Fortieth session
Agenda item 66

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

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Yannis SOULIOTIS (Greece)

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 fortieth session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 39/149 of 17 December 1984.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1985, 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 9 October, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on the disarmament items allocated to it, namely, items 48 to 69 and item 145, followed by statements on specific disarmament agenda items and continuation of the general debate, as necessary. The deliberations on those items took place between the 3rd and the 32nd meetings, from 14 October to 8 November (see A/C.1/40/PV.3-32).

4. In connection with item 66, the First Committee had before it the following documents:

   (a) Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean; 1/

(b) Letter dated 5 November 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Angola to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Final Political Declaration and the Economic Declaration adopted by the Conference of Foreign Ministers of the Non-Aligned Countries, held at Luanda from 4 to 7 September 1985 (A/40/854-S/17610 and Corr.1);

(c) Letter dated 25 October 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Declaration of the Member States of the Warsaw Treaty issued on 23 October 1985 at Sofia by the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty Organization (A/C.1/40/7);

(d) Letter dated 22 November 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Seychelles to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.1/40/13).

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

5. At the 62nd meeting, on 6 December, 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, in paragraph 22, a draft resolution.

6. In this connection, the Secretary-General submitted a statement on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution (A/C.1/40/L.90).

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution contained in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean without a vote (see para. 8).

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 further the report of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, 2/

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,

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

Recalling also its decision to make every effort, in consideration of the political and security climate in the Indian Ocean area and progress made in the harmonization of views, to finalize, in accordance with its normal methods of work, all preparations for the Conference, including the dates for its convening,

Recalling further its decision, taken at its thirty-ninth session in resolution 39/149, concerning the convening of the Conference in the first half of 1986,

Recalling the exchange of views in the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean in 1985,

Noting the exchange of views on the adverse political and security climate in the region,

Noting further the various documents before the Ad Hoc Committee,

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

Considering that any 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 purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, gives greater urgency to the need to take practical steps towards the early achievement of the objectives of the Declaration,

Considering further that the creation of a zone of peace requires co-operation and agreement among the States of the region 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 respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the littoral and hinterland States,

Calling for the renewal of genuinely constructive efforts through the exercise of the political will necessary for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace,

Deeply concerned at the danger posed by the grave and ominous developments in the area and the resulting sharp deterioration of peace, security and stability which particularly seriously affect the littoral and hinterland States, as well as international peace and security,

Convinced that the continued deterioration of the political and security climate in the Indian Ocean area is an important consideration bearing on the question of the urgent convening of the Conference and that the easing of tension in the area would enhance the prospect of success being achieved by the Conference,

1. Takes note of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean and exchange of views in the Committee; 3/

2. Emphasizes its decision to convene the Conference on the Indian Ocean at Colombo as a necessary step for the implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, adopted in 1971;

3. Notes that the Ad Hoc Committee has been unable, during 1985, to complete preparatory work relating to the convening of the Conference on the Indian Ocean and urges the Committee to continue its work with vigour and determination;

4. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee, taking into account the political and security climate in the region, to complete preparatory work relating to the Conference on the Indian Ocean during 1986 in order to enable the opening of the Conference at Colombo at an early date soon thereafter, but not later than 1988, to be decided by the Committee in consultation with the host country;

5. Emphasizes that the Conference called for in General Assembly resolution 34/80 B and subsequent resolutions and the establishment and maintenance of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace require the full and active participation and co-operation of all the permanent members of the Security Council, the major maritime users and the littoral and hinterland States;

6. Decides that preparatory work would comprise organizational matters and substantive issues, including the provisional agenda for the Conference, rules of procedure, participation, stages of the Conference, level of representation, documentation, consideration of appropriate arrangements for any international agreements that may ultimately be reached for the maintenance of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace and the preparation of the draft final document of the Conference;

7. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee at the same time to seek the necessary harmonization of views on remaining relevant issues;

8. Requests the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee to consult the Secretary-General, at the appropriate time, on the establishment of a secretariat for the Conference;

9. Renews the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee as defined in the relevant resolutions, and requests the Committee to intensify its work with regard to the implementation of its mandate;

10. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to hold three preparatory sessions in 1986 of a duration of two weeks each, for completion of the preparatory work;

11. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to submit to the Conference a report on its preparatory work;

12. Requests the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee to continue his consultations on the participation in the work of the Committee by States Members of the United Nations that are not members of the Committee, with the aim of resolving this matter at the earliest possible date;

13. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-first session a full report on the implementation of the present resolution;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to render all necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Committee, including the provision of summary records, in recognition of its preparatory function.