

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, December 10, 1984

The House met at 11 a.m.

● (1105)

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY, S.O. 62—NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION—UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTION ON NUCLEAR-ARMS FREEZE

Mr. Speaker: Before proceeding, since today is the final allotted day, since the House will later be going through the usual procedures to consider and dispose of the supply Bill, and in view of recent practices, do Hon. Members agree that the supply Bill which will go through all stages later today be distributed now?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa) moved:

That this House takes note of the following United Nations Resolution:

REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF THE TWELFTH
SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY: IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL
ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 38/73 E ON A
NUCLEAR-ARMS FREEZE

Indonesia, Mexico, Pakistan, Sweden and Uruguay: draft resolution
Nuclear-arms freeze

The General Assembly,

Recalling that in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament, adopted in 1978 and unanimously and categorically reaffirmed in 1982 during the twelfth special session of the General Assembly, its second special session devoted to disarmament, the Assembly expressed deep concern over the threat to the very survival of mankind posed by the existence of nuclear weapons and the continuing arms race,

Recalling also that on those occasions, it pointed out that existing arsenals of nuclear weapons are more than sufficient to destroy all life on earth and stressed that mankind is therefore confronted with a choice: halt the arms race and proceed to disarmament or face annihilation,

Noting that the conditions prevailing today are a source of even more serious concern than those existing in 1978 because of several factors, such as the deterioration of the international situation, the increase in the accuracy, speed and destructive power of nuclear weapons, the promotion of illusory doctrines of "limited" or "winnable" nuclear war and the many false alarms which have occurred owing to accidental reasons,

Noting also that the Seventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at New Delhi in March 1983, declared that the renewed escalation in the nuclear-arms race, both in its quantitative and qualitative dimensions, as well as reliance on doctrines of nuclear deterrence,

has heightened the risk of the outbreak of nuclear war and led to greater insecurity and instability in international relations,

Bearing in mind that in their Joint Declaration issued on 22 May, 1984, the Heads of Government of six Member States of the United Nations, coming from five different continents, urged the nuclear-weapon States "as a necessary first step . . . to halt all testing, production and deployment of nuclear weapons and their delivery systems",

Believing that it is a matter of the utmost urgency to stop any further increase in the awesome arsenals of the two major nuclear-weapon States, which already have ample retaliatory power and a frightening overkill capacity,

Believing also that it is equally urgent to initiate or resume negotiations for the substantial reduction and qualitative limitation of nuclear arms,

Considering that a nuclear-arms freeze, while not an end in itself, would constitute the most effective first step for the achievement of the above-mentioned two objectives, since it would encourage the initiation or resumption of negotiations and prevent the continued increase and qualitative improvement of existing nuclear weaponry during the period when the negotiations would take place,

Firmly convinced that at present the conditions are most propitious for such a freeze, since the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America are now equivalent in nuclear military power and it seems evident that there exists between them an overall rough parity,

Conscious that the application of the systems of surveillance, verification and control already agreed upon in some previous cases would be sufficient to provide a reasonable guarantee of faithful compliance with the undertakings derived from the freeze,

Convinced that it would be to the benefit of all other States possessing nuclear weapons to follow the example of the two major nuclear-weapon States,

1. Urges once more the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America, as the two major nuclear-weapon States, to proclaim, either through simultaneous unilateral declarations or through a joint declaration, an immediate nuclear-arms freeze, which would be a first step towards the comprehensive programme of disarmament and whose structure and scope would be the following:

(a) It would embrace:

(i) A comprehensive test ban of nuclear weapons and of their delivery vehicles;

(ii) The complete cessation of the manufacture of nuclear weapons and of their delivery vehicles;

(iii) A ban on all further deployment of nuclear weapons and of their delivery vehicles;

(iv) The complete cessation of the production of fissionable material for weapons purposes;

(b) It would be subject to appropriate measures and procedures of verification, such as those which have already been agreed by the parties in the case of the SALT I and SALT II treaties, and those agreed upon in principle by them during the preparatory trilateral negotiations on the comprehensive test ban held at Geneva;

(c) It would be of an initial five-year duration, subject to prolongation when other nuclear-weapon States join in such a freeze, as the General Assembly urges them to do;

2. Notes with satisfaction that the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics have already submitted the report requested in General Assembly resolution 38/73 E of 15 December 1983;