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Agenda item 40

WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Kedar Bhakta SHRESTHA (Nepal)

1. The item entitled "World Disarmament Conference: report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference" was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-first session on the basis of General Assembly resolution 3469 (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 19 November.
4. The First Committee had before it, in connexion with agenda item 40, the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference. 1/
5. On 9 November, the German Democratic Republic, Poland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/31/L.9), subsequently also sponsored by Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia and Mongolia, which was introduced at the 27th meeting, on 10 November, by the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.
6. On 29 November, Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Peru, Sri Lanka and Yugoslavia submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/31/L.29), which was subsequently also sponsored by Afghanistan. A revised draft (A/C.1/31/L.29/Rev.1), was introduced by the

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 28 (A/31/28).

representative of Argentina at the 47th meeting on 1 December. A statement of the financial implications of the revised draft resolution was submitted by the Secretary-General on 1 December (A/C.1/31/L.39).

7. At its 49th meeting on 2 December, the First Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/31/L.29/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 8 below). The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/31/L.9 did not press that resolution to a vote.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

World Disarmament Conference

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3260 (XXIX) of 9 December 1974 and 3469 (XXX) of 11 December 1975,

Reiterating its conviction that all peoples of the world have a vital interest in the success of disarmament negotiations and that all States should be in a position to contribute to the adoption of measures for the achievement of this goal,

Stressing anew its belief that a world disarmament conference, adequately prepared and convened at an appropriate time, could promote the realization of such aims and that the co-operation of all nuclear-weapon Powers would considerably facilitate this attainment,

Noting the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference, 2/

Noting further that in its resolution 31 ... the General Assembly has decided to convene a special session devoted to disarmament,

1. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference to maintain close contact with the representatives of the States possessing nuclear weapons in order to remain currently informed of their respective attitudes, as well as to consider any relevant comments and observations which might be made to the Committee and for this purpose to meet briefly and submit a report to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session in accordance with its established procedure;

2. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-second session the item entitled "World Disarmament Conference".

2/ Ibid.