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

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Dimitris PLATIS (Greece)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-fourth session in accordance with General Assembly resolution **43/65** of **7** December 1988.
2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 22 September 1989, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.
3. At its 2nd meeting, on 13 October, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on the disarmament items allocated to it, namely, items 49 to 69 and 151. The deliberations on those items took place between the 3rd and the 25th meetings, from 16 October to 1 November (see **A/C.1/44/PV.3-25**). Consideration of and action on draft resolutions on those items took place from the 26th to 41st meetings between 2 and 17 November (see **A/C.1/44/PV.26-41**).
4. In connection with item 53, the First Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Report of the Secretary-General on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East (A/44/430 and Add.1 and 2);
 - (b) Letter dated 13 February 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the communique issued by the Council of the League of Arab States at its

extraordinary session of 12 January 1989 concerning the findings of the Paris Conference on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, held at Paris from 7 to 11 January 1989 (A/44/126);

(c) Letter dated 18 April 1989 from the Permanent Representative of **Saudi Arabia** to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting **the text of the Final Communiqué of the Eighteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers** (session on Islamic fraternity and solidarity) held at Riyadh from 6 to 9 Sha'ban 1409H (13 to 16 March 1989) **(A/44/235-S/20600);**

(d) Letter dated 19 July 1989 from the **Chargé d'affaires a.i.** of the Permanent **Mission of Zimbabwe to the United Nations** addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the final documents of the Ministerial Meeting of the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at **Harare** from 17 to 19 May 1989 **(A/44/409-S/20743 and Corr.1 and 2);**

(e) Letter dated 22 September 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the texts of the final documents of the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Belgrade from 4 to 7 September 1989 **(A/44/551-S/20870);**

(f) Letter dated 31 October 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the texts of the final communiqué of the Co-ordination Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the **Organization of the Islamic Conference**, held at United Nations Headquarters on 4 October 1989, and the Declaration of the Fourth **Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers on the Plight of the Turkish Muslim Minority in Bulgaria**, held at United Nations Headquarters on 4 October 1989 **(A/44/700-6/20934).**

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION **A/C.1/44/L.9**

5. On 30 October 1989, **Egypt** submitted a draft resolution entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East" **(A/C.1/44/L.9)**. The draft resolution was introduced by the **representative** of Egypt at the 26th meeting, on 2 November.

6. At its 33rd meeting, on 10 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution **A/C.1/44/L.9** without a vote (see **para. 7**).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

7. "The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution

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

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3263 (XXIX) of 9 December 1974, 3474 (XXX) of 11 December 1975, **31/71** of 10 December 1976, **32/82** of 12 December 1977, **33/64** of 14 December 1978, **34/77** of 11 December 1979, **35/147** of 12 December 1980, **36/87** of 9 December 1981, **37/75** of 9 December 1982, **38/64** of 15 December 1983, **39/54** of 12 December 1984, **40/82** of 12 December 1985, **41/48** of 3 December 1986, **42/28** of 30 November 1987 and **43/65** of 7 December 1988 on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East,

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

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

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

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

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

Desiring of building on that consensus so that substantial progress can be made towards establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East,

Emphasizing the essential role of the United Nations in the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East,

1/ Resolution S-10/2.

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General, 2/

1. Urges all parties directly concerned to consider seriously taking the practical and urgent steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and, as a means of promoting this objective, invites the countries concerned to adhere to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; 3/

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

3. Takes note of the request made by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency to its Director-General in resolution GC(XXXIII)/RES/506 "to consult with the States concerned in the Middle East area with a view to applying agency safeguards to all nuclear installations in the area, keeping in mind the relevant recommendations contained in paragraph 75 of the report attached to document GC(XXXIII)/887 and the situation in the area of the Middle East, and to report on the matter to the Board of Governors and to the General Conference at its thirty-fourth regular session";

4. Invites all countries of the region, pending the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East, to declare their support for establishing such a zone, consistent with paragraph 63 (d) of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 4/ and to deposit those declarations with the Security Council;

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

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

7. Extends its thanks to the Secretary-General for his report containing the views of parties concerned regarding the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East: 2/

2/ A/44/430 and Add.1 and 2.

3/ Resolution 2373 (XXII), annex.

4/ Resolution S-1012.

8. **Takes note** of the above-mentioned **report;**

9. **Requests** parties **of** the region to submit to the Secretary-General their views and suggestions with respect to the measures called for in paragraph **8** of resolution **43/65;**

10. **Requests** the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session a progress report on the implementation of the present **resolution;**

11. **Decides** to include in the provisional **agenda** of its forty-fifth session the item entitled "Establishment **of** a nuclear-weapon-free **zone** in the region **of** the Middle East".