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REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF A SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM IN THE AGENDA
OF THE THIRTIETH SESSION

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE
IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC

Letter dated 15 August 1975 from the Permanent Representatives
of Fiji and New Zealand to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

On behalf of the Governments of Fiji and New Zealand and in accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, we have the honour to request the inclusion in the agenda of the thirtieth session of the General Assembly of an item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the South Pacific".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure, an explanatory memorandum and a draft resolution are attached.

(Signed) S. K. SIKIVOU
Permanent Representative of Fiji
to the United Nations

(Signed) M. J. C. TEMPLETON
Permanent Representative
of New Zealand
to the United Nations

ANNEX I

Explanatory memorandum

1. Fiji and New Zealand, along with other countries of the South Pacific, have consistently supported proposals designed to achieve agreement on a comprehensive ban on the testing of nuclear weapons, to prevent the proliferation of such weapons, to ensure that any peaceful nuclear explosions were conducted under international control and, generally, to put an end to the nuclear arms race.
2. Progress in giving effect to these proposals on a global scale has, however, been meagre and disappointing. In consequence, these countries have come to attach increased importance to a regional approach to the problem of reducing the dangers associated with the testing, production and deployment of nuclear weapons. They are appreciative of the fact that, under the terms of the Antarctic Treaty, Antarctica may be used for peaceful purposes only and that all nuclear explosions are prohibited there. They have noted the considerable progress made, through the Treaty of Tlatelolco, towards the denuclearization of Latin America; and they have noted also the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in support of proposals for the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in other regions of the world. In addition, they have welcomed the emphasis placed by the Secretary-General in the introduction to his annual report of 11 August 1975 (A/10001/Add.1) on the increasing importance of the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones as a means of enhancing regional security.
3. Fiji, New Zealand and other countries of the South Pacific believe that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the South Pacific would contribute to the security and welfare of the peoples living in that area and minimize the risks to health and environment in the region. They are confirmed in this opinion by the Declaration adopted by the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT/CONF/35/I, annex I) that the establishment of internationally recognized nuclear-weapon-free zones, on the initiative and with the agreement of the directly concerned States of the zone, represents an effective means of curbing the spread of nuclear weapons and could contribute significantly to the security of those States.
4. The Declaration of the Review Conference stressed the importance of the co-operation of the nuclear-weapon States for the maximum effectiveness of any treaty arrangements for establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone. In this connexion, Fiji, New Zealand and other countries of the South Pacific have taken appreciative note of statements by nuclear-weapon States in the General Assembly, expressing support for the concept of nuclear-weapon-free zones.
5. It has therefore seemed timely to these countries to seek the endorsement of the General Assembly this year for the concept of a South Pacific nuclear-weapon-free zone. The Heads of Government of the independent and self-governing States members of the South Pacific Forum on 3 July 1975 called for renewed efforts towards a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty and general and complete disarmament. In particular, the Forum emphasized the importance of keeping the

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region free from the risk of nuclear conflict and commended the idea of establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the South Pacific as a means of achieving that aim.

6. The Governments of Fiji and New Zealand, which are members of the South Pacific Forum, accordingly request the inclusion of an item on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the South Pacific in the agenda of the thirtieth session of the General Assembly. In conformity with rule 20 of the rules of procedure, they submit this explanatory memorandum and the attached draft resolution.

ANNEX II

Draft resolution

The General Assembly,

Conscious of the urgent need for agreement on measures to achieve the goal of general and complete disarmament, including nuclear disarmament, under effective international control,

Convinced that the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the continuance of the nuclear arms race are among the greatest threats to world peace and the survival of mankind,

Noting that article VII of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons a/ acknowledges the right of any group of States to conclude a treaty to assure the total absence of nuclear weapons in their respective territories,

Noting further the declaration of the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons that the establishment of internationally recognized nuclear-weapon-free zones, on the initiative and with the agreement of the directly concerned States of the zone, represents an effective means of curbing the spread of nuclear weapons and could contribute significantly to the security of those States, b/

Endorsing also the declaration of the Review Conference that the co-operation of the nuclear-weapon States is necessary for the maximum effectiveness of any treaty arrangements for establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone, b/

Recalling, in particular, the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa issued by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity in July 1964, c/ and the notable progress achieved by the Latin American States towards the denuclearization of their region,

Noting, in addition, that the Heads of Government of the independent or self-governing States members of the South Pacific Forum emphasized in their communiqué of 3 July 1975 the importance of keeping the South Pacific region free from the risk of nuclear contamination and of involvement in a nuclear conflict and commended the idea of establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the South Pacific as a means of achieving that aim,

a/ General Assembly resolution 2373 (XXII).

b/ NPT/CONF/35/I, annex I, p. 9.

c/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twentieth Session, Annexes, agenda item 105, document A/5975.

1. Endorses the idea of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the South Pacific;
2. Invites the countries concerned to carry forward consultations about ways and means of realizing this objective;
3. Expresses the hope that all States, in particular the nuclear-weapon States, will co-operate fully in achieving the objectives of the present resolution;
4. Requests the Secretary-General to render all necessary assistance to the States of the region in giving effect to the purpose of the present resolution.
