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Agenda item 54

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE IN SOUTH ASIA

Report of the First CommitteeRapporteur: Mr. Dimitris PLATIS (Greece)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-fourth session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 43/66 of 7 December 1988.
2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 22 September 1989, 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 13 October, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on the disarmament items allocated to it, namely, items 49 to 69 and 151. The deliberations on those items took place between the 3rd and 25th meetings, from 16 October to 1 November (see A/C.1/44/PV.3-25). Consideration of and action on draft resolutions on those items took place between the 26th and 41st meetings, from 2 to 17 November (see A/C.1/44/PV.26-41).
4. In connection with item 54, the First Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia (A/44/363 and Corr.1);

(b) Letter dated 18 April 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the Final Communiqué of the Eighteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (session on Islamic fraternity and solidarity) held at Riyadh from 6 to 9 Sha'ban A.H. 1409 (13 to 16 March A.D. 1989) (A/44/235-S/20600);

(c) Letter dated 19 July 1989 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Zimbabwe to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the final documents of the Ministerial Meeting of the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Harare from 17 to 19 May 1989 (A/44/409-S/20743 and Corr.1 and 2).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/44/L.48

5. On 30 October 1989, Bangladesh and Pakistan submitted a draft resolution, entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia" (A/C.1/44/L.48), which was introduced by the representative of Pakistan at the 33rd meeting, on 10 November.

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/44/L.48 by a recorded vote of 102 to 3, with 30 abstentions (see para. 7). The voting was as follows: 1/

In favour: Albania, Australia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Kampuchea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Bhutan, India, Mauritius.

Abstaining: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Ethiopia, France, German Democratic Republic, Iceland, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia.

1/ Subsequently, the delegation of Mauritania indicated that it had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

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III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3265 B (XXIX) of 9 December 1974, 3476 B (XXX) of 11 December 1975, 31/73 of 10 December 1976, 32/83 of 12 December 1977, 33/65 of 14 December 1978, 34/78 of 11 December 1979, 35/148 of 12 December 1980, 36/88 of 9 December 1981, 37/76 of 9 December 1982, 38/65 of 15 December 1983, 39/55 of 12 December 1984, 40/83 of 12 December 1985, 41/49 of 3 December 1986, 42/29 of 30 November 1987 and 43/66 of 7 December 1988 concerning the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia,

Reiterating its conviction that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in various regions of the world is one of the measures that can contribute effectively to the objectives of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and general and complete disarmament,

Believing that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia, as in other regions, will assist in the strengthening of the security of the States of the region against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Noting with appreciation the declarations issued at the highest level by the Governments of South Asian States that are developing their peaceful nuclear programmes, reaffirming their undertaking not to acquire or manufacture nuclear weapons and to devote their nuclear programmes exclusively to the economic and social advancement of their peoples,

Welcoming the recent proposal for the conclusion of a bilateral or regional nuclear-test-ban agreement in South Asia,

Taking note of the proposal to convene, under the auspices of the United Nations, a conference on nuclear non-proliferation in South Asia, as soon as possible, with the participation of the regional and other concerned States,

Bearing in mind the provisions of paragraphs 60 to 63 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 2/ regarding the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, including in the region of South Asia,

2/ Resolution S-10/2.

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General, 3/

1. Reaffirms its endorsement, in principle, of the concept of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia;
2. Urges once again the States of South Asia to continue to make all possible efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia and to refrain, in the mean time, from any action contrary to that objective;
3. Calls upon those nuclear-weapon States which have not done so to respond positively to this proposal and to extend the necessary co-operation in the efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia;
4. Requests the Secretary-General to communicate with the States of the region and other concerned States in order to ascertain their views on the issue and to promote consultations among them with a view to exploring the best possibilities of furthering the efforts for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia;
5. Also requests the Secretary-General to report on the subject to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session;
6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fifth session the item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia".
