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COMMITTEE PRINT

UNITED NATIONS ACTION ON
DISARMAMENT

A SURVEY OF THE DEBATE AND RESOLUTIONS
OF THE FOURTEENTH SESSION OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
(SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER 1959)

PREPARED BY THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

U.S. Congress UNITED STATES SENATE



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PREFACE

By Senator Hubert H. Humphrey

Disarmament received renewed and sustained attention during the 1959 session of the United Nations General Assembly. Debate and discussion among the delegates from 82 nations reflected strong convictions that the time was near to make concrete progress toward reducing the large-scale armament programs of individual countries through international agreements effectively controlled.

Although the speeches covered a wide range of viewpoint, six resolutions were adopted by large majorities, four of them unanimously. They dealt with the subjects of general and complete disarmament, the prevention of the dissemination of nuclear weapons among countries other than the nuclear powers, the cessation of nuclear weapons tests, and the procedures and appropriate methods by which disarmament negotiations should be conducted.

Among the aspects of disarmament the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Disarmament has been instructed to study is the—efforts made by the United Nations in seeking the control and reduction of military forces and armaments of all types.

In an effort to continue to fulfill its obligation the Subcommittee on Disarmament is issuing this survey of "United Nations Action on Disarmament" taken during the 14th session of the General Assembly.

Noteworthy in this survey are the interest and concern of countries which are not nuclear or missile powers but which would suffer great destruction if another large-scale war should occur. The views of these nations are not always available to the American people, but in this document our citizens may glean some notion of their attitudes and policies.

This survey was prepared for the subcommittee by Mrs. Ellen C. Collier of the Foreign Affairs Division, Legislative Reference Service, Library of Congress. Any views in the survey do not reflect necessarily the opinions of the subcommittee or any of its members.

FEBRUARY 8, 1960.

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UNITED NATIONS ACTION ON DISARMAMENT: A SURVEY OF THE DEBATE AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE FOURTEENTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(SEPTEMBER–NOVEMBER 1959)

Throughout the opening debate of the 14th session of the General Assembly, the need for disarmament was a major theme. The high priority to be given to the topic was advanced when the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R., Nikita S. Khrushchev, on his first visit to the United States proposed general and complete disarmament within 4 years. Other events adding to the interest in disarmament were (1) the impending test of a nuclear weapon by France in the Sahara; (2) the slow progress of the test-ban negotiations among the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Soviet Union; and (3) the decision of the major powers on August 5, 1959, at the Geneva Conference of Foreign Ministers, to resume general disarmament discussions. The Foreign Ministers subsequently agreed to form a new 10-power Disarmament Committee. The Committee, composed of five Western states and five states from the Soviet bloc, is scheduled to meet in Geneva in March 1960.

Following the general debate, in which the British Foreign Minister as well as the Soviet Premier made a proposal for comprehensive disarmament, the General Assembly referred five agenda items concerning disarmament to the First (Political) Committee. The First Committee decided upon the following order of discussion:

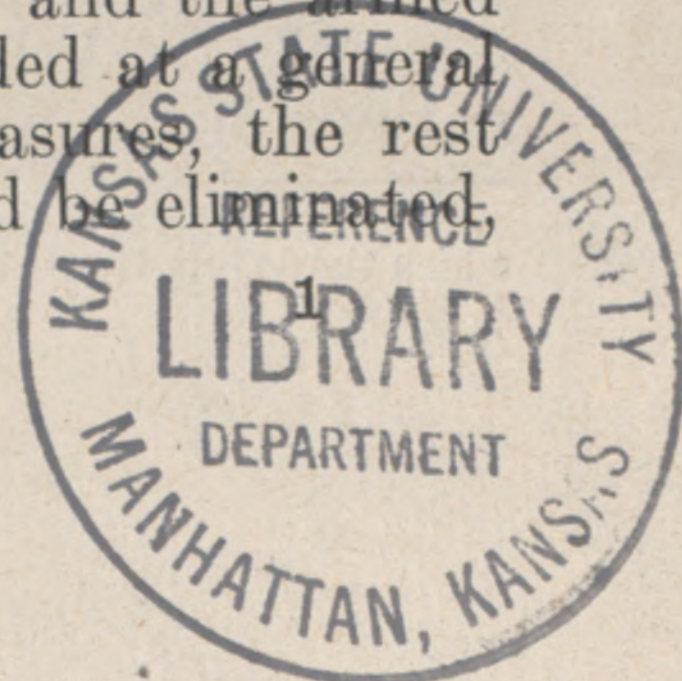
1. General and complete disarmament.
2. Question of French nuclear tests in the Sahara.
3. Prevention of the wider dissemination of nuclear weapons.
4. Suspension of nuclear and thermonuclear tests.
5. Report of the Disarmament Commission.

I. GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Soviet proposal

The item "General and complete disarmament" was put on the agenda at the request of the Soviet Union. On October 9, 1959, the First Committee began its deliberations with a restatement by the Soviet delegate of Mr. Khrushchev's proposal of September 18 for complete disarmament through a three-stage program to be carried out in 4 years.

In the first stage proposed by the Soviets, the Soviet Union, the United States, and Communist China would reduce their forces to 1.7 million each and the United Kingdom and France to 650,000 each. Levels of armaments would be reduced accordingly, and the armed manpower permitted for other states would be decided at a general conference. In the second stage, among other measures, the rest of the armed forces would be disbanded, bases would be eliminated,



and troops would be withdrawn from the territories of foreign states. The third step would consist of all other measures necessary to have complete disarmament, including the destruction of all nuclear weapons and missiles, the prohibition of scientific research for military purposes, the termination of all military recruitment and training, and discontinuance of the appropriation of funds for military purposes.

According to the Soviet spokesmen, all this would be done under effective international control. An international control organ composed of all states would be set up, with an internationally recruited staff. Few details concerning the control system were given, but it was stated that the extent of control would vary with each stage. Controllers would remain in each country after the completion of disarmament, and aerial observation and photography could be used.

In his speech before the General Assembly, Mr. Khrushchev stated that since negotiation of a comprehensive disarmament agreement would take time, the test suspension agreement should be signed first. He announced that the Soviet Union would not resume its tests anyway unless the "Western Powers" did. In addition, Mr. Khrushchev said that if the Western Powers were not ready to embark on the program of general disarmament which he suggested, the Soviet Union was ready to agree on other partial steps toward disarmament. The examples of partial steps he gave primarily concerned Europe: (1) the creation of a zone of control and troop reduction in Europe; (2) the creation of an atom-free zone in Central Europe; (3) the withdrawal of foreign troops on European territory and the liquidation of military bases on foreign territories; (4) a nonaggression pact by members of NATO and the Warsaw pact; and (5) the prevention of surprise attack by one state upon another.

U.S. position

In the General Assembly on September 17, 1959, Secretary of State Herter reviewed developments relating to disarmament but he did not present any new proposals. Speaking before the First Committee on October 14, Ambassador Lodge, the U.S. representative to the United Nations, stressed that (1) the United States supports and has always supported the greatest possible amount of controlled disarmament; (2) in any disarmament program adequate inspection and control must be built into the system every step of the way; and (3) the United States does not know what inspection and control the Soviet Union would accept. Ambassador Lodge suggested that detailed consideration of the Soviet and other proposals should be the job of the new 10-nation Committee. When it met, he said, the comprehensive review of disarmament proposals underway by the United States¹ should be complete and the United States might have proposals to make.

Ambassador Lodge then stated that if there were general disarmament, there would need to be institutions to preserve international peace and security and to promote the rule of law. He proposed the study of three questions: (1) What type of international police force should be established to preserve international peace and security? (2) What principles of international law should govern the use of such a force? (3) What internal security forces would be required by the nations of the world if existing armaments were abolished?

¹ This evidently referred to the study of comprehensive and partial measures of arms control and reduction which the White House on July 29, 1959, announced would be undertaken under the direction of Charles A. Coolidge.

British proposal

The British delegate spoke in favor of the proposal which had been made to the General Assembly on September 17, 1959, by the British Foreign Minister, Selwyn Lloyd. Presented in the General Assembly the day before Mr. Khrushchev spoke, the British proposal called for a three-stage program for comprehensive disarmament by all powers under effective international control.

Under the British proposal, the first stage would be comprised largely of preparatory measures, such as conferences on the problems of outer space and the prevention of surprise attack and the collection of information on present levels of armed forces and armaments. During this stage a study would be made of the increasing responsibilities which would have to be given to the control organization to preserve peace as national armaments diminished. In the second stage, disarmament measures would commence and control systems would be established. In the third stage, there would be further moves to the ultimate objective of comprehensive disarmament. These would include a ban on the manufacture and use of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and reductions of conventional armaments and military manpower to the levels required for internal security purposes only. At this time, according to the British proposal, there should be a reexamination of the possibility of controlling and then eliminating the remaining stocks of weapons of mass destruction.

