Thirty-seventh session
FIRST COMMITTEE
Agenda item 48

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE: REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN

Note verbale dated 30 November 1982 from the Permanent Representatives of Bulgaria, the German Democratic Republic, Poland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representatives of Bulgaria, the German Democratic Republic, Poland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations present their compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and have the honour to forward herewith their joint statement related to the recommendation contained in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean (A/37/29, para. 19).

Availing themselves of the opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurances of their highest consideration, they should be grateful if the enclosed statement is circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 48 of the agenda of the thirty-seventh session.
JOINT STATEMENT

of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the German Democratic Republic, the Polish People's Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics related to the recommendation contained in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean (A/37/29, para. 19)

It is noted with regret that the draft resolution recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean to the General Assembly is far removed from that submitted by the representative of Sri Lanka at the Committee's 196th meeting in Geneva on 16 August 1982 on behalf of the non-aligned countries of the Committee who initiated the idea of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace.

As known, the draft resolution (A/AC.159/L.47) had received broad support, including that of socialist Member States of the Committee because it called for convening the United Nations conference on the Indian Ocean at Colombo on 9 May 1983, thus meeting the request contained in resolution 36/90.

During the general debate of the General Assembly's current session and in the First Committee, numerous representatives of States also expressed their support for holding the conference in the first half of 1983.

This definite demand of the sponsors of the idea of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean supported by socialist Member States of the Committee was opposed by the categorical "No" of the United States and some of its allies. Once again, the Committee had to delay the conference.

Therefore we wish to point out with the utmost clarity: responsible for delaying the conference are the so-called like-minded States of the West which refused a consensus on convening the conference in the first half of 1983 to which they had been party.

The draft resolution contained in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean (A/37/29, para. 19) does not include the necessary binding obligation to hold the conference during the first half-year of 1984.

Moreover, we regret that the proposal on the holding of further preparatory sessions of the Committee of a total duration of 12 weeks in 1983 was not taken into consideration.

We witness here yet another attempt directed against the careful preparation of the conference. These insufficiencies lead to the conclusion that the draft resolution is far from being sufficient to meet the requirements in connection with the preparation and the holding of the conference.

We therefore make serious reservations against the draft resolution. In the interest of the continuation of work in the Committee, we did not refuse a consensus, but we do express our clear dissatisfaction with the draft resolution.
Despite our serious concern we will, however, continue our active contribution to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean.

The draft resolution, as weak as it may be, in our opinion permits the intensification of the Committee's preparatory work for the conference to be held in Colombo in the first half of 1984 with a view to making the Indian Ocean a zone of peace.