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ZONE OF PEACE AND CO-OPERATION OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC

Report of the Secretary-General

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1. INTRODUCTION

1. In a letter dated 29 May 1986 from the Minister for External Relations of Brazil to the Secretary-General (A/41/193 and Corr.1), the Minister, in accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, requested the inclusion in the provisional agenda of the forty-first session of the General Assembly of an item entitled "Zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic".

2. On 27 October 1986, the General Assembly adopted resolution 41/11, entitled "Zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic", the operative part of which reads as follows :

"The General Assembly,

"1. Solemnly declares the Atlantic Ocean, in the region situated between Africa and South America, a ' Zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic')

"2. Call8 upon all State8 of the zone of the South Atlantic to promote further regional co-operation, inter alia, for social and economic development, the protection of the environment, the conservation of living resource8 and the peace and security of the whole region ;

"3. Calls upon all State8 of all other regions, in particular the militarily significant States, scrupulously to respect the region of the South Atlantic as a zone of peace and co-operation, especially through the reduction and eventual elimination of their military presence there, the non-introduction of nuclear weapons or other weapon8 of mass destruction and the non-extension into the region of rivalries and conflict8 that are foreign to it,

"4. Calls upon all States of the region and of all other region8 to co-operate in the elimination of all sources of tension in the zone, to respect the national unity, sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity of every State therein, to refrain from the threat or use of force, and to observe strictly the principle that the territory of a State shall not be the object of military occupation resulting from the use of force in violation of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the principle that the acquisition of territories by force is inadmissible;

"5. Reaffirm8 that the elimination of apartheid and the attainment of self-determination and independence by the people of Namibia, as well as the cessation of all act8 of aggression and subversion against State8 in the zone, are essential for peace and security in the South Atlantic region, and urges the implementation of all United Nations resolutions pertaining to colonialism, racism and apartheid;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-second session a report on the situation in the South Atlantic and

the implementation of the present declaration, taking into account the views expressed by Member States;

"7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-second session the item entitled 'Zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic'."

3. General Assembly resolution 41/11 was sponsored by Angola, Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cape Verde, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Nepal, Nigeria, Saint Lucia, Sao Tome and Principe and Uruguay and was adopted by 124 votes to 1, with 8 abstentions. Subsequently, delegations of 8 more States advised the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour.

4. Pursuant to that resolution, the Secretary-General, on 15 January 1987, addressed a note verbale to the Governments of States Members of the United Nations, requesting their views on the question of declaration of a zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic.

5. The present report is submitted in accordance with paragraph 6 of resolution 41/11 and is based on replies and acknowledgements received so far from 21 Governments. The substantive part of these replies is reproduced in section II below. Replies and notifications that may be received subsequently will be published as addenda to the present report.

II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

ARGENTINA

[Original: Spanish]

[27 March 1987]

1. The Government of the Argentine Republic is convinced that the establishment by General Assembly resolution 41/11 of a zone of peace and co-operation in the South Atlantic can contribute significantly and effectively to the maintenance of peace and the strengthening of co-operation among the countries of the region.

2. It is well known that the General Assembly has repeatedly recommended the holding of bilateral negotiations between Argentina and the United Kingdom as an appropriate and peaceful means for a definitive settlement of the question of the Malvinas. The Argentine Government believes that such bilateral negotiations, together with the good offices of the Secretary-General, could end the differences existing between the two countries, as the Assembly itself has requested.

3. Without prejudice to, and in compliance with, paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 41/11, the Argentine Government wishes to enlarge upon an aspect which it considers to be of major importance with regard to the lofty goal of maintaining peace in the region of the South Atlantic, which the Assembly set for itself when it adopted that resolution.

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4. In that regard, it should be pointed out that, in its unilateral declaration of 29 October 1986 on fisheries in the South Atlantic, the United Kingdom Government arrogated to itself the right to control the exploitation of the fishing resources in a zone up to 200 miles around the Malvinas Islands and to exercise jurisdiction over the continental shelf of those islands. At the same time, the United Kingdom established a so-called "Interim Conservation and Management Zone" 150 miles around the islands, superimposed on the illegal "protective" military zone which it set up in 1982 to exclude Argentine ships and aircraft.

5. As will be recalled, the Argentine Government sent communications regarding the question of the Malvinas Islands (item 28 of the agenda of the forty-first session of the General Assembly) to the Secretary-General, dated 30 October and 3 November 1986 (A/41/784-S/18438 and A/41/788-S/18441), in which it rejected the British Government's unilateral declaration of 29 October on fisheries in the South Atlantic, and expressed its profound concern at the position taken by the United Kingdom.

6. The British initiative, which immediately followed the adoption of General Assembly resolution 41/11, in favour of which the United Kingdom itself had voted, creates a new source of tension and conflict in the area, which will affect the security of the region and the interests of third countries.

7. Likewise, it should be emphasized that colonial situations still exist in the South Atlantic and the islands have been undergoing militarization in recent years. The General Assembly has been duly informed about that state of affairs.

8. That situation of insecurity is being aggravated by the geographical proliferation of nuclear arms and the impossibility of verifying compliance with the obligations assumed by the nuclear Powers, all of which is clearly irreconcilable with the nature of a zone of peace and co-operation established by the resolution.

9. At the same time, the Argentine Government is aware that, like the inadmissible policy of apartheid in South Africa, the continued illegal occupation of Namibia constitutes a permanent threat to peace and the full enjoyment of human rights in the region.

10. In support of understanding and co-operation among countries of the region, Argentina has concluded bilateral agreements with Latin American and African countries in the field of economic co-operation, which are in keeping with the purposes of the resolution.

11. The Argentine Republic is convinced that compliance with the goals of that declaration will contribute to the strengthening of the purposes and principles of the Charter and to the development and future of our peoples.

BOTSWANA

[Original: English]

[4 March 1987]

The Government of Botswana wishes to state that it has no views to proffer on the subject other than to express the hope that the region situated between Africa and South Africa will truly become a zone of peace and co-operation. The fulfilment of such a lofty hope will of course depend on the willingness of those States that have disputes to settle in the South Atlantic to pursue the path of peace in their endeavours.

