

REPORT
OF THE
***AD HOC* COMMITTEE**
ON THE INDIAN OCEAN

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 29 (A/35/29)



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I. INTRODUCTION

1. By resolution 34/80 A of 11 December 1979, the General Assembly took note with satisfaction of the issues on which the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean had succeeded in harmonizing a common position; expressed its hope for the early implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace as contained in its resolution 2832 (XXVI); urged that the talks between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America regarding their military presence in the Indian Ocean should be resumed without delay and that the parties should refrain from any activity prejudicial to the implementation of resolution 2832 (XXVI); renewed the general mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee as defined in the relevant resolutions; and requested the Ad Hoc Committee to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session a full report on its work. By resolution 34/80 B of the same date, the General Assembly decided to enlarge the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean by the addition of new members to be appointed by the President of the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee; invited the permanent members of the Security Council and major maritime users of the Indian Ocean referred to in paragraph 12 (c) of the report of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean 1/ that had not yet done so to serve on the expanded Ad Hoc Committee; decided to convene a Conference on the Indian Ocean during 1981 at Colombo for the implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace as contained in its resolution 2832 (XXVI); and requested the Ad Hoc Committee to undertake the preparatory work for the convening of the Conference, including consideration of appropriate arrangements for any international agreement that may ultimately be reached for the maintenance of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace, as referred to in paragraph 3 of resolution 2832 (XXVI), and to hold its preparatory sessions at United Nations Headquarters and at least two such sessions, including the final one, in Mauritius. 2/

2. Pursuant to resolutions 34/80 A and B, which renewed the general mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee and requested it to undertake preparatory work for the convening of the Conference on the Indian Ocean, the Ad Hoc Committee met from 4 to 8 February, 2 to 13 June, 21 July to 8 August and 30 October 1980 and held 39 formal meetings as well as a number of informal meetings at United Nations Headquarters during 1980.

3. Pursuant to paragraphs 1 and 2 of General Assembly resolution 34/80 B, the membership of the Ad Hoc Committee was enlarged by the addition of 22 new members. As a result, the composition of the Committee is now as follows:

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 45 (A/34/45 and Corr.1).

2/ At the Committee's 79th meeting, on 4 February 1980, the Chairman informed the Committee that the June 1980 session of the Committee could not be held in Mauritius as originally planned owing to the widespread damages caused by the passage of a cyclone on Mauritius.

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Australia | Maldives |
| Bangladesh | Mauritius |
| Bulgaria | Mozambique |
| Canada | Netherlands |
| China | Norway |
| Democratic Yemen | Oman |
| Djibouti | Pakistan |
| Egypt | Panama |
| Ethiopia | Poland |
| France | Romania |
| German Democratic Republic | Seychelles |
| Germany, Federal Republic of | Singapore |
| Greece | Somalia |
| India | Sri Lanka |
| Indonesia | Sudan |
| Iran | Union of Soviet Socialist Republics |
| Iraq | United Kingdom of Great Britain and |
| Italy | Northern Ireland |
| Japan | United Republic of Tanzania |
| Kenya | United States of America |
| Liberia | Yemen |
| Madagascar | Yugoslavia |
| Malaysia | Zambia |

Sweden attended meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee as an observer.

4. The elected officers of the Ad Hoc Committee were the following:

Chairman: Mr. Nadarajah Palasubramaniam (Sri Lanka) and his predecessor
Mr. Biyagama Jayasena Fernando (Sri Lanka)

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Siegfried Kahn (German Democratic Republic);
Mr. Perry Nolan (Australia);
Mr. Hipolito Patricio (Mozambique);
Mr. Sastrohandoyo Wirjono (Indonesia) and his predecessor
Mr. Wisber Loeis (Indonesia);

Rapporteur: Mr. Henri Rasolondraibe (Madagascar).

II. WORK OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE

A. Agenda of the Ad Hoc Committee

5. The following agenda was adopted by the Committee at its 79th meeting on 4 February 1980 (A/AC.159/L.23):

1. Opening of the session.
2. Recommendation concerning the enlargement of the Ad Hoc Committee.
3. Adoption of the agenda.

