



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/46/425
25 September 1991
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: CHINESE/ENGLISH

Forty-sixth session
Agenda item 55

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

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

	Page
I. INTRODUCTION	2
II, REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS	3
China	3

I, INTRODUCTION

1. On 4 December 1990, the General Assembly adopted resolution 45/53, paragraphs 1 to 6 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 meantime, from any action contrary to that objective)

"3. Calls upon those nuclear-weapon States that 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-sixth session;

"6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth 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 reply received thus far. Other replies related to this item will be issued as addenda to the present report.

II, REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

CHINA

[Originals Chinese]

[23 May 1991]

1. China has always respected and supported the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free **zones** by the **countries** concerned with the actual conditions of their regions and on the basis of consultations and voluntary agreement, and believes that the nuclear-weapon States should respect these countries' demands and proposals, uphold the status of nuclear-weapon-free zones and **assume** the corresponding responsibilities. In accordance with this position, China **has** signed and ratified the relevant protocols of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in **Latin** America and the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty and has assumed the corresponding responsibilities.
2. China **respects** and supports the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in South **Asia** and the Middle East by countries of **those** *regions* in the light of the actual regional conditions and through voluntary consultations. China declared **from the very first day when it came** into possession of nuclear weapons that at **no** time and under **no** circumstances would it be the first to use **these** weapons. China has also undertaken not to use **or** threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States and nuclear-weapon-free **zones**. These **commitments** of China's are applicable to South Asia and the Middle East **as** well.
3. China believes that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free **zones** in South **Asia** and in the region of the Middle East will be facilitated if all the nuclear-weapon States adopt the following **measures**:
 - (a) They declare that they will respect the **status of** nuclear-weapon-free **zones** and undertake the corresponding **obligations**;
 - (b) They undertake neither to be *the* first to use nuclear weapons **nor** to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States and **nuclear-weapon-free zones**;
 - (c) They withdraw their nuclear weapons to their *own* territories in all cases in which they have deployed these weapons abroad.
