that the reference to reporting to the General Assembly meant that the special report should be submitted to the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly and that that understanding should be mentioned in the report of the Rapporteur. There being no objection, the Committee so decided.

10. At the 1712th meeting, on 4 December, the Committee voted on the two draft resolutions before it.

11. At the request of the United Arab Republic, a separate vote was taken on operative paragraph 1 of the 28-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.485 and Add. 1-4). The paragraph was adopted by 71 votes to 9, with 8 abstentions. The Committee then adopted the draft resolution as a whole by a roll-call vote of 78 to 8, with 9 abstentions (see paragraph 14 below, draft resolution A). The voting was as follows:

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In favour: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Ceylon, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo (Democratic Republic of), Costa Rica, Cyprus, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, 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, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

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

Abstaining: Algeria, Cuba, France, Iraq, Jordan, Romania, Senegal, Sudan, Syria.

12. The 13-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/486 and Add.1), as orally amended, was adopted by a roll-call vote of 94 to none, with 3 abstentions. (See paragraph 14 below, draft resolution B). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Ceylon, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo (Democratic Republic of), Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Syria, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Cuba, France, Saudi Arabia.

13. At the 1714th meeting, on 8 December, the representative of Kuwait stated that, had he been present at the 1712th meeting, he would have voted in favour of operative paragraph 1 of the 28-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.485 and Add. 1-4), that draft resolution as a whole and the 13-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.486 and Add.1), as orally amended.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

Urgent need for suspension of nuclear and thermonuclear tests

A

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the urgent need for the suspension of nuclear and thermonuclear weapon tests,

Recalling its resolutions 2163 (XXI) of 5 December 1966, 2343 (XXII) of 19 December 1967 and 2455 (XXIII) of 20 December 1968,

Recalling further that the above-mentioned resolutions expressed the hope that States would contribute to an effective international exchange of seismic data,

Having considered the report submitted by the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament<sup>1/</sup> on 3 November 1969, and in particular those portions of it concerned with facilitating the achievement of a comprehensive test ban through the international exchange of seismic data, as well as other relevant proposals made in the Conference,

Noting the joint memoranda on a comprehensive test ban treaty submitted on 15 September 1965,<sup>2/</sup> 17 August 1966<sup>3/</sup> and 26 August 1968<sup>4/</sup> by Brazil, Burma, Ethiopia, India, Mexico, Nigeria, Sweden and the United Arab Republic, which have been annexed to reports of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on

1/ A/7741.

2/ A/5986 (Official Records of the Disarmament Commission, Supplement for January to December 1965, document DC/227), annex I (ENDC/159).

3/ A/6390 (Official Records of the Disarmament Commission, Supplement for 1966, document DC/228), annex I (ENDC/177).

4/ A/7189 (Official Records of the Disarmament Commission, Supplement for 1967 and 1968, document DC/231), annex I (ENDC/235).

Disarmament, and all of which have suggested that the improvement of the international exchange of seismic data would facilitate the solution of the problem of verifying a comprehensive test ban,

Having studied the proposal submitted to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament concerning the provision of information by Governments in connexion with the creation of a world-wide exchange of seismological data to facilitate the achievement of a comprehensive test ban,<sup>5/</sup>

1. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Governments of all States Members of the United Nations or members of any of the specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency or Parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice, the request for information annexed to the present resolution;

2. Invites those Governments to co-operate with the Secretary-General in providing the information requested as soon as possible before 1 May 1970;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to circulate forthwith, upon receipt, all responses to those Governments mentioned in paragraph 1 above and to members of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to assist the Conference in its further consideration of the achievement of a comprehensive test ban.

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<sup>5/</sup> A/7741, annex (ENDC/251/Rev.1).

ANNEX I<sup>6/</sup>

REQUEST FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ..... CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CREATION OF A WORLD-WIDE EXCHANGE OF SEISMOLOGICAL DATA WHICH WOULD FACILITATE THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN

In order to assist in clarifying what resources would be available for the eventual establishment of an effective world-wide exchange of seismological information which would facilitate the achievement of a comprehensive test ban, the Secretary-General of the United Nations requests the Government of ..... to supply to him for transmission to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament a list of all its seismic stations from which it would be prepared to supply records on the basis of guaranteed availability and to provide certain information about each station as set out below:

A. Conventional seismograph stations

- (i) Name of station and name and address of the operating organization
- (ii) Co-ordinates of station, including elevation
- (iii) Instrumentation and components recorded together with speed of recording (this should include operational magnification at one second period for short period and broad band seismographs and at fifteen or twenty seconds for long period instruments. A complete response curve in absolute units should also be provided).

The Government of ..... is also requested to give information on the geological description of the station foundation and indicate if fully annotated records will be provided, including the precision of the time. It would also be useful to know the time window within which the Government of ..... would be prepared to supply original records or good quality copies, and if the latter, the form of the copies (for example, 16, 35 or 70 millimetre film, Xerox copies etc.). It would be useful if it could be indicated whether the intention is to deposit copies of all records in a

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<sup>6/</sup> Ibid.

seismological centre which makes its data available to everyone, or whether the Government of ..... wishes to guarantee the data only on a bilateral demand.

B. Array stations

- (i) Name of station and the name and address of the operating organization;
- (ii) Co-ordinates of station and array points, including elevation;
- (iii) A general account of the instrumentation geometry of the array;
- (iv) Instrumentation and components recorded, including magnetic tape specifications (this should include the operational magnification at one second period for short period or broad band instrumentation and at 15 or 20 seconds for long period instruments. A response curve in absolute units should be provided for each instrument);
- (v) A list of components which record on a parallel visual basis.

As under A above, in the interest of obtaining maximum usefulness from an international exchange of data, the Government of ..... is requested to give information on the geological foundation of the array stations, together with complete technical information on the recording medium, the precision of time-keeping, etc. It would also be useful to know the time window within which the Government of ..... would be prepared to supply the original records or, as applicable, photographic copy, magnetic tape copy or good quality microfilm. In the event that the Government of ..... does not envisage depositing copies of all array data automatically in a seismological centre which makes its data available to everyone, it would be useful if the Government of ..... could indicate how long an original magnetic tape recording could be made available for individual demands before the tapes are erased and re-used.

In view of the urgency in making progress in the direction of a solution for a comprehensive test ban, the Secretary-General would greatly appreciate it if the information requested above could be forwarded to him with the least possible delay for transmission to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament.

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B

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of the urgent need for suspension of nuclear and thermonuclear tests and the report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament;

Recalling its resolutions 1762 (XVII) of 6 November 1962, 1910 (XVIII) of 27 November 1963, 2032 (XX) of 3 December 1965, 2163 (XXI) of 5 December 1966, 2343 (XXII) of 19 December 1967 and 2455 (XXIII) of 20 December 1968,

Noting with regret the fact that all States have not yet adhered to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water, signed in Moscow on 5 August 1963,<sup>I/</sup>

Noting with increasing concern that nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere and underground are continuing,

Taking into account that several concrete suggestions have recently been set forth in the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament as to possible provisions for a treaty banning underground nuclear weapon tests,

1. Urges all States which have not done so to adhere without further delay to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water;
2. Calls upon all nuclear-weapon States to suspend nuclear weapon tests in all environments;
3. Requests the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to continue, as a matter of urgency, its deliberations on a treaty banning underground nuclear weapon tests, taking into account the proposals already made in the Conference as to the contents of such a treaty, as well as the views expressed at the current session of the General Assembly, and to submit a special report to the General Assembly on the results of their deliberations.

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<sup>I/</sup> United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 480 (1963), No. 6964.