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

Report of the Secretary-General

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\* A/45/150 and Corr.1.

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 15 December 1989, the General Assembly adopted resolution **44/109**, the operative part of which reads as follows:

**"The General Assembly**

**"...**

**"1. Reaffirms its endorsement, in principle, of the concept of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia!**

**"2. Urges once again the States of South Asia to continue to make all possible efforts to establish a **nuclear-weapon-free** zone in South Asia and to refrain, in the mean time, from any action contrary to that objective;**

**"3. Calls upon those nuclear-weapon States which have not done so to respond positively to **this** proposal and to extend the necessary co-operation in the efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia;**

**"4. Requests the Secretary-General to communicate with the States of the region and other concerned States in order to ascertain their views on the issue and to promote consultations **among** them with a view to exploring the best possibilities of furthering the efforts for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia;**

**"5. Also requests the Secretary-General to report on the subject to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth **session**;**

**"6. Decides to include in the Provisional agenda of its forty-fifth session the item entitled 'Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia'."**

2. Pursuant to paragraphs 4 and 5 of the resolution, the Secretary-General submits herewith the replies thus far received. Other replies related to this item will be issued as addenda to this report.

## II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

### MALDIVES

[Original: English]

[5 June 1990]

1. The Republic of Maldives reiterates its view that the establishment of nuclear-weapons-free zones and zones of peace would contribute substantially to

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achieving the objective of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, global **nuclear disarmament**, and general and complete disarmament. The Republic of Maldives attaches great importance to the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia.

2. The Republic of Maldives believes that the establishment of zones of peace and nuclear-weapons-free **zones will** not only reduce tension, but also enhance stability, mutual trust, and **confidence among** States of the region. The concept of **establishment of a** nuclear-weapons-free **zone** in South **Asia dates** back to 1974 and resolution has been adopted with overwhelming majority in the successive **sessions** of the General Assembly.

3. The Republic of Maldives appreciates the efforts of the Secretary-General in soliciting the views of various countries of the region and other concerned States on the subject in **accordance with the mandate** given under paragraph 4 to General Assembly resolution **44/109**. However, the Republic of Maldives **views** with concern that the number of States responding to the Secretary-General's request has not increased, while the resolution itself was voted in favour by an overwhelming majority of States.

4. The Republic of Maldives feels that tangible results cannot be achieved in view of such poor responses from States and suggests that efforts of the Secretary-General must now be directed towards the realisation of the second part of paragraph 4 of resolution **44/109** namely, to promote consultations with and amongst various States with **a** view to exploring the best possibilities of furthering the effort for the establishment of a nuclear-weapons-free zone in South **Asia**. The Republic of Maldives feels that in order to generate consensus on this important subject, consultation among States of the region are of prime importance and a prerequisite.

5. Republic of **Maldives** also welcomed, in principle, the idea of convening a conference on the subject under the auspices of the United Nations. However, in view of the political realities of the region of South **Asia**, sufficient **time and consultations** are essential to narrow the differences of opinion that exist among the States of the region. The Republic of Maldives feels that it is still premature to consider specific proposals for a United Nations conference or proposals for the conclusion of bilateral or regional test-ban agreements in South **Asia**.

#### PAKISTAN

[Original: English]

[29 May 1990]

1. The substantive views and suggestions of the Government of Pakistan regarding the rationale, **form, scope**, undertakings of regional States and the nuclear powers, and **the** verification of arrangements relating to the creation of **a** Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in South Asia, were earlier submitted to the Secretary-General in 1986.

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While submitting its views afresh, the Government of Pakistan hopes that these can be explored, developed and modified through consultations which **may** be initiated through the endeavours of the Secretary-General. In this context, Pakistan believes that the legitimate interests and views of all the regional States can be accommodated so long as their declared commitment to non-proliferation is sincere and genuine.

#### Rationale for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free **zone** in South Asia

2. Pakistan first proposed **the** creation **of** a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia in 1974. The concept has been annually endorsed, in principle, by the General Assembly since its twenty-ninth session.

3. A nuclear-weapon-free **zone** in South Asia would help immensely to remove mutual fears and suspicions, reduce tensions, enhance peace and stability and promote the goals of regional amity and co-operation. It would also concretize the **desire** expressed by all regional States to keep South Asia free of nuclear weapons.

