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ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE IN THE REGION OF THE MIDDLE EAST

Report of the First Committee

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East" was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-seventh session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 36/87 A of 9 December 1981.
2. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 24 September 1982, 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 2nd meeting, on 29 September, the First Committee decided to hold a combined general debate on the items allocated to it relating to disarmament, namely, items 39 to 57, 133 and 136. The general debate on these items and on items 138 and 139, which were allocated to the First Committee by the General Assembly at its 24th plenary meeting, on 8 October 1982, took place at the 3rd to 28th meetings, from 18 October to 5 November (see A/C.1/37/PV.3-28).
4. In connection with item 45, the First Committee had before it a letter dated 22 June 1982 from the Chargé d'Affaires of the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Final Communiqué of the Ministerial Meeting of the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Countries, held at Havana from 31 May to 5 June 1982 (A/37/333).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/37/L.49 and Rev.1

5. On 17 November, Egypt submitted a draft resolution entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East" (A/C.1/37/L.49), which was introduced by its representative at the 38th meeting, on 19 November. The draft resolution read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 3263 (XXIX), 3474 (XXX), 31/71, 32/82, 33/64, 34/77, 35/147 and 36/87 on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East,

"Recalling also the recommendations in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly for the establishment of such a zone in the Middle East consistent with paragraphs 60-63, in particular paragraph 63 (d),

"Emphasizing the basic provisions of the above resolutions which call upon all parties directly concerned to: consider taking practical and urgent steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, pending and during the establishment of such a zone to declare solemnly that they will refrain, on a reciprocal basis, from producing, acquiring or in any other way possessing nuclear weapons and nuclear explosive devices and from permitting the stationing of nuclear weapons on their territory by any third party and to agree to place all their nuclear facilities under the International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards and declare their support for the establishment of the zone and deposit such declaration with the Security Council for consideration as appropriate,

"Noting that already 11 Middle Eastern States are parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

"Realizing that adherence to the aforementioned Treaty by all States of the region would be conducive to a speedy establishment of the nuclear-weapon-free zone,

"Reaffirming the inalienable right of all States to acquire and develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes,

"Emphasizing further that all peaceful nuclear facilities should be protected against military attacks, nuclear or conventional,

"Bearing in mind the consensus reached at the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East would greatly enhance international peace and security,

"Desirous to build on that consensus so that substantial progress can be made towards establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East,

/...

"1. Resolves that the adherence by all parties in the region to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons would facilitate the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East;

"2. Invites those parties in the region which have not yet done so, to adhere to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;

"3. Calls upon all countries of the region which have not yet done so, pending the establishment of the zone, to agree to place all their nuclear activities under the International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards;

"4. Invites those countries, pending the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East to declare their support for establishing such a zone in the region, consistent with the relevant paragraph of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session and to deposit those declarations with the Security Council;

"5. Invites further those countries, pending the establishment of the zone, not to develop, produce, test or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or permit the stationing on their territories or territories under their control, of nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices;

"6. Invites the nuclear-weapon States and all other States to render their assistance to the establishment of the zone and at the same time to refrain from any action which runs counter to both the letter and spirit of the present resolution;

"7. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the thirty-eighth session of the General Assembly on the implementation of the present resolution;

"8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-eighth session the item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East."

6. On 24 November, Egypt submitted a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/37/L.49/Rev.1) in which the fourth and fifth preambular paragraphs and operative paragraphs 1 and 2 had been deleted and a new operative paragraph 1 had been added.

7. At its 45th meeting, on 26 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.49/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 8).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

8. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

/...

Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in
the region of the Middle East

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3263 (XXIX) of 9 December 1974, 3474 (XXX) of 11 December 1975, 31/71 of 10 December 1976, 32/82 of 12 December 1977, 33/64 of 14 December 1978, 34/77 of 11 December 1979, 35/147 of 12 December 1980 and 36/87 of 9 December 1981 on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East,

Recalling also the recommendations for the establishment of such a zone in the Middle East consistent with paragraphs 60 to 63, in particular paragraph 63 (d), of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 1/

Emphasizing the basic provisions of the above resolutions, which call upon all parties directly concerned to consider taking the practical and urgent steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and, pending and during the establishment of such a zone, to declare solemnly that they will refrain, on a reciprocal basis, from producing, acquiring or in any other way possessing nuclear weapons and nuclear explosive devices and from permitting the stationing of nuclear weapons on their territory by any third party, and to agree to place all their nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards and declare their support for the establishment of the zone and deposit such declaration with the Security Council for consideration, as appropriate,

Reaffirming the inalienable right of all States to acquire and develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes,

Emphasizing further the need for appropriate measures on the question of the prohibition of military attacks on nuclear facilities,

Bearing in mind the consensus reached by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East would greatly enhance international peace and security,

Desirous to build on that consensus so that substantial progress can be made towards establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East,

1/ Resolution S-10/2.

1. Urges all parties directly concerned to consider seriously taking the practical and urgent steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and, as a means of promoting this objective, invites the countries concerned to adhere to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; 2/

2. Calls upon all countries of the region that have not done so, pending the establishment of the zone, to agree to place all their nuclear activities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards;

3. Invites those countries, pending the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, to declare their support for establishing such a zone in the region, consistent with the relevant paragraph of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, and to deposit those declarations with the Security Council;

4. Invites further those countries, pending the establishment of the zone, not to develop, produce, test or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or permit the stationing on their territories, or territories under their control, of nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices;

5. Invites the nuclear-weapon States and all other States to render their assistance to the establishment of the zone and at the same time to refrain from any action that runs counter to both the letter and spirit of the present resolution;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-eighth session the item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East".

2/ Resolution 2373 (XXII), annex.