



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/32/374
1 December 1977
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/SPANISH

Thirty-second session
Agenda item 43

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE DENUCLEARIZATION
OF AFRICA

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Francisco CORREA (Mexico)

1. The item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa" was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-second session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 31/69 of 10 December 1976.
2. At its 5th plenary meeting, on 23 September 1977, 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 7th meeting, on 18 October, the First Committee decided to hold a combined general debate on the items allocated to it relating to disarmament, namely items 33, 34, 38 to 49 and 51 to 53. The general debate on these items took place at the 7th to 27th meetings, from 18 October to 7 November. 1/
4. In connexion with item 43, the Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Letter dated 22 March 1977 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ghana to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/32/63-S/12305);
 - (b) Letter dated 6 July 1977 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final communiqué of the Eighth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held at Tripoli from 16 to 22 May 1977 (A/32/133, annex).

1/ For an index to statements by delegations on disarmament items, see A/32/383.

(c) Letter dated 23 September 1977 from the Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the resolutions adopted by the Eighth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (A/32/235).

5. On 2 November, Benin, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, the Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Mauritania, Mozambique, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda and Zaire submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/32/L.10), which was introduced by the representative of Nigeria at the 28th meeting, on 9 November, and was revised on 10 November (A/C.1/32/L.10/Rev.1). The revised draft resolution was subsequently also sponsored by Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Chad, Egypt, Guinea, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Somalia, the United Republic of Cameroon, the Upper Volta and Zambia.

6. At its 33rd meeting, on 15 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/32/L.10/Rev.1 by a recorded vote of 118 to none 2/ (see para. 7 below). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Empire, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Surinam, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Cameroon, United States of America, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: None.

2/ After the vote, the representatives of Ireland, Panama and the United Republic of Tanzania stated that they had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

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RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

Implementation of the Declaration on the
Denuclearization of Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 31/70 of 10 December 1976, in which it reiterated its conviction that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones could make a great contribution to the security of States in such zones and to the prevention of proliferation of nuclear weapons,

Bearing in mind the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa ^{3/} adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its first ordinary session, held at Cairo from 17 to 21 July 1964,

Recalling its resolutions 1652 (XVI) of 24 November 1961, 2033 (XX) of 3 December 1965, 3261 E (XXIX) of 9 December 1974, 3471 (XXX) of 11 December 1975 and 31/69 of 10 December 1976, in which it called upon all States to consider and respect the continent of Africa, including the continental African States, Madagascar and other islands surrounding Africa, as a nuclear-weapon-free zone,

Also recalling that, in its resolution 31/69 of 10 December 1976, it drew attention to the development of the nuclear-weapon potential of South Africa,

Taking note of Security Council resolution 418 (1977) of 4 November 1977,

Gravely concerned that South Africa may detonate a nuclear explosion and acquire a nuclear-weapon capability,

Convinced that such a development would constitute a grave danger to international peace and security and would frustrate efforts to establish Africa as a nuclear-weapon-free zone,

Reaffirming that the implementation of the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa would contribute to the security of all African States and to the maintenance of international peace and security,

1. Strongly reiterates its call upon all States to consider and respect the continent of Africa, including the continental African States, Madagascar and other islands surrounding Africa, as a nuclear-weapon-free zone;

2. Condemns any attempt by South Africa to introduce nuclear weapons into the continent of Africa;

^{3/} See Official Records of the General Assembly, Twentieth Session, Annexes, agenda item 105, document A/5975.

3. Demands that South Africa refrain forthwith from conducting any nuclear explosion on the continent of Africa or elsewhere;

4. Urgently requests the Security Council to take appropriate effective steps to prevent South Africa from developing and acquiring nuclear weapons, thereby endangering international peace and security;

5. Appeals to all States to refrain from such co-operation with South Africa in the nuclear field as will enable the racist régime to acquire nuclear weapons, and to dissuade corporations, institutions and individuals within their jurisdiction from any such co-operation;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to render all necessary assistance to the Organization of African Unity towards the realization of its solemn Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa;

7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-third session the item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa".