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Agenda item 121

SITUATION ARISING OUT OF UNILATERAL WITHDRAWAL OF  
GANGES WATERS AT FARAKKA

Report of the Special Political Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Percy HAYNES (Guyana)

1. In letters dated 21 and 26 August and 8 September 1976 (A/31/195 and Add.1 and 2), the representative of Bangladesh requested the inclusion of a supplementary item entitled "Situation arising out of unilateral withdrawal of Ganges waters at Farakka" in the agenda of the thirty-first session.
2. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 24 September 1976, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the Special Political Committee.
3. The Special Political Committee considered the item at its 20th, 21st and 27th meetings, on 15, 16 and 24 November 1976.
4. At its 20th meeting, the Special Political Committee heard a statement by the representative of Bangladesh, who introduced a draft resolution (A/SPC/31/L.8). At its 21st meeting, the Committee heard a statement by the representative of India.
5. At its 27th meeting, the Committee approved the consensus statement (A/SPC/31/7) which had been read by the Chairman (see para. 6 below). The Chairman also announced the withdrawal by Bangladesh of its resolution (A/SPC/31/L.8).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

6. The Special Political Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft consensus to be read by the President of the Assembly:

1. The parties affirmed their adherence to the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations 1/ and stressed, in this regard, their unalterable commitment to strengthen their bilateral relations by applying these Principles in the settlement of disputes.

2. The parties recognized the urgency of the situation, particularly with the onset of another dry season.

3. Both parties agreed that the situation called for an urgent solution and, to that end, have decided to meet urgently at Dacca at the ministerial level for negotiations with a view to arriving at a fair and expeditious settlement.

4. The parties asserted that the prime objective of such intensified contact was to promote the well-being of their peoples and agreed to facilitate the establishment of an atmosphere conducive to the successful outcome of the negotiations.

5. The parties undertook to give due consideration to the most appropriate ways of utilizing the capacity of the United Nations system.

6. It is open to either party to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session on the progress achieved in the settlement of the problem.

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1/ General Assembly resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.