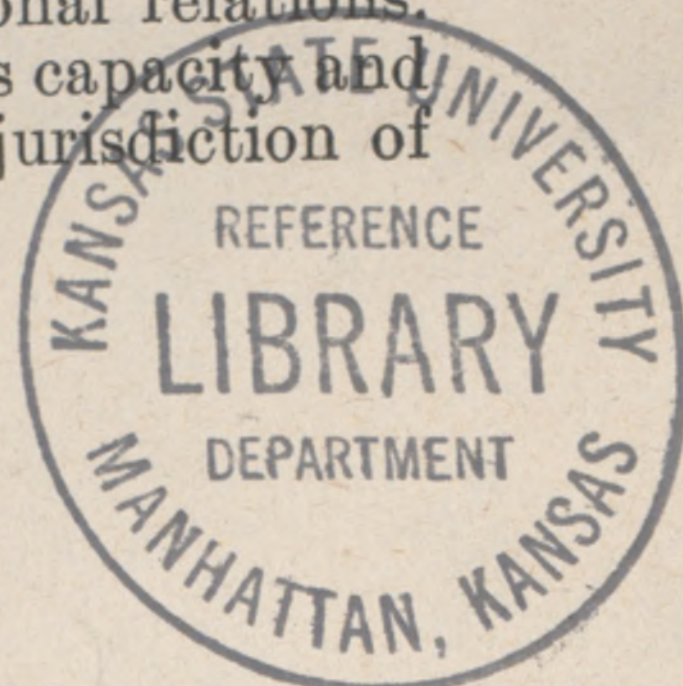
Views of other states

Delegates from 64 nations rose to speak on the subject of general disarmament. The speeches contained a variety of proposals. They reflected a widespread desire to make progress toward disarmament and an understanding of the problems involved. There was no debate in the sense of controversy, for the speakers generally agreed on the ultimate goal of comprehensive disarmament. However, there was a considerable range of opinion on what constituted comprehensive disarmament, the programs which were most likely to help achieve this goal, the relative merits of the British and Soviet proposals, and the relationship the United Nations should have with the negotiations of the 10-nation Committee.

Frequently concern was voiced over the danger of accidental war, and many of the underdeveloped countries spoke hopefully of the economic development which could be achieved with funds now going into armaments. The general tenor was expressed by the delegate of Australia, when he said that disarmament was no longer an academic question and that the feeling existed that something could be done.

Among the noteworthy proposals was one by France, that disarmament efforts should be started with elimination of the "most dreaded" vehicles for the delivery of the nuclear weapons, since stockpiles of nuclear weapons could never again be controlled. The French delegate proposed first the development, then the manufacture and possession of all vehicles for the delivery of nuclear devices should be prohibited.

The Japanese delegate expressed the view that complete disarmament would be possible only with improved international relations. He proposed that there be a study of the United Nations capacity and machinery for pacific settlement, the widening of the jurisdiction of



the International Court, and an international police force. The representative of Greece suggested that the President of the Disarmament Commission be invited to attend the meeting of the 10-nation Disarmament Committee.

During the debate Israel stated that the possibility of working out regional schemes for arms limitation should not be ignored and that it was ready to cooperate in regional discussions. The next day, however, Saudi Arabia took the position that no regional disarmament plan could be put into effect in the Middle East until the reasons for tension were removed.

Resolution on general disarmament

On October 28 the United States and the Soviet Union joined "in the spirit of the communique at Camp David" in presenting a resolution sponsored by all 82 members of the United Nations. The resolution expressed the hope—

that measures leading toward the goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control will be worked out in detail and agreed upon in the shortest possible time.²

The resolution asked that the Secretary General forward the proposals of the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union, and others to the 10-nation Disarmament Committee. The Soviet delegate stated that he would have preferred a text that would have more forthrightly supported the Soviet proposal, but that he had accepted several amendments to achieve agreement.

The resolution was unanimously adopted by the First Committee on November 2, 1959, and by the General Assembly in plenary session on November 20, 1959. As a result, comprehensive disarmament was more strongly stressed as an objective than it had been for several years. (During the preceding years there had been a trend away from comprehensive disarmament proposals and increasing emphasis had been placed on partial steps toward disarmament.)

II. QUESTION OF FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTS IN THE SAHARA

In contrast to the atmosphere of accord which surrounded the discussion of general disarmament, the question of French nuclear tests in the Sahara brought about an impassioned debate.

Moroccan position

The Moroccan delegate, who had requested the inclusion of this item on the agenda, asserted that the question had been brought to the United Nations as a last resort. France had rejected, he said, several requests by his country and others that France abandon the nuclear test explosions which it was preparing to undertake in the Sahara. He referred to the—

certainty and the reality of the danger and the nature of the harmful effects to which the African populations would be exposed.

There were conflicting claims to the territory involved, he said. His greatest concern, however, was over the effect of the fallout from the test on the people, vegetation, and animals of the area. Numerous sources were cited regarding the possible harmful effects of fallout.

² See p. 11 of the appendix for the text of this resolution.

French position

Speaking for France was Jules Moch, a highly respected and well-known individual among United Nations delegations. In the debate on general disarmament he had been called the "dean of disarmament" by one of the delegates.

France took the position that it would not forego tests until the three existing nuclear powers agreed to halt manufacture of fissionable materials for weapons purposes and convert stockpiles to peaceful uses. The only question, Mr. Moch said, was whether France, from the point of view of its own interests, was right or wrong in equipping itself with nuclear weapons.

Mr. Moch took the position that no health problem was involved. He cited numerous sources to demonstrate the position of France that the tests would not constitute a health hazard to the people of Africa or elsewhere in the world. Mr. Moch stated that the fallout caused would be a slight fraction of (1) the amount caused by the 91 million tons explosive force released in the 207 previous tests of the United States, the Soviet Union, and the United Kingdom and (2) natural sources of radiation. He made it clear that the test would be of an atomic device rather than a more devastating thermonuclear device.

Mr. Moch contended that France's test would not impede the three current nuclear powers from reaching an agreement to suspend tests, if they wished to reach agreement. Finally, he called on all who claimed to be friends of France to support her on this issue.

The debate

A large number of delegates, including those from most of the African, Asian, Communist, and some Latin American countries, spoke out in opposition to the proposed French test. The predominant concern was over the effect of the fallout which almost all of the opponents to the French test believed constituted a risk. One recurring sentiment was expressed by the representative of Ghana who said:

We, in Africa, refuse to be the guinea pigs of any great power's ambitions.

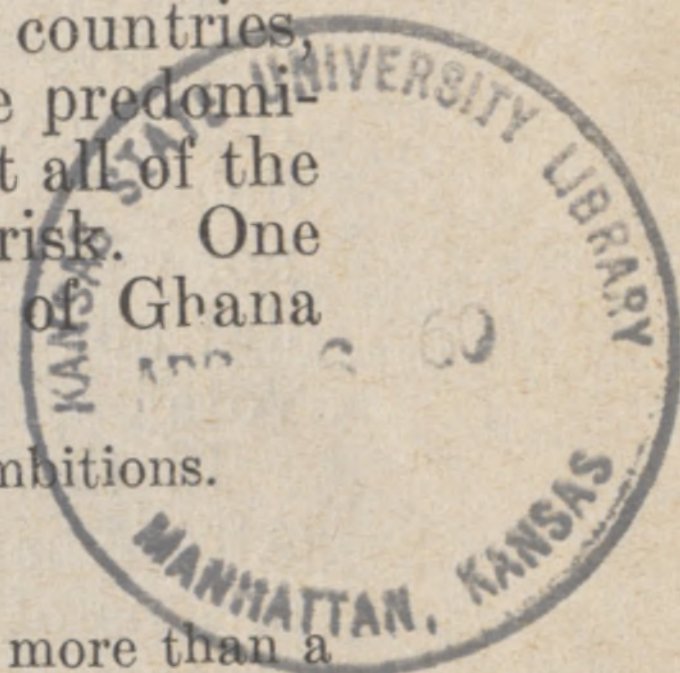
Similarly, the Burmese delegate stated:

To the peoples of Asia and Africa, the atomic bomb is something more than a fearsome instrument of terror for the whole of humanity; it represents the white man's instrument of terror.

Most of the above-mentioned states were opposed to all nuclear tests and did not favor another nuclear test by any country. Countries such as Yugoslavia and India expressed the belief that the French test would impair the existing moratorium on testing by the three nuclear powers, and that it would seriously endanger the possibility of achieving an agreement to suspend nuclear weapons tests.

The Soviet Union and other Communist states sided with the African nations, stating that they considered legitimate their demand that France stop its plans to conduct nuclear weapons tests.

The United Kingdom and the United States, while not taking a large part in the debate, expressed their hope that an agreement to suspend the tests of nuclear weapons could be achieved which would be adhered to by all countries. They declared their belief, however,



that on the basis of their countries' experience no health hazard would be involved. Mr. Lodge stated:

We think that the highest levels of radiation caused by fallout from all known tests of nuclear devices to date are less than the normal variations in natural background levels of radiation. * * * The contributions to the overall fission debris already in the atmosphere which would be made by the testing of lower yield nuclear devices would constitute only a tiny fraction of that already released.

Resolutions considered

Twenty-two African and Asian States sponsored a resolution expressing their grave concern over the intention of the French Government to conduct nuclear tests in the Sahara and urging France to refrain from such tests. Seeking to modify this resolution, five Latin American States submitted amendments. These amendments were designed (1) to state the issue of health hazards in a less categorical manner, conceding the risk to be a concern but not necessarily a fact; (2) to link the problem of the French test with the negotiations for a test suspension agreement going on at Geneva; and (3) to change the action part of the resolution so that it merely expressed the hope that the Government of France would reconsider its decision to carry out such tests, taking into account the views expressed in the debate on the question. The Afro-Asian resolution, with no significant amendments except to link the French test with the negotiations in Geneva, was passed by the First Committee on November 12, 1959, by a vote of 46 to 26 with 10 abstentions.³

