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Agenda item 48

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION OF THE INDIAN
OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Francisco CORREA (Mexico)

1. The item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace: report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean" was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-second session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 31/88 of 14 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 48, the First Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean 2/ containing, inter alia, a draft resolution unanimously recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee for adoption by the General Assembly; 3/
 - (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.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/32/29 and Corr.1).

3/ Ibid., para. 34.

(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. At the 35th meeting, on 17 November, the representative of Sri Lanka, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean, introduced the report of the Ad Hoc Committee containing the draft resolution, as amended by the corrigendum.

6. On 17 November, the Secretary-General submitted a statement (A/C.1/32/L.32) on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution.

7. At its 37th meeting, on 18 November, the Committee adopted the draft resolution contained in document A/32/29 and Corr.1 by 95 votes to non, with 13 abstentions (see para. 8 below).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, contained in its resolution 2832 (XXVI) of 16 December 1971, and its resolutions 2992 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, 3080 (XXVIII) of 6 December 1973, 3259 A (XXIX) of 9 December 1974, 3468 (XXX) of 11 December 1975 and 31/88 of 14 December 1976,

Reaffirming its conviction that concrete action in furtherance of the objectives of the Declaration would be a substantial contribution to the strengthening of international peace and security,

Encouraged by the support extended to the concept of zones of peace by non-aligned countries at the Fifth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Colombo from 16 to 19 August 1976, 4/

Recalling its resolution 3259 A (XXIX), in which it requested the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean to enter, as soon as possible, into consultations with a view to convening a conference on the Indian Ocean,

Considering that the continued military presence of the great Powers in the Indian Ocean, conceived in the context of great Power rivalry, with the danger of a competitive escalation of such a military presence, makes the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration an even more imperative necessity,

4/ See A/31/197.

Considering also that the creation of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean requires co-operation among the regional States to ensure conditions of peace and security within the region, as envisaged in the Declaration, and the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the littoral and hinterland States,

Noting that talks between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America regarding their military presence in the Indian Ocean have been initiated and that the two countries have established contacts with the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean through its Chairman,

Expressing the hope that those talks between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America will contribute to the attainment of the objectives of the Declaration and lead to practical and effective co-operation on their part with the Ad Hoc Committee and the littoral and hinterland States,

Noting the reactions of certain great Powers and other major maritime users of the Indian Ocean to the invitation extended to them by the Ad Hoc Committee, in pursuance of paragraphs 2 and 3 of resolution 31/88 by which the General Assembly requested the Committee and the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean to continue their consultations with a view to formulating a programme of action leading to the convening of a conference on the Indian Ocean,

1. Renews its invitation to the great Powers and other major maritime users of the Indian Ocean that have not so far seen their way to co-operating effectively with the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean and the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean to enter with the least possible delay into consultations with the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean in pursuance of paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 3468 (XXX);

2. Takes note of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee 5/ and in particular the stage reached in the Committee's deliberations in regard to the convening of a conference on the Indian Ocean;

3. Decides that, as the next step towards the convening of a conference on the Indian Ocean, a meeting of the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean shall be convened in New York at a suitable date, which other States not falling within this category, but which have participated or have expressed their willingness to participate in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee could attend;

4. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to make the necessary preparations for the meeting referred to in paragraph 3 above;

5. Decides to enlarge the composition of the Ad Hoc Committee by the addition of Democratic Yemen, Ethiopia, Greece, Mozambique and Oman;

6. Renews the general mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee as defined in the relevant resolutions;

7. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session a full report on its work;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to make the necessary provision for the meeting referred to in paragraph 3 above and to continue to render all necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Committee, including the preparation of summary records.
