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

Report of the Secretary-General

1. On 12 December 1977, the General Assembly adopted resolution 32/83, the operative part of which reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

...

"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 and June 1978, and at 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."

2. On 30 June 1978, the General Assembly at its tenth special session adopted resolution A/S-10/2 containing the Final Document of that session, paragraph 63 (e) of which reads as follows:

"All States in the region of South Asia have expressed their determination to keep their countries free of nuclear weapons. No action should be taken by them which might deviate from that objective. In this context, the question of establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia has been dealt with in several resolutions of the General Assembly, which is keeping the subject under consideration."

3. The Secretary-General has been in contact with the States of the South Asian region with regard to paragraph 4 of resolution 32/83. He wishes to inform the General Assembly that there has been no request by the States concerned for his assistance in connexion with the subject. In the course of those contacts, a view was expressed to the Secretary-General that he should continue to be available for this purpose.

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