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Agenda item 54

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

#### Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Dimitris PLATIS (Greece)

#### 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-fourth session in accordance with General Assembly resolution **43/66** of 7 December 1988.
2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 22 September 1989, 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 13 October, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on the disarmament items allocated to it, namely, **items** 49 to 69 and 151. The deliberations on those items took place between the 3rd and 25th meetings, from 16 October to 1 November (see **A/C.1/44/PV.3-25**). Consideration of and action on draft resolutions on those items took place between the 26th and 41st meetings, from 2 to 13 November (see **A/C.1/44/PV.26-41**).
4. In connection with item 54, 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/44/363** and **Corr.1**);
  - (b) Letter dated 18 April 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United **Nations** addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the Final **Communiqué** of the Eighteenth Islamic Conference **of** Foreign Ministers (session on Islamic fraternity and solidarity) held at **Riyadh** from 6 to 9 Sha'ban A.H. **1409** (13 to 16 March A.D. 1989) (**A/44/235-5/20600**);

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(c) Letter dated 19 July 1989 from the **Chargé d'affaires a.i.** of the Permanent Mission of Zimbabwe to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the final documents of the Ministerial Meeting of the Co-ordinating Bureau of the **Movement** of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Hararo from 17 to 19 May 1989 (A/44/409-S/20743 and **Corr.1** and 2).

## II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION **A/C.1/44/L.48**

5. On 30 October 1989, **Bangladesh** and **Pakistan** submitted a draft resolution, entitled, "**Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia**" (**A/C.1/44/L.48**), which was introduced by the representative of Pakistan at the 33rd meeting, on 10 November.

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution **A/C.1/44/L.48** by a recorded vote of 102 to 3, with 30 abstentions (see **para. 7**). The voting was as follows: **1/**

**In favour:** Albania, Australia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, **Côte d'Ivoire**, Democratic Kampuchea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, **Greece**, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, 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, Yemen, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe

**Against:** Bhutan, India, Mauritius.

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

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**1/** Subsequently, the delegation of Mauritania indicated that it had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

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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 resolution 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 14 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 and **43/66** of 7 December 1988 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 the 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, **2/** regarding the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, including in the region of South Asia.

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**2/** Resolution S-10/2.

**Taking note** of the **report** of the Secretary-General, **3/**

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 that **objective**;
3. **Calls upon** those nuclear-weapon States which **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-fifth **session**;
6. **Decides** to include **in the provisional agenda** of its forty-fifth session the item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free **zone** in South Asia".

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