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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-sixth session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 35/147 of 12 December 1980.
2. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 18 September 1981, 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 7 October, the First Committee decided to hold a combined general debate on the items allocated to it relating to disarmament, namely, items 39 to 56, 128 and 135. The general debate on these items took place at the 3rd to 26th meetings, from 19 October to 4 November (see A/C.1/36/PV.3-26).
4. In connexion with the item, the First Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Letter dated 24 December 1980 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/36/60);
 - (b) Letter dated 3 February 1981 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/36/92);
 - (c) Letter dated 26 February 1981 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/36/112-S/14387);

(d) Letter dated 25 March 1981 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting documents of the Third Islamic Conference, held at Mecca-Taif from 25 to 28 January 1981 (A/36/138);

(e) Letter dated 20 April 1981 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/36/220);

(f) Letter dated 27 May 1981 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/36/298);

(g) Letter dated 9 June 1981 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/36/315);

(h) Letter dated 5 August 1981 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting documents of the Twelfth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held at Baghdad from 1 to 5 June 1981 (A/36/421 and Corr.1);

(i) Letter dated 19 October 1981 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/36/610);

(j) Letter dated 26 October 1981 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/36/630).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/36/34 and Rev.1

5. On 16 November, Egypt submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/36/L.34), which was introduced at the 38th meeting, on 20 November. The draft resolution read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 3263 (XXIX), 3474 (XXX), 31/71, 32/82, 33/64, 34/77 and 35/147 on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East,

"Recalling also the recommendations in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly for the establishment of such a zone in the Middle East consistent with paragraphs 60-63, in particular paragraph 63 D,

"Emphasizing the basic provisions of the above resolutions which call upon all parties directly concerned to: consider taking practical and urgent steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a nuclear-

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weapon-free zone in the Middle East; pending and during the establishment of such a zone 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; 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 IAEA safeguards; and declare their support for the establishment of the zone, and deposit such declarations with the Security Council for consideration as appropriate,

"Noting with appreciation that already 11 Middle Eastern States are parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

"Realizing that adherence to the aforementioned Treaty by all States of the region would be conducive to a speedy establishment of the nuclear-weapon-free zone,

"Bearing in mind the Consensus reached at the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East would greatly enhance international peace and security,

"Desirous to build on that Consensus so that substantial progress can be made towards establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East,

"1. Declares as an urgent goal the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East;

"2. Invites all States directly concerned, pending the establishment of the zone, not to develop, produce, test or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or permit the stationing on their territories, of nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices;

"3. Urges those States to avert any action which could jeopardize the fulfilment of the present resolution, to adhere to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and to place all their nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards;

"4. Invites the nuclear-weapon States and all other States to render their assistance to the establishment of the zone and at the same time to refrain from any action which runs counter to both the letter and spirit of the present resolution;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to appoint a special representative who would contact all concerned parties in the region with a view to ascertaining their attitudes on procedures necessary for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East including the scope and modalities thereof;

"6. Further requests the Secretary-General to submit an interim report on the mission of his personal representative to the second Special Session of

the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament in 1982, report to the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly and to the Security Council;

"7. Calls upon all States directly concerned to co-operate fully with the Secretary-General in carrying out the mandate entrusted to him by virtue of this resolution;

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

6. On 23 November, Qatar submitted amendments (A/C.1/36/L.53) to draft resolution A/C.1/36/L.34, as follows:

(a) The following would be added after the fourth preambular paragraph:

"Recalling Security Council resolution 487 of 19 June 1981;

"Recalling further the report of the Secretary-General concerning Israeli Nuclear Armaments contained in document A/36/431;"

(b) The following would be added after the sixth preambular paragraph:

"Deeply concerned that the future of the NPT in the region was gravely endangered by the attack carried out by Israel, a non-NPT party, on the nuclear installations of Iraq which is a party to the NPT;"

(c) The following would be added at the end of operative paragraph 1:

"particularly in view of the Israeli attack on the nuclear installations of Iraq as well as Israel's nuclear capability;"

(d) Operative paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 would be deleted;

(e) The following new operative paragraph 5 would be added:

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to submit an interim report to the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament in 1982, and a final report to the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly and to the Security Council on the implementation of this resolution;"

(f) Operative paragraph 8 would be renumbered 6.

7. On 24 November, Egypt submitted a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/36/L.34/Rev.1).

8. At its 44th meeting, on 25 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/36/L.34/Rev.1 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 resolutions 3263 (XXIX) of 9 December 1974, 3474 (XXX) of 11 December 1975, 31/71 of 10 December 1976, 32/82 of 12 December 1977, 33/64 of 14 December 1978, 34/77 of 11 December 1979 and 35/147 of 12 December 1980 on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit General Assembly resolution 35/147 to the General Assembly at its second special session devoted to disarmament;

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