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Agenda item 45

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

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Francisco CORREA (Mexico)

1. The item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia: report of the Secretary-General" was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-second session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 31/73 of 10 December 1976.
2. At its 5th plenary meeting, on 23 September 1977, 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 7th meeting, on 18 October, the First Committee decided to hold a combined general debate on the items allocated to it relating to disarmament, namely items 33, 34, 38 to 49 and 51 to 53. The general debate on these items took place at the 7th to 27th meetings, from 18 October to 7 November. 1/
4. In connexion with agenda item 45, the First Committee had before it the following documents:
  - (a) Note by the Secretary-General (A/32/298);
  - (b) Letter dated 6 July 1977 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final communiqué of the Eighth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held at Tripoli from 16 to 22 May 1977 (A/32/133, annex);
  - (c) Letter dated 23 September 1977 from the Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the resolutions adopted by the Eighth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (A/32/235).

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1/ For an index to statements by delegations on disarmament items, see A/32/383.

5. On 2 November, Pakistan submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/32/L.7), which was introduced by its representative at the 30th meeting, on 11 November.

6. At its 38th meeting, on 18 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/32/L.7 by 71 votes to none, with 28 abstentions (see para. 7 below).

#### 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 resolutions 3265 B (XXIX) of 9 December 1974, 3476 B (XXX) of 11 December 1975 and 31/73 of 10 December 1976 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 which can contribute most 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 strengthen the security of the States of the region against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Noting the recent declarations issued at the highest level by Governments of South Asian States 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,

Recalling that in the above-mentioned resolutions the General Assembly called upon the States of the South Asian region and such other neighbouring non-nuclear-weapon States as might be interested to make all possible efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia and to refrain, in the meantime, from any action contrary to this objective,

Further recalling that, in its resolutions 3265 B (XXIX) and 31/73, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to convene a meeting for the purpose of the above-mentioned consultations and to render such assistance as might be required to promote the efforts for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia,

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 and such other neighbouring non-nuclear-weapon States as may be interested to continue to make all possible efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia and to refrain, in the meantime, from any action contrary to this 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 render such assistance as may be required to promote the efforts for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia and to report on the subject to the General Assembly at its special session devoted to disarmament, to be held in May/June 1978, and its thirty-third regular session;
5. Decides to consider this item at its special session devoted to disarmament and at its thirty-third regular session.

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