DECLARATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Giovanni MIGLIUOLO (Italy)

1. By a letter dated 1 October 1971 (A/8492), Ceylon requested the Secretary-General to include in the agenda of the twenty-sixth session of the General Assembly an additional item entitled "Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace". On 6 October 1971 the United Republic of Tanzania asked that its name be added to the request for the inclusion of the item (A/8492/Add.1).

2. At its 1959th plenary meeting, on 8 October, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include this item in the agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee for consideration and report.

3. At its 1803rd meeting, on 11 October, the First Committee decided to hold a combined general debate on all seven agenda items relating to disarmament allocated to it, namely:

   (1) General and complete disarmament: report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (item 27);

   (2) Question of chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons: report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (item 28);

   (3) Urgent need for suspension of nuclear and thermonuclear tests: report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (item 29);

   (4) Establishment, within the framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency, of an international service for nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes under appropriate international control: report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (item 30);
(5) Status of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 2666 (XXV) concerning the signature and ratification of Additional Protocol II of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Treaty of Tlatelolco): report of the Secretary-General (item 31);

(6) Economic and social consequences of the armaments race and its extremely harmful effects on world peace and security: report of the Secretary-General (item 32);

(7) Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace (item 98). The Committee also decided that, on the conclusion of the general debate, it would consider the draft resolutions or proposals under each item separately.

4. The general debate on these seven agenda items took place at the 1827th to 1842nd meetings, from 11 November to 1 December.

5. A draft resolution (A/C.1/L.590) was submitted on 30 November 1970 by Ceylon, Iran, Iraq, Kenya, Somalia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen, and Zambia and was later co-sponsored by Burundi and Swaziland. The draft resolution was introduced on behalf of its sponsors by the representative of Ceylon at the 1842nd meeting, on 1 December. The text was later revised (A/C.1/L.590/Rev.1) and also sponsored by India and Yugoslavia. A further revision (A/C.1/L.590/Rev.2) was introduced on behalf of its 13 sponsors by the representative of Ceylon at the 1848th meeting, on 10 December.

6. At the 1849th meeting, on 10 December, the First Committee proceeded to vote on the revised 13-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.590/Rev.2). At the request of the Philippines, paragraph 1 of the draft resolution was voted upon separately. At the request of Madagascar, paragraphs 2 and 3, taken together, were also voted upon separately.

7. Paragraph 1 was adopted by 47 votes to none, with 46 abstentions.

8. Paragraphs 2 and 3 were adopted by a roll-call vote of 43 to none, with 55 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bhutan, Burma, Burundi, Ceylon, China, Colombia, Congo, Cyprus, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Iceland, India, Iran, Iraq, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Republic, Malta, Mexico, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, Romania, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

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Against: None.

Abstaining: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Fiji, Finland, France, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Khmer Republic, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Rwanda, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Upper Volta, Venezuela, Zaire.

9. At the same meeting, the draft resolution (A/C.1/L.590/Rev.2) was adopted by a roll-call vote of 50 to none, with 49 abstentions (see paragraph 10). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bhutan, Burma, Burundi, Cameroon, Ceylon, China, Colombia, Congo, Cyprus, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Kenya, Khmer Republic, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Republic, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, Romania, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Fiji, Finland, France, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Rwanda, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Thailand, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Upper Volta, Venezuela, Zaire.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

/...
Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace

The General Assembly,

Conscious of the determination of the peoples of the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean to preserve their independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and to resolve their political, economic and social problems under conditions of peace and tranquility,

Recalling the Declaration of the Third Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Lusaka in September 1970, calling upon all States to consider and respect the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace from which great Power rivalries and competition as well as bases conceived in the context of such rivalries and competition should be excluded, and declaring that the area should also be free of nuclear weapons,

Convinced of the desirability of ensuring the maintenance of such conditions in the area by means other than military alliances, as such alliances entail financial and other obligations that call for the diversion of the limited resources of these States from the more compelling and productive task of economic and social reconstruction and could further involve them in the rivalries of power blocs in a manner prejudicial to their independence and freedom of action, thereby increasing international tensions,

Concerned at recent developments that portend the extension of the arms race into the Indian Ocean area, thereby posing a serious threat to the maintenance of such conditions in the area,

Convinced that the establishment of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean would contribute towards arresting such developments, relaxing international tensions and strengthening international peace and security,

Convinced further that the establishment of a zone of peace in an extensive geographical area in one region could have a beneficial influence on the establishment of permanent universal peace based on equal rights and justice for all, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. Solemnly declares that the Indian Ocean, within limits to be determined, together with the air space above and the ocean floor subjacent thereto, is hereby designated for all time as a zone of peace;
2. **Calls upon** the great Powers, in conformity with this Declaration, to enter into immediate consultations with the littoral States of the Indian Ocean with a view to:

   (a) Halting the further escalation and expansion of their military presence in the Indian Ocean;

   (b) Eliminating from the Indian Ocean all bases, military installations, logistical supply facilities, the disposition of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction and any manifestation of great Power military presence in the Indian Ocean conceived in the context of great Power rivalry;

3. **Calls upon** the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, the permanent members of the Security Council and other major maritime users of the Indian Ocean, in pursuit of the objective of establishing a system of universal collective security without military alliances and strengthening international security through regional and other co-operation, to enter into consultations with a view to the implementation of this Declaration and such action as may be necessary to ensure that:

   (a) Warships and military aircraft may not use the Indian Ocean for any threat or use of force against the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of any littoral or hinterland State of the Indian Ocean in contravention of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

   (b) Subject to the foregoing and to the norms and principles of international law, the right to free and unimpeded use of the zone by the vessels of all nations is unaffected;

   (c) Appropriate arrangements are made to give effect to any international agreement that may ultimately be reached for the maintenance of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace;

4. **Requests** the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session on the progress that has been made with regard to the implementation of this Declaration;

5. **Decides** to include the item entitled "Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace" in the provisional agenda of its twenty-seventh session.