A resolution had also been introduced by Italy, the United Kingdom, and Peru. This resolution expressed the hope that France would associate itself with arrangements which might be worked out in order to achieve the suspension of nuclear weapons tests under effective international control. It also requested France to take full account of the views expressed in the debate. Most of the delegates, including many of the Latin American countries who did not wish to vote for the Afro-Asian resolution unless it were amended, did not feel this resolution strong enough and it was rejected by a vote of 24 to 38, with 20 abstentions.⁴

In the General Assembly two paragraphs of the preamble to the Afro-Asian resolution, one asserting that France was creating conditions of danger in Africa and another claiming that the well-being of the dependent peoples of Africa was threatened by such tests, did not receive the necessary two-thirds majority and were taken out of the resolution. With these allegations removed, the resolution was passed by a larger vote, 51 in favor, 17 against, and 14 abstentions on November 20, 1959.⁵

³ *Against* the resolution were Argentina, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom, United States, and Uruguay. *Abstaining* were Australia, China, Costa Rica, Denmark, Greece, Laos, Mexico, Paraguay, Thailand, and Turkey. All other members voted in favor.

⁴ *Voting in favor* of this resolution were Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Greece, Honduras, Israel, Italy, Laos, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom, and the United States. *Abstaining* were Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Haiti, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Panama, Paraguay, Turkey, Uruguay, and Venezuela. All other members voted against.

⁵ *Against*: Belgium, Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, France, Honduras, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom, and United States. *Abstaining*: Argentina, Australia, Chile, China, Denmark, El Salvador, Finland, Greece, Haiti, Laos, Paraguay, Thailand, Turkey, and Uruguay. All other members voted in favor.

See p. 12 of the appendix for the text of the resolution.

III. PREVENTION OF THE WIDER DISSEMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

This item was put on the agenda at the request of Ireland. The Irish delegate expressed the belief that an increase in the number of states possessing nuclear weapons would aggravate international tension, make more difficult the maintenance of world peace, and hurt prospects for a general disarmament agreement. He introduced a resolution (1) that the 10-nation Disarmament Committee consider appropriate means to avert the danger of additional countries acquiring nuclear weapons and (2) that the 10-nation Committee include its conclusions on this subject in its report to the Disarmament Commission. The resolution proposed consideration of an international agreement, with inspection, under which the nuclear powers would refrain from supplying nuclear weapons to countries which did not possess them and under which the powers not possessing nuclear weapons would refrain from manufacturing them.

In a short debate, most of the speakers expressed agreement with the resolution, including Ambassador Lodge from the United States. Mr. Lodge pointed out that the resolution called for the problem to be studied in the context of the entire problem of disarmament, not as an isolated matter. The resolution was passed in the First Committee on November 16, 1959, by a vote of 66 to 0 with 13 abstentions,⁶ and in the General Assembly on November 20, 1959, by a vote of 68 to 0 with 12 abstentions.⁷

Among the reasons given by the Communist bloc for abstaining was one to the effect that the resolution did not propose consideration of the prohibition of states from maintaining nuclear weapons outside their own territories.

IV. SUSPENSION OF NUCLEAR AND THERMONUCLEAR TESTS

Two additional resolutions which were passed with very little opposition concerned the suspension of nuclear and thermonuclear tests, a subject put on the agenda at the request of India.

In the first resolution, submitted by Austria, Japan, and Sweden, the General Assembly (1) expressed appreciation for the efforts of the parties trying to reach an agreement on the prohibition of nuclear weapons tests, including an appropriate control system; (2) expressed the hope that the parties would intensify their efforts to reach an early agreement; (3) urged the parties to continue their voluntary suspension of nuclear weapons tests; and (4) requested the parties to report the results of the negotiations to the General Assembly.

This resolution was passed by a vote of 76 to 0, with 2 abstentions in the First Committee on November 19, 1959,⁸ and on November 21, 1959, in the General Assembly, by a vote of 78 to 0, with 2 abstentions.⁹

⁶ *Abstaining:* The Communist bloc (U.S.S.R., Ukrainian S.S.R., Albania, Bulgaria, Byelorussian S.S.R., Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania) and China, France, Peru, and Spain. *Not voting:* Guinea, Paraguay, and Sudan. All other members in favor.

⁷ *Abstaining:* The Communist bloc (see previous footnote) and China, Peru, and France. *Not voting:* El Salvador and Morocco. All other members in favor.

See p. 12 of the appendix for the text of the resolution.

⁸ *Abstentions:* Afghanistan and France. *Not voting:* Dominican Republic, Jordan, Luxembourg, and Nicaragua. All other members in favor.

⁹ No rollcall vote taken in General Assembly.

