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CONDEMNATION OF THE PREPARATIONS FOR A NEW WAR, AND CONCLUSION OF A FIVE-POWER PACT FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF PEACE

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. M. de DIEGO (Panama)

1. The General Assembly, at its 229th plenary meeting held on 26 September 1949, referred to the First Committee, for consideration and report, the item "Condemnation of the preparations for a new war, and conclusion of a five-power pact for the strengthening of peace", submitted by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (A/996).
2. The First Committee considered this question at its 325th to 337th meetings inclusive.
3. At the 325th meeting on 14 November 1949 the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics made a statement in support of the following draft resolution (A/996), which he had submitted to the General Assembly on 23 September 1949:

"1. The General Assembly condemns the preparations for a new war now being conducted in a number of countries, and particularly in the United States of America and the United Kingdom, as reflected in the war propaganda encouraged by Governments, in the armaments race and the inflation of military budgets inflicting heavy burdens on the people, the establishment of numerous military, naval and air bases on the territories of other countries, the organization of military blocs of States pursuing aggressive aims directed against peace-loving democratic countries, and the implementation of other measures having aggressive purposes.

"2. Just as the civilized nations long since condemned as a heinous crime against humanity the use for military purposes of poisonous gases and bacteriological media, the General Assembly regards the use of atomic weapons and other means of mass destruction as being contrary to the conscience and honour of the nations and incompatible with membership of the United Nations, and considers as inadmissible any

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further delay in the adoption by the United Nations of practical measures for the unconditional prohibition of atomic weapons and the establishment of appropriate strict international control.

"3. The General Assembly calls upon all States to settle their disputes and differences by peaceful methods, and to refrain from resort to force or the threat of force. The General Assembly, taking note, in this connexion, of the undeviating desire and will of the peoples to avert the threat of a new war and ensure the maintenance of peace - as expressed in the mighty popular movement in all countries for peace and against the warmongers - and having regard to the fact that the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security lies on the shoulders of the five Powers, permanent members of the Security Council, unanimously expresses the wish that the United States of America, the United Kingdom, China, France and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics will unite their efforts to this end and will conclude among themselves a Pact for the Strengthening of Peace."

4. At the 325th meeting of the Committee, the representatives of the United States of America and the United Kingdom submitted a joint draft resolution (A/C.1/549) on the "Essentials of Peace". This draft resolution commenced with a declaration that the Charter of the United Nations laid down basic principles necessary for an enduring peace; that disregard of these principles was primarily responsible for the continuance of international tension; and that it was urgently necessary for all Members to act in accordance with these principles. Every nation was called upon to accept certain principles e.g., to refrain from threatening or using force contrary to the Charter; and to refrain from any threats or acts, direct or indirect, aimed at impairing the freedom, independence, or integrity of any State, or at fomenting civil strife and subverting the will of the people in any State. Every Member was called upon to participate fully in all the work of the United Nations. The five permanent members of the Security Council were called upon to broaden progressively their co-operation and to exercise restraint in the use of the veto. Finally, every nation was called upon to settle international disputes by peaceful means and to co-operate in supporting United Nations efforts to resolve outstanding problems; to co-operate to attain the effective international regulation of conventional armaments; and to agree to the exercise of national sovereignty jointly with other nations to the extent necessary to attain international control of atomic energy which would make effective the prohibition of atomic weapons and assure the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes only.

/5. At the 337th

5. At the 337th meeting on 25 November 1949 the draft resolutions on this question were put to the vote:

(a) The draft resolution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (A/996) was put to the vote paragraph by paragraph with the following results:

(i) The first paragraph was rejected by a roll-call vote of 52 to 5, with 2 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Against: Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Lebanon, Liberia, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Syria, Thailand, Turkey, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Abstentions: Yemen, Yugoslavia.

(ii) The second paragraph was rejected by 38 votes to 5, with 16 abstentions.

(iii) The first sentence of the third paragraph was rejected by a roll-call vote of 19 to 14, with 26 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Israel, Lebanon, Philippines, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Uruguay, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Greece, Iceland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Sweden, Turkey, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom, United States of America.

Abstentions: Argentina, Burma, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Haiti, Honduras, India, Iran, Iraq, Liberia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Thailand, Venezuela.

