



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/33/425
7 December 1978

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-third session
Agenda item 37

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) WEAPONS

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Miodrag MIHAJLOVIĆ (Yugoslavia)

1. The item entitled "Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons: report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament" was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-third session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/77 of 12 December 1977.
2. At its 4th and 5th plenary meetings, on 22 September 1978, 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 3rd meeting, on 6 October, the First Committee decided to consider separately agenda items 125 and 128 and then to hold a combined general debate on the other items allocated to it relating to disarmament, namely, items 35 to 49. The general debate on these items took place at the 29th to 50th meetings, from 6 to 24 November (see A/C.1/33/PV.29-50).
4. In connexion with agenda item 37, the First Committee had before it the report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament. 1/
5. On 22 November, Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ethiopia, the German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Hungary, India, Ireland, Italy, the Ivory Coast, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Poland, Sweden, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Yugoslavia submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/33/L.39), which was subsequently also sponsored by Bangladesh, Bolivia,

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/33/27).

the Congo, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Liberia, Mali, Mauritius, Pakistan, Spain, the Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Uruguay and Zaire. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Poland at the 51st meeting, on 27 November.

6. On 22 November, Australia, Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Finland, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, India, Italy, Mongolia, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Turkey, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and the United States of America submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/33/L.41) which was subsequently also sponsored by Bolivia, Denmark, Greece and Mauritius. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of the United Kingdom at the 49th meeting, on 24 November.

7. At its 58th meeting, on 30 November, the First Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/33/L.39 by consensus (see para. 9 below, draft resolution A).

8. At the 59th meeting, on 1 December, a statement of financial implications of draft resolution A/C.1/33/L.41 was read out by the Committee Secretary (see A/C.1/33/PV.59). At the same meeting, the First Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/33/L.41 by consensus (see para. 9 below, draft resolution B).

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons

A

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 2454 A (XXIII) of 20 December 1968, 2603 B (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, 2662 (XXV) of 7 December 1970, 2827 A (XXVI) of 16 December 1971, 2933 (XXVII) of 29 November 1972, 3077 (XXVIII) of 6 December 1973, 3256 (XXIX) of 9 December 1974, 3465 (XXX) of 11 December 1975, 31/65 of 10 December 1976, 32/77 of 12 December 1977 and S-10/2 of 30 June 1978,

Recalling that in the Final Document of the tenth special session the General Assembly affirmed that the complete and effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and their destruction represent one of the most urgent measures of disarmament, which should be accorded high priority in disarmament negotiations,

Regretting that the agreement on the complete and effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons has not been reached despite the numerous appeals of the General Assembly,

Convinced that the continuing arms race calls for urgent disarmament measures and that the process of international détente is conducive to the achievement of progress towards general and complete disarmament under effective international control,

Reaffirming the necessity of strict observance by all States of the principles and objectives of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva on 17 June 1925, 2/

Convinced that the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction 3/ constitutes an important step towards early agreement on the effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and on their elimination from arsenals of all States,

Recalling in that connexion the undertaking contained in article IX of the Convention to continue negotiations in good faith with a view to reaching early agreement on effective measures for the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and for their destruction,

Stressing the importance of early agreement on the complete prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and on their destruction, which would contribute to general and complete disarmament under effective international control,

Noting the risk of continued development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons in the absence of such agreement,

Having considered the report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, 4/

Noting that drafts of a convention on the prohibition of development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and on their destruction, 5/ as well as other working documents, proposals and suggestions, have been submitted to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament and constitute valuable contributions to reaching agreement,

2/ League of Nations, Treaty Series, vol. XCIV (1929), No. 2138, p. 65.

3/ General Assembly resolution 2826 (XXVI), annex.

4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/33/27).

5/ See Official Records of the Disarmament Commission, Supplement for 1972, document DC/235, annex B, document CCD/361; Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/9627), annex II, document CCD/420; ibid., Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/10027), annex II, document CCD/452; and ibid., Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/31/27), annex III, document CCD/512.

Taking into account the comments made on this item and relevant documents submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session,

Noting also that sustained and intensive efforts in the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament have led to increased understanding in identifying practical approaches towards the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and towards their destruction,

Believing that future agreement on the prohibition of chemical weapons should meet the objective of complete, effective and verifiable prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons, as well as providing adequate methods of verification for the destruction of the stockpiles of chemical weapons, and recognizing that arrangements for verification should be based on a combination of national and international arrangements,

Having in mind that agreement on the complete prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and on their destruction should not impede the utilization of science and technology for the economic development of States,

Desiring to contribute to an early and successful conclusion of the negotiations on effective and strict measures for the complete prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and for their destruction,

1. Urges all States to reach early agreement on the effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and on their destruction;
2. Urges the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America to submit their joint initiative to the Committee on Disarmament in order to assist it in achieving early agreement on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and on their destruction;
3. Requests the Committee on Disarmament, as a matter of high priority, to undertake, at the beginning of its 1979 session, negotiations with a view to elaborating an agreement on effective measures for the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and for their destruction, taking into account all existing proposals and future initiatives;
4. Invites all States that have not yet done so to accede to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, as well as to accede to or ratify the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva on 17 June 1925, and calls again for strict observance by all States of the principles and objectives of those instruments;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Committee on Disarmament all documents of the thirty-third session of the General Assembly relating to chemical weapons and to chemical means of warfare;

6. Requests the Committee on Disarmament to report on the results of its negotiations to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session.

B

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2826 (XXVI) of 16 December 1972, in which it commended the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction 6/ and expressed the hope for the widest possible adherence to that Convention,

Noting that article XII of the Convention provides as follows:

"Five years after the entry into force of this Convention, or earlier if it is requested by a majority of Parties to the Convention by submitting a proposal to this effect to the Depositary Governments, a Conference of States Parties to the Convention shall be held at Geneva, Switzerland, to review the operation of this Convention, with a view to assuring that the purposes of the preamble and the provisions of the Convention, including the provisions concerning negotiations on chemical weapons, are being realized. Such review shall take into account any new scientific and technological developments relevant to this Convention",

Believing that the availability of information as appropriate on any new scientific and technological developments relevant to the Convention could contribute to the work of the Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention,

Bearing in mind that the Convention will have been in force for five years on 26 March 1980 and expecting that the Review Conference called for in the Convention will take place near that date,

1. Notes that after appropriate consultations a preparatory committee of Parties to the Convention is to be arranged;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services, including summary records, as may be required for the Review Conference and its preparation.

6/ General Assembly resolution 2826 (XXVI), annex.