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Agenda item 35

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE
DENUCLEARIZATION OF AFRICA

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Ernst SUCHARIPA (Austria)

1. The item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa" was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-fourth session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 33/63 of 14 December 1978.
2. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 21 September 1979, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item on its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.
3. At its 3rd meeting, on 1 October, the First Committee decided to hold a combined general debate on the items allocated to it relating to disarmament, namely, items 30 to 45, 120 and 121. The general debate on these items took place at the 4th to 30th meetings, from 16 October to 5 November (A/C.1/34/PV.4-30).
4. In connexion with agenda item 35, the First Committee had before it a letter dated 27 July 1979 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the resolutions and final communiqué of the Tenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held at Fez from 8 to 12 May 1979 (A/34/389 and Corr.1).
5. On 12 November, Algeria, Angola, Cape Verde, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, the Ivory Coast, Kenya, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, the Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Cameroon, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zaire submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/34/L.16) which was later also sponsored by Burundi, the Congo, Gabon, Gambia, Mauritius, Mozambique and Rwanda. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Nigeria at the 34th meeting, on 14 November.

6. On 19 November, Nigeria submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/34/L.39), which was later revised by the addition of the title "Nuclear capability of South Africa" (A/C.1/34/L.39/Rev.1) and co-sponsored by Algeria, Angola, Benin, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire and Zambia and subsequently also sponsored by Burundi, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, the Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Togo, Tunisia and the United Republic of Cameroon. The revised draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Nigeria at the 39th meeting, on 21 November.

7. On 26 November, the Secretary-General submitted a statement (A/C.1/34/L.47) on the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/C.1/34/L.39/Rev.1.

8. At its 38th meeting, on 21 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/34/L.16 by a recorded vote of 85 to none, with 11 abstentions (see para. 10, draft resolution A). The voting was as follows: 1/

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

9. At its 43rd meeting, on 26 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/34/L.39/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 10, draft resolution B).

1/ Subsequently the delegations of Benin, Bolivia, Cyprus, Democratic Yemen, Ecuador, Gabon, Gambia, the Ivory Coast, Jordan, Lesotho, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, the Philippines, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, the Sudan, Turkey, the United Republic of Cameroon, Yemen and Zaire indicated that, had they been present, they would have voted in favour.

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RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

10. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Implementation of the Declaration on the
Denuclearization of Africa

A

Implementation of the Declaration

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa 2/ adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its first ordinary session, held at Cairo from 17 to 21 July 1964,

Recalling its resolutions 1652 (XVI) of 24 November 1961, 32/81 of 12 December 1977 and 33/63 of 14 December 1978, in which it called upon all States to consider and respect the continent of Africa, comprising the continental African States, Madagascar and other islands surrounding Africa, as a nuclear-weapon-free zone,

Recalling also that in its resolution 33/63 of 14 December 1978 it vigorously condemned any attempt by South Africa to introduce in any way whatsoever nuclear weapons into the continent and demanded that South Africa should forthwith refrain from conducting any nuclear explosion on the continent of Africa or elsewhere,

Noting with concern that South Africa has persistently refused to conclude adequate and comprehensive safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency with a view to preventing the diversion of nuclear materials from peaceful uses to the manufacture of nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices,

Alarmed by the report that, having bluntly and persistently refused to renounce the acquisition of nuclear weapons, South Africa might have detonated a nuclear explosive device,

Convinced that such a situation constitutes a grave danger to international peace and security and a particularly dangerous threat to the security of African States,

Recalling its decision, taken at the tenth special session, that the Security Council should take appropriate effective steps to prevent the frustration of the decision of the Organization of African Unity for the denuclearization of Africa, 3/

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twentieth Session, Annexes,
agenda item 105, document A/5975.

3/ Resolution S-10/2, para. 63 (c).

Noting with appreciation the report of the United Nations Seminar on Nuclear Collaboration with South Africa, held in London on 24 and 25 February 1979, 4/

Expressing its indignation that some Western countries and Israel have continued to collaborate with South Africa in the form, inter alia, of uranium extraction and processing, supply of nuclear equipment, transfer of technology, provision of training and exchange of scientists and external financial support for its nuclear programme,

Noting with satisfaction the resolution of the Organization of African Unity, adopted at the thirty-third ordinary session of its Council of Ministers, by which it adopted further steps towards the implementation of the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa, 5/

1. Strongly reiterates its call upon all States to consider and respect the continent of Africa, comprising the continental African States, Madagascar and other island surrounding Africa, as a nuclear-weapon-free zone;
2. Vigorously condemns the reported explosion of a nuclear device by South Africa;
3. Reaffirms that the nuclear programme of the racist régime of South Africa constitutes a very grave danger to international peace and security and a particularly dangerous threat to the security of African States, and increases the danger of the proliferation of nuclear weapons;
4. Condemns any nuclear collaboration by any State, corporation, institution or individual with the racist régime of South Africa since such collaboration frustrates, inter alia, the objective of the Organization of African Unity to keep Africa a nuclear-weapon-free zone;
5. Calls upon such States, corporations, institutions or individuals, therefore, to terminate forthwith such nuclear collaboration between them and the racist régime of South Africa;
6. Requests the Security Council to prohibit all forms of co-operation and collaboration with the racist régime of South Africa in the nuclear field;
7. Requests the Security Council to institute effective enforcement action, bearing in mind the recommendations of the United Nations Seminar on Nuclear Collaboration with South Africa, held in London on 24 and 25 February 1979, against the racist régime of South Africa, so as to prevent it from further endangering international peace and security through its acquisition of nuclear weapons;
8. Demands that South Africa submit all its nuclear installations to inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency;

4/ S/13157.

5/ A/34/552, annex I, CM/Res.718 (XXXIII).

9. Requests the Secretary-General to render all necessary assistance to the Organization of African Unity towards the realization of its solemn Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa;

10. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-fifth session the item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa".

B

Nuclear capability of South Africa

The General Assembly,

Deeply alarmed at the report that South Africa might have detonated a nuclear explosive device in September 1979,

Recalling its decision on this matter taken at its 47th plenary meeting, on 26 October 1979, 6/

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General, 7/

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for the action taken by him in pursuance of its decision of 26 October 1979;

2. Appeals to all Member States in a position to do so to provide all relevant information at their disposal to the Secretary-General;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to follow the situation closely and in the light of further relevant information to be submitted by Member States;

4. Further requests the Secretary-General to prepare, with the assistance of appropriate experts, a comprehensive report on South Africa's plan and capability in the nuclear field and to submit the report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session.

6/ A/34/PV.47, para. 11.

7/ A/34/674 and Add.1.