#### Scope

4. The nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia should include the seven States of South Asia, namely, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Maldives. These seven States together constitute a distinct **geographical** entity. They are **members** of the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC). As the Declaration of the first SAARC Summit stated in December 1985:

"They were bolstered in this venture by the recognition of the many commonalities that bound the seven countries of the region. These were rooted in their geography, shared history, traditions and above all human and spiritual values. Cultural cross currents and socio-economic interactions over centuries had shaped their attitudes and values, strengthened their common affinities and enhanced a sense of homogeneity, intimacy and interdependence among them. Regional cooperation was the only logical response to the common problems they faced as developing and non-aligned countries to the continuing pressure of rising expectations among their peoples and to the **cognizance** of the interdependent nature of the world they lived in."

5. The geographical limits of the zone should encompass the entire **territory over** which the seven South Asian States exercise sovereignty, including the land territory, the internal waters, the territorial sea, the sea-bed, the sub-soil beneath, and the air space above.

#### Legal form of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia

6. The nuclear-weapon-free zone in South **Asia may** be established on the basis of a legally-binding treaty to be registered with the United Nations. The South Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty would enter **into force** as soon as it is signed and ratified by all the regional **States**, and a legally-binding additional Protocol to the Treaty relating to the obligations of the nuclear-weapon States, is signed and ratified by all States possessing nuclear weapons.

### Nature of undertakings by the regional States

7. Pakistan believes that the undertakings relating to a nuclear-weapon free zone in South Asia should be comprehensive and equitable. The regional States should reaffirm their commitment not to acquire or manufacture nuclear weapons or any other nuclear explosive device. They should undertake (a) to use exclusively for peaceful purposes the nuclear materials and facilities which are under their jurisdiction and (b) to prohibit and prevent, in their respective territories:

( i ) Testing, development, manufacture, production and acquisition by any means whatsoever, or use of any nuclear weapon or nuclear explosive device;

( ii ) Receipt, storage, installation, deployment, or any form of possession of any nuclear weapon or nuclear explosive device.

### Verification measures

8. The regional States should undertake to establish a control system for the purpose of verifying compliance with their obligations under the proposed arrangements for denuclearization. It would be necessary to establish an equitable and non-discriminatory system of verification and inspection. This could be done by evolving either ( a ) a permanent regional consultative mechanism, including provisions for a challenge verification régime with on-site inspection, or ( b ) arrangements among regional States for mutual inspection of nuclear facilities outside international safeguards, or ( a ) acceptance by the regional States of International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards on all nuclear facilities and fissionable nuclear materials. Verification provisions could be strengthened and made more acceptable through accompanying measures to promote mutual co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear technology for economic and social development.

### Obligations of nuclear weapon States

9. The five nuclear-weapon States have indicated their support for the establishment of nuclear-weapon free zones in various parts of the world. Three nuclear powers, China, the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, have supported the General Assembly resolutions endorsing the concept of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia. The other two nuclear-weapon States can also be expected to respond positively to this agreement among South Asian States on arrangements for a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

10. The relevant additional Protocol to the Treaty should contain legally binding assurances from the nuclear-weapon States not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against the States members of a South Asian nuclear-weapon-free zone. Moreover, the nuclear-weapon States should be required to undertake not to deploy nuclear weapons adjacent to the denuclearised zone and to remove such deployments if any already exist.

### Consultations

11. Pakistan recognises the need for prior agreement among the regional States on the nature and substance of a nuclear-weapon-free ~~zone~~ in South Asia. The Government of Pakistan **is** prepared to participate constructively in any consultations designed to evolve agreed **arrangements** for the permanent denuclearisation of the South **Asian** region. These consultations can be held in any State of the region. For its part, Pakistan would be happy to host a meeting to enter into such consultations under the **aegis** of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

12. In 1987, Pakistan proposed the holding of an International Conference on Nuclear Non-Proliferation in South Asia and also offered to host ~~the~~ Conference. It was **suggested** that the Conference should be attended by the South Asian as well as the nuclear-weapon States. **This** would provide an opportunity to all the regional States for mutual consultations and a free exchange of views to concretize the proposal, to **consult** each other, air their apprehensions and discuss any problems they might foresee with regard to the proposed Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone.

13. In 1987, **Pakistan** also offered to conclude a bilateral **nuclear-test-ban** agreement with India or a regional nuclear-test-ban agreement among South Asian **States** as a step towards the eventual total **denuclearization** of South Asia.

14. Unfortunately, no progress has been possible in the implementation of these proposals, mainly due to the opposition of a minority of the regional **States** of South Asia. The Government of Pakistan **is** of the view that the possibility of progress would **be** greatly enhanced if the Secretary-General would take the initiative of calling for consultation among the regional and interested non-regional **States** on this **subject** as proposed in the General Assembly resolutions.

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