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Agenda item 48

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Luvsangiin ERDENECHULUUN (Mongolia)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace: report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean" was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-seventh session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 36/90 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 48, the First Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean; 1/

(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 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-S/15278);

(c) Letter dated 11 October 1982 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Final Communiqué and other documents of the Meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Non-Aligned Countries, held in New York from 4 to 9 October 1982 (A/37/540-S/15454);

(d) Letter dated 25 October 1982 from the Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Final Communiqué of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Regional Meeting III held at Suva from 14 to 18 October 1982 (A/37/586-S/15472);

(e) Note verbale dated 30 November 1982 from the Permanent Representatives of Bulgaria, the German Democratic Republic, Poland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Joint Statement of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the German Democratic Republic, the Polish People's Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics related to the recommendation contained in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean 2/ (A/C.1/37/11).

II. CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION RECOMMENDED BY THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN

5. At the 44th meeting, on 26 November, the representative of Sri Lanka, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean, introduced the report of the Ad Hoc Committee 1/ containing a draft resolution. 2/

6. In this connection, the Secretary-General submitted a statement on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution (A/C.1/37/L.76).

7. At its 50th meeting, on 2 December, the Committee adopted the draft resolution recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee without a vote (see para. 8).

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/37/29).

2/ Ibid., para. 19.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

8. The First Committee 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, 34/80 A and B of 11 December 1979, 35/150 of 12 December 1980 and 36/90 of 9 December 1981, and other relevant resolutions,

Recalling also that, at its tenth special session, the first special session devoted to disarmament, it stated that the establishment of zones of peace in various regions of the world under appropriate conditions to be clearly defined and determined freely by the States concerned in the zone, taking into account the characteristics of the zone and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and in conformity with international law, can contribute to strengthening the security of States within such zones and to international peace and security as a whole, 3/

Recalling further the report of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, 4/

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,

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

Recalling further its decision, taken at the thirty-fifth session in resolution 35/150, 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, to finalize, in accordance with its normal methods of work, all preparations for the Conference, including the dates for its convening,

3/ Resolution S-10/2, para. 64.

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

Recalling the exchange of varied views in the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean in 1982 and noting that, while some progress has been made, a number of issues remain to be resolved,

Noting the exchange of views on the adverse political and security climate in the region,

Noting also that the Ad Hoc Committee has failed to reach consensus on the dates for the convening, during 1983, of the Conference on the Indian Ocean at Colombo,

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

Considering 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 purposes and principles of the Charter, further gives greater urgency to the need to take practical steps towards the early achievement of the objectives of the Declaration,

Considering also that the creation of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean requires the active participation of and full co-operation among the littoral and hinterland States, the permanent members of the Security Council and the 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,

Considering further that the creation of a zone of peace requires co-operation and agreement among the States of the region 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 respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the littoral and hinterland States,

Calling for the renewal of genuinely constructive efforts through the exercise of the political will necessary for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace,

Deeply concerned at the danger posed by the grave and ominous developments in the area and the resulting sharp deterioration of peace, security and stability which particularly seriously affect the littoral and hinterland States, as well as international peace and security,

Convinced that the continued deterioration of the political and security climate in the Indian Ocean area is an important consideration bearing on the question of the early convening of the Conference and that the easing of tension in the area would enhance the prospect of success being achieved by the Conference,

/...

1. Takes note of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean 5/ and the exchange of views in the Committee;
2. Regrets that the Ad Hoc Committee has failed to reach consensus on the finalization of dates for the convening, during 1983, of the Conference on the Indian Ocean, and takes note of the views expressed relating to the need for the convening of the Conference during the first half of 1984;
3. Emphasizes its decision to convene the Conference at Colombo as a necessary step for the implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, adopted in 1971;
4. Emphasizes also, in pursuance of that decision and in consideration of the political and security climate in the Indian Ocean area, its decision to request the Ad Hoc Committee to continue its efforts for the necessary harmonization of views on the remaining issues related to the convening of the Conference;
5. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to continue its work on the necessary harmonization of views on the relevant issues, including those set forth in paragraph 4 above, and to make every effort to accomplish the necessary preparatory work for the Conference, including consideration of its convening not later than the first half of 1984;
6. Renews the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee as defined in the relevant resolutions;
7. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to hold three further sessions in 1983 of a duration of two weeks each, with the possibility of holding a fourth session to be considered as required;
8. Requests the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee to continue his consultations on the participation in the work of the Committee by States Members of the United Nations which are not members of the Committee with the aim of resolving this matter at the earliest possible date;
9. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session a full report on the implementation of the present resolution;
10. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to render all necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Committee, including the provision of summary records.

5/ Ibid., Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/37/29).