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Agenda item 50

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

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr, Latévi Modem LAWSON-BETUM (Togo)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution **44/109** of 15 December 1989.
2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 1990, 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 9 October 1990, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on the disarmament items allocated to it, namely, items 45 to 66. At its 4th meeting, on 16 October, the First Committee decided to consider jointly with other disarmament items agenda item 155, which was allocated to the First Committee upon a decision of the General Assembly at its 30th plenary meeting, on 15 October. The deliberations on those items took place between the 3rd and 23rd meetings, from 15 to 30 October (see **A/C.1/45/PV.3-23**). Consideration of and action **on** draft resolutions on those items took place between the 24th and 39th meetings, from 2 to 16 November (see **A/C.1/45/PV.24-39**).
4. In connection with item 50, 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 South Asia (**A/45/462**);

(b) Letter dated 19 September 1990 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the documents adopted by the Nineteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held at: Cairo from 31 July to 5 August 1990 (A/45/421-S/21797).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/45/L.18

5. On 30 October, ~~Bangladesh~~ and ~~Pakistan~~ submitted a draft resolution entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia" (A/C.1/45/L.18), which was introduced by the representative of ~~Pakistan~~ at the 30th meeting, on 7 November.

6. At its 35th meeting, on 13 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.18 by a recorded vote of 98 to 3, with 26 abstentions (see para. 7). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Albania, Australia, Bahamas, Bahrain, ~~Banqladesh~~, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, ~~Bolivia~~, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Czechoslovakia, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Thailand, ~~Togo~~, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, ~~Zaire~~, ~~Zambia~~, ~~Zimbabwe~~.

Against: Bhutan, India, Mauritius.

Abstaining: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark, Ethiopia, France, Iceland, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Mongolia, Myanmar, Norway, Sweden, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia.

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 South Asia

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3265 B (XXIX) of 9 December 1974, 3476 B (XXX) of 11 December 1975, 31/73 of 10 December 1976, 32/83 of 12 December 1977, 33/65 of 34 December 1978, 34/78 of 11 December 1979, 35/148 of 12 December 1980, 36/88 of 9 December 1981, 37/76 of 9 December 1982, 38/65 of 15 December 1983, 39/55 of 12 December 1984, 40/83 of 12 December 1985, 41/49 of 3 December 1986, 42/29 of 30 November 1987, 43/66 of 7 December 1988 and 44/109 of 15 December 1989 concerning the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia,

Reiterating its conviction that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in various regions of the world is one of the measures that can contribute effectively to the objectives of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and general and complete disarmament,

Believing that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia, as in other regions, will assist in the strengthening of the security of the States of the region against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Noting with appreciation the declarations issued at the highest level by Governments of South Asian States that are developing their peaceful nuclear programmes, reaffirming their undertaking not to acquire or manufacture nuclear weapons and to devote their nuclear programmes exclusively to the economic and social advancement of their peoples,

Welcoming the recent proposal for the conclusion of a bilateral or regional nuclear-test-ban agreement in South Asia,

Taking note of the proposal to convene, under the auspices of the United Nations, a conference on nuclear non-proliferation in South Asia, as soon as possible, with the participation of the regional and other concerned States,

Bearing in mind the provisions of paragraphs 60 to 63 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly 1/ regarding the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, including in the region of South Asia,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General, 2/

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

1/ Resolution S-1012.

2 A/45/462.

nuclear-test ban at an early date, as an indispensable measure towards implementation of their undertakings in the preamble to the Treaty;

3. Reiterates its conviction that, pending the conclusion of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty, the nuclear-weapon States should suspend all nuclear-test explosions through an agreed moratorium or unilateral moratoria:

4. Recommends that arrangements be made to ensure that intensive efforts continue, under the auspices of the Amendment Conference, until a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty is achieved:

5. Recommends also that the Amendment Conference establish a working group, or other means it deems appropriate, to study, inter alia, the organisation of control, institutional mechanisms and legal aspects of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty and to report its conclusions to the Conference:

6. Stresses the importance of ensuring adequate co-ordination among the various negotiating forums dealing with a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty;

7. Decides to include in the provisional ~~agenda~~ of its forty-sixth session the item entitled "Amendment of the Treaty Banning **Nuclear** Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water".
