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Agenda item 70

QUESTION OF ANTARCTICA

Report of the **First Committee**

Rapporteur: Mr. Kazimierz TOMASZEWSKI (Poland)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled the "Question of Antarctica: reports of the Secretary-General" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-second session in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 41/88 A, B and C of 4 December 1986.
2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 18 September 1987, 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. The First Committee considered the item at its 46th to 48th meetings, on 17 and 18 November 1987 (see A/C.1/42/PV.46-48).
4. In connection with item 70, the First Committee had before it the following documents:
  - (a) Letter dated 3 March 1987 from the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the final communiqué and the resolutions adopted by the Fifth Islamic Summit Conference, held at Kuwait from 26 to 29 January 1987 (A/42/178-8/18753) ;
  - (b) Letter dated 23 October 1987 from the Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the final communiqué of the Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries to the forty-second session of the United Nations General Assembly, held in New York from 5 to 7 October 1987 (A/42/681) ;

(c) Letter dated 11 November 1987 from the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the English text of the provisional version of the final report of the fourteenth Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting, held at Rio de Janeiro from 5 to 16 October 1987 (A/C.1/42/7);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the question of Antarctica (A/42/586 and Corr. 1);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the question of Antarctica (A/42/587).

## II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

### A. Draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.86

5. On 16 November, Zambia submitted, on behalf of the members of the Group of African States, a draft resolution entitled "Question of Antarctica" (A/C.1/42/L.86), which was introduced by the representative of Zambia at the 48th meeting, on 18 November,

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.86 by a roll-call vote of 96 to none, with 7 abstentions (see para. 10, draft resolution A). 1/ The voting was as follows;

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Central African Republic, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic), Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

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1/ The following 22 delegations announced that they were not participating in the vote: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Chile, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Ireland, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Malawi, Portugal.

**B. Draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.87**

7. On 16 November, Banladesh, Brunei Darussalam, the Congo, Ghana, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mali, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe submitted 4 draft resolution, entitled "Question of Antarctica" (A/C.1/42/L.87), which was introduced by the representative of Malaysia at the 48th meeting, on 18 November.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.87 by a roll-call vote of 73 to none, with 10 abstentions (see para. 10, draft resolution B) . 2/ The voting was as follows:

In favour: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burma, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Costa Rica, C&e d'Ivoire, Cypruo, Democratic Kampuchea, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemon, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abotaininqr Antigua and Barbuda, Canada, China, Fiji, Ireland, Luxembourg, Portugal, Solomon Islands, Turkey, Venezuela.

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2/ The following 42 delegations announced that they were not participating in the vote: Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Viet Nam.

9. On 17 November 1987, Antigua and Barbuda submitted a draft resolution entitled "Question of Antarctica" (A/C.1/42/L.88), which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Having regard to the debates on the question of Antarctica at the thirty-ninth, fortieth and forty-first sessions of the General Assembly,

"Having regard also for the study of the Antarctic question undertaken by the Secretary-General, 3/

"Recognizing the importance of Antarctica and its continental shelf and the Antarctic Ocean for the world as a whole, particularly in maintaining the stability of the global marine environment and weather and climate patterns and the great importance to mankind of its natural environment,

"Conscious of the increasing concern shown by non-governmental environmental groups for the protection of Antarctica and the Antarctic Ocean,

"Noting that the living marine resources of Antarctica are now in danger of over-exploitation but that, with proper management, they have the capacity to add substantially to world protein resources on a sustainable basis,

"Noting further that there is a danger in the future of disturbing the ecological system of Antarctica by the uncontrolled exploitation of the mineral resources in Antarctica,

"Aware that the 1959 Antarctic Treaty 4/ specifies that Antarctica should be used for peaceful purposes only and provides for freedom of scientific investigation in Antarctica,

"Noting that the Antarctic Treaty holds in abeyance all claims to sovereignty in Antarctica,

"Conscious that the Antarctic Treaty could be reviewed in 1991,

"Recognizing the legitimate interest in Antarctica of States other than those that have acceded to the Antarctic Treaty,

"1. Considers that the Treaty Parties should provide a valid base from which to develop a system of the widest international participation in the decision-making process affecting Antarctica and should establish an authority for day-to-day management and a sharing of the resources;

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3/ A/41/722.

4/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 402, No. 5770, p. 72.