4. Organization of work.
5. Preparations for the Conference on the Indian Ocean as called for in General Assembly resolution 34/80 B including, inter alia:
 - (a) Provisional agenda;
 - (b) Participation;
 - (c) Level of representation;
 - (d) Organizational matters and rules of procedure;
 - (e) Documentation;
 - (f) Consideration of appropriate arrangements for any international agreement that may ultimately be reached for the maintenance of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace;
 - (g) Report of the Ad Hoc Committee to the Conference.
6. Report of the Ad Hoc Committee to the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly.
7. Other matters.

B. Expansion of the Ad Hoc Committee

6. In accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution 34/80 B, the General Assembly invited the permanent members of the Security Council and major maritime users of the Indian Ocean listed in paragraph 12 (c) of the report of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean that had not yet done so to serve on the expanded Ad Hoc Committee. The permanent members of the Security Council listed in paragraph 12 (c) are France, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. The major maritime users of the Indian Ocean listed in paragraph 12 (c) are Canada, Germany, Federal Republic of, Italy, Liberia, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden.

7. France and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics accepted the invitation and served on the expanded Ad Hoc Committee as of its first session in February. At the same session, the United States of America informed the Committee of its intention to attend the Committee on an interim basis, pending its formal reply to the invitation. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland stated that it was participating as an observer pending a final decision on the matter. The United Kingdom and the United States accepted the invitation and served on the expanded Ad Hoc Committee as of its second session in June.

8. Canada, Germany, Federal Republic of, Italy, Liberia, the Netherlands and Norway accepted the invitation and served on the expanded Ad Hoc Committee as of its second session in June. At the same session, Sweden informed the Committee that it would participate in the work of the Committee in an observer capacity.

9. The following countries submitted written requests to join the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean: Seychelles (11 July 1979), German Democratic Republic (23 November 1979), Poland (23 November 1979), Bulgaria (28 November 1979), Yugoslavia (1 January 1980), Egypt (21 January 1980), Sudan (4 February 1980), Viet Nam (5 February 1980), Djibouti (7 February 1980), Romania (7 February 1980), Singapore (7 February 1980), Panama (29 February 1980) and Democratic Kampuchea (28 May 1980).

10. Pursuant to operative paragraph 1 of resolution 34/80 B, by which the General Assembly decided to enlarge the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean by the addition of new members to be appointed by the President of the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee, and following intensive consultations on the question of enlargement of the Committee, in accordance with paragraph 1 of the above resolution, the Committee at its 93rd meeting, on 9 June, decided to recommend for membership in the Committee the following littoral and hinterland States: Djibouti, Egypt, Seychelles, Singapore and Sudan as well as the following States: Bulgaria, German Democratic Republic, Panama, Poland, Romania and Yugoslavia.

11. On the basis of the recommendation made by the Ad Hoc Committee, the President of the General Assembly appointed the following States as additional members of the Committee: Bulgaria, Djibouti, Egypt, German Democratic Republic, Panama, Poland, Romania, Seychelles, Singapore, Sudan and Yugoslavia (A/34/854).

12. At its 102nd meeting, on 24 July 1980, the Committee considered the request from Maldives regarding its admission to the Committee. At its 108th meeting, on 29 July, the Committee decided to recommend Maldives for membership in the Committee. Subsequently, the President of the General Assembly, on the basis of that recommendation, appointed Maldives as an additional member of the Committee (A/34/854/Add.1).

13. At its 102nd meeting, the Chairman also read out a letter, dated 12 June 1980, which he had received from the Permanent Representative of Democratic Kampuchea, stating that Democratic Kampuchea was maintaining its candidacy for membership in the Committee and requesting the Committee to keep its candidature under examination and at an appropriate time to take a favourable decision on the question, with the least possible delay. At the 114th meeting, on 6 August, the Chairman informed the Committee that he had received a letter dated 5 August 1980 from the Permanent Representative of Democratic Kampuchea stating that, pending a decision on its candidacy for membership in the Committee, it wished to participate in the work of the Committee in an observer capacity. The Chairman informed the Committee that further consultations were necessary with respect to the request from Democratic Kampuchea.