See p. 13 in appendix for text of resolution.

The second resolution in favor of a suspension of nuclear weapons tests was introduced by India and, as revised, sponsored by India, Yugoslavia, and 23 other Asian and Africa States. It expressed the desire to "safeguard mankind from the increasing hazards resulting from tests of nuclear and thermonuclear weapons." Its operative portion was much like that of the three-power resolution described above. However, it appealed not only to the nuclear powers to continue their present voluntary suspension, but also appealed "to other states to desist from such tests." This resolution was passed in the First Committee on November 20, 1959, by a rollcall vote of 60 to 1, with 17 abstentions,¹⁰ and by the General Assembly on November 21, 1959, by a vote of 60 to 1, with 20 abstentions.¹¹ France voted against the resolution because the statements contained in it—

dramatize alarms and fears that now strike us as being unfounded and which contain an appeal addressed, without naming it, to (France).

The United Kingdom, one of the countries abstaining, expressed the opinion that the points made in the resolution had already been made in other resolutions adopted earlier.

The United States voted for the first resolution and abstained on the second. Mr. Lodge, however, in a statement delivered to the First Committee on November 19, 1959, amplified on the U.S. position regarding the U.S. moratorium on tests. He said:

The United States has voluntarily refrained from conducting nuclear weapons tests since October 31, of last year. We have recently announced our intention to continue this suspension at least through this year. The purpose of this voluntary action is to provide the best possible circumstances for the success of the Geneva negotiations.

At this point it is obviously impossible to know what the status of these negotiations will be at the end of this year. However, I can assure you that the United States will continue to do everything in its power to enhance the prospects of success at Geneva. The U.S. voluntary moratorium may be continued depending upon circumstances which have yet to develop.

On the other hand—and let there be no misunderstanding on this point—the objective which we are striving to achieve is the ending of nuclear weapons test explosions under an agreement providing for effective international control. We do not think that an indefinite continuation of a voluntary, uncontrolled suspension of tests will contribute to this objective. In such circumstances, our further efforts to reach agreement on a test suspension with proper safeguards would probably be fruitless * * *.

The United States continues to believe that a system of agreed control is an utterly indispensable prerequisite to a permanent cessation of nuclear tests.

V. REPORT OF THE DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

The Disarmament Commission, which had been expanded in the previous session of the General Assembly to include all the members of the United Nations, had met on September 10, 1959, under the chairmanship of Dr. Luis Padilla Nervo, the representative of Mexico. The resolution passed by the Disarmament Commission welcomed the resumption of disarmament consultations among the major powers,

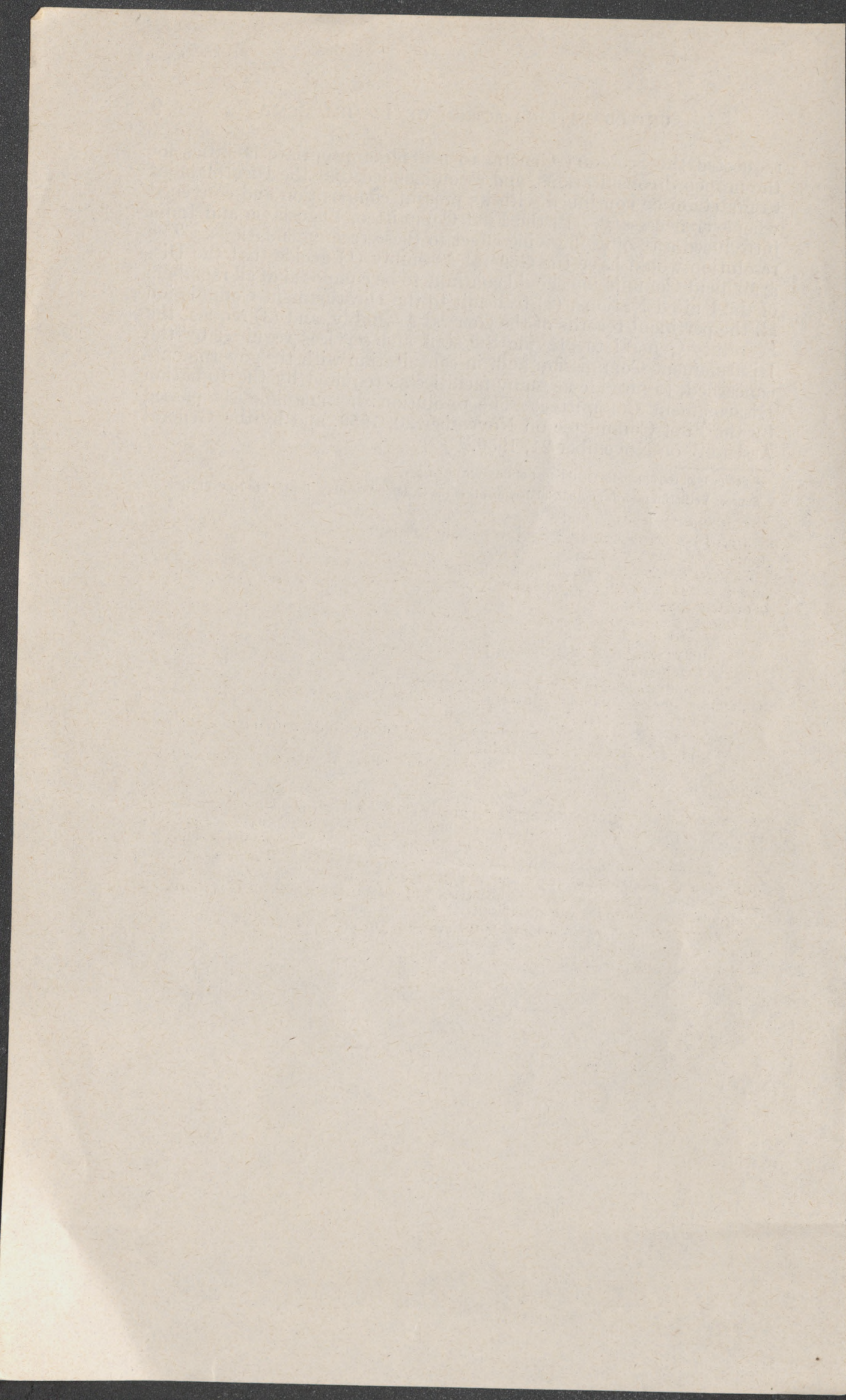
¹⁰ *Against:* France. *Abstaining:* Belgium, Brazil, China, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Thailand, Turkey, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom, and United States. *Not voting:* Dominican Republic, Jordan, Luxembourg, and Nicaragua. All other members in favor.