(iv) The second sentence of the third paragraph was rejected by a roll-call vote of 41 to 6, with 12 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Yemen.

Against: Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Iraq, Lebanon, Liberia, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia.

/Abstentions:

Abstentions: Afghanistan, Argentina, Ecuador, Egypt, Guatemala, India, Iran, Israel, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Syria.

(b) The joint draft resolution submitted by the United States of America and the United Kingdom (A/C.1/549) was put to the vote paragraph by paragraph with the following results:

(i) The first paragraph was adopted by a roll-call vote of 54 to none, with 5 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Lebanon, Liberia, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Syria, Thailand, Turkey, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Abstentions: Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

(ii) The second paragraph was adopted by 54 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.

(iii) The third paragraph was adopted by a roll-call vote of 54 to none, with 5 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Lebanon, Liberia, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Syria, Thailand, Turkey, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Abstentions: Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

(iv) The fourth paragraph was adopted by 54 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.

(v) The fifth paragraph was adopted by a roll-call vote of 53 to 5, with 1 abstention, as follows:

/In favour:

In favour: Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Lebanon, Liberia, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Syria, Thailand, Turkey, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen.

Against: Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Abstention: Yugoslavia.

(vi) The sixth paragraph was adopted by 54 votes to 5, with no abstentions.

(vii) The seventh paragraph was adopted by a roll-call vote of 54 to none, with 5 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Lebanon, Liberia, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Syria, Thailand, Turkey, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Abstentions: Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

(viii) The eighth paragraph was adopted by 52 votes to 5, with 2 abstentions.

(ix) The ninth paragraph was adopted by 54 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.

(x) The first part of the tenth paragraph, up to and including the words "their co-operation", was adopted by 54 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.

(xi) The remaining part of the tenth paragraph was adopted by 51 votes to 5, with 3 abstentions.

(xii) The tenth paragraph as a whole was adopted by 51 votes to 5, with 3 abstentions.

(xiii) The eleventh paragraph was adopted by 54 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.

(xiv) The twelfth paragraph was adopted by 53 votes to 5, with 1 abstention.

/(xv) The thirteenth

- (xv) The thirteenth paragraph was adopted by 50 votes to 5, with 4 abstentions.
- (xvi) The resolution as a whole was adopted by a roll-call vote of 53 votes to 5, with 1 abstention, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Lebanon, Liberia, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Syria, Thailand, Turkey, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen.

Against: Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Abstention: Yugoslavia.

6. The First Committee recommends adoption by the General Assembly of the following resolution:

ESSENTIAL OF PEACE

The General Assembly

1. Declares that the Charter of the United Nations, the most solemn pact of peace in history, lays down basic principles necessary for an enduring peace; that disregard of these principles is primarily responsible for the continuance of international tension; and that it is urgently necessary for all Members to act in accordance with these principles in the spirit of co-operation on which the United Nations was founded;

Calls upon every nation

2. To refrain from threatening or using force contrary to the Charter;

3. To refrain from any threats or acts, direct or indirect, aimed at impairing the freedom, independence, or integrity of any State, or at fomenting civil strife and subverting the will of the people in any State;

4. To carry out in good faith its international agreements;

5. To afford all United Nations bodies full co-operation and free access in the performance of the tasks assigned to them under the Charter;

6. To promote, in recognition of the paramount importance of preserving the dignity and worth of the human person, full freedom for the peaceful expression of political opposition, full opportunity

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for the exercise of religious freedom, and full respect for all the other fundamental rights expressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

7. To promote nationally and through international co-operation efforts to achieve and sustain higher standards of living for all peoples;

8. To remove the barriers which deny to peoples the free exchange of information and ideas essential to international understanding and peace;

Calls upon every Member

9. To participate fully in all the work of the United Nations;

Calls upon the five permanent Members of the Security Council

10. To broaden progressively their co-operation and to exercise restraint in the use of the veto in order to make the Security Council a more effective instrument for maintaining peace;

Calls upon every nation

11. To settle international disputes by peaceful means and to co-operate in supporting United Nations efforts to resolve outstanding problems;

12. To co-operate to attain the effective international regulation of conventional armaments; and

13. To agree to the exercise of national sovereignty jointly with other nations to the extent necessary to attain international control of atomic energy which would make effective the prohibition of atomic weapons and assure the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes only.

