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

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Luvsangiin ERDENECHULUUN (Mongolia)

I. INTRODUCTION

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-seventh session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 36/88 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 46, the First Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Report of the Secretary-General (A/37/433);
 - (b) Letter dated 22 June 1982 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Final Communiqué and other documents of the Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Non-Aligned Countries held at Havana from 31 May to 5 June 1982, to the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly (A/37/333-S/15278).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/37/L.14

5. On 10 November, Pakistan submitted a draft resolution entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia" (A/C.1/37/L.14), which was introduced by its representative at the 30th meeting, on 10 November.

6. At its 41st meeting, on 23 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.14 by a recorded vote of 79 to 2, with 39 abstentions (see para. 7). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Burundi, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, Gabon, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Iceland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Liberia, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: Bhutan, India.

Abstaining: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ethiopia, Fiji, France, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Norway, Poland, Sao Tome and Principe, Sweden, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia.

III. 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, 31/73 of 10 December 1976, 32/83 of 12 December 1977, 33/65 of 14 December 1978, 34/78 of 11 December 1979, 35/148 of 12 December 1980 and 36/88 of 9 December 1981 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 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 it 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,

Bearing in mind the provisions of paragraphs 60 to 63 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly 1/ regarding the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, including in the region of South Asia,

1/ Resolution S-10/2.

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia, 2/

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 thirty-eighth session;

5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-eighth session the item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia".