¹¹ *Against:* France. *Abstaining:* Spain, Thailand, Turkey, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom, United States, Belgium, Brazil, China, Dominican Republic, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Peru, and Portugal. *Not voting:* Laos. All other members in favor. See p. 13 in appendix for text of resolution.

requested the Secretary-General to provide appropriate facilities for the proposed consultations, and recommended that the Disarmament Commission be continued with its present composition and convened whenever necessary. In the First Committee, Yugoslavia and India introduced a resolution giving effect to these recommendations. The resolution would have the General Assembly (1) decide that the Disarmament Commission should continue to be composed of all members of the United Nations, (2) transmit to the Disarmament Commission all the pertinent records of the General Assembly, and (3) request the Secretary-General to provide the staff and services required by the Disarmament Commission and, in consultation with the governments concerned, to provide as many facilities as required by the 10-nation Disarmament Committee. The resolution was unanimously passed by the First Committee on November 20, 1959, and by the General Assembly on November 21, 1959.¹²

¹² See p. 14 of the appendix for the text of this resolution.

Source: Verbatim records and official documents of the General Assembly, Sept. 17 to Nov. 21, 1959.



APPENDIX

RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY THE 14TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Fourteenth session—Agenda item 70

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the First Committee (A/4265)]

1378(XIV). GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

The General Assembly,

Moved by the desire to save the present and succeeding generations from the danger of a new and disastrous war,

Striving to put an end completely and forever to the armaments race which places a heavy burden on mankind, and to use resources thus released for the benefit of mankind,

Desiring to promote the creation of relations of trust and peaceful co-operation between States,

Mindful of the resolution of the United Nations Disarmament Commission of 10 September 1959,

Being convinced that any progress towards the goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control will contribute to the achievement of these high aims,

Considering that the question of general and complete disarmament is the most important one facing the world today,

1. *Calls upon* Governments to make every effort to achieve a constructive solution of this problem;

2. *Transmits* to the United Nations Disarmament Commission and requests the Secretary-General to make available to the ten-nation disarmament committee for thorough consideration the declaration of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of 17 September 1959¹ and the declaration of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics of 18 September 1959,² and the other proposals or suggestions made, as well as the records of the plenary meetings³ and the meetings of the First Committee⁴ at which the question of general and complete disarmament was discussed;

3. *Expresses the hope* that measures leading towards the goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control will be worked out in detail and agreed upon in the shortest possible time.

*840th plenary meeting,
20 November 1959.*

¹ A/C.1/820.

² A/4219.

³ 799th and 840th meetings.

⁴ 1026th to 1042nd meetings.

