



International Atomic Energy Agency

# GENERAL CONFERENCE

GC(XXVIII)/721

3 September 1984

GENERAL Distr.

Original: ENGLISH

Twenty-eighth regular session  
Item 11 of the provisional agenda  
(GC(XXVIII)/711)

## PROTECTION OF NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS DEVOTED TO PEACEFUL PURPOSES AGAINST ARMED ATTACKS

### Report by the Director General

1. In resolution GC(XXVIII)/RES/407 the General Conference, in October 1983, requested the Director General to keep it informed of developments in the area of the protection of nuclear installations devoted to peaceful purposes against armed attacks through the adoption of binding international rules prohibiting such attacks.
2. On 10 November 1983, the Director General wrote to Ambassador R. Jaipal, Personal Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General and Secretary of the Committee on Disarmament, to request that relevant information on developments in the Conference and elsewhere within the United Nations be communicated to him.
3. On 21 December 1983, Ambassador Jaipal replied to the Director General, sending him the 1983 Annual Report of the Conference on Disarmament (CD/421) and undertaking to provide further information in due course.
4. In his letter, Ambassador Jaipal called attention to the report of Group B on the question of prohibition of attacks against nuclear facilities, which was included as Annex II to document CD/421. Group B, which was established by the Conference's Ad Hoc Working Group on Radiological Weapons specifically to consider this question, met on several occasions during 1983 and held wide-ranging discussions, as described in its report. The conclusions of this report were as follows:

"In spite of differences of opinion among delegations on specific matters, it was generally recognized that the question of prohibition of attacks against nuclear facilities was an important issue which needed solution and that it was also a complex problem. The exchange of views on the subject in the Group was considered as necessary and useful. It helped to clarify the various positions of delegations, in particular the scope of prohibition and the relevant legal questions. It also contributed substantially to the examination of possible common approaches and potential main avenues of the activities of the Group in the future."

5. On 20 December 1983, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 38/188 D - Prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of radiological weapons. Operative paragraphs 2 and 3 of that resolution read as follows:

"2. Further requests the Conference on Disarmament to continue its search for a prompt solution to the question of prohibition of attacks on nuclear facilities, including the scope of such prohibition, taking into account all proposals submitted to it to this end;

3. Takes note of the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Radiological Weapons, in the report adopted by the Committee on Disarmament, to re-establish an Ad Hoc Working Group at the beginning of its 1984 session to continue its work and in that context to review and assess how best to make progress on the subject matter."

6. The Ad Hoc Committee on Radiological Weapons of the Conference on Disarmament was re-established in 1984. The Committee discussed and examined various documents concerned with radiological weapons themselves and with questions relating to the prohibition of attacks against nuclear facilities. On 10 August 1984, the Committee issued a report (CD/533) which describes its deliberations. The report, which makes it clear that no consensus was reached in the Committee, concludes that:

"It was generally recognized that the discussion held during the session contributed to a better understanding of the issues involved as well as to a further search for their solution."

7. The report of the Ad Hoc Committee adds that:

"In view of the fact that the Committee's mandate was not fulfilled, it is recommended that the Conference on Disarmament should re-establish the Ad Hoc Committee on Radiological Weapons at the beginning of its 1985 session."