BRAZIL

[Original: English]

[29 July 1987]

1. The Brazilian Government attaches the highest importance to the decision taken by the States Members of the United Nations, at the forty-first session of the General Assembly, to solemnly declare the Atlantic Ocean in the region situated between Africa and South America a "Zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic". The overwhelming endorsement of resolution 41/11, adopted by near unanimity, represents the recognition by the international community of the specific identity of the South Atlantic region and of the sincere desire of the African and South American States of the South Atlantic, who collectively presented the initiative to the general Assembly, to act together to promote peace and co-operation for the benefit of all mankind and, in particular, of the peoples of the region. It is also a clear recognition of the determination of these countries and peoples to preserve their independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, to develop their relations under conditions of peace and liberty, and to remain free from the threat or use of force, from foreign military presence, from nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, and of their determination to keep this region free from all sources of tension and from rivalries and conflicts that are alien to it.

2. Since its establishment in 1986, the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic has represented a strong incentive to the countries of the region to promote, intensify and enlarge existing links of political understanding and co-operation among themselves, geared towards their economic and social development, the protection of the environment, the conservation of resources and the preservation of peace and security of the whole region.

3. It is the primary responsibility of the African and Latin American States of the South Atlantic region to work together to promote the achievement of the objectives of the zone, as defined in resolution 41/11. But the full implementation of these objectives will also require that all States of all other

regions scrupulously respect the region as a zone of peace and co-operation and act in a manner consistent with and supportive of the principles and goals of the declaration of 27 October 1986. In this connection, it is to be hoped that the major military Powers and other militarily significant States express their willingness to consider specific measures that may be taken to ensure the reduction and eventual elimination of their military presence in the region, the non-introduction of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction and the non-extension into the region of their rivalries and conflicts.

4. The preservation of peace and security in the South Atlantic region is a matter of constant concern for the Brazilian Government. The situation in the region continues to be marked by the persistence of significant sources of tension that affect the peace and security of the South Atlantic countries and peoples.

5. As pointed out in resolution 41/11, the elimination of apartheid, the attainment of self-determination and independence by the people of Namibia and the cessation of all acts of aggression and subversion against States in southern Africa are essential for peace and security in the South Atlantic region as a whole. Unfortunately, no progress whatsoever has been witnessed during this last year towards the elimination of these grave problems.

6. In South Africa, the minority Government persists in its steadfast refusal to heed the voice of the South African people and of the international community, maintaining in force the odious régime of racial discrimination. At the same time, it persists in its defiance of Security Council resolution 435 (1978), maintaining its illegal occupation of the Territory of Namibia and denying the Namibian people their right to assume their status as an independent nation,

7. It is the hope of the Brazilian Government that in the not too distant future it will be possible to welcome into the community of South Atlantic States the legitimate government of a free and independent Namibia as well as a South Africa free from the apartheid régime.

8. Having adopted in 1985 legislation consolidating existing prohibitions on co-operation with the South African Government, including, in particular, the sale or trans-shipment to South Africa or Namibia of weapons, munitions or other military equipment, the Brazilian Government is deeply concerned about recent reports on the continuing violations of the mandatory arms embargo against South Africa.

9. Brazil, which has maintained strong ties of friendship and co-operation with Angola ever since its independence 12 years ago, is also deeply concerned by the continuing violations of Angolan sovereignty and the threat to its political independence and territorial integrity promoted and supported by the South African Government. It is to be hoped that ongoing consultations may lead to the creation of conditions, including, in particular, the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978), which would permit Angola to develop its great national potential in an atmosphere of peace and security.

10. On 29 October 1986, the countries of the region learnt of a unilateral declaration of the Government of the United Kingdom of the institution of certain fisheries conservation measures in the area around the Malvinas Islands. The addition of this new element of tension to the dispute over the Malvinas was considered with deep preoccupation and in a spirit of regional solidarity, in the light, inter alia, of resolution 41/11, at a meeting held at Punta del Este, Uruguay, on 2 November 1986 by the Ministers for External Relations of Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil. A similar concern was expressed in a resolution adopted by consensus at the session of the Permanent Council of the Organisation of American States held later that month in Guatemala. The Brazilian Government has repeatedly expressed the hope that the dispute concerning sovereignty and other questions related to the Malvinas may be settled peacefully as soon as possible between Argentina and the United Kingdom, thus removing a dangerous source of tension and potential conflict in the South Atlantic region.

11. The Brazilian Government is committed to the goal of preserving 'the South Atlantic region from measures of militarization and the arms race, in particular the nuclear arms race. The question of the geographical proliferation of nuclear weapons into the South Atlantic region is a matter of deep concern for Brazil. Having signed and ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Treaty of Tlatelolco), the Brazilian Government has stated its commitment to refrain from any measures that would thwart the objectives of that Treaty and looks forward to the full implementation, as soon as possible, of the zone of application of the Treaty, in accordance with its article 4.2, a development that would contribute to reinforce the status of the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic. The Brazilian Government welcomes, in this connection, the resolution approved last April in Montevideo by the General Conference of the Organization of States Parties to the Tlatelolco Treaty (OPANAL) in which it expressed its satisfaction at the adoption of General Assembly resolution 41/11 and requested the preparation of a study on the relationship between the nuclear-weapon-free zone of Latin America and the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic.

12. In its meeting of April 1987, held at Geneva, the Ad Hoc Committee of the Comprehensive Program for Disarmament of the Conference on Disarmament accepted by consensus a proposal to include in the programme an expression of support for the objectives of General Assembly resolution 41/11, in which it is stated:

"The Declaration of the Zone of Peace and Co-operation of the South Atlantic constitutes a concrete step towards the goals set forth by the international community to be achieved through the establishment of zones of peace in various regions of the world for the benefit of all mankind, thereby contributing significantly to the strengthening of International peace and security and to the promotion of the principles and purposes of the United Nations. In this context, it is recognized that the States of the region have a special interest and responsibility to promote regional co-operation for economic development and peace." (CD/CPD/WP.87 of 21 April 1987)

13. During its May 1987 session in New York, the Disarmament Commission, in the framework of the consultation group on naval armaments and disarmament, approved

the inclusion, in the draft text designed to form the basis of further deliberation on the subject, of a recommendation that highlighted the benefits to be derived from the maritime aspects of existing proposals for *toner* of peace in certain regions, with specific mention to the declaration by the General Assembly of the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic.

