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

Note verbale dated 6 April 1990 from the Permanent Rearesentative
of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to inform him that the United States is withdrawing from the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean and will not be participating in future meetings of the Committee or in any preparations for a conference on the Indian Ocean called for by General Assembly resolution 44/120.

The United States takes this decision with reluctance. The principle of consensus which has governed the work of the Committee since the United States has been a member was broken by the decision to present a resolution to the General Assembly with full knowledge that it was unacceptable to the United States and a number of other members of the Western Group of 11. That resolution, inter alia, called for a conference despite a deadlock over what the conference would discuss. We regret that, despite the good will shown by members of the Group of 11 in presenting three possible compromise resolutions, none of these was acceptable.

The United States firmly believes that, as long as the Indian Ocean zone of peace process continues to be based on the obsolete 1971 Declaration on the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, this process will not be viable. We note that the Declaration by the Heads of State or Government of non-aligned countries at their ninth conference held in Belgrade, 4 to 7 September 1989, underscored the importance of participation by the permanent members of the Security Council and major maritime users of the Indian Ocean in the Indian Ocean zone of peace process. Unfortunately, this process now will not enjoy the participation of three of the five permanent members and of a number of major maritime users of the Indian Ocean.

* A/45/50.