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Agenda item 101

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE
IN THE REGION OF THE MIDDLE EAST

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. António da COSTA LOBO (Portugal)

1. The item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-free zone in the region of the Middle East" was included by the Secretary-General in the provisional agenda of the twenty-ninth session at the request of Iran (A/9693). Subsequently, Egypt co-sponsored that request (A/9693/Add.1). Egypt and Iran later proposed (A/9693/Add.2) that the item should read: "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East".
2. At its 2236th plenary meeting, on 21 September 1974, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in the agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee for consideration and report.
3. At its 1987th meeting, on 25 September, the First Committee decided to have a combined general debate on the items allocated to it relating to disarmament and the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace, namely:
 - Item 24: Reduction of the military budgets of States permanent members of the Security Council by 10 per cent and utilization of part of the funds thus saved to provide assistance to developing countries.
 - Item 27: Napalm and other incendiary weapons and all aspects of their possible use.
 - Item 28: Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons.
 - Item 29: Urgent need for cessation of nuclear and thermonuclear tests and conclusion of a treaty designed to achieve a comprehensive test ban.
 - Item 30: Implementation of General Assembly resolution 3079 (XXVIII) concerning the signature and ratification of Additional Protocol II of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Treaty of Tlatelolco).

- Item 31: Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace.
- Item 34: World Disarmament Conference.
- Item 35: General and complete disarmament.
- Item 100: Implementation of General Assembly resolution 2286 (XXII) concerning the signature and ratification of Additional Protocol I of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Treaty of Tlatelolco).
- Item 101: Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East.
- Item 103: Prohibition of action to influence the environment and climate for military and other purposes incompatible with the maintenance of international security, human well-being and health.
- Item 107: Declaration and establishment of a nuclear-free zone in South Asia.

4. The general debate on these items took place at the 1998th to 2016th meetings, from 21 October to 11 November.

5. The First Committee had before it, in connexion with agenda item 101, a note by the Secretary-General dated 17 September, circulating, at the request of the Permanent Representative of Iran, a message of His Imperial Majesty the Shahanshah Aryamehr (A/9693/Add.3).

6. On 20 November, Egypt and Iran submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.700), which was introduced at the 2026th meeting by the representative of Iran.

7. At the 2028th meeting, on 22 November, Iran, on behalf of the sponsors, proposed to delete in the sixth preambular paragraph the word "ultimate" before the word "goal", so that the paragraph would read as follows:

"Considering that the establishment of zones free from nuclear weapons, on the initiative of the States situated within each zone concerned, is one of the measures which can contribute most effectively to halting the proliferation of those instruments of mass destruction and to promoting progress towards nuclear disarmament, with the goal of total destruction of all nuclear weapons and their means of delivery;"

8. At the same meeting, a separate vote was taken on the last two preambular paragraphs and on operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution (see para. 10 below). They were adopted by a roll-call vote of 93 to none with 9 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Bulgaria, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, German Democratic Republic, Germany (Federal Republic of), Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Ivory Coast, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Cameroon, United States of America, Upper Volta, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Argentina, Brazil, France, India, Indonesia, Israel, Spain, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia.

9. At the same meeting, draft resolution A/C.1/L.700, as amended (see para. 7 above), was adopted by a roll-call vote of 103 to none, with 3 abstentions 1/ (see para. 10 below). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany (Federal Republic of), Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Ivory Coast, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Upper Volta, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

1/ Subsequently the delegation of Burma stated that, had it been present at the voting, it would have abstained.

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Against: None.

Abstaining: Israel, Norway, Sweden.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East,

Desiring to contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security by bolstering and expanding the existing regional and global structures for the prohibition and/or prevention of the further spread of nuclear weapons,

Realizing that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones with an adequate system of safeguards could accelerate the process towards nuclear disarmament and the ultimate goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control,

Recalling the resolution adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at its sixty-second session, held in Cairo from 1 to 4 September 1974, on this subject,

Recalling the message sent by His Imperial Majesty the Shahanshah of Iran on 16 September 1974 on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East, 2/

Considering that the establishment of zones free from nuclear weapons, on the initiative of the States situated within each zone concerned, is one of the measures which can contribute most effectively to halting the proliferation of those instruments of mass destruction and to promoting progress towards nuclear disarmament, with the goal of total destruction of all nuclear weapons and their means of delivery,

Mindful of political conditions particular to the region of the Middle East and of the potential danger emanating therefrom, which would be further aggravated by the introduction of nuclear weapons in the area,

Conscious, therefore, of the need to keep the countries of the region from becoming involved in a ruinous nuclear arms race,

2/ A/9693/Add.3.

Recalling the Declaration on Denuclearization of Africa issued by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity in July 1964,

Noting that establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East would contribute effectively to the realization of aims enunciated in the above-mentioned Declaration on Denuclearization of Africa,

Recalling the notable achievement of the countries of Latin America in establishing a nuclear-free zone,

Also recalling resolution B of the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States, convened at Geneva on 29 August 1968, in which the Conference recommended that non-nuclear-weapon States not comprised in the Latin American nuclear-free zone should study the possibility and desirability of establishing military denuclearization of their respective zones,

Recalling the aims pursued by the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons ^{3/} and, in particular, the goal of preventing the further spread of nuclear weapons,

Recalling resolution 2373 (XXII) of 12 June 1968, in which it expressed the hope for the widest possible adherence to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons by both nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon States,

1. Commends the idea of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East;
2. Considers that, in order to advance the idea of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East, it is indispensable that all parties concerned in the area proclaim solemnly and immediately their intention to refrain, on a reciprocal basis, from producing, testing, obtaining, acquiring or in any other way possessing nuclear weapons;
3. Calls upon the parties concerned in the area to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;
4. Expresses the hope that all States and, in particular, the nuclear-weapon States, will lend their full co-operation for the effective realization of the aims of this resolution;
5. Requests the Secretary-General to ascertain the views of the parties concerned with respect to the implementation of the present resolution, in particular, with regard to its paragraphs 2 and 3, and to report to the Security Council at an early date and, subsequently, to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session;
6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirtieth session the item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East".

^{3/} General Assembly resolution 2373 (XXII), annex.