

mental issues of general and complete disarmament, urges it to make efforts to seek agreement on measures that could serve to reduce international tension, lessen the possibility of war and facilitate agreement on general and complete disarmament, and requests it to submit to the Assembly (a) an interim report on its work at an appropriate date and (b) a comprehensive report not later than September 1, 1964.

On roll-call vote, the Assembly then requested the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee, by 64 votes in favour, 18 against (including Canada), with 25 abstentions, "to study urgently the question of convening a conference for the purpose of signing a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear and thermonuclear weapons" and to report on the matter to the Assembly at its nineteenth session. Canada voted against this resolution, recalling, in an explanation of its vote, Canadian opposition at the sixteenth session to the idea of a conference to prohibit the use of nuclear weapons. The Canadian position continued to be that the only effective way to ensure that nuclear weapons would never be used was through agreement on a comprehensive and carefully verified system of disarmament, and that the convening of a special conference might detract from, rather than further, negotiations in the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee for the elimination of all forms of armaments, including nuclear weapons.

The Assembly took up as its next item the matter of the urgent need for the suspension of nuclear and thermonuclear tests. After noting with approval that, in the preamble of the Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty signed on August 5, 1963, the parties state that they are "seeking to achieve the discontinuance of all test explosions of nuclear weapons for all time" and are "determined to continue negotiations to this end", the Assembly (by a vote of 104 in favour, one against, with three abstentions) called on all states to become parties to the Treaty and requested the ENDC to continue "with a sense of urgency" its negotiations to achieve the discontinuance of all test explosions for all time.

Finally, the Assembly, by 91 votes in favour (including Canada), none against, with 15 abstentions, expressed the hope that Latin American countries would initiate studies aimed at the denuclearization of Latin America, and that all states, especially the nuclear powers, would co-operate in the realization of the peaceful aims inspiring the resolution.

On December 11, the Assembly, acting this time on the recommendation of the Second Committee, was to adopt unanimously a resolution on the related question of the conversion to peaceful needs of the resources released by disarmament. Under the terms of the resolution, the Assembly, "encouraged by the conclusion of the treaty banning nuclear tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water" and "hopeful that further agreements will be reached which will lessen world tensions and lead ultimately to general and complete disarmament under effective international control", requests the Economic and Social Council, at its thirty-seventh session, to consider the possibility of establishing an *ad hoc* group to accelerate activities in this field.