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Agenda item 43

COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF THE QUESTION OF NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE  
ZONES IN ALL ITS ASPECTS

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Kedar Bhakta SHRESTHA (Nepal)

1. The item entitled "Comprehensive study of the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all its aspects: report of the Secretary-General", was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-first session on the basis of General Assembly resolution 3472 A (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 43, the First Committee had before it a report of the Secretary-General on the subject (A/31/189 and Add.1 and 2).
5. On 17 November, Finland submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/31/L.8), which was introduced by its representative at the 44th meeting, on 29 November.
6. At its 47th meeting, on 1 December, the Committee voted on draft resolution A/C.1/31/L.8 as follows:
  - (a) The second preambular paragraph was adopted by 95 votes to 1, with 18 abstentions;
  - (b) The draft resolution as a whole was adopted by a recorded vote of 114 to none, with 1 abstention (see para. 7 below). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Surinam, Swaziland, 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 Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: None.

Abstaining: France.

#### RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

Comprehensive study of the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all its aspects

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3261 F (XXIX) of 9 December 1974, by which it decided to undertake a comprehensive study of the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all of its aspects,

Recalling further resolution 3472 A (XXX) of 11 December 1975, by which the General Assembly, inter alia, commended the special report to the attention of all Governments, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other relevant international organizations and invited them to transmit to the Secretary-General before 30 June 1976 such views, observations and suggestions on the special report as they might deem appropriate,

/...

Having considered the special report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament 1/ containing the comprehensive study of the Ad Hoc Group of Qualified Experts of the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all of its aspects,

Having noted the comments made by States members of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament concerning the study, 2/

Considering that the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones is included in the provisional agenda of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament of 15 August 1968,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General containing the views, observations and suggestions on the special report by Governments, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America; 3/

2. Expresses once more its appreciation to the Ad Hoc Group of Qualified Governmental Experts for the Study of the Question of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones for the preparation of the study and conveys its thanks to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency and other relevant international organizations for the assistance they have given for the preparation of the study;

3. Reiterates its conviction that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones can contribute to the security of members of such zones, to the prevention of proliferation of nuclear weapons and to the goals of general and complete disarmament;

4. Draws the attention of Governments to the comprehensive study and the views, observations and suggestions on that study contained in the report of the Secretary-General;

5. Expresses the hope that the comprehensive study and the views, observations and suggestions on that study will enhance further efforts of the Governments concerning nuclear-weapon-free zones and will be of assistance to States interested in the establishment of such zones;

6. Conveys the comprehensive study and the report of the Secretary-General to the Governments concerned, to interested international organizations and to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament for the further consideration and measures that they may deem appropriate within their respective fields of competence.

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1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 27A (A/10027/Add.1).

2/ Ibid., annex II.

3/ A/31/189 and Add.1 and 2.