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

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/43/150.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 30 November 1987, the General Assembly adopted resolution 42/29, 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 this 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-third session;

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

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

II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

MALDIVES

[Original: English]

[29 April 1988]

1. The Republic of Maldives is strongly of the view that the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones and zones of peace would contribute substantially to achieving the objectives of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, global nuclear disarmament and overall disarmament in general. Therefore, Maldives attaches great importance to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia.

2. Maldives has consistently endorsed various resolutions calling for general and complete disarmament and has strongly supported the concept of the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones and zones of peace in general and in South Asia in particular. Maldives endeavours to create an atmosphere of consensus and conclusive deliberations on a subject of such crucial importance not merely to the countries of the region but to the entire world.

3. In addition to its global perspective, the concept of a nuclear-weapon-free zone implies regional harmony and peace. If implemented, it would induce the reduction of tension and mistrust which often exist among countries of a region and eliminate the possibility of any confrontation resulting from unwarranted threats and suspicion over nuclear programmes of contesting States in the region.

4. The Republic of Maldives commends the efforts of the Secretary-General in eliciting the views of various countries of the region and other concerned States on the subject. The Secretary-General may renew his efforts and allow more time so as to elicit more responses from States.

5. Maldives feels that in order to generate consensus of this subject, prior consultations among States of the region are of prime importance and a prerequisite. Such consultation could be organized under the auspices of the United Nations.

6. Maldives also feels that it would be fruitful to organize inter-disciplinary workshops or seminars in the region with the participation of scholars, academicians and eminent personalities so as to generate a free and frank exchange of views and enlighten the countries in their pursuit and to devise practical ways and means for the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia. Thereafter, official and government-level consultations could follow.

7. The Republic of Maldives is of the view that without prior consultations, any proposal to conclude bilateral or regional agreements or the convening of an international conference on nuclear proliferation in South Asia at this stage is premature.
