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Agenda item 46

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

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Kedar Bhakta SHRESTHA (Nepal)

1. The item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia" was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-first session on the basis of General Assembly resolution 3476 B (XXX) of 11 December 1975.
2. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 24 September 1976, 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 5 October, the First Committee decided to hold a combined general debate on the items allocated to it relating to disarmament, namely, items 34 to 50 and 116. The general debate on these items took place at the 20th to 39th meetings, from 1 to 19 November.
4. On 8 November, Pakistan submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/31/L.6) which was introduced by its representative at the 42nd meeting, on 24 November.
5. At its 45th meeting, on 29 November, the First Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/31/L.6 by a roll-call vote of 85 to 2, with 42 abstentions (see para. 6 below). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Democratic Yemen, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Iceland, Iran, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea,

Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Surinam, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Zaire.

Against: Bhutan, India.

Abstaining: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Fiji, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Poland, Singapore, Sweden, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

6. 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 resolutions 3265 B (XXIX) of 9 December 1974 and 3476 B (XXX) of 11 December 1975 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 which can contribute most effectively to halting the proliferation of nuclear weapons and to promoting progress towards nuclear disarmament as a step towards general and complete disarmament under effective international control, with the ultimate goal of total destruction of all nuclear weapons and their means of delivery,

Bearing in mind the comprehensive study of the Ad Hoc Group of Qualified Governmental Experts for the Study of the Question of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, 1/

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 27A (A/10027/Add.1), annex I.

Believing that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia, as in other regions, will strengthen the security of the States of the region against nuclear threat of attack,

Noting the affirmation by the States of South Asia not to acquire or manufacture nuclear weapons and to devote their nuclear programmes exclusively to the economic and social advancement of their peoples,

Recalling that the above-mentioned General Assembly resolutions had called upon the States of the South Asian region and such other neighbouring non-nuclear-weapon States as may be interested to initiate, without delay, necessary consultations with a view to establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone and urged them, in the interim, to refrain from any action contrary to the achievement of the objectives of such a nuclear-weapon-free zone,

Recalling that resolution 3265 B (XXIX) had requested the Secretary-General to convene a meeting for the purpose of the above-mentioned consultations to render such assistance as might be required.

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 and such other neighbouring non-nuclear-weapon States as may be interested to continue to make all possible efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia and to refrain, in the meantime, from any action contrary to this objective;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to render such assistance as may be required to promote the above efforts for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia and to report on the subject to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session;

4. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-second session the item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia".
