

Soviet Union) to renew their efforts at once to conclude a treaty with a control system avoiding self-inspection, with no veto on its day-to-day operations and with administrative responsibility vested in a single administrator. It also requested the negotiating states to report to the United Nations Disarmament Commission by March 1, 1962. The draft resolution was adopted by a vote of 67 in favour (including Canada), 11 against (the Soviet bloc and Cuba), with 16 abstentions. In plenary, an amendment proposed by Cyprus to have the parties to the negotiations on a test-ban treaty report to the Disarmament Commission by December 14, 1961, was adopted. The resolution, as amended, was then approved by a vote of 71 in favour (including Canada), 11 against, with 15 abstentions.

Continuing the discussion of its items on nuclear testing, the First Committee considered two draft resolutions, one co-sponsored by 14 African members calling on all states to respect Africa as a "denuclearized neutral zone", and a 12-power African-Asian draft declaration which would initiate consultations on the possibility of signing a convention to ban the use of nuclear weapons for war purposes.

Before the vote on the 14-power draft, the co-sponsors accepted a Libyan amendment to delete "neutral" from the reference to "a denuclearized neutral zone". As adopted by a vote of 57 in favour, none against, with 42 abstentions, the 14-power resolution calls on member states (a) to refrain from carrying out or continuing to carry out in Africa nuclear tests in any form; (b) to refrain from using the territory, territorial waters or air space of Africa for testing, storing or transporting nuclear weapons; and (c) to consider and respect the continent of Africa as a denuclearized zone. Canada voted in favour of paragraph (a) but abstained on the remaining paragraphs and the resolution as a whole.

Rejecting an amendment to the 12-power draft resolution, the Committee then adopted the resolution by a vote of 60 in favour, 16 against, with 25 abstentions (including Canada). Among other things, this draft resolution requests the Secretary-General to consult member governments on the possibility of convening a special conference for signing a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear and thermonuclear weapons for war purposes. It asks that a report on such consultation be made to the next session of the General Assembly. It further declares that any state using such weapons is to be considered as violating the Charter and as having committed a crime against mankind and civilization.

While sympathizing with the motives of the co-sponsors of the 12-power resolution, the Canadian representative doubted the effectiveness of such a declaration. Only complete elimination of nuclear weapons could guarantee that there would be no nuclear war, he said, and the Committee should, therefore, concentrate on bringing about general and complete disarmament.

Neither of the two resolutions was considered in plenary before the end of the period under review. Having concluded its consideration of the nuclear testing items, the First Committee proceeded to its third item on disarmament. The Committee has before it a number of documents relating to this question, among them being: