



**General Assembly**

Distr.  
GENERAL

**A/44/536**

6 October 1989

ENGLISH

**ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/RUSSIAN/  
SPANISH**

Forty-fourth session  
Agenda item 33

**ZONE OF PEACE AND CO-OPERATION OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC**

**Report of the Secretary-General**

CONTENTS

	<b><u>Paragraphs</u></b>	<b><u>Page</u></b>
I. INTRODUCTION .....	1 - 6	2
II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS .....		3
Antigua and Barbuda .....		3
Argentina .....		3
Brazil .....		5
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic .....		7
Colombia .....		9
Mexico .....		10
Singapore .....		11
Sudan .....		11
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics .....		11

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "**Zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic**" was included in the agenda of the forty-first session of the General Assembly, in 1986, at the request of **Brazil (A/41/143 and Corr.1)**. At that session, the General Assembly, in its resolution **41/11 of 27 October 1986**, solemnly **declared** the Atlantic Ocean, **in** the region situated between **Africa and South America**, a "**Zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic**".

2. In the resolution the General Assembly called upon all **States** of the **zone of the South Atlantic** to promote further regional co-operation for social and economic development, the protection of the environment, the conservation of **living resources** and the peace and security of the whole **region**; called upon all States of all other regions, in particular the **militarily significant** ones, 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 weapons of mass destruction** and the **non-extension into** the region of rivalries and conflicts that **are foreign to it**; called upon all States of the **region** and of all other regions 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 and to refrain from the threat or use of force.

3. In accordance with the General Assembly resolution **41/11**, the first meeting of States of the zone of peace and co-operation of **the South Atlantic** was held at **Rio de Janeiro** from 25 to 29 July 1988. In the **Final Document of the meeting (A/43/512)** the representatives of the States of the **Zone of Peace and Co-operation**, recalling General Assembly resolution **41/11**, urged the States of the **region** to continue their actions aiming at fulfilling the goals of the Declaration of the **Zone of Peace and Co-operation of the South Atlantic**, specially through the adoption and implementation of specific programmes for this purpose; affirmed that the questions of peace and security and **those of development are** interrelated and inseparable and considered that co-operation among the States of the region for peace and development was essential to promoting objectives of the **Zone of Peace and Co-operation of the South Atlantic**) reiterated their determination to develop their relations under conditions of peace and freedom, in an environment **free** from tensions, and in conformity with the principles and rules of international law and with the United Nations Charter; recalled that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution **42/16**, the organizations, organs and bodies of the United Nations **system** had been requested to render all **necessary** assistance that the States of the **Zone of Peace and Co-operation** might **seek** in their joint endeavours to implement the Declaration, and agreed to consult among themselves on specific proposals that might require such assistance) decided to **meet** periodically in order to continue the task of implementing the common objectives of co-operation as defined in the **Declaration**; and decided to create the post of co-ordinator to be responsible for fostering actions and **measures to facilitate** the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration and for receiving, collating and transmitting any relevant information and communications among all States in the Zone.

4. At its forty-third session, the General Assembly adopted resolution **43/23** of 14 November 1988, entitled "**Zone** of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic". The resolution called **upon** all **States** to co-operate in the promotion of the objectives of peace **and** co-operation established in the Declaration of the Zone of Peace and Co-operation of the South Atlantic and to refrain from any action inconsistent with those **objectives**, particularly actions which **aggravated** or might create situations of tension and potential conflicts in the region) requested the relevant **organizations, organs** and **bodies** of the United Nations system to render all **necessary** assistance that States of the **zone** might seek in their joint efforts to implement the **Declaration**; and requested the Secretary-General to keep the implementation of resolution **41/11** under **review** and to submit a report to the General Assembly **at its forty-fourth session**, taking into account, **inter alia**, the views expressed by Member States.

5. Pursuant to that resolution, on 14 **April** 1989, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the Governments of the **Member** States of the United Nations requesting their views **on** implementation of the declaration of the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic.

6. As of 24 August 1989, eight Governments had replied and **one** acknowledgement had **been** submitted to the Secretary-General. Any replies and **notifications** that **may be** received subsequently will be published as addenda to the present report.

## II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

### ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

[Original: English]

[26 April 1988]

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda is *in* full accord with the resolution and intends to comply with its requirements,

### ARGENTINA

[Original: Spanish]

[24 May 1989]

1. The Government of the Argentine Republic **once again** reiterates its firm adherence to the Declaration of the Zone of Peace and Co-operation of the South Atlantic (General Assembly resolution **41/11**), in the conviction that the countries of the region have a primary responsibility in the attainment of its objectives. Nevertheless, the Argentine Government considers that the States of all other regions, in particular the militarily significant States, also have a special responsibility to co-operate to the same end.

2. The goal of the Argentine Government is to see the South Atlantic become a true **zone** of peace and co-operation, free from conflicts and free from nuclear weapons, protected from any form of arms race and from any aspiration to hegemony.
3. In the view of the **Argentine Government**, the exhortations contained in paragraphs 3 and 4 of resolution **41/11** are of particular importance.
4. In paragraph 3, the General Assembly calls upon all States 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 weapons of mass destruction and the non-extension into the region of rivalries and **conflicts** that are foreign to it.
5. In paragraph 4 the General Assembly calls upon all States of the region and of all other regions 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. It is clear that the **objective** of the above-mentioned paragraphs is the **search** for peace, as an indispensable prerequisite for co-operation in the area.
6. In this context, my Government also considers it appropriate, in view of its close bearing on the texts referred to, to refer to the Final Document of the first meeting of States of the Zone of Peace and Co-operation of the South Atlantic (A/43/512), in paragraph 16 of which the States of the **zone** expressed concern over the fact that negotiations between the **Governments** of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland had not yet been initiated in spite of repeated **requests** by the United Nations General Assembly resolutions, with a view to finding the means to resolve peacefully and definitively the problems pending between both States, including all aspects of the future of the **Malvinas** Islands, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations) and also urged the full implementation of those resolutions,
7. Consequently, it is impossible to overlook the manifest contradiction in the policy pursued by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, which voted in favour of creation of the zone while continuing to refuse to embark on the negotiations recommended by the General Assembly, and which maintains a powerful military apparatus within the zone, whose sole raison d'être is the maintenance of a colonial enclave in the Islands. It is clear that the continuation of this situation constitutes a source of tension and a potential threat to peace and security in the area.
8. Furthermore, the Argentine Government maintains that peace and co-operation in the South Atlantic would be significantly facilitated through strict implementation of the United Nations resolutions aimed at the eradication of colonialism, racism

and **apartheid**, through the self-determination **and** independence of Namibia and through respect for the sovereignty, national unity and territorial integrity of the front-line African States,

9. Accordingly, the Argentine Republic contributes officers **from** its armed forces to **the** United Nations Angola Verification Mission.

10. With regard to the Latin American States adjacent to the South Atlantic, it should be stressed that Argentina is developing a broad process of integration and co-operation with Brazil and Uruguay, the results **of** which are already contributing to strengthening the spirit **of** the **zone of peace and** co-operation of the South Atlantic.

### BRAZIL

[Original! English]

[30 June 1989]

1. In **the** span of three **years** since the adoption on 27 October 1986 of resolution **41/11** by the General Assembly, there have been promising positive developments in the international political sphere. A new climate of **opinion** has fostered dialogue **among** States and allowed for the negotiated settlement of several long-standing controversies. Multilateral diplomacy **has** been reinvigorated as a means for the peaceful settlement **of** disputes and for the strengthening **of** international peace and **security** through collective, as opposed to unilateral, endeavours.

2. With specific **references** to the South Atlantic, the satisfactory conclusion *of* **the** Brassaville Protocol and the New York **Agreements** in late 1988 **merit** special attention, in so far as they pave **the** way for the long-awaited implementation of Namibia's independence, in accordance with Security Council resolution 435 (1978). Though the ongoing process of **Namibian** independence is beset with pitfalls, the **Brazilian** Government hopes that all parties involved will endeavour scrupulously to abide by the stipulated agreements, so as to ensure that Namibia will **emerge as** an independent State **in** the community *of* South Atlantic nations and the international community as a whole.

3. Aware of the important role played by the United Nations in the process of political **normalization** in southern Africa, Brasil agreed to lead the United Nations Verification Mission in Angola. It has further collaborated, along with other States taking part in the mission, in verifying compliance with the New York Agreements by the parties concerned. Brasil has also lent its full support to the United Nations Transition Assistance Group, thus hoping to contribute to the **successful** discharge of its functions in the course of Namibia's delicate transition to full independence.

4. In the **context** of ensuring Namibia's prompt **integration** into the community of South Atlantic States, Brazil offered to host a seminar on human resources and planning for development in independent Namibia, to be **held** under the auspices of

the United Nations Council for Namibia in 1989, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 43/26 C. It is hoped the event will prompt discussion of new paths of co-operation between Brazil and the Council, with a view to contributing to development efforts in the new South Atlantic nation.

5. An intensive exchange among high-ranking authorities from South Atlantic countries has been taking place, with the avowed intent of further reinforcing constructive regional ties on the basis of dialogue, understanding and mutual interest, as set forth in the Final Document of the first meeting of States of the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic. These contacts have led to concrete agreements in the field of political, economic, financial, commercial and technical co-operation. There have been numerous official visits by representatives of States on both shores of the South Atlantic, some of which are outlined below:

(a) State visit to Brazil by President Raul Alfonsín of Argentina, April 1988;

(b) Visit to Guinea-Bissau by Mr. Jose Hugo Napoleão, Minister of Education of Brazil, July 1988;

(c) Visit to Brazil by Mr. Pedro Castro dos Santos Van Dunem, Minister of Production, Energy and Petroleum of the People's Republic of Angola, July and August 1988;

(d) State visit to Argentina by President José Sarney of Brazil, November 1988;

(e) Visit to Zaire by the Secretary General of the Ministry of Land Reform of Brazil, December 1988;

(f) Visit to Brazil by Mr. Antonio Henriques da Silva, Minister of Planning of the People's Republic of Angola, December 1988;

(g) State visit to Angola by President José Sarney of Brazil, January 1989;

(h) Visit to Nigeria by Mr. Romulo Furtado, Secretary General of the Ministry of Communication of Brazil, May 1989.

6. As mandated at the first meeting of States of the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic, and mindful of the need to preserve the South Atlantic marine environment, as expressed in the Final Document of the aforementioned Meeting, Brazil took part in the diplomatic conference charged with the drafting of the Global Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes. In its capacity as Co-ordinator, Brazil participated in the conference at the plenary and working group levels, during which time other member States were consulted and kept abreast of developments in the negotiations.

7. In its capacity as Co-ordinator, Brazil also undertook consultations with the Office for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Secretariat with a view to holding two seminars on the implementation of the legal régime embodied in the

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, to be held respectively in the Congo in 1989 and Uruguay in 1990, with the support of the United Nations Development Programme. The events would focus on such provisions of the Convention as might have a bearing on the South Atlantic, in compliance with the stated interest of the parties attending the first meeting of States of the Zone of Peace and Co-operation of the South Atlantic.

8. At the eleventh regular session of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America, held at Mexico City from 25 to 28 April 1989, States parties adopted resolution 254 (XI) on the relation between the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic and the Latin American and Caribbean nuclear-free zone. States attending the meeting stressed the need for enhancing co-operation within the framework of the two zones and called on the Secretary-General of OPANAL, in collaboration with the Council, to study the matter accordingly. That the issue was discussed at the OPANAL meeting demonstrates that efforts undertaken within the framework of both zones share a complementary objective: to rid a substantial inhabited area of the planet of the threat posed by nuclear arms. As stated by the Minister of External Relations of Brazil before the General Assembly at its forty-third session, on 22 September 1986, the South Atlantic must be spared the effects of rivalries that are alien to that region, in accordance with resolution 41/11.

9. The adoption of the new Constitution on 5 October 1980 served notice of Brazil's solemn and traditional commitment to peace. It states, *inter alia*, that Brazil's foreign relations will be guided by the principles of defending peace and the peaceful settlement of disputes. It also states that no nuclear activity will be allowed to take place on Brazilian territory without the approval of the National Congress, and that it shall only meet with such approval if undertaken solely for peaceful purposes. The norms enshrined in the Constitution reflect a deep-rooted commitment to peace by the Brazilian nation and give substance to the Brazilian Government's objective of consolidating the Zone of Peace and Co-operation of the South Atlantic.

10. Finally, it should be pointed out that the continuous and growing support by the majority of the Member States of the United Nations in the past few years to successive resolutions on the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic bears witness to a universal aspiration: to secure peace and enhance co-operation in the various regions of the world, in conjunction with the total elimination of nuclear arms and other weapons of mass destruction. Brazil will continue to lend its active support to the realization of that goal,

BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

[Original: Russian]

[11 July 1989]

1. The Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic supports the initiative taken in 1986 by the Latin American and African States to establish a zone of peace and

co-operation of the South Atlantic, and regards it as evidence of the aspiration of the States of the entire region to build their relations on the basis of constructive co-operation in various areas of intraregional relations with a view to strengthening international peace and security. This initiative, adopted at the regional level and organically supplementing the global and bilateral approaches, is helping to preclude the possibility of confrontation in a vast region of our planet. That is having a positive impact on the overall international situation, and will lead to the limitation and reversal of the arms race, to the strengthening of multilateral machinery and to the removal of the threat of war.

2. The establishment of a zone of peace and co-operation in the South Atlantic, an important element in establishing international security, can, of course, be ensured on the basis of a combined approach envisaging the adoption of appropriate measures in the military, political, economic and social fields. Against this background, the Byelorussian SSR views with sympathy the main provisions of the Final Document of the first meeting of States of the Zone of Peace and Co-operation of the South Atlantic, held at Rio de Janeiro on 29 July 1958, provisions which, reflecting the multifaceted nature of the problem, are designed to secure a lasting peace in the region and hasten social and economic development.

3. The safeguarding of maritime communications, the implementation of practical measures to limit and reduce naval armaments, the elaboration of measures to promote confidence and non-use of force on the seas, the elimination of military bases and the reduction of military presence in the region are of great importance for the establishment of a zone of peace and co-operation in the South Atlantic. In this connection the General Assembly's appeal to States to refrain from placing nuclear and other kinds of weapons of mass destruction in the area, and compliance of States by respecting the obligations they have assumed in the Treaty of Tlatelolco are still of vital significance.

4. In the light of the existing agreements on nuclear-weapon-free zones in Latin America and in the South Pacific and the process of establishing a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean and zones of peace and co-operation in the South Atlantic, the idea of declaring the entire southern hemisphere a nuclear-free zone deserves, in our view, active support.

5. Normalisation of the political climate in southern Africa, elimination of the criminal policy and practice of apartheid and full implementation of the United Nations plan for the granting of independence to Namibia, along with the accession of South Africa to the non-proliferation Treaty and the placing of all its nuclear activity under IAEA supervision, must be a sine qua non for establishing a zone of peace and co-operation in the South Atlantic. Normalization of the situation in the area would be facilitated by solving the problem of the Falkland Islands/Malvinas, which must be done on the basis of existing United Nations decisions,

6. The problem of establishing conditions to safeguard economic security, eliminate economic crises and reduce external indebtedness, which acts as a break on their social and economic development and prevents them from overcoming underdevelopment, was and remains an important one for the States of the region.

7. Since the question of establishing a **zone of peace** and co-operation of the South Atlantic was raised in the **General Assembly in 1986**, international *life*, under the impact of the new political thinking, has undergone noteworthy positive changes,

8. The **task** of the States of the region and of the entire international community is to make fuller use of these favourable opportunities and bring into play all available machinery, including the resources of the United Nations, to achieve the goals **proclaimed** on the basis of the establishment of a **zone of peace and co-operation** and **thereby** take a further **step towards** removing the nuclear *danger* and preserving and **strengthening international peace and security**.

#### COLOMBIA

[Original: Spanish]

[12 September 1989]

1. The Government of Colombia reaffirms, as it did at the forty-third session of the General Assembly during the debate on this **item**, its adherence to and compliance with the principles and purposes underlying the **zone of peace and co-operation** of the South Atlantic, in the conviction that they constitute a **Bound basis for** the maintenance of **international peace and security** as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. As a country of South *America* with two ocean **coasts**, Colombia is **aware** that the **physical**, geographical and human relations which have an **impact on** the marine environment must be guided by the norms governing the international **community** and the policies that safeguard them. It is in that **light** that we understand the **instruments** for the protection of the marine environment against pollution, which recognise that the **ecosystem has** its own **dynamic** and treat it in a broader context, to the benefit of the peoples of the region and of the international community as a whole. Accordingly, Colombia is a Party to the Convention on the **Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region** and to protocol on oil spills, signed in the **framework of the Regional Seas Programme of the United Nations Environment Programme**, and a member of the IOCARIBE Regional **Subcommission** of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic *Commission*, whose headquarters is in Cartagena.

2. Colombia **considers** that in order to achieve the objectives of **peace and co-operation** in the South Atlantic, the States of all other **regions** must refrain from introducing military equipment or personnel, weapons of **mass** destruction or conflict situations into the **region**. **Against** that background, we are a Party to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and its 1967 Additional Protocols. Similarly, we recently acceded to the Antarctic Treaty, by LAW No. 67 of 1988, since we Share its view that the zone should be **used** exclusively for peaceful, scientific ends, and also to protect and **preserve** species and their habitats. By their nature, these **instruments** allow for the development of various forms of co-operation that reflect the true possibilities and needs of the region. By working towards that goal, we shall be working for the economic and social progress of our peoples.

3. We also **express our** hope that **the** struggle *being waged* by the **people** of Namibia for **self-determination** and the efforts being made **by** the international community in that regard will **shortly** lead to **independence**, and the permanent withdrawal of the occupying **forces**. Likewise, we hope that peaceful means will be found of finally solving **the matters** pending between Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, including the future of the **Malvinas Islands**. These causes, which **are** solidly backed by the **international** community, **are a matter of** interest to the Colombian Government. In that context, we are pleased to *have* established diplomatic relations, **in the period 1987 to 1989**, with **the** following States of the region: Angola, Cameroon, **Cape Verde**, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, **Guinea-Bissau**, Liberia, Sao Tome and **Principe**, Sierra Leone and Togo. In **this** we have been motivated by *the spirit of* understanding and co-operation, and by the **desire** to work jointly in *the* interests of the region and of the international community at large as **part** of the **common effort** to bring about peace.

## MEXICO

[Original: Spanish]

[18 May 1989]

1. The Government of **Mexico** reiterates **its** support for the **establishment** of the **zone** of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic, which, it **believes**, will contribute to the maintenance of **peace** and **security** in the region, and will **be a** valuable instrument **for fostering** co-operation and development among **the** nations of the area.

2. Mexico attaches special importance to paragraph **4**, in which all States are called upon to **work** together to promote the objectives of **peace** and co-operation set forth in the declaration of the **zone of peace** and co-operation of the South Atlantic, and to refrain from any action incompatible with **those objectives**, **particularly** such actions as might aggravate or lead to situations of tension and conflict in the region.

3. In **order** to consolidate the **zone** of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic, it is essential that all its constituent States should undertake to negotiate with a view to finding peaceful solutions **to any** disputes that **may exist** between them or with other States outside the region, in the framework of the norms *governing* the coexistence of nations, and that States **outside** the *region* should accept and scrupulously observe the **same** undertaking with regard to their **disputes** with countries of the zone.

4. The elimination of the inhuman **apartheid régime**, the achievement of self-determination and independence for Namibia and an *end* to all acts of aggression against the peoples of southern Africa continue to be, in the opinion of the **Government of Mexico**, indispensable for the full establishment of the *zone* of peace and co-operation.

SINGAPORE

[Original: English]

[14 July 1989]

Singapore fully **endorses** the Charter *of* the United Nations and the Manila declaration on the peaceful settlement of disputes and supports the Declaration of a Zone of Peace and Co-operation *of* the South Atlantic as a **positive** contribution to the **realization** of this objective in the Atlantic.

SUDAN

[Original: English]

[24 April 1989]

The **realization** *of* peace and co-operation among the Member States *from* the South Atlantic *can only be* achieved through a long-term plan **of** action towards (a) confidence-building measures] and (b) a step-by-step programme **for** enhancing co-operation and mutual solidarity among **the** States *of* the South Atlantic.

UNION *OF* SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

[Original: Russian]

[1 June 1989]

1. The Soviet Union supports the initiative for the establishment of a **zone** of peace and co-operation *of* the South Atlantic, taking the view that regional **efforts** **from** an integral part of the comprehensive approach towards the strengthening of international peace and security in accordance with the Charter and with relevant United Nations decisions. **Forming** an organic complement to global and bilateral approaches, measures undertaken at the regional level open the way to precluding the possibility of **confrontation** in vast regions of the planet, thereby assisting the general limitation and curtailment of the **arms race** and the building of reliable planet-wide security **for** all States equally. That is the purport *of*, in particular, the proposals *for* the establishment of peace zones in the Indian Ocean and the **Mediterranean** region and of nuclear-weapon-free **zones** in Africa, Central Europe, the north of the European continent, the Balkans, the Near East and other regions. The **initiative** *for* the establishment *of* a zone *of* peace and co-operation *of* the South Atlantic also occupies an important place in this series.

2. Significant changes favourable to the **realization** of this initiative have taken place in the world **since 1966**, when the corresponding **item** was first placed on the **General** Assembly's agenda. The first measures **of** real disarmament, marking the shift **from** over-armament to a reasonable **sufficiency** for defence purposes, are being implemented. A change **from** an armament economy to a disarmament one has

become discernible. The trend towards **peaceful** settlement of regional conflicts is **gaining** strength.

3. Under such conditions it is of the **essence to make maximum use of the new** emerging possibilities in the interests of gradual **progress** towards the establishment of relations of durable peace **and** co-operation in the South Atlantic. Joint actions by the States of the **region** must play a pre-eminent role in **this** process. The United Nations also has a significant potential in *this* field. The Soviet Union supports the General Assembly's appeal to the **relevant** organisations, organs and sub-divisions of **the** United Nations **system** to afford all *necessary* assistance which States of the **region** may request **in their** joint efforts to give effect to the declaration of a **zone** of peace and co-operation *in* the South Atlantic.

4. We **for** our part are prepared to give all possible assistance to efforts in that direction. The **Soviet** Union views with sympathy the **main provisions** of the Final Document of the **First** Meeting of States of the *Zone* of Peace and Co-operation of **the** South Atlantic, issued at Rio de Janeiro on 29 July 1988. It endorses the integrated approach embodied in that document towards the guaranteeing of durable peace in the region, an approach which, reflecting the multifaceted nature of the problem of security, **is** designed to develop close **international** co-operation *in* various spheres of intraregional relations.

5. The declaration was made *in* 1987 of readiness to discuss with the United States of **America** and other major naval Powers, as well as with States of the South **Atlantic** region, **the** question of appropriate measures **for the** implementation of **the** General Assembly's appeal for the reduction of military presence in that **area** and the **non-deployment** of **nuclear** and *other* weapons of mass destruction still stands,

6. **In April this year**, in the course of the official friendly visit of the Chairman of the **Supreme** Soviet of the USSR, General Secretary of the Central Committee of *the* Communist Party of the Soviet Union, **M. S.** Gorbachev, to the Republic of Cuba, the Soviet Union reaffirmed its **position** in favour of strengthening the non-nuclear status of Latin **America** on the basis of the Treaty of Tlatelolco and *in* support of the establishment of a zone of peace **and** co-operation in the South Atlantic and similar **zones** in Central **America**, the **Caribbean basin and the Pacific waters** off the coast of South America. It was stated that if the Latin American countries came forward with an initiative **for convening** an international **conference** to elaborate agreed measures to guarantee the observance of the status of such **zones**, and **invited** the permanent members of the Security Council and other non-regional Powers to the conference, we would be prepared to participate.

7. It is the Soviet Union's view that in the light of the agreements in **force** concerning nuclear-free **zones** in Latin America and the South Pacific, as well as of the **process** of establishment of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean and a **zone** of peace and co-operation in the South Atlantic, the idea of declaring the entire southern hemisphere a nuclear-free zone is deserving of attention.

8. In the context of the establishment of a **zone of peace and co-operation in the South Atlantic region**, the issue of global and regional measures for the limitation and reduction of naval armaments is extremely pertinent. Our position on this score was stated in detail in the working paper submitted for consideration at the third special session of the **General Assembly on disarmament** by the delegations of Bulgaria, German Democratic Republic and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (A/S-15/AC.1/16). The implementation of many of the proposals contained in that paper, especially those connected with ensuring the security of maritime communications, would in our view have a most direct bearing upon the guaranteeing of lasting peace and stability in the South Atlantic.

9. An essential condition for security in this region is the cessation of all acts of aggression and subversive activities against States in the zone, the complete eradication of **apartheid**, the elimination of foreign military bases in the South Atlantic region, the adherence of South Africa to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the placing of all its nuclear activities under IAEA supervision, and the guaranteeing of a genuinely **nuclear-free** status for the zone,

10. The USSR actively supports efforts towards a political settlement of the situation in the south-west of Africa and the elimination of a dangerous focus of military and political tension in that part of the world. The United Nations operation which began on 1 April 1989 in connection with the granting of independence to Namibia is viewed by the Soviet Union as an important practical step designed to bring about a qualitative improvement of the political climate in southern Africa and the creation of conditions for the peaceful and secure development of peoples inhabiting the region. The Namibian people's realisation of its right to free political choice on the basis of the United Nations Plan, Namibia's entry into the family of States enjoying equal rights, will make a major contribution towards the strengthening of security in the South Atlantic.

11. Progress in each of these areas would unquestionably bring closer the attainment of the goals of declaring the region a zone of peace and co-operation,

-----