14. Since the adoption of resolution 41/11, the President of Brazil and the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations have, in the context of high-level visits and other contacts with African and South American States of the South Atlantic, sought to promote the full implementation of the peace and co-operation objectives of the declaration of 27 October 1986. In their conversations and in statements made and press communiqués issued during these bilateral events, Brazilian authorities and those of other countries of the region have reaffirmed their determination to work together to ensure that the principles and goals embodied in the declaration are translated into effective measures of co-operation. The succession of presidential and ministerial-level meetings with Argentina and Uruguay, the visits to Brazil of the Presidents of Cape Verde and Zaire and of the President of the South West African People's Organization (SWAPO), the visit by the Brazilian Minister for External Relations to Angola, Cameroon and Nigeria, and the visit of the Foreign Ministers of Benin and Côte d'Ivoire to Brazil - all served as occasions for fruitful and friendly conversations aimed at furthering the links of co-operation and understanding that Brazil maintains with its South Atlantic neighbour.

15. The far-reaching projects of co-operation and integration in practically all areas of economic and other activities that are being worked out and implemented by Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil are a striking demonstration of the manner in which the ideals of the declaration of 27 October 1986 can be implemented for the mutual benefit of the countries and peoples of the region. Mention should be made to the joint declaration signed by the Presidents of Brazil and Argentina in Montevideo on 17 July 1987, in which they reaffirmed the unshakable commitment of both nations to use nuclear energy exclusively for peaceful purposes and stressed the progress achieved in the field of bilateral nuclear co-operation.

16. In the spirit of the declaration of the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic, the Brazilian Government has sought to promote the intensification of regional co-operation for economic and social development, both within the framework or with the support of existing global, regional and subregional organizations and in the context of its own bilateral co-operative efforts. In this connection, it may be noted that, for the implementation of the economic and technical co-operation aspects of General Assembly resolution 41/11, the relevant organs and bodies of the United Nations and the specialized agencies should be prepared to render the necessary assistance to joint co-operative endeavours for the benefit of the countries and peoples of the South Atlantic.

17. Regional action is being furthered as a means of intensifying co-operation within the framework of resolution 41/11.

18. In this sense, for instance, in the first meeting of the programme, for the Central-Eastern Atlantic of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, held

at Cape Verde in January 1987, the Brazilian delegation offered other attending countries of the South Atlantic region a range of courses and seminars on hydrography, oceanography, bathymetry and other subjects related to maritime sciences. Also aiming at regional co-operation the Brazilian Government is promoting the international course on desertification, to be held in November 1987, and has sought the support of the United Nations Environment Programme in order to extend participation to all South Atlantic countries affected by that phenomenon.

19. As for scientific, technical and technological co-operation, some effective steps and potential future actions should be mentioned. The Brazilian Government has concluded with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) project (BRA/86/001), which allows for financial assistance in the field of technical co-operation) a project aiming at promoting technical co-operation among developing countries between African countries and Brazil (RAF/86/041) was signed with the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa. Both projects based on the May 1986 Memorandum Of Understanding between the Government of Brazil and the UNDP Regional Bureaux for Africa and for Latin America and the Caribbean, are intended to stimulate actions in the spirit of resolution 41/11. Accordingly, a delegation of the Brazilian Interministerial Technical Co-operation System visited Angola last April and will visit other countries of the region in the near future.

20. Conferences are being held with the secretariat of the Southern Africa Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC) in order to sign a Memorandum of Understanding on the establishment of a co-operation programme in the fields of agriculture and agro-industry, energy and training. Brazil has also worked, within the SADCC framework, in close co-operation with the energy sector of the Technical Administrative Unit of SADCC at Luanda.

21. The Brazilian Government is also discussing with the International Labour Organisation and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization the signature of agreements in order to implement TCDC actions between the Brazilian Government and developing countries on both sides of the South Atlantic.

22. Bilateral technical co-operation programmes with countries of the South Atlantic region are expanded, especially in areas such as agriculture, agro-industry, energy, steel industry, renewable sources of energy, communication, transportation, public health, biotechnology, sanitation and public administration. In the area of the training of human resources the Brazilian Government intends to co-operate further with South Atlantic countries in the context of its programmes of technical-level, undergraduate and postgraduate student exchange.

23. Brazil participated in the first Congress of African Scientists (Brazzaville, June 1986), and will be represented at the second Conference on the Application Of Science and Technology to the Development of Africa to be held at Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania in July 1987, with a view to strengthening co-operation with South Atlantic countries of Africa in the field of science and technology. With Uruguay and Argentina, the existing institutional framework allows for intense co-operation whose benefits, in areas such as fisheries and the environment, may also be extended to African South Atlantic countries.

24. At a meeting held in November 1986 in Punta del Este, the Foreign Ministers of Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil stressed the importance of strengthening existing trilateral co-operation for the conservation of fishing resources. In the context of the implementation of resolution 41/11, the Brazilian Government believes that the possibility of extending this co-operation to other South Atlantic countries should be considered.

25. The Brazilian government is prepared to participate in joint efforts with a view to promoting the full implementation of the different aspects of the declaration of the South Atlantic as a zone of peace and co-operation. In this spirit, the countries of the region may consider it useful to give consideration to the desirability of convening, at an appropriate time, a meeting at which a comprehensive agenda of co-operation for peace and development for the South Atlantic could be discussed in a framework of friendship and understanding and in order to further the objectives of the zone.

26. The Brazilian Government looks forward to the consideration, during the forty-second session of the General Assembly, of the item entitled "Zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic". The examination of the report to be submitted by the Secretary-General, taking into account the views expressed by Member States, in accordance with paragraph 6 of resolution 41/11, will be an appropriate occasion to discuss the evolution of the situation in the South Atlantic region over the past year in so far as it affects the zone of peace and co-operation and to assess the progress achieved by the States of the region as they begin the task of implementing the provisions of the declaration of 27 October 1986.

BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

[Original: Russian]

[19 August 1987]

1. At the forty-first session of the General Assembly, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic supported General Assembly resolution 41/11 entitled "Zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic", which was adopted on the initiative of Latin American and African States by an overwhelming number of votes. Its adoption testifies to the support by the international community of the aspirations of the States of that region to build their security on the basis of co-operation, with the help of multilateral guarantees to facilitate the reliable protection not only of their own but also of regional and global security.

2. The declaration of a zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic must serve as a further stimulus for the mobilisation of efforts by States in that vast region and beyond it to prevent aggression and the use or threat of force and for the peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

3. The Byelorussian SSR feels that an essential prerequisite for creating such a zone is the normalisation of the explosive situation in southern Africa, which may be achieved only by ending the inhuman policy and practice of apartheid and the aggressive actions of Pretoria against neighbouring African States and by the immediate achievement of self-determination and independence by the people of Namibia. The Byelorussian SSR, like an overwhelming number of Member States, favours the adoption by the Security Council of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against the apartheid régime of South Africa.

4. The tension in the South Atlantic resulting from the dispute over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) is a cause for serious concern. This problem must be solved by peaceful means on the basis of existing United Nations resolutions.

5. The militarisation of the South Atlantic constitutes a direct threat to States in Latin America and Africa as well as other States. Categorically rejecting this policy, the Byelorussian SSR feels that an essential prerequisite for the creation of a zone of peace and co-operation is the unconditional removal of all foreign bases from the area.

6. The Byelorussian SSR notes that for creating a zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic it would be important to implement the well-known specific proposals of the socialist States for curbing the naval arms race and extending confidence-building measures to the seas and oceans.

7. Genuine disarmament would be a solid material guarantee of the security of the South Atlantic and other parts of the world and of all mankind. Key significance in this connection attaches to the programme proposed by the USSR on 15 January 1986 for the complete elimination of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction by the year 2000.

8. The Byelorussian SSR supports the comprehensive approach in General Assembly resolution 41/11 to safeguarding security in the declared zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic, which stipulates the need for serious military, political, economic and social measures. This approach, in conjunction with the desire of the States of the region for mutual co-operation in solving the complex problem of security, shows that new political thinking geared to the realities of the nuclear and space age, which is actively supported by the socialist States, including the Byelorussian SSR, is making headway in the international arena.

9. The Byelorussian SSR consistently favours the creation of zones of peace and co-operation and nuclear-free zones, which it regards as a positive trend in international relations. It therefore supports the proposals to normalize the situation in the region of Asia and the Pacific, to declare the Indian Ocean a zone of peace, to transform the Mediterranean into a region of lasting peace, security and co-operation, and to create nuclear-free zones in Europe and other regions of the world. The implementation of these proposals, while of great importance in itself, will at the same time be an important step towards establishing a comprehensive system of international peace and security, the essence of which would be to guarantee security by political rather than military means, premised on the equal right of all States to security and to the broadest peaceful co-operation

and collaboration between all members of the international community in various fields.

10. As for the general Assembly's appeal in paragraph 4 of its resolution 41/11, the Byelorussian SSR will continue to be guided in all its activities in the international arena by its peace-loving principles of foreign policy. The major thrust of its activities will remain the struggle against nuclear danger and the arms race and for the preservation and strengthening of world peace.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

[Original: Spanish]

(24 April 1987)

1. The Government of Equatorial Guinea is convinced that the establishment of a zone of peace and co-operation in the South Atlantic would contribute positively and effectively to the maintenance of international peace and security and to the promotion of co-operation among countries of the region.

2. Equatorial Guinea believes that the colonial situations that continue to exist in the South Atlantic, the illegal occupation of Namibia, the imposition of the policy of apartheid in South Africa and the militarization that has taken place in recent years, with the consequent assumption of unilateral measures by a State in order to establish restricted maritime zones, continue to constitute a clear and proven threat to the peace and security of the region and must therefore be brought to an end.

3. However, in conformity with the repeated recommendations of the General Assembly, the Government of Equatorial Guinea continues to believe that the conflict between Argentina and the United Kingdom over the sovereignty of the Malvinas Islands should be settled through bilateral negotiations and on the basis of a sound agreement reached between the parties under the auspices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

4. In the light of the insecurity created by the geographical proliferation of nuclear arms, as well as of the super-Powers' inability to verify compliance with the obligations that they assumed, Equatorial Guinea expresses its concern and pessimism and believes that all that is inconsistent and incompatible with the nature of a zone of peace and co-operation established by General Assembly resolution 41/11.

5. Equatorial Guinea is convinced that compliance with General Assembly resolution 41/11 will help strengthen the purposes and principles of the charter of the United Nations as well as the future development of our peoples.

GHANA

[Original : English]

[8 April 1987]

1. Although the thrust of General Assembly resolution 41/11 is principally addressed to militarily significant States, its general objective accords with the position of Ghana on the concept of zones of peace, particularly their establishment in areas of potential conflict. Consequently, although the proposed zone of peace of the South Atlantic cannot be a substitute for general and complete disarmament, the ultimate goal, it is the view of Ghana that initiatives such as the declaration contained in the resolution are positive steps in the right direction, particularly in view of the important principles of peaceful coexistence contained in paragraphs 3 to 5.

2. It is therefore a matter of deep regret that quite a number of militarily significant Member States should have abstained on the resolution and, indeed, that one permanent member of the Security Council should even have cast a negative vote on the resolution.

3. In spite of the votes, Ghana proposes that the international community should continue to urge a consensus support for the declaration.

GUYANA

[Original : English]

119 May 1987]

1. The Government of Guyana is fully supportive of the concept of a "Zone Of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic", i.e., the region situated between Africa and South America, and, as a consequence, Guyana voted in favour of the resolution.

2. Guyana is committed to peace and security, and, with particular reference to General Assembly resolution 41/11, at every international forum in which the question of international peace and security has been raised, it has consistently expressed its categorical support for the establishment of a zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic.

IRAQ

(Original : Arabic]

[9 April 1987]

Iraq supports United Nations efforts to establish zones of peace and co-operation in the world, including the South Atlantic, and gave concrete

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expression to its position by voting in favour of resolution 41/11, adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-first session.

MEXICO

[Original: Spanish]

[30 March 1987]

1. The Government of Mexico supports the establishment of a zone of peace and co-operation in the South Atlantic and recognizes that General Assembly resolution 41/11, adopted on 27 October 1986, provides an appropriate means of channelling the efforts of the countries in the region interested in strengthening international peace, security and co-operation.

2. Mexico attaches particular importance to paragraph 3, in which the Assembly calls upon the States of other geographical areas, scrupulously to repeat the region of the South Atlantic as a zone of peace and co-operation, especially through the reduction and eventual elimination of their military presence there, the non-introduction of nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction and the non-extension into the region of rivalry and conflicts that are foreign to it. It hopes, moreover, that in the near future, the States of the South Atlantic region will be able to reaffirm their own commitment to these principles.

3. Furthermore, in accordance with the resolution, the Mexican Government believes that the immediate independence of Namibia and the elimination of the inhuman régime of apartheid will be a crucial step towards full implementation of the resolution.

NIGERIA

[Original: English]

[28 July 1987]

1. With reference to paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 41/11 of 27 October 1986, the Government of Nigeria welcomes whole-heartedly the declaration of the South Atlantic as a zone of peace and co-operation for the following reasons:

(a) It represents a positive development towards giving practical effect to the achievement of international peace and security, which is one of the cardinal objectives of the United Nations system;

(b) The South Atlantic comprises an invaluable heritage of resources and represents an important link that unites the countries of Africa and of Latin America and constitutes a zone that must be preserved from the interference of external tensions and confrontation;

(c) The African sector of the zone is the area of primary environment for Nigeria both for national security and economic well-being. It contains the entire territorial waters of Nigeria as well as its Exclusive Economic Zone, the region of the Economic Community of West African States, and the majority of the littoral and hinterland States of the African continent, the denuclearization of which Nigeria actively champions;

(d) As a State of the region, Nigeria is concerned with the abhorrent situation prevailing in South Africa and Namibia resulting from threats posed to regional and international peace and security by the apartheid régime;

(e) Nigeria is also concerned with the recurrent trends of naval build-up in the region by foreign powers with the consequent threat to the peace and security of the zone;

(f) Nigeria is concerned with the need to safeguard the South Atlantic for the promotion of a climate conducive to understanding, co-operation and economic development of the countries in the zone by eliminating tensions and confrontation;

(g) Nigeria believes that the zone would be a logical reinforcement of the Organization of African Unity's Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa, as well as a proper sequence to initiatives such as the Treaty of Tlatelolco on the prohibition of nuclear weapons in Latin America, aimed at enhancing regional and international peace and security.

2. In the above circumstances, it is important that all the members of the International community give their unflinching support to the declaration for the reasons and objectives behind it, and also enter into meaningful consultations with a view to setting up a committee for the negotiation of appropriate means of giving practical effect to the objectives of the declaration.

PHILIPPINES

[Original: English]

[13 August 1987]

The support of the Government of the Philippines for the establishment of a zone of peace and co-operation in the South Atlantic is based on its conviction that the vast body of water bordering the two great continents of Africa and South America should be insulated from big power rivalries and should be transformed into a nuclear-free-zone.

POLAND

[Original: English]

[3 June 1987]

1. It is with deep satisfaction that Poland welcomed the adoption at the forty-first session of the General Assembly of the resolution proclaiming the South Atlantic a zone of peace and co-operation. This was an important step with a view to the universalization and consolidation of peace, security and comprehensive co-operation among peoples in all parts of the world.

2. In the view of the Polish Government, regional and subregional peace initiatives have an important role to play in eliminating negative phenomena, tensions and armed conflicts occurring in the world and in the process of developing approaches towards peaceful coexistence. It considers that partial, regional solutions bring closer the attainment of a global settlement in the form of a comprehensive system of peace and international security.

3. It was these premises that in the past were guiding us when, 30 years ago, Poland presented the Rapacki Plan for a nuclear-free zone in Central Europe, which some four years later was followed by the Gomułka Plan for nuclear freeze in that region.

4. One can trace the origins of the new Polish initiative for nuclear and conventional disengagement in Central Europe, presented recently by Wojciech Jaruzelski, to these best traditions of Polish political thought, identifying as they do Poland's interests with those of Europe's. It represents a programme of action and goals whose materialization can facilitate a Europe-wide disarmament process. This sovereign Polish initiative - complementary as it is to other proposals advanced by the States parties to the Warsaw Treaty - represents its contribution towards all-European disarmament dialogue. The initiative is aimed at accelerating progress in regard to co-operation in the sphere of military aspects of European security.

5. The Polish Government had the same goals in mind when it lent its support to the idea of creating a corridor free of nuclear arms in Central Europe - an idea whose forerunner was offered by the Palme Commission, to the idea of denuclearization of northern Europe and the Balkans, as well as to plans for a chemical-weapon-free zone. Poland's active stance in regard to the European continent, in this respect, is most meaningful and coherent for obvious, geographical reasons, since the security of Europe has direct bearing on the security of Poland.

6. Voicing its support for the Concept of the declaration of a zone of peace and co-operation in the South Atlantic and expressing its readiness to be involved in efforts aimed at observing and realizing its provisions and contents, Poland is convinced that it will serve the creation of conditions conducive to extension of peace and co-operation to other regions. The dissemination of the contents of the declaration with such universal appeal as the prevention of militarization and arms

race, the elimination of foreign military bases and the prevention of the introduction of nuclear arms, in particular, economic co-operation, joint protection of the environment as well as peaceful utilization of oceans would serve well all nations.

7. The Polish Government is convinced that the attainment of these goals world-wide would be facilitated also by the practical implementation of the initiative to create a comprehensive system of peace and international security, which was submitted by the States parties to the Warsaw Treaty at the forty-first session of the General Assembly. The convergence of the concept of such a system with the idea of a zone of peace and co-operation in the South Atlantic demonstrates, in the view of the Government of Poland, a distinct need for global regulations.

SOUTH AFRICA

[Original: English]

[9 September 1987]

1. As one of the major littoral States in the area and a regional power in southern Africa, South Africa welcomes any initiative designed to preserve the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the peoples of the States of the South Atlantic region and to develop their relations under conditions of peace and liberty.

