

Non-Proliferation

In committee, the Soviet Item 97 was taken first and a draft resolution appealing to states to refrain from any actions that might hamper the conclusion of an agreement on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons received early co-sponsorship from the United States and certain other Western and Communist states. Following slight revision of this draft by the eight non-aligned members of the ENDC, the main effect of which was to make reference to the principles laid down in UNGA Resolution 2028 (XX), a large number of non-aligned and Western states, including Canada, became co-sponsors. Support for this resolution was virtually unanimous in both the First Committee and in plenary, where it was passed by a vote of 110 (Canada) to one against (Albania), with one abstention.

A more comprehensive draft resolution on non-proliferation was presented by a large group of non-aligned states under Item 26. This draft not only urged all states to take all necessary steps conducive to the earliest conclusion of a treaty on non-proliferation, but also invited nuclear-weapon powers to refrain from using or threatening to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon states. An amendment urging the nuclear-weapon powers not to use nuclear weapons against any other state was introduced by Cameroun, but was withdrawn in the face of virtually unanimous support for a revised version of the non-aligned draft resolution, which dealt with the question of security assurances at greater length. Nuclear-weapon states were simply called upon to refrain from the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons against nuclear-free zones, while the ENDC was requested to consider urgently the proposal for an assurance by the nuclear-weapon powers not to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon states without such weapons on their territory, together with other proposals for security assurances. Since the revised draft was a more realistic and balanced resolution, Canada supported it both in the First Committee and in plenary, where it received 97 affirmative votes (Canada); and two negative votes, with two abstentions.

At short notice, Pakistan submitted a draft resolution calling for a conference of non-nuclear states to discuss their security problems, the prevention of nuclear proliferation and ways of controlling the use of nuclear devices for peaceful purposes. Canada expressed reservations about the proposal on the grounds that such a conference might complicate the current negotiations on a non-proliferation treaty and that no provision was made for associating the nuclear-weapon powers with the proposed conference. To some extent, these reservations were met by amendments submitted by Kuwait, which set back the conference date from July 1967 to July 1968, and requested the ENDC to consider the question of associating the nuclear-weapon powers with the conference. In the circumstances, Canada voted for the resolution as amended, which was approved in the First Committee and adopted in plenary by 43 affirmative votes to one opposed (India), with 59 abstentions.