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Agenda item 47

CONCLUSION OF A TREATY ON THE COMPLETE AND GENERAL
PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR-WEAPON TESTS

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Kedar Bhakta SHRESTHA (Nepal)

1. The item entitled "Conclusion of a treaty on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests" was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-first session on the basis of General Assembly resolution 3478 (XXX) of 11 December 1975.
2. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 24 September 1976, 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 5 October, the First Committee decided to hold a combined general debate on the items allocated to it relating to disarmament, namely, items 34 to 50 and 116. The general debate on these items took place at the 20th to 39th meetings, from 1 to 9 November.
4. In connexion with item 47, the First Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Note by the Secretary-General dated 8 April 1976 (A/10509);
 - (b) Note verbale dated 15 April 1976 from the Permanent Mission of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/31/81);
 - (c) Note verbale dated 24 May 1976 from the Permanent Mission of Czechoslovakia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/31/103);
 - (d) Letter dated 14 June 1976 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/31/108);

- (e) Note by the Secretary-General dated 24 September 1976 (A/31/228);
- (f) Letter dated 22 November 1976 from the First Deputy Foreign Minister of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the text of the revised draft treaty on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests (A/C.1/31/9).

5. On 19 November, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/31/L.16), which was subsequently also sponsored by the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Finland, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Jordan, Mongolia and Poland. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics at the 41st meeting, on 23 November. A statement of administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution (A/C.1/31/L.27) was submitted by the Secretary-General on 26 November.

6. At its 45th meeting, on 29 November, the First Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/31/L.16 by a roll-call vote of 82 to 2, with 37 abstentions 1/ (see para. 7 below). The result of the vote was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bulgaria, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libyan Arab Republic, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Surinam, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: Albania, China.

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Burma, Canada, Chile, Denmark, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malta, Mauritania, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Paraguay, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Zambia.

1/ After the vote, the representatives of Lesotho and Liberia stated that, had they been present during the vote, they would have voted in favour of the draft resolution.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

Conclusion of a treaty on the complete and general
prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3478 (XXX) of 11 December 1975, in which it called upon all nuclear-weapon States to enter into negotiations, not later than 31 March 1976, with a view to reaching agreement on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests, with 25 to 30 non-nuclear-weapon States participating in such negotiations,

Deploring the fact that such negotiations have not yet begun,

Convinced that the early cessation of nuclear-weapon tests, including underground tests, everywhere and by everyone, would contribute to the reduction of the nuclear-arms race and to the further relaxation of international tension,

Further convinced of the need for again exerting every effort to achieve an international agreement on the cessation of all types of nuclear-weapon tests,

Noting that during the thirty-first session of the General Assembly proposals have been made and relevant documents submitted with a view to finding a compromise basis for a generally acceptable understanding regarding the supervision of compliance with such an agreement,

Believing that the conclusion between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America of treaties on the limitation of underground nuclear-weapon tests and on underground nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes contributes to the creation of favourable conditions for the cessation of all nuclear-weapon tests,

Taking note of the note by the Secretary-General 2/ stating that 26 non-nuclear-weapon States are ready to participate in the negotiations with a view to reaching agreement on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests,

1. Again calls upon all nuclear-weapon States, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3478 (XXX), to proceed as soon as possible with negotiations on the conclusion of a treaty on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests, with the participation of non-nuclear-weapon States;

2/ A/31/228.

2. Requests the Secretary-General to render such assistance as may be necessary for the negotiations and to transmit to the group referred to in paragraph 1 above all documents relating to the consideration by the General Assembly at its thirty-first session of the item entitled "Conclusion of a treaty on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests";

3. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-second session the item entitled "Conclusion of a treaty on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests".