2. Although the South African Government categorically rejects the implications of the fifth preambular paragraph and paragraph 5 of the resolution, it nevertheless welcomes the concept of promoting peace and co-operation in the South Atlantic for the benefit of all mankind and, in particular, of the peoples of the region and the exclusion from the area of foreign military bases.

3. It is in this context that the South African Government has been pressing for the removal of all destabilizing foreign forces from the southern African region.

SPAIN

[Original: Spanish]

[7 July 1987]

1. The Spanish delegation's vote at the forty-first session of the General Assembly in favour of resolution 41/11 on the declaration of a zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic was one more demonstration that Spain will support any reaffirmation of a political desire for peace and co-operation.

2. In effect, the resolution in question is an express declaration of the will to respect and apply several principles and norms already contained in the Charter of the United Nations, such as respect for the national unity, sovereignty, political

independence and territorial integrity of all States, and refraining from the threat or use of force. In this respect, the resolution reiterates and underscores, with reference to a specific geographical area, a will atx! a set Of commitments that have been generally accepted by all Members of the United Nstione.

3. Furthermore, in the view of the Spanish Government, and consistent with its delegation's explanation of vote, the resolution cannot be construed as modifying in any way the norms of international law - whether treaty or customary law, including maritime law - applicable to the relations and conduct of the States concerned, both in the zone in question and in others.

4. Lastly, the resolution doe6 not precisely delimit the zone in question. This shortcoming, however, ehould not be a source of too many problems at this time, in view of the above considerations and, in particular, because, as it has been said, the declaration must be taken as an expression of a political will to act in utter conformity with the purposes and principle8 contained in the Charter.

TOGO

[Original: French]

[10 June 1987]

1. By its vote in favour of General Assembly resolution 41/11, Togo wished to demonstrate once again its attachment to peace and co-operation, which are the corner-stones of its foreign policy, As the President of the Togolese Republic, guarantor of national sovereignty, has said, "there can be no peace in the face of the spectre of war, no true peace and security while two thirds of mankind are dying of hunger, no development without peace and security, there can be no talk of go-operation when hatred and mistrust prevail among men and nations". Peace thus includes economic and social progress, of which it is the condition and the objective. Since peace can hence be analysed se a constant effort to avoid conflict and hotbeds of tension, and to create the best conditions for the harmonious development of peoples, States must accordingly make every effort to safeguard peace. Currently, however, there are situations in the South Atlantic that are disruptive of peace and security or carry within them the seeds of conflicts that would be disastrous for the region. Suffice it to mention the acts of aggression by South Africa against its neighbour@ and the ignominious policy of apartheid.

2. There is therefore a pressing need for the establishment of peace in this region, and of good relations among States. Such relations can be created only through compliance with the principles of international law governing relations between States, in particular those set forth in the Charter of the United Nations.

3. In this regard, it is important to recall the principles of the sovereign equality of all States, the peaceful settlement of disputes in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered, and non-recourse to the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations.

4. The States of the South Atlantic and other regions must particularly heed paragraph 4 of resolution 41/11, which calls upon them, inter alia, to co-operate in the elimination of all sources of tension, to reestablish national unity and to observe strictly the principle that the territory of a State shall not be the object of military occupation as well as the principle that the acquisition of territories by force is inadmissible.

5. In this context, where the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) is concerned, it is incumbent on the parties to make an effort to find the means to resolve peacefully and definitively the problems pending between them as requested in General Assembly resolution 41/40 of 25 November 1986,

6. Also in this context, South Africa must abandon its contemptible policy of apartheid and cease its acts of aggression against the front-line States, and Namibia must become independent as soon as possible, pursuant to United Nations resolutions, in particular Security Council resolution 435 (1976). Moreover, South Africa should respect the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa and desist from its nuclear activities, which are a grave danger and permanent threat to peace in the region.

7. The entire international community should appropriate steps against South Africa to induce it to abandon its actions which are creating a climate of insecurity in the sub-continent.

8. Togo expressed its deep concern at the conflicts and situations which are currently disturbing the peace and security of the region and preventing any possibility of co-operation and appeals to the responsibility of all to ensure the peace and security which can become a reality only within the framework of a collective and global process of respect for the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

9. Even though the situation today still gives great cause for concern, Togo feels that there is no need to lose hope, since it is convinced that all the States of southern Africa and of other regions will demonstrate the political will necessary for the South Atlantic to become, indeed, a "zone of peace and co-operation".

UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

[Original: Russian]

[12 August 1987]

1. The Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic consistently supports the earliest establishment of a comprehensive system of international peace and security to include the military, political, economic and humanitarian spheres. The road to comprehensive security lies in genuine disarmament, which would be greatly facilitated by the elimination, by the end of the twentieth century, of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction, a reduction of levels of military confrontation,

renunciation of the imposition of one's own will on other States, full respect for the right of each people independently to choose the ways and means of its own development, the removal of discrimination and diktat from economic relations and the safeguarding of economic security.

2. The implementation of these goals should be facilitated by the creation in various parts of the world of zones of peace and co-operation and of nuclear-free zones. With this in mind, the Ukrainian SSR supports the proposal for declaring a zone of peace and co-operation in the South Atlantic and voted in favour of General Assembly resolution 41/11 on this question, which was adopted on the initiative of Latin American and African States. The Ukrainian SSR shares the conviction that this region must be preserved from militarisation, the arms race, the presence of foreign military bases and above all, nuclear weapons. This would be greatly facilitated by the implementation of the well-known proposals of the socialist countries for curbing the naval arms race and extending confidence-building measures to the seas and oceans.

3. Essential prerequisites for peace and security in the region of the South Atlantic are the elimination of the criminal policy and practice of apartheid, the achievement by the Namibian people of self-determination and independence, and overall normalization of the explosive situation in southern Africa. The Ukrainian SSR feels that the speedy implementation of these goals requires the Security Council to introduce comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against the apartheid régime in accordance with Chapter VII of the Charter.

4. The persisting tense situation in the South Atlantic resulting from the dispute over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) requires an immediate peaceful settlement on the basis of existing United Nations resolutions.

