

Assembly declared that all the peoples of the world had a vital interest in the sphere of disarmament.

Recalling also that in the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade, annexed to its resolution 35/46 of 3 December 1980, it recommended that special priority be given to the ratification of the SALT II Treaty,

1. Notes that the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (SALT II) has not yet been ratified;

2. Urges that the process begun by the SALT I Treaty and signature of the SALT II Treaty should continue and be built upon;

3. Trusts that the signatory States will continue to refrain from any act which would defeat the object and purpose of that process;

4. Urges the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America, with reference to resolutions 34/87 F and 35/156 K, to pursue negotiations, in accordance with the principle of equality and equal security, looking towards the achievement of an agreement which will provide for substantial reductions and significant qualitative limitations of strategic arms;

5. Welcomes the commencement of negotiations at Geneva on 30 November 1981 between representatives of the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on nuclear arms in accordance with the joint communique issued by Secretary of State Haig and Foreign Minister Gromyko on 23 September 1981, and trusts that such negotiations will facilitate the enhancement of stability and international security;

6. Stresses the need for both parties to bear constantly in mind that not only their national interests but also the vital interests of all the peoples of the world are at stake in this question;

7. Invites the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America to keep the General Assembly appropriately informed of the results of their negotiations, in conformity with the provisions of paragraphs 27 and 114 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly;

8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-seventh session the item entitled "Strategic arms limitation talks".

## Non-use of nuclear weapons and prevention of nuclear war

### Prevention of nuclear war

Expressing alarm at the threat which the existence of nuclear weapons posed to the survival of mankind and labelling as matters of highest priority the prevention of nuclear war and reduction of the risks of such war, the General Assembly, in a resolution adopted without vote on 19 December 1981,<sup>(4)</sup> urged all nuclear-weapon States and all other Member States that so desired to submit to the Secretary-General, for consideration at its 1982 special session on disarmament (p. 27), their views, proposals' and practical suggestions for ensuring the prevention of nuclear war.

The revised draft resolution, sponsored by 17 States, was approved by the First Committee on 25 November, also without vote. The text incorporated the essence of amendments submitted by Mexico,<sup>(1)</sup> according to which all Member

States rather than just nuclear-weapon States were urged to submit their views and proposals. The revised text also included a preambular paragraph proposed by Mexico, reiterating the vital interest of all peoples in disarmament. Mexico withdrew its amendments after the draft resolution was revised.

Introducing the draft, Argentina asserted that the Powers possessing nuclear weapons must state clearly, in writing and in detail, their views and proposals for preventing nuclear war, after which non-nuclear States had the right and duty to assess those positions and make their own proposals. The latter States could not delegate to others the quest for solutions.

In the First Committee debate, some countries, such as Nigeria and the USSR, rejected the idea of a limited or winnable nuclear war as either suicidal and adventuristic or lacking in validity and evidence. With the quantity and quality of weapons spread throughout the world, said Cuba, it was illusory to believe that a nuclear war could be concentrated in a given territory. Mauritius stated that, while the world's leaders might not envisage a nuclear war by design, no human activity could be accident-free, as evidenced in a report by the Armed Services Committee of the United States Senate that, four times in 18 months, nuclear bomber crews and intercontinental ballistic missile units had been ordered to be ready for action as a result of alarms that later proved false.

In an appeal of 23 June from the Supreme Soviet of the USSR to the parliaments and peoples of the world, transmitted to the Secretary-General by a letter from the USSR dated 24 June,<sup>(3)</sup> legislatures were urged to support negotiations, without preliminary conditions or attempts to dictate a point of view, to prevent a new phase of the nuclear missile race. Support for a proposal by the USSR for the establishment of an international committee of scientists for the defence of mankind from the threat of a nuclear catastrophe was expressed in a Declaration of the General Assembly of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, adopted at Sofia in May and forwarded in a note verbale of Bulgaria dated 25 June.<sup>(2)</sup>

Amendments withdrawn: <sup>(1)</sup>Mexico, A/C.1/36/L.50.

Letter and note verbale (nv): <sup>(2)</sup>Bulgaria, 25 June, A/36/364 (nv). <sup>(3)</sup>USSR, 24 June, A/36/347.

Resolutions: <sup>(4)</sup>GA, 36/81 B, 9 Dec., text following.

Meeting records: GA: 1st Committee, A/C.1/36/PV.3 & Corr.1, 4-10, 12-26, 27, 33, 34, 38, 39, 44 (19 Oct.-25 Nov.); plenary, A/36/PV.91 (9 Dec.).

### General Assembly resolution 36/81 B

Adopted without vote Meeting 91 9 December 1981  
Approved by First Committee (A/36/740 and Corr.1) without vote,  
25 November (meeting 44); 17-nation draft (A/C.1/36/L.43/Rev.1);  
agenda item 39.