14. Also at its 102nd meeting, the Chairman read out a letter, dated 18 July 1980, which he had received from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam, expressing the wish of his Government to participate as an observer in the Committee's session to be held from 21 June to 8 August 1980. The Chairman informed the Committee that further consultations were necessary with respect to the request from Viet Nam.

C. Expansion of the Committee's Bureau

15. In order to reflect the new composition of the Committee, the Committee at its

103rd meeting, on 25 July, decided initially to expand its Bureau by the addition of two more Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Siegfried Kahn (German Democratic Republic) and Mr. Perry Nolan (Australia).

D. Preparatory work for the Conference on the Indian Ocean as called for in General Assembly resolution 34/80 E

16. At its 79th meeting, on 4 February 1980, the Committee decided to request the members to submit their views on item 5 of the agenda (A/AC.159/L.23) concerning preparations for the Conference on the Indian Ocean, namely, the provisional agenda, participation, level of representation, organizational matters and rules of procedure, documentation, consideration of appropriate arrangements for any international agreement that may ultimately be reached for the maintenance of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace; the report of the Ad Hoc Committee to the Conference or any other issues which might be considered to be relevant. At the same meeting, the Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare a document classifying, under various headings, the replies received from Governments.

17. Accordingly, on 5 March 1980, the Chairman sent a letter to the members of the Committee and to the other States who had been invited by the General Assembly under resolution 34/80 B to serve on the expanded Ad Hoc Committee, requesting them to submit their views concerning the above-mentioned aspects related to the preparations for the Conference on the Indian Ocean.

18. Replies were received from the following countries: Australia, China, Greece, Indonesia, Japan and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (A/AC.159/L.24).

19. In accordance with the Committee's decision taken at its 81st meeting, on 6 February, the Committee embarked on a general exchange of views on agenda item 5, namely, the preparation for the Conference on the Indian Ocean as called for in General Assembly resolution 34/80 B.

20. At its 91st meeting, on 5 June, the Committee decided to proceed with a substantive discussion of the issues underlying subitems 5 (a) and (f) on the preparations for the Conference, namely, the provisional agenda for the Conference and consideration of appropriate arrangements for any international agreement that may ultimately be reached for the maintenance of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace.

21. At its 97th meeting, on 12 June 1980, the Chairman presented an informal list of topics under the heading "Preparations for the Indian Ocean Conference to implement the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace", prepared by him at the request of the Committee with a view to facilitating the substantive discussion of subitems 5 (a) and (f) as referred to in paragraph 20 above. Those topics were formulated in the informal list as follows: geographical limits, foreign military presence, nuclear weapons, security, peaceful settlement of disputes, use of the Indian Ocean by foreign vessels and aircraft and other matters.

22. At its 99th meeting, on 13 June, the Committee embarked on a general exchange of views on subitems 5 (a) and (f) within the framework of the informal list of topics.

23. At the same meeting, the Committee decided to request its members to submit

in writing their views on subitems 5 (a) and (f) concerning preparations for the Conference on the Indian Ocean. The Committee also requested the Secretariat to prepare a document classifying the replies received under the same headings as the topics in the informal list.

24. Accordingly, on 25 June 1980, the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean sent a letter to the members of the Committee requesting them to submit their views on subitems 5 (a) and (f) concerning preparations for the Conference on the Indian Ocean to implement the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace.

25. Replies were received from the following countries: Australia, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Canada, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Madagascar, Netherlands, Pakistan, Poland, Seychelles, Somalia, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Yemen (A/AC.159/L.26 and Add.1-9).

26. From its 100th to 104th meetings (21 to 25 July), the Committee continued a general exchange of views on subitems 5 (a) and (f) within the framework of the informal list of topics.

27. After concluding this debate, on 25 July, the Committee at its 105th meeting, on 28 July, proceeded to a more detailed consideration of each particular topic in that informal list.