5. Convinced that the creation of a zone of peace and co-operation in the South Atlantic would be a powerful contribution to the strengthening of international peace and security, the Ukrainian SSR is ready, in accordance with the appeal contained in paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 41/11, to work for the implementation of the resolution.

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

[Original: Russian]

[3 July 1987]

1. The Soviet Union is convinced that mankind has now reached the stage where it is absolutely vital to tackle the pressing task of averting the nuclear threat, reversing the arms race and laying the foundation for comprehensive security. Given the realities of the nuclear and space age, there is an urgent need to renounce strong-arm tactics in world affairs and to abjure the "gun" mentality; there is a need to espouse the new political thinking based on the peaceful coexistence of all the States and peoples of our planet.

2. Elimination of all types of weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons, universal reduction of military activities, settlement of international conflicts by peaceful means and the guarantee of the right of every people to choose its path of development independently and to decide on the disposition of its own resources are all vital factors in establishing a safe and non-violent world.

3. Guided by this view of international affairs, the Soviet Union favours the creation of zones of peace and co-operation in various regions of the globe, since they make an important contribution to establishing a universal system of international peace and security. The world community is well aware of the USSR's active efforts for the declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace and the transformation of the Mediterranean Sea into a zone of peace, security, good-neighbourliness and co-operation, as well as the practical steps the USSR has taken to further the efforts of countries in Latin America and the South Pacific region to ban nuclear weapons. The USSR supports the proposals for the creation of nuclear-free zones in various regions of the world, including a nuclear-free corridor in central Europe and nuclear-free zones in northern Europe, the Balkans, the Korean peninsula and South-East Asia.

4. The Soviet delegation supported General Assembly resolution 41/11, entitled "Zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic", which received the favourable votes of the overwhelming majority of the Members of the United Nations. This constructive approach of the international community reflects the growing desire of the peoples of the world to ensure national, regional and global security by political and not military means, leading to creative and peaceful co-operation and the strengthening of multilateral machinery for averting the threat of war.

5. The key material factor for ensuring the security of the States in the South Atlantic region, as in other regions of the planet, lies in reversing the arms race and bringing about disarmament. Of the greatest importance in this regard are the step-by-step programme put forward by the Soviet Union for the complete elimination of nuclear and other types of weapons of mass destruction and the proposals of a broad group of States for curbing the naval arms race, extending confidence-building measures to the oceans and seas, eliminating foreign military bases and promoting regional disarmament.

6. The Soviet Union considers that General Assembly resolution 41/11 should lay the foundations for a complex process of strengthening security in the South Atlantic region, in the course of which the international community, and primarily the States in the region, will need to resolve a whole range of important issues. The declaration of the South Atlantic as a zone of peace and co-operation should assist international efforts to prevent the nuclear-arms race from spreading. There is a need to ensure that the General Assembly's call for the non-introduction of nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction into the zone is effective. In this regard, the serious threat to regional and international security posed by the nuclear ambitions of South Africa must not be forgotten.

7. Co-ordinated and singleminded actions by the States in the zone would assist in the elimination of the apartheid régime, the achievement of the independence of Namibia and the cessation of all acts of aggression against States in the zone; as indicated in paragraph 5 of the resolution, these are important for peace and security in the South Atlantic region.

8. The problem of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), which is of a colonial nature, and their militarization is unquestionably a cause for concern. In that connection the USSR advocates that the talks between Argentina and the United Kingdom begin as soon as possible with a view to finding ways to settle the dispute on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions; It also supports the good-offices role of the Secretary-General on that question. A vital issue is that of guaranteeing the safety of navigation. Here there is a need for technical discussions on guaranteeing the safety of navigation, on political and legal as well as military and technical measures for confidence-building and non-use of force at sea, and on the creation of a situation in which any misgivings of States on that score would be totally eliminated. It would be desirable to devise practical solutions for curtailing the activities of naval fleets in the region. A concrete solution is also needed on the question of eliminating foreign military bases.

9. In connection with General Assembly resolution 41/11 on the declaration of the South Atlantic as a zone of peace and co-operation, the Soviet Union is ready to discuss, with the United States and other major naval Powers, and also the States of the South Atlantic region, the question of appropriate measures to put into effect the General Assembly's call for a reduction of the military presence in the region and the non-introduction of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction.

10. Should the States of the region also envisage additional measures to prevent its militarization, including fulfilment of their own corresponding obligations at the regional and national levels, such measures would, of course, meet with the full understanding of the Soviet Union and would also assist in strengthening security in the South Atlantic region.

11. Lastly, the time seems ripe to deal with the question of organizing intra-zonal co-operation, with a view, inter alia, to the socio-economic development of the States in the region.

12. Here, it is obviously necessary to have a more precise and specific determination of the geographical characteristics of the South Atlantic region.

13. The USSR fully shares the comprehensive approach towards ensuring security in the declared zone of peace and co-operation in the South Atlantic; this envisages the need for substantial measures both in the military and in the political, economic and humanitarian fields. In the view of the USSR, General Assembly resolution 41/92, concerning a comprehensive system of international peace and security, which underlines the growing interdependence of countries and the fact that the contemporary world has no reasonable alternative to the policy of co-operation and interaction, creates fresh opportunities for intensifying efforts to ensure reliable security in the South Atlantic region. This would also make a valuable contribution to comprehensive security and to the restructuring of international relations in accordance with the aspirations of all peoples.

