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Agenda item 43

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

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Miodrag MIHAJLOVIĆ (Yugoslavia)

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-third session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/83 of 12 December 1977.
2. At its 4th and 5th plenary meetings, on 22 September 1978, 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 3rd meeting, on 6 October, the First Committee decided to consider separately items 125 and 128 and then to hold a combined general debate on the other items allocated to it relating to disarmament, namely, items 35 to 49. The general debate on these items took place at the 29th to 50th meetings from 6 to 24 November (A/C.1/33/PV.29-50).
4. In connexion with agenda item 43, the First Committee had before it the following documents:
  - (a) Report of the Secretary-General (A/33/360);
  - (b) Letter dated 14 June 1978 from the Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the resolutions of the Ninth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held at Dakar from 24 to 28 April 1978 (A/33/151).
5. On 17 November, Pakistan submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/33/L.25), which was introduced by its representative at the 50th meeting, on 24 November.
6. At its 55th meeting, on 29 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution

A/C.1/33/L.25 by a recorded vote of 93 to 2, with 31 abstentions 1/ (see para. 7 below). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Algeria, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Empire, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Democratic Yemen, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Fiji, Finland, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Iceland, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Zaire.

Against: Bhutan, India.

Abstaining: Afghanistan, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, German Democratic Republic, Greece, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Maldives, Mauritius, Mongolia, Norway, Poland, Singapore, Sweden, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

#### RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

7. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly 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 and 32/83 of 12 December 1977 concerning the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia,

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1/ The representative of Hungary subsequently stated that he had intended to abstain, but the abstention had not been recorded by the voting machine. The representative of Bangladesh stated that, had he been present, he would have voted in favour of the draft resolution.

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 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), 31/73 and 32/83, it requested the Secretary-General to convene a meeting for the purpose of the consultations mentioned therein 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,

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

Noting the report of the Secretary-General on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia, 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 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;

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2/ Resolution A/S-10/2.

3/ A/33/360.

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 thirty-fourth session;

5. Decides to consider this item at its thirty-fourth session.

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