28. The inclusion of new members in the Ad Hoc Committee enabled it to have a wider and more intensive exchange of views on issues related to the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace. This exchange of views, in particular on topics referred to in paragraph 21 above, demonstrated the interest of all members of the Committee in a comprehensive identification and analysis of the issues related to the implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace. The discussions in this context reflected the current international situation, the sensitivity and complexity of the issues involved and the extent of the differences of views on certain fundamental points. These discussions were useful and demonstrated the willingness of all members to develop a better understanding of each other's views, thereby helping efforts to harmonize approaches on these issues and thus contributing towards the preparations of the Conference.

E. Summary records of the Ad Hoc Committee

29. On the basis of the decision taken at its 114th meeting, on 6 August, the Committee recommended that, in view of the political nature of the Committee's work including consideration of specific measures concerning arms limitation, summary records should be reinstated for the meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean beginning with its session in February 1981.

III. RECOMMENDATION

30. The Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean unanimously recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Implementation of the Declaration of the
Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, contained in its resolution 2832 (XXVI) of 16 December 1971, and recalling also its resolutions 2992 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, 3080 (XXVIII) of 6 December 1973, 3259 A (XXIX) of 9 December 1974, 3468 (XXX) of 11 December 1975, 31/88 of 14 December 1976, 32/86 of 12 December 1977, S-10/2 of 30 June 1978, 33/68 of 14 December 1978 and 34/80 A and B of 11 December 1979, and other recent relevant resolutions,

Bearing in mind, in particular, its decision at the thirty-fourth session in resolution 34/80 B to convene a Conference on the Indian Ocean during 1981 at Colombo,

Recalling further the report of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, 3/

Welcoming the addition of new members appointed pursuant to resolution 34/80 B and noting that the participation of these members has helped the work of the Committee,

Reaffirming its conviction that concrete action for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace would be a substantial contribution to the strengthening of international peace and security,

Considering that the continued danger posed by the military presence of the great Powers in the Indian Ocean area, conceived in the context of their confrontation, gives greater urgency to the need to take practical steps towards the early achievement of the objectives of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace,

Considering also that all other foreign military presence in the area whenever it is contrary to the objectives of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace and the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations further gives greater urgency to the need to take practical steps towards the early achievement of the objectives of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace.

Considering that the creation of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean requires the participation of and co-operation among the littoral and hinterland States, the permanent members of the Security Council and major maritime users, to ensure conditions of peace and security based on the purposes and principles of the Charter as well as the general principles of international law,

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 45 (A/34/45 and Corr.1).

Considering also that the creation of a zone of peace requires co-operation among the regional States to ensure conditions of peace and security within the area, as envisaged in the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, and the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the littoral and hinterland States,

Deeply concerned at recent ominous developments resulting in further deterioration of peace and stability in the region and their implications for international peace and security,

1. Takes note of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean and the exchange of views in the Ad Hoc Committee which, inter alia, indicate that:

(a) Following the expansion of its membership, there has been a varied and useful exchange of views on important issues regarding the implementation of the Declaration as a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean as contained in General Assembly resolution 2832 (XXVI), and on other related matters;

(b) Progress has been made towards harmonizing differing approaches on these issues while a number of fundamental issues remain to be resolved;

2. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee in pursuance of the decision contained in resolution 34/80 B to convene a Conference on the Indian Ocean during 1981 at Colombo, and taking into consideration the exchange of views thereon;

(a) To continue its efforts for the necessary harmonization of views on the issues related to the convening of the Conference to achieve the objectives of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace as contained in resolution 2832 (XXVI);

(b) To make every effort, in consideration of the political and security climate in the Indian Ocean area, particularly recent developments, as well as the progress made in the harmonization of views referred to in subparagraph (a) above, to finalize, in accordance with its normal methods of work, all preparations for the Conference including the dates for its convening;

(c) To continue the preparatory work for the convening of the Conference and to hold two preparatory sessions in 1981 totalling six weeks;

(d) To submit to the Conference a full report on its preparatory work;

3. Requests the Conference on the Indian Ocean to submit its report to the General Assembly;

4. Renews the general mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee as defined in the relevant resolutions;

5. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session a full report on the implementation of the present resolution;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to render all necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Committee, including the provisions of summary records.

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