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

[Original: English]

[14 August 1987]

1. The British Government's support for the Brazilian Government's initiative that resulted in the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 41/11 of 27 October 1986 reflected its strong desire to join with the other regional States and those outside the region in contributing to strengthening the peace and security of the South Atlantic region, in particular against the risk of arbitrary military action. The British Government hopes that the implementation of the South Atlantic zone of peace will help to complement the work of the Antarctic Treaty where regional States and others have engaged in successful collaboration of benefit to all in a region adjacent to the South Atlantic zone of peace.
2. In the period prior to the establishment of the South Atlantic zone of peace, the British Government, concerned at the rapid growth of fishing and the increasing threat posed by it to the regional habitat, sought in the context of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to work for multilateral arrangements that would not only achieve the management and conservation goals necessary in the region but would also ease sources of tension arising from uncontrolled fishing. Conscious of their regional responsibilities and of the urgent necessity to take action on conservation grounds, the British Government therefore decided in October 1986 to institute on an interim basis conservation and management arrangements in the waters in the region for which, in accordance with international law, it is responsible. As a result of these measures, fishing efforts have been sharply reduced and conservation and management goals have been successfully achieved. The British Government notes with satisfaction the decision of the Fisheries Committee of the Food and Agriculture Organization to continue to monitor fisheries development in the region. The British Government was happy to be able to contribute to the Food and Agriculture Organisation report on "the Patagonian Fishery Resources and the Offshore Fisheries in the South West Atlantic", and will continue to support the organization's work for the benefit of the South Atlantic region with reference to paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 41/11, which, *inter alia*, calls upon all States of the zone to promote further regional co-operation for the protection of the environment and the conservation of living resources. The British Government would like to place on record once again its well known and long-standing preference for multilateral arrangements to conserve and manage South Atlantic fish stocks.
3. The British Government also recalls its long-standing support for the Treaty of Tlatelolco (the additional protocols to which the United Kingdom is a party) and looks forward to the day when all signatories have ratified the Treaty.
4. As in the past, the British Government has sought actively to promote dialogue aimed at practical ways of reducing tensions. It will continue to do so. Following dispositions made on the Falkland Islands, the British Government has reduced the size of the garrison maintained there.

5. The British Government has also worked tirelessly to secure the elimination of apartheid by peaceful means and has energetically urged the South Africans to implement Security Council resolution 435 (1978) on Namibia. Its continuing commitment to both of these aims is firm.

6. In conclusion, the British Government notes that its policies are fully supportive of the aims of the South Atlantic zone of peace and have thus made a major contribution to strengthening the peace and security of the region and to reducing tension.

URUGUAY

[Original: Spanish]

[29 June 1987]

1. The Uruguayan Government continues to attach the utmost importance to the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic as a contribution to security and peace in the region and as an instrument for the development of and co-operation among the countries of South America and Africa that border the Atlantic Ocean. In this connection, the Government of Uruguay would like to reiterate the views expressed by the Permanent Representative of Uruguay on 27 October 1966 during the the General Assembly's consideration of agenda item 139.

2. In the opinion of the Government of Uruguay, it is the responsibility both of coastal States and of States outside the zone to maintain international peace in the region, to keep the zone free from the arms race and to create conditions of regional and international security.

3. The Uruguayan Government wishes to draw attention to the need for the reduction and eventual elimination of the military presence in the region and the non-introduction of nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction. These issues compel one to conclude that conflict situations in the zone, such as the situation which, in the past, led to a serious military encounter, must be brought to an end by peaceful means and in accordance with procedures recommended by the United Nations, and that the differences resulting from subsequent actions, which have been denounced as potential sources of further tension in the area, must be settled.

4. The existence of a zone of peace in the South Atlantic presupposes, in principle, the absence of nuclear weapons in that zone. The zone thus necessarily bears a direct relationship to the nuclear-weapon-free zone established under the Treaty of Tlatelolco. Of the countries of the region, one (Uruguay) is a party to that Treaty, another (Brazil) has ratified it, although without any waiver (article 28 of the Treaty), and another (Argentina) has signed it. Argentina and Brazil, as signatory States, have acknowledged in numerous declarations that, under article 1 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, they may not carry out any act which is contrary to the objective or purpose of the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

5. Part of the zone of application of the Treaty of Tlatelolco overlaps the zone of peace of the South Atlantic (article 4, paragraph 1 of the Treaty of Tlatelolco), and, in the future, much of the zone created in the Atlantic under this Treaty (article 4, paragraph 2) will comprise space within the zone of peace of the South Atlantic. For this reason, the relationship between the two zones must be studied, and the effect of their respective legal statutes must be determined, an issue which has already been addressed in the resolution of the Tenth General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America, adopted at Montevideo in April 1987.

6. The zone of peace should lead to the gradual elimination from the zone of military bases belonging to countries which do not border the South Atlantic.

7. Likewise, given that the persistence of colonial situations constitutes a potential threat to peace and security, the existence of the South Atlantic zone cannot be compatible with the continuation of such situations. This issue, which is addressed in paragraph 5 of the declaration, is also reflected in the necessary and global policy against all manifestations of colonialism, racism and apartheid.

8. But the zone is also a zone of co-operation, and this is another element which distinguishes it from other zones of peace that have been identified by the General Assembly.

9. In response to the appeal contained in paragraph 2 of the declaration, the Uruguayan Government has not only pursued a vigorous policy of regional co-operation for economic and social development through agreements with Argentina and Brazil, but has paved the way for an extension of such co-operation to African countries bordering the Atlantic Ocean. The recent visit by the Uruguayan Minister for Foreign Affairs to several African countries and the establishment of diplomatic relations with Angola may be viewed within this context.

10. The Uruguayan Government is prepared to enter into negotiations leading to the conclusion of regional agreements in the South Atlantic for the "protection of the environment" and "the conservation of living resources" (para. 2 of the declaration).

11. The inclusion of the item entitled "Zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic" in the provisional agenda of the forty-second session of the General Assembly will make it possible to analyse the way in which the declaration is to be implemented.

12. Resolution 41/11 must be supplemented by additional resolutions spelling out its constituent elements and establishing a procedure for implementation and evaluation.

13. Unlike nuclear-weapon-free zones (General Assembly resolution 3472 (XXX) B of 11 December 1975), zones of peace do not yet constitute specific or fixed concept in international law. Resolution 41/11 must constitute the beginning of a process aimed at effectively and definitively establishing the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic and at reaching a precise legal definition of

the term, of the **elements** and nature of such zones, and of the rights and duties they confer upon constituent States and third States having a presence, **especially** a military **presence, in such zones. Such an open** process might ultimately lead to the conclusion of conventional instruments similar to the Treaties of **Tlatelolco** and Rarotonga, which cover nuclear-weapon-free zones.

14. The Government of **Uruguay** **is** convinced that, **if its objectives** and principles are duly respected and if appropriately implemented and clarified, this declaration **cannot but make a valuable** contribution **to peace, security**, development and co-operation.
