

connected with disarmament have recently come closer together, as indicated by the proposals contained in the statement of 17 November 1956, by the Government of the Soviet Union on disarmament and the lessening of international tension (A/3366),

Considering that the solution of the problem of disarmament brooks no further delay,

1. Takes note of the report of the United Nations Disarmament Commission;
2. Instructs the Disarmament Commission and its Sub-Committee to examine the proposals concerning the

reduction of armed forces and armaments and the prohibition of nuclear weapons presented by the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, France and other States for consideration by the United Nations;

3. Decides to convene a special session of the General Assembly on matters of disarmament, and instructs the Disarmament Commission to prepare proposals concerning the date on which such a session shall be convened.

DOCUMENT A/C.1/L.162³ and DOCUMENT A/C.1/L.162/Rev.1

Canada, Japan and Norway: revised draft resolution

[Original text: English]
[25 January 1957]

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that there is a strong desire among people of all nations that steps be taken to provide safeguards against radio-active contamination of man and his surroundings by increased atomic activity,

Considering that the eventual prohibition of nuclear weapons could be attained only through progressive stages,

³ Document A/C.1/L.162, dated 18 January 1957, is identical with the present text, with the exception of the word "advance" in operative paragraph 1, which did not appear in the original text.

1. Recommends that the States concerned and particularly those on the Sub-Committee of the Disarmament Commission give particular and urgent attention to the question of establishing, as a preliminary step, a system for advance registration with the United Nations of nuclear test explosions;

2. Requests the United Nations Secretary-General and the Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation established by General Assembly resolution 913 (X) of 3 December 1955 to co-operate with the States concerned in the operation of such a system with a view to keeping the total actual and expected radiation in the world under constant observation.

DOCUMENT A/C.1/L.164

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: draft resolution

[Original text: Russian]
[24 January 1957]

The General Assembly,

With a view to ensuring wider expression of the views of States on questions of disarmament,

1. Decides to increase the membership of the Disarmament Commission by four, by adding to the Commission, in addition to the States referred to in resolution I (1)

of 24 January 1946, the following: Egypt, India, Poland and [a Latin-American country]; the above-mentioned four members of the Disarmament Commission shall be elected by the General Assembly for a two-year period;

2. Invites the Disarmament Commission to increase the membership of its Sub-Committee by adding to it India and Poland.

DOCUMENT A/3514

Report of the First Committee

[Original text: English]
[28 January 1957]

1. By resolution 914 (X) of 16 December 1955, the General Assembly, *inter alia*, urged that the States concerned and particularly those on the Sub-Committee of the Disarmament Commission should continue their endeavours to reach agreement and suggested that the Disarmament Commission should reconvene its Sub-Committee.

2. At its 577th plenary meeting on 15 November 1956, the General Assembly decided to include in the agenda of its eleventh session the item "Regulation, limitation and balanced reduction of all armed forces and all armaments; conclusion of an international convention

(treaty) on the reduction of armaments and the prohibition of atomic, hydrogen and other weapons of mass destruction: report of the Disarmament Commission", and referred it to the First Committee for consideration and report.

3. On 17 November 1956, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics requested the distribution of a statement by the Government of the Soviet Union on disarmament and the lessening of international tension (A/3366).

4. On 20 December, the Chairman of the Disarmament Commission addressed a letter (A/3470) to the Secretary-

General transmitting to the General Assembly the third report of the Sub-Committee of the Disarmament Commission (DC/83) together with relevant documents and the records of the meetings of the Commission.

5. The First Committee considered the item at its 821st to 829th meetings, held between 14 and 25 January 1957

6. At the 821st meeting on 14 January, the United States of America presented a memorandum (A/C.1/783) embodying the outline of a number of disarmament proposals.

7. At the same meeting, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics introduced two draft resolutions. In accordance with the first (A/C.1/L.160), the General Assembly would call upon the States conducting atomic and hydrogen weapons tests to discontinue them forthwith. In accordance with the second (A/C.1/L.161), the General Assembly would take note of the report of the Disarmament Commission; would instruct the Disarmament Commission and its Sub-Committee to examine the proposals concerning the reduction of armed forces and armaments and the prohibition of nuclear weapons presented by the Governments of the USSR, the United Kingdom, the United States, France and other States for consideration by the United Nations; and would decide to convene a special session of the General Assembly on matters of disarmament, and instruct the Disarmament Commission to prepare proposals concerning the date on which such a session should be convened.

