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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN
AS A ZONE OF PEACE

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Alemayehu MAKONNEN (Ethiopia)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace: report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean" was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-sixth session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 35/150 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 on 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 item 49, the First Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean; 1/
 - (b) Letter dated 2 March 1981 from the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting documents of the Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Non-Aligned Countries, held at New Delhi from 9 to 13 February 1981 (A/36/116 and Corr.1);

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/36/29).

(c) Letter dated 19 August 1981 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/36/446);

(d) Letter dated 15 August 1981 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq to the Secretary-General (A/36/481);

(e) Letter dated 30 September 1981 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué of the Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegations of the Non-Aligned Countries, held on 25 and 28 September 1981, to the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly (A/36/566-S/14713);

(f) Letter dated 5 October 1981 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations, transmitting resolutions adopted by the 68th Inter-Parliamentary Conference, held at Havana from 15 to 23 September 1981 (A/36/584);

(g) Letter dated 9 October 1981 from the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting documents of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, held at Melbourne from 30 September to 7 October 1981 (A/36/587).

II. CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION RECOMMENDED BY THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN

5. At the 35th meeting, on 19 November, the representative of Sri Lanka, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean, introduced the report of the Ad Hoc Committee 1/ containing a draft resolution. 2/

6. On 24 November, a statement by the Secretary-General on the administration and financial implications of the draft resolution was circulated (A/C.1/36/L.56). The observations of the Committee on Conferences on the administrative implications of the draft resolution were also circulated (A/C.1/36/L.56/Add.1).

7. At its 44th meeting, on 25 November, the Committee adopted the draft resolution recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee without a vote (see para. 8).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

2/ Ibid., para. 25.

Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as
a Zone of Peace

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, contained in its resolution 2832 (XXVI) of 16 December 1971, and recalling also its resolutions 2992 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, 3080 (XXVIII) of 6 December 1973, 3259 A (XXIX) of 9 December 1974, 3468 (XXX) of 11 December 1975, 31/88 of 14 December 1976, 32/86 of 12 December 1977, S-10/2 of 30 June 1978, 33/68 of 14 December 1978, 34/80 A and B of 11 December 1979 and 35/150 of 12 December 1980, and other relevant resolutions,

Recalling also that, at its tenth special session, devoted to disarmament, it stated that the establishment of zones of peace in various regions of the world under appropriate conditions, to be clearly defined and determined freely by the States concerned in the zone, taking into account the characteristics of the zone and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and in conformity with international law, can contribute to strengthening the security of States within such zones and to international peace and security as a whole, 3/

Recalling further the report of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, 4/

Reaffirming its conviction that concrete action for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace would be a substantial contribution to the strengthening of international peace and security,

Recalling its decision at the thirty-fourth session in resolution 34/80 B to convene a Conference on the Indian Ocean at Colombo during 1981,

Recalling further its decision at the thirty-fifth session in resolution 35/150 to make every effort, in consideration of the political and security climate in the Indian Ocean area, particularly recent developments, as well as the progress made in the harmonization of views, to finalize, in accordance with its normal methods of work, all preparations for the Conference, including the dates for its convening,

Recalling the exchange of varied views in the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean and noting that, while progress has been made, a number of issues remain to be resolved,

Noting also the exchange of views on the adverse political and security climate in the region,

3/ Resolution S-10/2, para. 64.

4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 45 (A/34/45 and Corr.1).

Noting that the Ad Hoc Committee has failed to reach consensus on the dates for the convening, during 1981, of the Conference on the Indian Ocean at Colombo,

Convinced that the continued military presence of the great Powers in the Indian Ocean area, conceived in the context of their confrontation, gives urgency to the need to take practical steps for the early achievement of the objectives of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace,

Considering that all other foreign military presence in the area, whenever it is contrary to the objectives of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace and the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, further gives greater urgency to the need to take practical steps towards the early achievement of the objectives of the Declaration,

Considering also that the creation of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean requires the active participation of and full co-operation among the littoral and hinterland States, the permanent members of the Security Council and major maritime users to ensure conditions of peace and security based on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations as well as the general principles of international law,

Considering further that the creation of a zone of peace requires co-operation and agreement among the States of the region to ensure conditions of peace and security within the area, as envisaged in the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, and respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the littoral and hinterland States,

Calling for renewing genuinely constructive efforts through the exercise of political will necessary for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace,

Deeply concerned at the danger posed by the grave and ominous developments in the area and the resulting sharp deterioration of peace, security and stability which particularly seriously affect the littoral and hinterland States, as well as international peace and security,

Convinced that the continued deterioration of the political and security climate in the Indian Ocean area is an important consideration bearing on the question of the early convening of the Conference and that the easing of tension in the area would enhance the prospect of the Conference achieving success,

1. Takes note of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean 5/ and the exchange of views in the Committee;

2. Regrets that the Ad Hoc Committee has failed to reach consensus on the finalization of dates for the convening, during 1981, of the Conference on the Indian Ocean;

5/ Ibid., Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/36/29).

3. Emphasizes its decision to convene the Conference on the Indian Ocean at Colombo as a necessary step for the implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, adopted in 1971;
4. Emphasizes also, in pursuance of this decision and in consideration of the political and security climate in the Indian Ocean area, its decision to request the Ad Hoc Committee to continue its efforts for the necessary harmonization of views on the remaining issues related to the convening of the Conference;
5. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to continue its work on the necessary harmonization of views on the relevant issues including those set forth in paragraph 4 above and to make every effort to accomplish the necessary preparatory work for the Conference, including consideration of its convening not later than the first half of 1983;
6. Renews the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee as defined in the relevant resolutions;
7. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to hold further sessions in 1982 of a total duration of six weeks, including the holding of a meeting, at a venue outside New York to be decided upon;
8. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to submit to the General Assembly at its second special session devoted to disarmament and at its thirty-seventh session reports on its work and on the implementation of the present resolution;
9. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to render all necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Committee, including the provision of summary records.