Fourteenth session—Agenda item 68

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the First Committee (A/4280)]

1379(XIV). QUESTION OF FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTS IN THE SAHARA

The General Assembly,

Conscious of the great concern throughout the world repeatedly expressed in the United Nations over the prospect of further nuclear tests and their effects upon mankind,

Noting the declared intention of the Government of France to undertake nuclear tests in the Sahara,

Considering the deep concern felt over the dangers and risks which such tests entail,

Considering that significant progress is being made in the negotiations now proceeding at Geneva concerning the discontinuance of nuclear weapons tests under an international control system,

Considering that the parties to those negotiations have facilitated their progress by voluntarily suspending such tests,

Considering that the purpose of the said negotiations is to bring about a general discontinuance of nuclear weapons tests and that it is to be hoped that, in the same spirit which inspired the present voluntary suspension of tests, no State will initiate or resume tests of this kind,

Recognizing the anxiety caused by the contemplated tests in the Sahara among all peoples, and more particularly those of Africa,

1. *Expresses its grave concern* over the intention of the Government of France to conduct nuclear tests;

2. *Requests* France to refrain from such tests.

840th plenary meeting,
20 November 1959.

Fourteenth session—Agenda item 67

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the First Committee (A/4286)]

1380(XIV). PREVENTION OF THE WIDER DISSEMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that the danger now exists that an increase in the number of States possessing nuclear weapons may occur, aggravating international tension and the difficulty of maintaining world peace, and thus rendering more difficult the attainment of general disarmament agreement,

Convinced therefore that consideration of this danger is appropriate within the framework of deliberations on disarmament,

Noting the resolution of the United Nations Disarmament Commission of 10 September 1959,

Desiring to bring to the attention of the ten-nation disarmament committee its conviction that consideration should be given to this problem,

1. *Suggests* that the ten-nation disarmament committee, in the course of its deliberations, should consider appropriate means whereby this danger may be averted, including the feasibility of an international agreement, subject to inspection and control, whereby the Powers producing nuclear weapons would refrain from handing over the control of such weapons to any nation not possessing them and whereby the Powers not possessing such weapons would refrain from manufacturing them;

2. *Invites* the committee to include the results of its deliberations on these matters in its report to the Disarmament Commission.

841st plenary meeting,
20 November 1959.

Fourteenth session—Agenda item 69

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the First Committee (A/4290)]

1402(XIV). SUSPENSION OF NUCLEAR AND THERMO-NUCLEAR TESTS

A

*The General Assembly,**Recalling its resolution 1252 B (XIII) of 4 November 1958,**Noting that the negotiations on the discontinuance of nuclear weapons tests and on the establishment of an appropriate international control system, which began at Geneva on 31 October 1958, are still continuing,**1. Expresses its appreciation to the States concerned for their efforts to reach an agreement relating to the prohibition of nuclear weapons tests and including an appropriate international control system;**2. Expresses the hope that these States will intensify their efforts to reach such an agreement at an early date;**3. Urges the States concerned in these negotiations to continue their present voluntary discontinuance of the testing of nuclear weapons;**4. Requests the States concerned to report to the General Assembly the results of their negotiations.**842nd plenary meeting,
21 November 1959.*

B

*The General Assembly,**Desiring to safeguard mankind from the increasing hazards resulting from tests of nuclear and thermo-nuclear weapons,**Bearing in mind the profound concern evinced by the peoples of all countries regarding the testing of nuclear and thermo-nuclear weapons,**Welcoming the endeavours at Geneva of the States concerned to reach an agreement on the discontinuance of these tests, and the progress so far achieved,**Noting with appreciation that the States concerned have voluntarily suspended such tests, enabling progress in the discussions at Geneva,**Considering that an agreement on the cessation of nuclear and thermo-nuclear tests with effective international control is urgent,**1. Expresses its appreciation to the States concerned for their patient and sincere efforts to reach agreement on the discontinuance of nuclear and thermo-nuclear tests with effective international control, and for the progress hitherto achieved;**2. Expresses further the hope that the States concerned will reach such agreement at an early date;**3. Appeals to the States concerned in the Geneva discussions to continue their present voluntary suspension of tests, and to other States to desist from such tests;**4. Requests the States concerned to report to the Disarmament Commission and to the General Assembly the results of their negotiations.**842nd plenary meeting,
21 November 1959.*

Fourteenth session—Agenda item 66

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the First Committee (A/4291)]

1403(XIV). REPORT OF THE DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

The General Assembly,
Recalling its resolution 1252D(XIII) of 4 November 1958,
Noting with approval the report of the Disarmament Commission of 11 September 1959,

1. *Decides* that the Disarmament Commission shall continue to be composed of all Members of the United Nations;

2. *Transmits* to the Disarmament Commission all the documents, proposals and records of discussions relating to disarmament at the fourteenth session of the General Assembly;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the staff and services required by the Disarmament Commission and, in consultation with the Governments concerned, provide such facilities as may be required by the ten-nation disarmament committee.

842nd plenary meeting,
21 November 1959.

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