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CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) WEAPONS

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Pablo Emilio SADER (Uruguay)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Chemical and bacteriological (**biological**) weapons" was included **in the provisional agenda** of the forty-sixth session of the **General Assembly** in accordance with Assembly resolutions **45/57 A to C** of 4 December 1990,
2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1991, 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 10 October 1991, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on the disarmament items allocated to it, namely, items 47 to 65. **The deliberations** on those items took place between the 3rd and 24th meetings, from 14 to 30 October (see **A/C.1/46/PV.3-24**). Consideration of and action on draft resolutions on those items took place between the 25th and 37th meetings, from 4 to 15 November (see **A/C.1/46/PV.25-37**).
4. In connection with item 59, the **First Committee** had before it the following documents:

- (a) Report of the Conference on **Disarmament**; 1/

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/46/27).

(b) Letter dated 1 July 1991 from the **Chargé d'affaires a.i.** of the **Permanent Mission** of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the **Secretary-General**, transmitting the text of the Declaration on non-proliferation and arms exports, made by the European Council on 29 June 1991 (A/46/289);

(a) Letter dated 29 July 1991 from the **Charge d'affaires a.i.** of the **Permanent Mission** of Egypt to the **United Nations** addressed to the **Secretary-General** (A/46/329-S/22855);

(d) Letter dated 5 August 1991 from *the* **Permanent Representative** of Vanuatu to the **United Nations** addressed to the **Secretary-General**, transmitting the text of the final communique of the twenty-second South Pacific *Forum*, held at Palikir, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, on 29 and 30 July 1991 (A/46/344);

(e) Letter dated 11 September 1991 from the **Permanent Representatives** of Argentina, Brazil and Chile to the **United Nations** addressed to the **Secretary-General**, transmitting the text of the Joint Declaration on the Complete Prohibition of Chemical and Biological Weapons - **Mendoza Accord**, signed at Mendoza, Argentina, on 5 September 1991 (A/46/463);

(f) Letter dated 23 September 1991 from the **Permanent Representative** of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the **United Nations** addressed to the **Secretary-General** (A/46/493);

(g) Letter dated 12 August 1991 from the **Permanent Representative** of China to the **United Nations** addressed to the **Secretary-General** (A/46/501);

(h) Letter dated 27 September 1991 from the **Permanent Representative** of China to the **United Nations** addressed to the **Secretary-General** (A/46/501/Rev.1);

(i) Letter dated 8 November 1991 from the **Permanent Representative** of the Republic of Korea to the **United Nations** addressed to the **Secretary-General**, transmitting the text of the Declaration of Non-nuclear Korean Peninsula Peace Initiative, made on 8 November 1991 (A/46/621-S/23201).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.9

5. On 30 October 1991, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Finland, Germany, Hungary, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America submitted a draft resolution entitled "Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction" (A/C.1/46/L.9), which was later also

sponsored by Bolivia, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Czechoslovakia, France, Greece, India, Norway, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and Uruguay. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Argentina at the 27th meeting, on 5 November.

6. In connection with the draft resolution, the Secretariat submitted a note concerning its programme budget implications (A/C.1/46/16).

7. At its 34th meeting, on 12 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.9 without a vote (see para. 12, draft resolution A).

B. Draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.16

8. On 31 October, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, Iceland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Samoa, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Viet Nam and Yugoslavia, submitted a draft resolution entitled "Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons: measures to uphold the authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol" (A/C.1/46/L.16), which was later also sponsored by Bolivia, Chile and Singapore. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Australia at the 30th meeting, on 7 November,

9. At its 33rd meeting, on 11 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.16 without a vote (see para. 12, draft resolution B).

C. Draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.36

10. On 1 November, Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Viet Nam submitted a draft resolution entitled "Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons" (A/C.1/46/L.36), which was later also sponsored by Chile, Cyprus, Luxembourg, the Republic of Korea, Samoa, Uruguay and Venezuela. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Canada at the 30th meeting, on 7 November.

11. At its 33rd meeting, on 11 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.36 without a vote (see para. 12, draft resolution C).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

12. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions^a

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) WEAPONS

A

Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions relating to the complete and effective prohibition of baateriologiaal (biological) and toxin weapons and on their destruction,

Recalling its resolution 45/57B, adopted without a vote on 4 December 1990, in which the General Assembly noted, inter alia, that, at the request of the Staten parties, a Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Baateriologiaal (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction^{2/} would be held at Geneva in 1991 to review the operation of tho Convention, with a view to assuring that the purpose⁸ of the preamble and the provisions of the Convention, inaluding those related to the negotiation⁰ on chemical weapons, were being realized,

Noting with satisfaction that, at the time of the Third Review Conference, there were more than a hundred and fifteen States parties to the Convention, inaluding all the permanent members of the Security Council,

1. Notes with satisfaction that, on 27 September 1991, the Third Review Conferenae of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Baateriologiaal (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction adopted by consensus a Final Dealarationr

2. Stresses the importance, inter alia, of the solemn politiaal declaration of the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conferenae, and welcomes with satisfaction the results of the Review Conference, including in partiaular the expanded aonfidenae-building measures related to activities relevant to the Convention, and the establishment of an Ad Hoc Group of Governmental Experts open to all States parties to identify and examine potential verification measures from a scientific and technfaal standpoint;

2/ Resolution 2826 (XXVI), annex.