8. On 14 January, in accordance with paragraph 6 of article II of the Agreement between the United Nations and the International Labour Organisation, the Secretary-General distributed to the Members of the General Assembly a communication (A/C.1/784) from the Director-General of the International Labour Office drawing attention to resolution No. IV adopted by the International Labour Conference at its thirty-ninth session, which reaffirmed the hope that the work of the Disarmament Commission and its Sub-Committee might be brought to a speedy and fruitful conclusion.

9. On 18 January, Canada, Japan and Norway introduced a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.162) by which the General Assembly would (1) recommend that the States concerned and particularly those on the Sub-Committee of the Disarmament Commission should give particular and urgent attention to the question of establishing, as a preliminary step towards eventual prohibition of nuclear weapons through progressive stages, a system for registration with the United Nations of nuclear test explosions; and (2) request the Secretary-General and the Scientific Committee established by General Assembly resolution 913 (X) to co-operate with the States concerned in the operation of such a system with a view to keeping the total actual and expected radiation in the world under constant observation.

10. On 24 January, Australia, Brazil, Canada, El Salvador, France, India, Japan, Norway, the USSR, the United Kingdom, the United States and Yugoslavia, submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.163) by which the General Assembly (1) would request the Disarmament Commission to reconvene its Sub-Committee at an early date; (2) would recommend that the Disarmament Commission and its Sub-Committee should give (a) prompt

attention to the various proposals which had been submitted to the United Nations, including the proposal of Canada, Japan and Norway of 18 January 1957; the comprehensive proposals of France and the United Kingdom of 11 June 1954, 19 March 1956 and 3 May 1956; the proposals of the United States of 14 January 1957; the proposals of the USSR of 10 May 1955, 27 March 1956, 12 July 1956, 17 November 1956, 14 January 1957 and 24 January 1957; the proposals of the Government of India of 25 July 1956; and the proposals of Yugoslavia of 10 July 1956; and also (b) continued consideration to the plan of President Eisenhower for exchanging military blueprints and mutual aerial inspection, and the plan of Prime Minister Bulganin for establishing control posts at strategic centres; (3) would recommend further that the Disarmament Commission should request its Sub-Committee to prepare a progress report for consideration by the Commission not later than 1 August 1957; (4) would transmit to the Disarmament Commission the records of the meetings of the First Committee pertaining to disarmament; (5) would invite the Disarmament Commission to consider the advisability of recommending that a special session of the General Assembly or a general disarmament conference should be convened at the appropriate time.

11. On the same date, the USSR introduced a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.164) by which (1) the membership of the Disarmament Commission would be increased by adding Egypt, India, Poland and a Latin-American country to the States referred to in resolution 1 (I) of 24 January 1946; (2) the Disarmament Commission would be invited to increase the membership of its Sub-Committee by adding to it India and Poland.

12. At the 829th meeting on 25 January, the representative of the Philippines proposed that the draft resolution submitted by Canada, Japan and Norway (A/C.1/L.162) should be amended by adding the word "advance" before the word "registration" in the operative paragraph 1. The amendment was accepted by the sponsors of the draft.

13. At the same meeting, the representative of the USSR withdrew one of the draft resolutions (A/C.1/L.161) submitted by his delegation and agreed that the other two USSR draft resolutions (A/C.1/L.160, A/C.1/L.164) should not be put to the vote, as they would be referred to the Disarmament Commission and its Sub-Committee for their prompt attention in accordance with the twelve-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.163).

14. At the same meeting, and for the same reason, Canada, Japan and Norway agreed that their revised draft resolution (A/C.1/L.162/Rev.1) should not be put to the vote.

15. The twelve-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.163) was then put to the vote and was adopted unanimously.

Recommendation of the First Committee

16. The First Committee, therefore, recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

[Text adopted without change by the General Assembly. See "Action taken by the General Assembly" below.]