

immediate agreement prohibiting nuclear weapons tests in the atmosphere, under water and in outer space, accompanied by an interim arrangement suspending all underground tests, taking as a basis the eight-nation joint memorandum and taking into consideration other proposals presented at the seventeenth session of the General Assembly.”

The voting on the main proposal is summarized in the second paragraph of this report.

As requested by resolution 1762 (XVII), the 18-Nation Disarmament Committee reported on December 7 on its efforts to negotiate a treaty to ban nuclear tests. This report was circulated as Document A/5338. Since the verbatim records of all the meetings of the nuclear tests sub-committee were attached, the document amounted to over 1,000 pages in length. The difficulty of translating and printing a document of this length delayed circulation of the report until the last week of the General Assembly.

The Burmese Ambassador who had attended the 18-Nation Disarmament Committee meetings explored the possibility of sponsoring a draft resolution calling upon the 18-Nation Disarmament Committee to continue to give priority to negotiations on the nuclear test problem. He eventually decided that even a non-controversial resolution would provoke a lengthy debate in Plenary. As an alternative, Ambassador Barrington suggested to the President of the General Assembly that he make a statement concerning the report. The President did so, noting the receipt of the report, expressing gratification that the 18-Nation Disarmament Committee had considered the problem of nuclear testing as a matter of urgency, and urging the 18-Nation Disarmament Committee to continue to give its principal attention to the problem and to report to the Disarmament Committee and to the General Assembly periodically as had been the practice in the past. No other statements were made and Plenary passed to the next item.

Recommendations for Future Action

One of the most important aspects of the resolutions on the cessation of nuclear tests adopted by the General Assembly at the seventeenth session was that, unlike resolutions adopted at the sixteenth session, they were consistent with each other in that both recognized the need for negotiations to reach an agreement to end all testing. The non-aligned resolution, in the form adopted by the Committee in plenary session, was significant because, unlike non-aligned resolutions adopted at the sixteenth session, it not only underlined the wish of the members of the United Nations to end tests but also suggested how this might be achieved. Thus, the resolution endorsed the Eight-Nation Memorandum; called on the parties concerned to negotiate on this basis in order to reach agreement urgently; recommended that if there is not comprehensive agreement by January 1, 1963, there should be an agreement on testing in three environments, to be accompanied by an interim arrangement suspending underground tests based on the Eight-Nation Memorandum and taking into consideration other proposals; and that this interim agreement should provide adequate assurances for effective detection and identification. There is thus a number of ideas contained in the non-aligned resolution to provide some guidance to the 18-Nation Committee and the Sub-Committee on the Discontinuance of Nuclear Weapons Tests. Furthermore, due to the initiative of the Canadian delegation, the resolution is probably as impartial as any resolution on the subject can be expected to be. The fact that it endorses neither the USSR nor the USA position is reflected by the fact that the Communists voted against one paragraph of the resolution (operative paragraph 6) while the United States, the United Kingdom and some Western countries voted against operative paragraph 2. Its impartiality was also shown by the fact that while the resolution as a whole was supported by the great majority of members, including most non-aligned countries, both the Communist countries and a number of Western countries (including the USA and the UK) abstained on it.