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Agenda item 46

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

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Miodrag MIHAJLOVIĆ (Yugoslavia)

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-third session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/86 of 12 December 1977.
2. At its 4th and 5th plenary meetings, on 22 September 1978, 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 3rd meeting, on 6 October, the First Committee decided to consider separately items 125 and 128 and then to hold a combined general debate on the other items allocated to it relating to disarmament, namely, items 35 to 49. The general debate on those items took place at the 29th to 50th meetings from 6 November to 24 November (A/C.1/33/PV.29-50).
4. In connexion with item 46, the First Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean 1/ containing inter alia, a draft resolution unanimously recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee for adoption by the General Assembly; 2/

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/33/29 and Corr.1).

2/ Ibid., para. 28.

(b) Letter dated 14 June 1978 from the Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the resolutions adopted by the Ninth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held at Dakar from 24 to 28 April 1978 (A/33/151);

(c) Letter dated 6 September 1978 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the documents of the Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Belgrade from 25 to 30 July 1978 (A/33/206).

5. At the 36th meeting, on 13 November, the representative of Sri Lanka, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean, introduced the report of the Ad Hoc Committee containing the draft resolution, as revised by the corrigendum. 3/ He further revised the draft resolution by deleting in operative paragraph 7 the words "or, as required, verbatim records".

6. On 29 November, the Secretary-General submitted a statement (A/C.1/33/L.52) on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution. Following proposals made by the representatives of Sri Lanka and Democratic Yemen at its 58th meeting, on 30 November, the Committee decided to recommend that, in addition to Chinese, French and English, Arabic should be provided as a language for interpretation and summary records at the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean and for the Meeting's pre-session documentation, in addition to the provision for post-session documentation in six languages (see para. 9 below).

7. At its 58th meeting, on 30 November, the Committee adopted the draft resolution contained in paragraph 28 of document A/33/29 and Corr.1, as orally amended, by a recorded vote of 112 to none, with 14 abstentions (see para. 8 below). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cape Verde, Central African Empire, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland,

3/ See foot-note 1.

Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Guatemala, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

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 and S-10/2 of 30 June 1978,

Encouraged by the continued support extended to the Declaration by the Ministerial Meeting of the Co-ordinating Bureau of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Havana from 15 to 20 May 1978, 4/ and by the Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Belgrade from 25 to 30 July 1978, 5/

Reaffirming its conviction that concrete action in furtherance of the objectives of the Declaration would be a substantial contribution to the strengthening of international peace and security,

Deeply concerned at the intensification of great Power military presence, conceived in the context of great Power rivalry, leading to an increase of tension in the area,

Considering that the continued military presence of the great Powers in the Indian Ocean, conceived in the context of great Power rivalry, with the danger of a competitive escalation of such a military presence, gives greater urgency to the need to take practical steps for the early implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace,

4/ See A/33/118.

5/ See A/33/206.

Considering also that the creation of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean requires co-operation among the regional States to ensure conditions of peace and security within the region, as envisaged in the Declaration, and the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the littoral and hinterland States,

Further considering that, at its special session devoted to disarmament, it noted the proposal for establishing the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace, taking into account the deliberations of the General Assembly and its relevant resolutions, as well as the need to ensure the maintenance of peace and security in the region, 6/

Noting that talks were initiated between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America regarding their military presence in the Indian Ocean, and that the two countries have kept the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean informed of the current situation concerning these talks,

Regretting, however, that the talks are suspended,

Recalling its resolution 32/86, in which it decided that a Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean should be convened in New York at a suitable date,

1. Urges that the talks between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America regarding their military presence in the Indian Ocean be resumed without delay;

2. Renews its invitation to the great Powers and other major maritime users of the Indian Ocean that have not so far seen their way to co-operating effectively with the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean to enter with the least possible delay into consultations with the Committee regarding the implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace;

3. Takes note of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee 7/ and in particular section III concerning the steps taken towards making the necessary preparations for holding a Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean;

4. Decides to convene a Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean in New York from 2 to 13 July 1979, as the next step towards the convening of a conference on the Indian Ocean for the implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace as contained in General Assembly resolution 2832 (XXVI), such States being listed in the reports of the Ad Hoc Committee to the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth, 8/ thirtieth, 9/ and

6/ Resolution S-10/2, para. 64 (b).

7/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/33/29 and Corr.1).

8/ Ibid., Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/30/29), annex I, para. 5.

9/ Ibid., Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/35/29), para. 29.

thirty-third sessions, 10/ and decides that other States not falling within this category, but which have participated or have expressed their willingness to participate in the work of the Committee, could attend upon the invitation of the Committee;

5. Decides that the Ad Hoc Committee, performing the functions of a preparatory committee, will make the necessary preparations for convening a Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States and that the Committee will set up informal working groups for this purpose when necessary;

6. Requests the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States to submit its report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to make the necessary provision, including the essential background information, relevant documentation and summary records for the Meeting referred to in paragraph 4 above, and to continue to render all necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Committee, including the provision of summary records;

8. Renews the general mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee as defined in the relevant resolutions;

9. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session a full report on its work.

9. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

The General Assembly decides that, in addition to Chinese, French and English, Arabic should be provided as a language for interpretation and summary records at the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean and for the Meeting's pre-session documentation, in addition to the provision for post-session documentation in six languages.

10/ Ibid., Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/33/29), para. 27.