



Agenda item 72: Measures to avert the threat of a new world war and measures to strengthen peace and friendship among the nations

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DOCUMENT A/2229

Poland: request for the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the seventh session

[Original text: French]
[18 October 1952]

LETTER DATED 18 OCTOBER 1952 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DELEGATION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF POLAND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

On behalf of my Government, I have the honour to request you, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, to be good enough to include in the agenda of the seventh session of the General Assembly of the United Nations the item entitled:

"Measures to avert the threat of a new world war and measures to strengthen peace and friendship among the nations."

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I attach an explanatory memorandum as well as a draft resolution.

(Signed) Stanislaw SKRZESZEWSKI,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland,
Chairman of the delegation of the People's
Republic of Poland to the seventh session of the
General Assembly of the United Nations

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Up to the present time the United Nations, which can and must be the instrument for maintaining peace, the instrument which should throttle the forces of aggression, the instrument to prevent the outbreak of a new war, has not taken concrete measures to maintain peace among the nations and to ensure their peaceful co-operation. In the circumstances, the present session has a special responsibility and must take definite decisions.

Poland, which was the first victim of Hitlerite aggression in the last war, which will have to dress the wounds of the war for a long time to come and which is specially concerned to maintain peace and not to allow a new war to break out, submits for the consideration of the seventh session of the General Assembly of the United Nations a draft resolution on measures to avert the threat of a new war and to strengthen peace and peaceful co-operation among the nations.

1. For more than two years a terrible and devastating war has been raging in Korea, a war thrust upon the

Korean people, which is defending its freedom, its national independence and its right to work in peace. In their aggressive action, the American armies are not hesitating to use a forbidden weapon of mass destruction, the bacterial weapon, in Korea and in China.

During this time the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics has many times submitted proposals for a peaceful settlement of the conflict. As a result of one of these proposals, armistice talks have been undertaken. Yet the United States is preventing the conclusion of the armistice and at the same time violating the provisions of the Geneva Convention of 1949 by brutal treatment of prisoners of war and massacres in the prison camps which have caused the death of hundreds of Korean patriots and Chinese volunteers.

Any action to improve the international situation must include an end to the war in Korea and means for peaceful settlement of the Korean problem.

2. The vast increase in armaments is not only a cause of serious economic difficulties in the nations of the North Atlantic bloc, it not only threatens to disrupt their economies, but also helps to aggravate international tension and to intensify the threat of war. It is accordingly essential to reduce armaments and restrict their scale.

The Polish delegation is submitting a concrete proposal for the reduction of the armaments of the great Powers by one-third of their present size within one year. In this way, the great Powers, which bear the main responsibility for the maintenance of peace, can make a substantial contribution to the cause of peace.

3. Co-operation and unanimity among the great Powers require the conclusion of a peace pact among them. As a result of the absence of co-operation among these Powers due to United States policy, the United Nations has failed to achieve its purposes and objectives in the seven years it has been in operation. It is therefore essential for the great Powers to assume special new obligations, thus testifying to their readiness to take joint action in the interest of peace.

4. For a long time, the General Assembly has been dealing with the question of the production and use of the most dangerous weapons, that is, the weapons of mass destruction, which constitute a serious threat to mankind as a whole. The question of atomic weapons has been under discussion in the General Assembly for several years, but, because of the opposition of the United States, no positive achievements have so far been possible. It is time for the nations represented in the General Assembly to come out resolutely in favour of prohibiting the production and use of atomic weapons and in favour of an effective system of control.

5. In the present international situation the danger lies not only in the possible use of new technical conquests for criminal and destructive ends, but also in the use of other weapons long since condemned by progressive mankind. The danger lies in the fact that the prohibition of bacterial warfare has not been universally recognized and observed. Reports and evidence are available which prove beyond all doubt that United States armed forces have used bacterial weapons in Korea and in China. Furthermore, the preparations of the United States for large-scale production and perfecting of bacterial weapons are a matter of public

knowledge. It is also known that the United States declined to ratify the Geneva Protocol of 17 June 1925.

This state of affairs makes it incumbent upon the General Assembly to condemn all such activities, to reaffirm the prohibition of the use of atomic weapons and to recommend all those who have not yet done so to accede to and ratify the Protocol of 17 June 1925.

The Polish delegation's proposal is a group of measures which constitute a coherent and logical whole. If adopted and carried into effect, they would make it possible to avert the threat of war and to improve the international situation. It is obvious that there can be no slackening of international tension without the cessation of hostilities in Korea. It is also obvious that the effective co-operation of the five Powers, which must find expression in the conclusion of a peace pact among them, is a *sine qua non* for the maintenance of world peace and the forestalling of further acts of aggression.

