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Agenda item 66

QUESTION OF ANTARCTICA

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Doulaye Corentin KI (Burkina Faso)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled the "Question of Antarctica" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-first session in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 40/156 A and B of 16 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. The First Committee considered the item at its 49th to 51st meetings, on 18 and 19 November 1986 (see A/C.1/41/PV.49-51).
4. In connection with item 66, the First Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Letter dated 1 May 1986 from the Permanent Representative of the German Democratic Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the documents of the Eleventh Congress of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED), which was held at Berlin from 17 to 21 April 1986 (A/41/356);
 - (b) Letter dated 15 May 1986 from the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final documents of the Ministerial Meeting of the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Countries, held at New Delhi from 16 to 19 April 1986 (A/41/341-S/18065 and Corr.1);
 - (c) Letter dated 30 September 1986 from the Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a

copy of the final document of the Eighth Summit Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Countries, held at Harare, Zimbabwe 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 the Non-Aligned Countries to the forty-first session of the General Assembly, held on 2 October 1986 in New York (A/41/703-S/18395);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the question of Antarctica (A/41/688 and Add.1);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on the question of Antarctica (A/41/722*);

(g) Letter dated 16 October 1986 from the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final report of the Thirteenth Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting, held at Brussels from 7 to 18 October 1985 (A/C.1/41/6);

(h) Letter dated 13 November 1986 from the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a statement made by the Chairman of the ninth session of the Special Consultative Meeting on Antarctic Mineral Resources at the conclusion of the Meeting's work on 12 November 1986 (A/C.1/41/11).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.86

5. On 18 November, Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, the Congo, Ghana, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mali, Oman, Pakistan, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, and Zimbabwe submitted a draft resolution entitled "Question of Antarctica" (A/C.1/41/L.86), which was introduced by the representative of Malaysia at the 51st meeting, on 19 November.

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.86 (see para. 11, draft resolution A) by a roll-call vote of 76 to none, with 9 abstentions. 1/ The voting was as follows:

1/ The following 38 delegations announced that they were not participating in the vote: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Viet Nam.

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In favour: Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Cyprus, Democratic Kampuchea, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Côte d'Ivoire, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaïre, Zambia.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Austria, Canada, China, Ireland, Luxembourg, Peru, Poland, Turkey, Venezuela.

D. Draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.87

7. On 18 November, Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, the Congo, Ghana, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mali, Oman, Pakistan, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, the Sudan and Zimbabwe submitted a draft resolution entitled "Question of Antarctica" (A/C.1/41/L.87), which was introduced by the representative of Malaysia at the 51st meeting, on 19 November.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.87 (see para. 11, draft resolution B) by a roll-call vote of 76 to none, with 10 abstentions. 2/ The voting was as follows:

2/ The following 38 delegations announced that they were not participating in the vote: Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay.

/...

In favour: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Cyprus, Democratic Kampuchea, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Côte d'Ivoire, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Austria, Bahamas, Canada, China, Ireland, Luxembourg, Peru, Portugal, Turkey, Venezuela.

C. Draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.88

9. On 18 November, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Comoros, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, the Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe submitted a draft resolution entitled "Question of Antarctica" (A/C.1/41/L.88). The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Malaysia at the 51st meeting, on 19 November 1986.

10. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.88, as orally revised, (see para. 11, draft resolution C) by a roll-call vote of 99 to 1, with 5 abstentions. 3/ The voting was as follows:

3/ The following 21 delegations stated that they were not participating in the vote: Australia, Belgium, Chile, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Guatemala, Israel, Italy, Côte d'Ivoire, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: Canada.

Abstaining: Austria, Ireland, Luxembourg, Portugal, Turkey.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

11. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following resolutions:

QUESTION OF ANTARCTICA

A

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 38/77 of 15 December 1983, 39/152 of 17 December 1984 and 40/156 A of 16 December 1985,

Having considered the item entitled "Question of Antarctica",

Welcoming the increasing international awareness of and interest in Antarctica,

Bearing in mind the Antarctic Treaty 4/ and the significance of the system it has developed,

4/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 402, No. 5778, p. 72.

Taking into account the debate on this item at its forty-first session, 5/

Convinced of the advantages of a better knowledge of Antarctica,

Affirming the conviction that, in the interest of all mankind, Antarctica should continue for ever to be used exclusively for peaceful purposes and that it should not become the scene or object of international discord,

Recalling the relevant paragraphs of the Political Declaration adopted at the Eighth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Harare from 1 to 6 September 1986, 6/ and the resolution on Antarctica adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its forty-second ordinary session, held at Addis Ababa from 10 to 17 July 1985, 7/ as well as the decision of the Council of Ministers of the League of Arab States, held at Tunis on 17 and 18 September 1986,

Conscious of the significance of Antarctica to the international community, in terms inter alia, of international peace and security, economy, environment, scientific research and meteorology,

Recognizing, therefore, the interest of mankind as a whole in Antarctica,

Taking into account the provisions of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 8/

Noting with appreciation the expanded study on the question of Antarctica submitted by the Secretary-General, 9/

Noting the increased flow of information from the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties, expresses concern at the continuing non-availability of information to the Secretary-General on certain issues affecting the question of Antarctica,

5/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, First Committee, 49th to 51st meetings.

6/ A/41/697-S/18392.

7/ A/40/666, annex II, resolution CM/Res.988 (XLII).

8/ Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

9/ A/41/722.

1. Requests the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties to keep the Secretary-General fully informed on all aspects of the question of Antarctica so that the United Nations could function as the central repository of all such information;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to follow all aspects of the question of Antarctica and to provide an updated report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-second session;

3. Decides to include in the provisional agenda at its forty-second session the item entitled "Question of Antarctica".

B

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 38/77 of 15 December 1983, 39/152 of 17 December 1984 and 40/156 B of 16 December 1985,

Having considered the item entitled "Question of Antarctica",

Recalling the relevant paragraphs of the Political Declaration adopted by the Eighth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Harare from 1 to 6 September 1986, 6/ and the resolution on Antarctica adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its forty-second ordinary session, held at Addis Ababa from 10 to 17 July 1985, 7/ as well as the decision of the Council of Ministers of the League of Arab States held at Tunis on 17 and 18 September 1986,

Recognizing that the management, exploration and use of Antarctica should be conducted in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and of promoting international co-operation for the benefit of mankind as a whole,

Aware that negotiations are in progress among the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties, with the non-Consultative Parties as observers, to which other States are not privy, with a view to establishing a régime regarding Antarctica minerals,

1. Reaffirms that any exploitation of the resources of Antarctica should ensure the maintenance of international peace and security in Antarctica, the protection of its environment, the non-appropriation and conservation of its resources and the international management and equitable sharing of the benefits of such exploitation;

2. Calls upon the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties to impose a moratorium on the negotiations to establish a minerals régime until such time as all members of the international community can participate fully in such negotiations;

/...

3. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-second session the item entitled "Question of Antarctica".

C

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 40/156 C of 16 December 1985,

Having considered the item entitled "Question of Antarctica",

Noting with regret that the racist apartheid régime of South Africa, which has been suspended from participation in the General Assembly of the United Nations, has continued to participate in the meetings of the Consultative Parties to the Antarctic Treaty, 4/

Recalling the resolution adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its forty-second ordinary session, held at Addis Ababa from 10 to 17 July 1985, 7/

Recalling also the relevant paragraphs of the Political Declaration adopted at the Eighth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Harare from 1 to 6 September 1986, 2/

Recalling further that the Antarctic Treaty is, by its terms, intended to further the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations,

Noting further that the policy of apartheid practised by the racist minority régime of South Africa, which has been universally condemned, constitutes a threat to regional and international peace and security,

1. Views with concern the continuing participation of the apartheid régime of South Africa in the meetings of the Consultative Parties to the Antarctic Treaty;

2. Appeals once again to the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties to take urgent measures to exclude the racist apartheid régime of South Africa from participation in the meetings of the Consultative Parties at the earliest possible date;

3. Invites the States parties to the Antarctic Treaty to inform the Secretary-General on the actions taken regarding the provisions of the present resolution;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report in this regard 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 "Question of Antarctica".
