

Statement by the U.S. Representative (Fisher) to the First Committee of the General Assembly: Chemical Weapons, November 26, 1979⁷

The complete, effective and verifiable prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and their destruction is an important objective of the foreign policy of the United States—one which we think will enhance the security of all States.

While a large measure of agreement exists among the nations of the world on this general objective, I must point out that significant and substantive differences remain. In our view, these differences are so great that attempts to elaborate a multilateral treaty text at this time would be unhelpful and could well delay the achievement of our goal.

For this reason the United States supported efforts in the Committee of Disarmament to clarify the issues to which Governments must address themselves. It is indeed difficult to reconcile divergent views when the positions of many on specific substantive issues are unknown. This process of identifying concrete issues and clarifying them is the necessary initial stage of negotiations on any complex subject, including this one. There is not, however, agreement on how this task should be handled in the Committee on Disarmament, and we must recognize that this is an item to which the Committee must return.

Our joining the consensus resolution in no way prejudices the views of the United States on the merits of the various proposals to structure the Committee of Disarmament's consideration of this question. For our part we have intensified our preparations for the next round of bilateral chemical-weapon negotiations, which we expect to start in Geneva in mid-January.

Statement by the Soviet Representative (Petrovsky) to the First Committee of the General Assembly: Chemical Weapons, November 26, 1979¹

With reference to the adoption by consensus of draft resolution A/C.1/34/L.29,² my delegation would like to note that the Soviet Union attaches great importance to prohibiting the manufacture, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons, since we believe this is a realistic step by which tangible results in the field of disarmament can be achieved in one of the most important directions, which would help us to prevent the threat of war in which such weapons of mass destruction might be used.

⁷ A/C.1/34/PV.42, Nov. 27, 1979, pp. 42–43. Ambassador Fisher was explaining the U.S. position on the draft res. that the G.A. subsequently adopted as res. 34/72, on Dec. 11, printed below.

¹ A/C.1/34/PV.42, Nov. 27, 1979, p. 46.

² Identical with G.A. res. 34/72, Dec. 11, printed below.

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¹ A/C.1/34/PV.42, Nov. 27, 1979, p. 46.

² Identical with G.A. res. 34/72, Dec. 11, printed below.

³ The text of this resolution is in A/C.1/34/PV.42, pp. 764–765.

⁴ For the text of this resolution, see A/C.1/34/PV.42, pp. 764–765.

⁵ A/C.1/34/PV.42, Nov. 27, 1979, p. 46.

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The Soviet Union is actively participating in talks on the banning of the manufacture, production and accumulation of chemical weapons and on destroying their stockpiles. Those talks have been going on in the Committee on Disarmament and on a bilateral basis between the Soviet Union and the United States. We have made some progress on this matter, and the Committee on Disarmament has been informed of that progress. It is now our deep conviction that we must achieve real results. We should go forward with that intention so that we can achieve concrete and tangible results. Therefore the Soviet delegation intends to resume the bilateral consultations in Geneva in mid-January.

**Statement by the Chinese Representative (Wu) to the
First Committee of the General Assembly: Chemical
and Biological Weapons, November 26, 1979**¹

With regard to the draft resolution just adopted on chemical and bacteriological weapons, contained in document A/C.1/34/L.29,² the Chinese delegation is in favour of it. We have always recognized and strictly abided by the 1925 Geneva Protocol.³ However, with regard to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction, we have on many occasions expounded our position. Therefore, we will not repeat it here.⁴

**Statement by the Chinese Representative (Wu) to the
First Committee of the General Assembly: Com-
prehensive Test Ban, November 26, 1979**⁵

The Chinese delegation understands the sincere desire of the third world and other peace-loving countries in asking for a cessation of nuclear weapon tests so as to maintain world peace and oppose nuclear arms race and nuclear threats.

But the super-Powers are calling for a ban on all nuclear weapon tests out of a completely different motive. The facts of history tell us that while they were spreading the idea of halting nuclear weapon tests, they were going all out at the same time to engage in nuclear arms race. When they completed enough tests in the atmosphere, they got together a so-called "partial nuclear test ban" to move their tests from out of the atmosphere to below the ground. They continue to step up their nuclear arms race and the quantity of nuclear

¹ A/C.1/34/PV. 42, Nov. 27, 1979, p. 46.

² Identical with G.A. res. 34/72, Dec. 11, printed below.

³ The text of the protocol may be found in *Documents on Disarmament, 1969*, pp. 784-785.

⁴ For the text of the convention, see *ibid.*, 1972, pp. 133-138.

⁵ A/C.1/34/PV.42, Nov. 27, 1979, pp. 47-50.