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Agenda item 39

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

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Kedar Bhakta SHRESTHA (Nepal)

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-first session on the basis of General Assembly resolution 3468 (XXX) of 11 December 1975.
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 First Committee.
3. At its 2nd meeting, on 5 October, the First Committee decided to hold a combined general debate on the items allocated to it relating to disarmament, namely, items 34 to 50 and 116. The general debate on these items took place at the 20th to 39th meetings, from 1 to 19 November.
4. In connexion with item 39, the First Committee had before it the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean. 1/
5. At the 40th meeting, on 22 November, the representative of Indonesia, acting Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean, introduced the report of the Ad Hoc Committee containing in paragraph 20 a draft resolution unanimously recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee for adoption by the General Assembly.
6. On 23 November, the Secretary-General submitted a statement (A/C.1/31/L.22) on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution.

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1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/31/29 and Corr.1).

7. At the 44th meeting, on 29 November, the First Committee adopted the draft resolution by 97 votes to none, with 27 abstentions (see para. 8 below).

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 and 3468 (XXX) of 11 December 1975,

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,

Noting the resolution adopted at the Fifth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries on the subject of the Indian Ocean Peace Zone Proposal, 2/

Deeply concerned that there has been an escalation of the military presence of the great Powers conceived in the context of great Power rivalry in the Indian Ocean, and believing therefore that the implementation of the purposes and objectives of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace has acquired a new urgency,

Regretting that, despite repeated invitations, certain great Powers as well as certain major maritime users of the Indian Ocean have not so far found it possible to co-operate with the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean and the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean,

1. Takes note of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean, 3/ in particular section II thereof concerning the consultations entered into by the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean in pursuance of paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 3468 (XXX);

2. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee and the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean to continue their consultations with a view to formulating a programme of action leading to the convening of a Conference on the Indian Ocean;

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2/ A/31/197, annex, p. 124.

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/31/29 and Corr.1).

3. Renews its invitation to all States, in particular the great Powers and major maritime users of the Indian Ocean, to co-operate in a practical manner with the Ad Hoc Committee in the discharge of its functions;

4. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to continue its work and consultations in accordance with its mandate and to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session a report on its work;

5. Requests the Secretary General to continue to render all necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Committee, including the provision of summary records.

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