3. Calls upon all States parties to the Convention to participate in the implementation of the recommendations of the Third Review Conference, including in the exchange of information and data agreed to in the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference, and to provide such information and data in conformity with the standardized procedure to the Secretary-General on an annual basis and not later than 15 April;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services as may be required for the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Third Review Conference;

5. Calls upon all signatory States that have not ratified or acceded to the Convention to do so without delay and also calls upon those States that have not yet signed the Convention to join the States parties thereto at an early date, thus contributing to the achievement of universal adherence to the Convention,

B

Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons: measures to uphold the authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the importance and the continuing validity of the 1925 Geneva Protocol,

Recalling its previous resolutions, and those adopted by the Security Council, on the use of chemical weapons,

Reaffirming in particular its resolution 45/57 C of 4 December 1990 on measures to uphold the authority of the 1925 Protocol and resolution 45/57 A of 4 December 1990 urging the early conclusion of a chemical weapons convention,

Deploring all threats, including especially those made most recently, of use of chemical weapons,

1. Condemns vigorously all actions that violate or threaten to violate the obligations assumed under 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, ^{3/} and other relevant provisions of international law;

^{3/} League of Nations, Treaty Series, vol. XCIV (1929), No. 2138.

2. **Renews its call** to all States to observe rtriately the principles and objectives of the 1928 Geneva Protoaol, and reaffirm0 the vital necessity of upholding its provisions;

3. **Welcomes** in this context recent decisions, declarations and initiatives of the United Nations and in partiaular the Security Council aimed at upholding the authority of the Geneva Protoaol and removing the threat of achemical weapons use,

4. **Supports** as well other similar activities of regional and international disarmament conferences and parallel decisions by national Governments, also aimed at hastening the conalurion of the achemical weapons convention as a step towards the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction.

C

Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions relating to the complete and effective prohibition of the development, produation, stockpiling and se of all ohrmial weapons and to their destruction,

Reaffirming the urgent necessity, partiularly in the light of the past use of and recent threats to use achemical weapons, of strict observance by all States of the principles land objectives of the Protoaol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonoue or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva on 17 June 1925, 3/

Having considered the report of the Conference on Disarmament, 4/ which incorporates, *inter alia*, the report of its Ad Hoo Committee on Chemical Weapons, 5/ and noting in partiular the Conference's decision to mandate further this Committee to intensify, as a priority task, the negotiations on a multilateral convention on the acomplete and effective prohibition of the development, produation, stockpiling and use of ochemical weapons and on their destruction with the view to striving to achieve a final agreement on the oonvention by 1992,

4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/46/27).

5/ Ibid., pars. 89.

Noting with satisfaction that the States participating in the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, held at Geneva from 9 to 27 September 1991, **inter alia** declared themselves in favour of the early conclusion of the negotiation; on a convention banning chemical weapons,

Noting with appreciation the increasing number of States that have declared their intention to be among the original signatories to the convention, and in particular the statements made by the States participating in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe on 21 November 1990 and the States signatories to the Mendoza Accord, on 5 September 1991, ^{6/} as well as the statement by States of South-East Asia and the East Pacific, assembled at Brisbane on 13 November 1990, **inter alia**, calling on all States to be original signatories to the convention,

1. **Renews** its call to all States to observe strictly 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. **Notes** the progress made in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons of the Conference on Disarmament during its 1991 session, and the results recorded in the Committee's report;

3. **Commends** the decision of the Conference to intensify further the negotiations on the complete and effective prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction with the view to striving to achieve a final agreement on a convention by 1992;

4. **Strongly urges** the Conference on Disarmament, as a matter of the highest priority, to resolve in the forthcoming months outstanding issues so as to achieve a final agreement during its 1992 session;

5. **Requests** the Conference on Disarmament to report to the general Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the results of its negotiations;

6. **Stresses** the particular significance and importance of declarations made by States on whether or not they possess chemical weapons and of further international exchanges of data and other relevant information in connection with the negotiations on such a convention;

7. **Welcomes** those initiatives taken by States, and urges all States to take further initiatives, measures and steps on a national, bilateral, regional or multilateral basis to achieve rapid agreement in the negotiations on, and universal adherence to, such a convention;

^{6/} A/46/463, annex.

8. Calls upon all States to consider declaring their intention to become original States parties to the convention so as to ensure its early entry into force, its effective implementation and its universal character;

9. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons".