"2. Decides to defer further United Nations consideration of the question of Antarctica until the forty-third session of the General Assembly;

"3. Calls upon the Treaty Parties to begin negotiations with Antigua and Barbuda to finalize an agreement to be signed and ratified by States not party to the Treaty before September 1988."

Subsequently, at the 47th meeting, on 18 November, Antigua and Barbuda withdrew draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.88.

### III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

10. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following resolutions:

#### Question of Antarctica

##### A

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 41/88 C of 4 December 1986,

Having considered the item entitled "Question of Antarctica",

Noting with regret that the racist apartheid régime of South Africa, which has been suspended from participation in the General Assembly of the United Nations, has continued to participate in the meetings of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties,

Recalling the resolution adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its forty-second ordinary session, held at Addis Abeba from 10 to 17 July 1985, 5/

Recalling also the relevant paragraphs of the Political Declaration adopted by the Eighth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Harare from 1 to 6 September 1986, 6/

Recalling further that the Antarctic Treaty 7/ is, by its terms, intended to further the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations,

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5/ A/40/666, annex II, resolution CM/Res. 988 (XLII),

6/ A/41/697-S/18392, annex, sect. I., paras. 194-202.

7/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 402, No. 5778, p. 72.

Noting further that the policy of apartheid practised by the **racist** minority regime of South Africa, which has been universally condemned, constitutes a threat **to** regional **and** international peace and security,

1. Views with concern the continuing participation of the apartheid régime of South Africa in the meetings of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties;

2. Appeals once again to the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties to take **urgent** measures to exclude the **racist apartheid régime** of South Africa from participation in the meetings of the Consultative Parties at the earliest possible date;

3. Invites the States parties to the Antarctic Treaty to inform the Secretary-General **on the** actions taken regarding the provisions of the present resolution;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to **submit** a **report** in this regard to the General Assembly at **its** forty-third session;

5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-third session the item entitled "Question of Antarctica".

## B

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "Question of Antarctica",

Recalling its resolutions 38/77 of 15 December 1983, 39/152 of 17 December 1984, 40/156 A and B of 16 December 1985 and 41/88 A and B of 4 December 1986,

Recalling the relevant paragraphs of the Political Declaration adopted by the Eighth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Harare from 1 to 6 September 1986, 6/ and the resolution on Antarctica adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its forty-second ordinary session, held at Addis Ababa from 10 to 17 July 1985, 5/ as well as the decision of the Council of Ministers of the League of Arab States held at Tunis on 17 and 18 September 1986 and resolution 25/5-P(15) adopted by the Fifth Islamic Summit Conference of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, held at Kuwait from 26 to 29 January 1987, 8/

Welcoming the increasing awareness and interest in Antarctica shown by the international community,

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8/ See A/42/178+18753, annex 11.

Taking into account the debates on this item held at its thirty-eighth@ thirty-ninth, fortieth, forty-first and forty-second sessions,

Convinced of the advantages to the whole of mankind of a better knowledge of Antarctica,

Affirming the conviction that, in the interest of all mankind, Antarctica should continue for ever to be used exclusively for peaceful purposes and that it should not become the scene or object of international discord,

Conscious of the significance of Antarctica to the international community in terms, inter alia, of international peace and security, environment, economy, scientific research and meteorology,

Reaffirming that the management, exploration, exploitation and use of Antarctica should be conducted in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and of promoting international co-operation for the benefit of mankind as a whole,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the question of Antarctica, 9/

Further taking into account all aspects pertaining to all areas covered by the Antarctic Treaty system, 7/

Reaffirming the principle that the international community is entitled to information covering all aspects of Antarctica and that the United Nations be made the repository for all such information in accordance with General Assembly resolution 41/88 A,

Reaffirming further that any eventual minerals régime on Antarctica should take fully into account the interests of the international community and that a moratorium on the negotiations to establish a minerals régime should be imposed until such time as all members of the international community can participate fully in such negotiations, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 41/88 B,

1. Calls upon the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties to invite the Secretary-General or his representative to all meetings of the Treaty Parties, including their consultative meetings and the minerals régime negotiations:

2. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on his evaluations thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-third session;

3. Further calls upon the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties to impose a moratorium on the negotiations to establish a minerals régime until such time, as all members of the international community can participate fully in such negotiations!

4. Urges all States Members of the United Nations to co-operate with the Secretary-General and to continue consultations on all aspects relating to Antarctica;

5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-third session the item entitled "Question of Antarctica".

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