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Agenda item 50

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE IN SOUTH ASIA

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Doulaye Corentin KI (Burkina Faso)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia: report of the Secretary-General" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-first session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/83 of 12 December 1985.
2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1986, 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 2nd meeting, on 8 October, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on the disarmament items allocated to it, followed by statements on specific disarmament agenda items and continuation of general debate, as necessary. The deliberations on those items, namely, items 46 to 65 and item 144, took place between the 3rd and the 32nd meetings, from 13 October to 4 November (see A/C.1/41/PV.3-32).
4. In connection with item 50, the First Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia: report of the Secretary-General (A/41/519);
 - (b) Letter dated 5 May 1986 from the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the texts of the final communiqué and of the resolutions adopted by the Sixteenth Islamic

* Reissued for technical reasons.

Conference of Foreign Ministers, held at Fez, Morocco, from 25 to 29 Rabi Ul Thani, 1406H (6 to 10 January 1986) (A/41/326-S/18049);

(c) Letter dated 30 September 1986 from the Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final documents of the Eighth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Harare, from 1 to 6 September 1986 (A/41/697-S/18392);

(d) Note verbale dated 9 October 1986 from the Permanent Mission of Zimbabwe to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final communiqué of the Meeting of Ministers and Heads of Delegation of Non-Aligned Countries to the forty-first session of the General Assembly, held in New York on 2 October 1986 (A/41/703-S/18395).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/41/L.20

5. On 29 October 1986, Pakistan submitted a draft resolution, entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia" (A/C.1/41/L.20), which was introduced by its representative at the 36th meeting, on 6 November.

6. On 5 November 1986, Maldives submitted the following amendments (A/C.1/41/L.75) to draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.20:

(a) The deletion, in the second preambular paragraph, of the word "most" after the words "can contribute";

(b) The replacement, in the third preambular paragraph, of the words "will strengthen the security of the States" by the words "will assist in the strengthening of the security of the States";

(c) The insertion, in the fourth preambular paragraph, of the words "with appreciation" after the word "Noting" and of the phrase "which are developing their nuclear capability" between the words "South Asian States" and "reaffirming";

(d) The deletion of the fifth and sixth preambular paragraphs;

(e) The deletion, in operative paragraph 2, of the phrase "and such other neighbouring non-nuclear-weapon States as may be interested";

(f) The replacement, in operative paragraph 4, of the phrase "to render such assistance as may be required" by "to communicate with the States of the region and other concerned States in order to find their views on the issue and explore the best possibilities".

7. At the 46th meeting, on 17 November, the representative of Maldives orally revised the amendment to the fourth preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.20 by replacing the words "nuclear capability" by "peaceful nuclear programmes".

8. At the same meeting, the Committee voted on the amendments contained in document A/C.1/41/L.75, as orally revised, as follows: 1/

(a) The amendments to the preambular part of draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.20 were adopted by a recorded vote of 77 to 2, with 44 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Kampuchea, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lesotho, Liberia, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia.

Against: India, Mauritius.

Abstaining: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Benin, Bhutan, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Ethiopia, France, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Mongolia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Paraguay, Poland, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia, Zimbabwe.

(b) The amendments to operative paragraphs 2 and 4 of draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.20 were adopted by a recorded vote of 78 to 2, with 44 abstentions. The voting was as follows: 2/

In favour: Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Kampuchea, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana,

1/ Subsequently the delegation of Zaire indicated that it had intended to vote in favour of the amendments.

2/ Subsequently the delegation of Zaire indicated that it had intended to vote in favour of the amendments.

Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lesotho, Liberia, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: India, Mauritius.

Abstaining: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Benin, Bhutan, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Ethiopia, France, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Mongolia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Poland, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia.

9. At that meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.20, as amended, by a recorded vote of 90 to 3, with 37 abstentions (see para. 10). The voting was as follows: 3/

In favour: Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Kampuchea, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, Gabon, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lesotho, Liberia, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

3/ Subsequently the delegation of Zaire indicated that it had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

Against: Bhutan, India, Mauritius.

Abstaining: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Austria, Bahamas, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Ethiopia, France, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Norway, Poland, Suriname, Sweden, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3265 B (XXIX) of 9 December 1974, 3476 B (XXX) of 11 December 1975, 31/73 of 10 December 1976, 32/83 of 12 December 1977, 33/65 of 14 December 1978, 34/78 of 11 December 1979, 35/148 of 12 December 1980, 36/88 of 9 December 1981, 37/76 of 9 December 1982, 38/65 of 15 December 1983, 39/55 of 12 December 1984 and 40/83 of 12 December 1985 concerning the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia,

Reiterating its conviction that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in various regions of the world is one of the measures which can contribute effectively to the objectives of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and general and complete disarmament,

Believing that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia, as in other regions, will assist in the strengthening of the security of the States of the region against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Noting with appreciation the declarations issued at the highest level by Governments of South Asian States that are developing their peaceful nuclear programmes and reaffirming their undertaking not to acquire or manufacture nuclear weapons and to devote their nuclear programmes exclusively to the economic and social advancement of their peoples,

Bearing in mind the provisions of paragraphs 60 to 63 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 4/ the first special session devoted to disarmament, regarding the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone, including in the region of South Asia,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General, 5/

1. Reaffirms its endorsement, in principle, of the concept of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia;
2. Urges once again the States of South Asia to continue to make all possible efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia and to refrain, in the mean time, from any action contrary to this objective;
3. Calls upon those nuclear-weapon States that have not done so to respond positively to this proposal and to extend the necessary co-operation in the efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia.
4. Requests the Secretary-General to communicate with the States of the region and other concerned States in order to find their views on the issue and explore the best possibilities to promote the efforts for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia and to report on the subject to the General Assembly at its forty-second session;
5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-second session the item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia".

4/ Resolution S-10/2.

5/ A/41/519.