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ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE IN THE REGION
OF THE MIDDLE EAST

Report of the First Committee

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East" was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-fifth session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 34/77 of 11 December 1979.
2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 19 September 1980, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.
3. At its 3rd meeting, on 9 October, the First Committee decided to hold a combined general debate on the items allocated to it relating to disarmament, namely, items 31 to 49 and item 121. The general debate on these items took place at the 4th to 28th meetings, from 15 October to 4 November (see A/C.1/35/PV.4-28).
4. In connexion with item 38, the First Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Letter dated 20 August 1980 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the resolutions and the Final Communiqué of the Eleventh Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held at Islamabad from 17 to 22 May 1980 (A/35/419);
 - (b) Letter dated 24 July 1980 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/35/351);
 - (c) Letter dated 13 October 1980 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/35/537);
 - (d) Letter dated 23 October 1980 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.1/35/8).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS A/C.1/35/L.6
AND A/C.1/35/L.8

5. On 30 October, Egypt submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/35/L.6) which it introduced at the 30th meeting, on 10 November.

6. On 31 October 1980, Israel submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/35/L.8), which it introduced at the 31st meeting, on 13 November. The draft resolution read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Reaffirming paragraph 60 of the Final Document of the tenth special session of the General Assembly, which reads as follows: 'The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned constitutes an important disarmament measure',

"Aware of the urgent need to establish such a zone in the Middle East, in view of conflict situations which threaten the peace of that region,

"Convinced that the effective way to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons in the Middle East is through negotiations leading to the establishment of a system of mutually-binding obligations which would provide each State in the region with a contractual assurance of others' compliance with the commitment to abstain from introducing nuclear weapons into the region,

"Recalling its resolution 31/70 on the comprehensive study of the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all its aspects, particularly paragraph 3, which reiterates the conviction that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones can contribute to the security of members of such zones, to the prevention of proliferation of nuclear weapons and to the goals of general and complete disarmament,

"Recalling further its resolution 33/91 B of 16 December 1978 on confidence-building measures and convinced that the adherence of all Member States of the Middle East region to a treaty establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East would in itself serve to reduce tensions and pave the way for the introduction of further confidence-building measures,

"1. Calls upon all States of the Middle East and non-nuclear-weapon States adjacent to the region, which are not signatories to any treaty providing for a nuclear-weapon-free zone, to convene at the earliest possible date a conference with a view to negotiating a multilateral treaty establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East;

"2. Urges all States of the region to state by 1 May 1981 their willingness to participate in the conference;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the necessary facilities for the convening of such a conference."

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7. At the 36th meeting, on 20 November, the representative of Israel withdrew draft resolution A/C.1/35/L.8.

8. At the 37th meeting, on 20 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/35/L.6 without a vote (see para. 9).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

9. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3263 (XXIX) of 9 December 1974, in which it overwhelmingly commended the idea of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East,

Recalling also its resolution 3474 (XXX) of 11 December 1975, in which it recognized that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East enjoyed wide support in the region,

Bearing in mind its resolution 31/71 of 10 December 1976, in which it expressed the conviction that progress towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East would greatly enhance the cause of peace in the region and in the world,

Recalling its resolution 32/82 of 12 December 1977, in which it expressed the conviction that the development of nuclear capability would further complicate the situation and immensely damage the efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East,

Guided by the recommendations in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly which deal with the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East, 1/

Recalling also its resolutions 33/64 of 14 December 1978 and 34/77 of 11 December 1979,

Recognizing that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East would greatly enhance international peace and security,

1. Urges all parties directly concerned seriously to consider taking the practical and urgent steps required for the implementation of the proposal to

1/ Resolution S-10/2, para. 63 (d).

establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and, as a means of promoting this objective, invites the countries concerned to adhere to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; 2/

2. Invites those countries, pending the establishment of such a zone in the Middle East and during the process of its establishment, to declare solemnly that they will refrain, on a reciprocal basis, from producing, acquiring or in any other way possessing nuclear weapons and nuclear explosive devices;

3. Calls upon those countries to refrain, on a reciprocal basis, from permitting the stationing of nuclear weapons on their territory by any third party and to agree to place all their nuclear activities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards;

4. Further invites those countries, pending the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and during the process of its establishment, to declare their support for establishing such a zone in the region consistent with paragraphs 60 to 63, in particular paragraph 63 (d), of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session and to deposit those declarations with the Security Council for consideration as appropriate;

5. Reaffirms again its recommendation to the nuclear-weapon States to refrain from any action contrary to the spirit and purpose of the present resolution and the objective of establishing in the region of the Middle East a nuclear-weapon-free zone under an effective system of safeguards and to extend their co-operation to the States of the region in their efforts to promote these objectives;

6. Renews its invitation to the Secretary-General to continue to explore the possibilities of making progress towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East;

7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-sixth session the item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East".
