Fortieth session
Agenda item 53

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

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Yannis SOULIOTIS (Greece)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia: report of the Secretary-General" was included in the provisional agenda of the fortieth session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 39/55 of 12 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 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 53, the First Committee had before it the following documents:

   (a) Report of the Secretary-General (A/40/473);

   (b) Letter dated 19 September 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué adopted at the Sixteenth South Pacific Forum, held at Rarotonga, Cook Islands, on 5 and 6 August 1985 (A/40/672-S/17488).
II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/40/L.10

5. On 1 November 1985, Pakistan submitted a draft resolution entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia" (A/C.1/40/L.10), which was introduced by its representative at the 30th meeting, on 7 November.

6. At its 41st meeting, on 18 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.10 by a recorded vote of 90 to 3, with 40 abstentions (see para. 7). The voting was as follows:

   In favour: Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Democratic Kampuchea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, Gabon, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire), Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Zaire, Zambia.

   Against: Bhutan, India, Mauritius.

   Abstaining: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Austria, Bahamas, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Ethiopia, Fiji, France, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Italy, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Norway, Poland, Suriname, Sweden, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

7. 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,


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 the objectives of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and general and complete disarmament,

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 the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Noting the declarations issued at the highest level by Governments of South Asian States reaffirming their undertaking 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 in its above-mentioned resolutions it called upon the States of the South Asian region, and such other neighbouring non-nuclear-weapon States as might be interested, 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,

Further recalling that, in its resolution 3265 B (XXIX), it requested the Secretary-General to convene a meeting for the purpose of the consultations mentioned therein and to render such assistance as might be required to promote the efforts for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia,

Bearing in mind the provisions of paragraphs 60 to 63 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly 1/ regarding the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, including in the region of South Asia,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General, 2/

1/ Resolution S-10/2.
2/ A/40/473.
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. Calls upon those nuclear-weapon States that have not done so to respond positively to this proposal and to extend the necessary co-operation in the efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to render such assistance as may be required to promote the 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 forty-first session;

5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-first session the item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia".