Fortieth session
Agenda item 70

QUESTION OF ANTARCTICA

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Yannis SOULIOTIS (Greece)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled the "Question of Antarctica" was included in the provisional agenda of the fortieth session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 39/152 of 17 December 1984.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1984, 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 Committee considered the item at its 48th to 55th meetings, from 25 November to 2 December 1985.

4. In connection with item 70, the First Committee had before it the following documents:

   (a) Letter dated 25 November 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the English version of the final report of the Thirteenth Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting, held at Brussels from 7 to 18 October 1985 (A/C.1/40/12);

   (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).
II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.82

5. On 27 November, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mali, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Rwanda and Sri Lanka submitted a draft resolution entitled "Question of Antarctica" (A/C.1/40/L.82), which was introduced by the representative of Malaysia at the 55th meeting, on 2 December.

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.82 (see para. 12, draft resolution A) by a recorded vote of 80 to none, with 9 abstentions. 1/ The voting was as follows:

In favour: Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Cyprus, Democratic Kampuchea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire), Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Austria, Canada, China, Haiti, Ireland, Luxembourg, Portugal, Samoa, Turkey.

1/ The following 35 delegations announced that they were not participating in the vote: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Chile, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay.
B. Draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.83

7. On 27 November, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Mali, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Rwanda and Sri Lanka submitted a draft resolution entitled "Question of Antarctica" (A/C.1/40/L.83), which was introduced by the representative of Pakistan at the 55th meeting, on 2 December.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.83 (see para. 12, draft resolution B) by a recorded vote of 78 to none, with 10 abstentions. I/ The voting was as follows:

In favour: Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Cyprus, Democratic Kampuchea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire), Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Austria, Canada, China, Haiti, Ireland, Luxembourg, Peru, Portugal, Samoa, Turkey.

9. On 27 November, Australia submitted a draft resolution entitled "Question of Antarctica" (A/C.1/40/L.84), which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 38/77 of 15 December 1983 and 39/152 of 17 December 1984,

"Having considered the item entitled "Question of Antarctica",

"Bearing in mind the Antarctic Treaty and the significance of the system it has developed,

"Taking into account the debate on this item at its fortieth session,

"Convinced of the advantages of a better knowledge of Antarctica,

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

/...
"Noting the increasing international interest in Antarctica, as evidenced by the deliberations which took place during the thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth sessions of the United Nations General Assembly, in the meetings of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, at the recent summit of the Organization of African Unity, at the 16th meeting of the South Pacific Forum, at the recent meeting of the Antarctic Treaty parties in Brussels, and by the growing membership of the Antarctic Treaty,

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

"Recognizing further that activities in Antarctica are conducted in accordance inter alia 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,

"Noting once again with appreciation the study on the question of Antarctica,

"Noting the interest in examining further certain matters relating to Antarctica,

"1. Requests the Secretary-General to supplement the study on the question of Antarctica by addressing questions concerning the availability of information from the Treaty parties on their respective activities and the Antarctic Treaty System to the United Nations, the involvement of the relevant specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations in the Antarctic Treaty System;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to seek the co-operation of all Member States, the relevant specialized agencies, organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as the relevant intergovernmental bodies, in the preparation of the study as was provided for in resolution 38/77;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to issue the updated supplement in time for the forty-second session of the General Assembly;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to report on his progress on the updated supplement to the General Assembly at its forty-first session;

"5. Invites the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties to continue informing the Secretary-General on their meetings as well as on their respective activities in Antarctica;

"6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-first session the item entitled 'Question of Antarctica'."

Subsequently, at the 55th meeting, on 2 December, Australia withdrew draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.84.

/...
C. Draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.85

10. On 27 November, Mauritius, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States, submitted a draft resolution entitled "Question of Antarctica" (A/C.1/40/L.85). The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Burundi at the 55th meeting, on 2 December 1985.

11. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.85 (see para. 12, draft resolution C) by a recorded vote of 81 to none, with 9 abstentions. 2/ The voting as follows:

In favour: Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Cyprus, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Austria, Canada, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malawi, Portugal, Samoa, Swaziland, Turkey.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

2/ The following 36 delegations said they were not participating in the vote: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire), Japan, Lesotho, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay.
Question of Antarctica

A

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 38/77 of 15 December 1983 and 39/152 of 17 December 1984,

Having considered the item entitled "Question of Antarctica",

Welcoming the increasing international awareness of and interest in Antarctica,

Bearing in mind the Antarctic Treaty 3/ and the significance of the system it has developed,

Taking into account the debate on this item at its fortieth session, 4/

Convinced of the advantages of a better knowledge of Antarctica,

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

Recalling the relevant paragraphs of the Economic Declaration adopted at the Seventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at New Delhi from 7 to 12 March 1983, 5/ and of the Final Political Declaration of the Conference of Foreign Ministers of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Luanda from 4 to 7 September 1985, 6/ as well as 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, 7/

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


6/ A/40/854-S/17610, annex I, sect. V.

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

/...
Recognizing, therefore, the interest of mankind as a whole in Antarctica,


Noting once again with appreciation the study on the question of Antarctica, 9/

Convinced that it would be desirable to examine further certain issues affecting Antarctica,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to update and expand the study on the question of Antarctica by addressing questions concerning the availability of information from the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties to the United Nations, on their respective activities in, and their deliberations regarding Antarctica, the involvement of the relevant specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations in the Antarctic Treaty System and the significance of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in the southern ocean;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to seek the co-operation of all Member States, the relevant specialized agencies, organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as the relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies, in the preparation of the study by inviting them to transmit, as appropriate, their views and any information they may wish to provide;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to submit the study to the General Assembly at its forty-first session;

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

B

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 38/77 of 15 December 1983 and 39/152 of 17 December 1984,

Having considered the item entitled "Question of Antarctica",


Recalling the relevant paragraphs of the Economic Declaration adopted at the Seventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at New Delhi from 7 to 12 March 1983, 5/ and of the Final Political Declaration of the Conference of Foreign Ministers of the Non-Aligned Countries, held at Luanda from 4 to 7 September 1985, 6/ as well as 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, 7/

Recognizing that the management, exploration 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,

Aware that negotiations are in progress among the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties, with the Non-Consultative Parties as observers, to which other States are not privy, with a view to establishing a régime regarding Antarctic minerals,

1. **Affirms** that any exploitation of the resources of Antarctica should ensure the maintenance of international peace and security in Antarctica, the protection of its environment, the non-appropriation and conservation of its resources and the international management and equitable sharing of the benefits of such exploitation;

2. **Invites** the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties to inform the Secretary-General of their negotiations to establish a régime regarding Antarctic minerals;

3. **Requests** the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly for consideration at its forty-first session a report containing the replies received from Consultative Parties;

4. **Decides** to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-first session the item entitled "Question of Antarctica".

C

The General Assembly,

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, is a Consultative Party to the Antarctic Treaty, 3/

Recalling the interest of African States in Antarctica as shown by the resolution 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, 7/

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

1. Views with concern the continued status of the apartheid régime of South Africa as a Consultative Party to the Antarctic Treaty;

2. Urges the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties 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.