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Agenda item 55

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

#### Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Pablo Emilio SADER (Uruguay)

#### I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 45/53 of 4 December 1990.
2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1991, 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 10 October 1991, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on the disarmament items allocated to it, namely, items 47 to 65. The deliberations on those items took place between the 3rd and 24th meetings, from 14 to 30 October (see A/C.1/46/PV.3-24). Consideration of and action on draft resolutions on those items took place between the 25th and 37th meetings, from 4 to 15 November (see A/C.1/46/PV.25-37).
4. In connection with item 55, the First Committee had before it the following documents:
  - (a) Report of the Secretary-General on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia (A/46/425);
  - (b) Letter dated 17 June 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/261-S/22714);

(c) Letter dated 23 September 1991 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/493);

(d) Letter dated 19 September 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the documents adopted by the Twentieth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held at Istanbul from 4 to 8 August 1991 (A/46/486-S/23055).

## II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/46/L.30

5. On 1 November, Bangladesh and Pakistan submitted a draft resolution entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia" (A/C.1/46/L.30), which was introduced by the representative of Pakistan at the 33rd meeting, on 11 November.

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.30 by a recorded vote of 104 to 3, with 25 abstentions (see para. 7). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Albania, Angola, Australia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Czechoslovakia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zaire, Zimbabwe.

Against: Bhutan, India, Mauritius.

Abstaining: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Ethiopia, France, Grenada, Iceland, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Madagascar, Mongolia, Myanmar, Norway, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia.

### III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

7. 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, 40/83 of 12 December 1985, 41/49 of 3 December 1986, 42/29 of 30 November 1987, 43/66 of 7 December 1988, 44/109 of 15 December 1989 and 45/53 of 4 December 1990 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 that 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,

Taking note with appreciation of the declarations issued at the highest level by Governments of South Asian States that are developing their peaceful nuclear programmes, 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,

Welcoming the recent proposal for the conclusion of a bilateral or regional nuclear-test-ban agreement in South Asia,

Taking note of the proposal to convene, under the auspices of the United Nations, a conference on nuclear non-proliferation in South Asia as soon as possible, with the participation of the regional and other concerned States,

Bearing in mind the provisions of paragraphs 60 to 63 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly <sup>1/</sup> regarding the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, including in the region of South Asia,

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<sup>1/</sup> Resolution S-10/2.

Taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General, 2/

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 meantime, from any action contrary to that objective;
3. Calls upon the nuclear-weapon States which have not done so to respond positively to this proposal and to extend the necessary cooperation 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 ascertain their views on the issue and to promote consultations among them with a view to exploring the best possibilities of furthering the efforts for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia;
5. Also requests the Secretary-General to report on the subject to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session;
6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-seventh session the item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia".

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