It is, lastly, obvious that the maintenance of peace is incompatible with the armaments race and the production of weapons of mass destruction. Millions of men throughout the world are awaiting the cessation of the war in Korea, peaceful co-operation among the five Powers, the reduction of armaments and the prohibition of weapons of mass destruction.

The Polish delegation's proposals represent the practical measures stipulated in the fundamental provisions of the Charter, which lays down that the United Nations must "maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace" (Article 1, paragraph 1).

In submitting these proposals, the Polish delegation has been guided by the principle that the United Nations must "be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends" (Article 1, paragraph 4).

Draft resolution

MEASURES TO AVERT THE THREAT OF A NEW WORLD WAR AND TO STRENGTHEN PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP AMONG THE NATIONS

I

The General Assembly,

Considering that the war in Korea has already entered its third year and has caused untold suffering and misery,

Recommends to the parties engaged in the war in Korea:

(a) The immediate cessation by the parties of military operations on land, at sea and in the air;

(b) The return of all prisoners of war to their homeland, in accordance with international standards;

(c) The withdrawal from Korea of foreign troops, including the Chinese volunteer units, within a period of from two to three months, and the peaceful settlement of the Korean question on the principle of unification of Korea, this unification to be achieved by the Koreans themselves under the supervision of a

commission, with the participation of the parties immediately interested and of other States, including the States which have not taken part in the war in Korea.

II

The General Assembly,

Desiring to avert the threat of a new world war,

(a) *Recommends* to the Governments of the United States of America, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom, France and China—the permanent members of the Security Council—to reduce their armed forces by one-third within one year, including their air forces, naval forces and auxiliary forces, and to submit full data on their armaments; and

Further recommends to the Security Council that it call as soon as possible an international conference for the carrying out by all States of the reduction of armed forces;

(b) *Calls for* the adoption without delay of a decision on the unconditional prohibition of atomic weap-

ons and other weapons of mass destruction and the establishment of strict international control over the observance of that decision by all States;

(c) *Calls on* all States which have not acceded to or ratified the Geneva Protocol of 17 June 1925 on the prohibition of the use of bacterial weapons to accede to or ratify that instrument.

III

The General Assembly

Declares that participation in the aggressive North Atlantic bloc, which has brought about an ever-growing armaments race and has aggravated international tension, is incompatible with membership in the United Nations; calls upon the Governments of the United States of America, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom, France and China, to conclude a peace pact designed to bring about reduction of the armaments of the great Powers and the strengthening of peace among the nations; and calls upon all other States to adhere to the peace pact.

DOCUMENT A/C.1/L.39

Poland: revised draft resolution

[Original text: Russian]
[9 April 1953]

I

The General Assembly,

Considering that the war in Korea has already entered its third year and has caused untold suffering and misery,

Recommends to the parties engaged in the war in Korea:

(a) The immediate cessation by the parties of military operations on land, at sea and in the air;

(b) The immediate resumption of truce negotiations between the parties, it being understood that in the course of such negotiations the parties will exert every effort to reach agreement both on the question of the exchange of sick and wounded prisoners of war and on the question of prisoners of war as a whole, endeavouring thereby to remove the obstacles preventing the termination of the war in Korea;

(c) The withdrawal from Korea of foreign troops, including the Chinese volunteer units, within a period of from two to three months, and the peaceful settlement of the Korean question on the principle of unification of Korea, this unification to be achieved by the Koreans themselves under the supervision of a commission, with the participation of the parties immediately interested and of other States, including States which have not taken part in the war in Korea.

II

The General Assembly,

Desiring to avert the threat of a new world war,

(a) *Recommends* to the Governments of the United States of America, the Union of Soviet Socialist Re-

publics, the United Kingdom, France and China—the permanent members of the Security Council—to reduce their armed forces by one-third within one year, including their air forces, naval forces and auxiliary forces, and to submit full data on their armaments; and

Further recommends to the Security Council that it call as soon as possible an international conference for the carrying out by all States of the reduction of armed forces;

(b) *Calls for* the adoption without delay of a decision on the unconditional prohibition of atomic weapons and other weapons of mass destruction and the establishment of strict international control over the observance of that decision by all States;

(c) *Calls on* all States which have not acceded to or ratified the Geneva Protocol of 17 June 1925 on the prohibition of the use of bacterial weapons to accede to or ratify that instrument.

III

The General Assembly

Declares that participation in the aggressive North Atlantic bloc, which has brought about an ever-growing armaments race and has aggravated international tension, is incompatible with membership in the United Nations; calls upon the Governments of the United States of America, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom, France and China to conclude a peace pact designed to bring about reduction of the armaments of the great Powers and the strengthening of peace among the nations; and calls upon all other States to adhere to the peace pact.