Thirty-fifth session
Agenda item 41

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

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Ronald Listeri KENSIL (Suriname)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace: report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean" was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-fifth session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 34/80 A of 11 December 1979.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 19 September 1980, 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 3rd meeting, on 9 October, the First Committee decided to hold a combined general debate on the items allocated to it relating to disarmament, namely, items 31 to 49 and item 121. The general debate on these items took place at the 4th to 28th meetings, from 15 October to 4 November (see A/C.1/35/PV.4-28).

4. In connexion with item 41, the First Committee had before it the following documents:

   (a) Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean 1/ containing, inter alia, a draft resolution unanimously recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee for adoption by the General Assembly; 2/

2/ Ibid., para. 30.

80-32531
(b) Note verbale dated 14 October 1980 from the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and heads of delegations of the non-aligned countries to the General Assembly of the United Nations at its thirty-fifth session, held at United Nations Headquarters on 2 and 3 October 1980 (A/35/542);

(c) Letter dated 27 October 1980 from the Permanent Representative of the German Democratic Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the texts of the resolutions adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Conference, held at Berlin from 14 to 25 September 1980 (A/35/570).

II. CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION RECOMMENDED BY THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN

5. At the 32nd meeting, on 17 November, the representative of Sri Lanka, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean, introduced the report of the Ad Hoc Committee 1/ containing a draft resolution. 2/

6. On 24 November, the Secretary-General submitted a statement (A/C.1/35/L.55) on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution.

7. At its 42nd meeting, on 25 November, the First Committee adopted the draft resolution recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee in paragraph 30 of its report without a vote.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

8. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, contained in its resolution 2032 (XXVI) of 16 December 1971, and recalling also its resolutions 2992 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, 3080 (XXVIII) of 6 December 1973, 3259 A (XXIX) of 9 December 1974, 3468 (XXX) of 11 December 1975, 31/88 of 14 December 1976, 32/86 of 12 December 1977, 8-10/2 of 30 June 1978, 33/68 of 14 December 1978 and 34/80 A and B of 11 December 1979, and other recent relevant resolutions,

Bearing in mind, in particular, its decision at the thirty-fourth session in resolution 34/80 B to convene a Conference on the Indian Ocean during 1981 at Colombo,

/...
Recalling further the report of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, 3/:

Welcoming the addition of new members appointed pursuant to resolution 34/80 B and noting that the participation of these members has helped the work of the Committee,

Reaffirming its conviction that concrete action for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace would be a substantial contribution to the strengthening of international peace and security,

Considering that the continued danger posed by the military presence of the great Powers in the Indian Ocean area, conceived in the context of their confrontation, gives greater urgency to the need to take practical steps towards the early achievement of the objectives of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace,

Considering also that all other foreign military presence in the area whenever it is contrary to the objectives of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace and the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations further gives greater urgency to the need to take practical steps towards the early achievement of the objectives of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace,

Considering that the creation of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean requires the participation of and co-operation among the littoral and hinterland States, the permanent members of the Security Council and major maritime users, to ensure conditions of peace and security based on the purposes and principles of the Charter as well as the general principles of international law,

Considering also that the creation of a zone of peace requires co-operation among the regional States to ensure conditions of peace and security within the area, as envisaged in the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, and the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the littoral and hinterland States,

Deeply concerned at recent ominous developments resulting in further deterioration of peace and stability in the region and their implications for international peace and security,

1. Takes note of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean 4/ and the exchange of views in the Ad Hoc Committee which, inter alia, indicate that:

   (a) Following the expansion of its membership, there has been a varied and useful exchange of views on important issues regarding the implementation of the Declaration as a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean as contained in General Assembly resolution 2632 (XXVI), and on other related matters;


(b) Progress has been made towards harmonizing differing approaches on these issues, while a number of fundamental issues remain to be resolved;

2. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee, in pursuance of the decision contained in resolution 34/80 B to convene a Conference on the Indian Ocean during 1981 at Colombo, and taking into consideration the exchange of views thereon:

(a) To continue its efforts for the necessary harmonization of views on the issues related to the convening of the Conference to achieve the objectives of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace as contained in resolution 2832 (XXVI);

(b) To make every effort, in consideration of the political and security climate in the Indian Ocean area, particularly recent developments, as well as the progress made in the harmonization of views referred to in subparagraph (a) above, to finalize, in accordance with its normal methods of work, all preparations for the Conference, including the dates for its convening;

(c) To continue the preparatory work for the convening of the Conference and to hold two preparatory sessions in 1981 totalling six weeks;

(d) To submit to the Conference a full report on its preparatory work;

3. Requests the Conference on the Indian Ocean to submit its report to the General Assembly;

4. Renews the general mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee as defined in the relevant resolutions;

5. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session a full report on the implementation of the present resolution;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to render all necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Committee, including the provision of summary records.