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Agenda item 38

DECLARATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Alvaro de SOTO (Peru)

1. The item entitled "Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace: report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean" was included by the Secretary-General in the provisional agenda of the twenty-eighth session on the basis of General Assembly resolution 2992 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972.

2. At its 2123rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 1973, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in the agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee for consideration and report.

3. At its 1923rd meeting, on 5 November, the First Committee decided to have a combined general debate on the items allocated to it, relating to disarmament and the Indian Ocean, namely:

Item 29: Economic and social consequences of the armaments race and its extremely harmful effects on world peace and security.

Item 32: World Disarmament Conference.

Item 33: General and complete disarmament.

Item 34: Napalm and other incendiary weapons and all aspects of their possible use.

Item 35: Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons.

Item 36: Urgent need for suspension of nuclear and thermonuclear tests.

Item 37: Implementation of General Assembly resolution 2935 (XXVII) concerning the signature and ratification of Additional Protocol II of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Treaty of Tlatelolco).

Item 38: Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace.

4. The general debate on these items took place at the 1934th, 1935th, 1938th and 1940th to 1953rd meetings, from 23 October to 8 November.
5. The First Committee had before it, in connexion with agenda item 38, the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean. 1/
6. On 9 November, Australia, Bahrain, India, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.655) which subsequently was also sponsored by Guyana, Iran, Kuwait, Nepal, the Philippines, the Sudan, the United Arab Emirates and Yugoslavia. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Sri Lanka at the 1955th meeting, on 12 November.
7. On 22 November, the Secretary-General submitted a statement (A/C.1/L.667) on the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/C.1/L.655.
8. At the 1969th meeting, on 23 November, the draft resolution (A/C.1/L.655) was adopted by 77 votes to none, with 29 abstentions (see paragraph 9 below).

#### RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

9. The first Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

##### Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2832 (XXVI) of 16 December 1971, entitled "Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace",

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

Noting the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean, 2/ established by General Assembly resolution 2992 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972 to study the implications of the proposal, with special reference to the practical measures that may be taken in furtherance of Assembly resolution 2832 (XXVI), having due regard to the security interests of the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean and the interests of any other State consistent with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

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1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/9029).

2/ Ibid.

Noting with satisfaction the progress made by the Ad Hoc Committee in fulfilling its mandate,

1. Urges all States to accept the principles and objectives contained in General Assembly resolution 2832 (XXVI), entitled "Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace", as a constructive contribution to the strengthening of regional and international security;

2. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean to continue its work, to carry out consultations in accordance with its mandate and to report with recommendations to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session;

3. Urges all States, and especially the major Powers, to extend their co-operation to the Ad Hoc Committee in the discharge of its functions;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to render all necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Committee;

5. Decides that the Ad Hoc Committee shall be provided with summary records of its proceedings;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a factual statement of the great Powers' military presence in all its aspects, in the Indian Ocean, with special reference to their naval deployments, conceived in the context of great Power rivalry;

7. Recommends that the statement should be based on available material and prepared with the assistance of qualified experts and competent bodies selected by the Secretary-General;

8. Requests that the statement be transmitted to the Ad Hoc Committee at an early date, if possible by 31 March 1974;

9. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its twenty-ninth session an item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace".

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