

**REPORT
OF THE
AD HOC COMMITTEE
ON THE INDIAN OCEAN**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OFFICIAL RECORDS: TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION
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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. By resolution 36/90 of December 1981, the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean was requested to submit to the General Assembly at its second special session devoted to disarmament a report on the work of the Committee and the implementation of the above resolution. The present report has been prepared in conformity with that resolution.

2. The item entitled "Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace" was included in the agenda of the twenty-sixth session of the General Assembly at the request of Sri Lanka, later joined by the United Republic of Tanzania. The Assembly, at that session, adopted resolution 2832 (XXVI) of 16 December 1971 in which it solemnly declared that the Indian Ocean, within limits to be determined, together with the air space above and the ocean floor subjacent thereto, was designated for all time as a zone of peace. It also called upon the great Powers, in conformity with the Declaration, to enter into consultations with the littoral States of the Indian Ocean, with a view to halting the further expansion of their military presence in the Indian Ocean and eliminating from the area all bases, military installations, nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction and any manifestation of great-Power rivalry, and called 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 to enter into consultations, with a view to implementing the Declaration and ensuring that: (a) warships and military aircraft would not use the Indian Ocean for any threat or use of force against any of its littoral or hinterland States; (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 all nations would be unaffected; and (c) arrangements would be made to give effect to any international agreement ultimately reached on the question.

3. The General Assembly decided, by resolution 2992 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, to establish an Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean, consisting of no more than 15 members. 1/ At the twenty-ninth session, the Committee was enlarged to 18 members 2/ (resolution 3259 (XXIX)). At the thirty-second session, the Committee was further enlarged to 23 members 3/ (resolution 32/86). At its thirty-fourth session, the Assembly decided to enlarge the Committee by the addition of new members 4/ to be appointed by the President of the Assembly on the

1/ The 15 members were: Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen and Zambia.

2/ The three new members were: Bangladesh, Kenya and Somalia.

3/ The five new members were: Democratic Yemen, Ethiopia, Greece, Mozambique and Oman.

4/ The 22 new members were: Bulgaria, Canada, Djibouti, Egypt, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Italy, Liberia, Maldives, Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Poland, Romania, Seychelles, Singapore, Sudan, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Yugoslavia.

recommendation of the Committee (resolution 34/80 B). By a communication dated 5 March 1981 (see A/35/800), the President of the Assembly informed the Secretary-General that he had appointed one additional member. 5/ At present, the Committee is composed of the following 46 Member States:

Australia	Maldives
Bangladesh	Mauritius
Bulgaria	Mozambique
Canada	Netherlands
China	Norway
Democratic Yemen	Oman
Djibouti	Pakistan
Egypt	Panama
Ethiopia	Poland
France	Romania
German Democratic Republic	Seychelles
Germany, Federal Republic of	Singapore
Greece	Somalia
India	Sri Lanka
Indonesia	Sudan
Iran	Thailand
Iraq	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Italy	United Kingdom of Great
Japan	Britain and Northern Ireland
Kenya	United Republic of Tanzania
Liberia	United States of America
Madagascar	Yemen
Malaysia	Yugoslavia
	Zambia

Since 1980, Sweden has participated in the meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee as an observer.

4. The Ad Hoc Committee has received applications by the following countries for participation in its work: Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Hungary, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Swaziland and Viet Nam. The Committee was unable in the time available, to reach a consensus on these applications, and informal consultations are still in progress on the subject.

5. The bureau of the Ad Hoc Committee consisted initially of a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman and a Rapporteur. At its 53rd meeting, on 25 September 1978, the Committee decided that its bureau be expanded by the appointment of an additional Vice-Chairman to be elected from among the members of the African group of countries. In order to reflect its new composition, the Committee at its 103rd meeting, on 25 July 1980, decided to expand its bureau by the addition of two more Vice-Chairmen.

The elected officers of the Ad Hoc Committee are, at present, the following:

Chairman: Mr. Ignatius Benedict Fonseka (Sri Lanka)

5/ The new member was Thailand.

Vice-Chairmen:

Ms. Susan Boyd (Australia)
Mr. Izhar Ibrahim (Indonesia)
Mr. Siegfried Kahn (German Democratic Republic)
Mr. José Carlos Lobo (Mozambique)

Rapporteur:

Mr. Henri Rasolondraibe (Madagascar)

6. Mr. Sohrab Kheradi, Senior Political Affairs Officer, Centre for Disarmament, has continued to serve as Secretary of the Ad Hoc Committee since 1977.
7. The Ad Hoc Committee received a mandate by virtue of General Assembly resolution 2992 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, to study the implications of the Indian Ocean peace zone proposal with special reference to the practical measures that might be taken in furtherance of the objectives of Assembly resolution 2832 (XXVI), having due regard to the security interests of the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean and the interests of any other State consistent with the Charter of the United Nations, and to report to the Assembly at its twenty-eighth session.
8. By resolution 3080 (XXVIII) of 6 December 1973, the General Assembly requested the Ad Hoc Committee to continue its work, to carry out consultations in accordance with its mandate and to report with recommendations to the Assembly at its twenty-ninth session. The Assembly further requested the Secretary-General to prepare, with the assistance of qualified experts and competent bodies selected by him, "a factual statement of the great Powers' military presence in all its aspects, in the Indian Ocean, with special reference to their naval deployments, conceived in the context of great-Power rivalry". Such a statement was to be transmitted to the Committee for its consideration.
9. In paragraph 7 of resolution 3259 A (XXIX) of 9 December 1974, the General Assembly requested the Ad Hoc Committee to continue its work and consultations in accordance with its mandate and to report to the Assembly at its thirtieth session. In paragraph 4 of the same resolution, the Assembly also requested the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean to enter, as soon as possible, into consultations with a view to convening a conference on the Indian Ocean.
10. In paragraph 3 of resolution 3468 (XXX) of 11 December 1975, the General Assembly requested the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean to continue their consultations on the convening of a conference on the Indian Ocean. In paragraph 4 of the same resolution, the Assembly also requested the Ad Hoc Committee to continue its work and consultations in accordance with its mandate and to submit to the Assembly at its thirty-first session a report on its work, including the results of the consultations referred to in paragraph 3 of the resolution.
11. By resolution 31/88 of 14 December 1976, the General Assembly requested the Ad Hoc Committee and the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean to continue their consultations with a view to formulating a programme of action leading to the convening of a conference on the Indian Ocean; invited once again all States, in particular the great Powers and the major maritime users of the Indian Ocean, to co-operate in a practical manner with the Committee in the discharge of its functions; and also requested the Committee to continue its work and consultations in accordance with its mandate and to submit to the Assembly at its thirty-second session a report on its work.

12. By resolution 32/86 of 12 December 1977, the General Assembly renewed its invitation to the great Powers and other major maritime users of the Indian Ocean that had not so far seen their way to co-operating effectively with the Ad Hoc Committee and the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean to enter with the least possible delay into consultations with the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean in pursuance of paragraphs 3 and 4 of Assembly resolution 3468 (XXX); decided that, as the next step towards the convening of a conference on the Indian Ocean, a meeting of the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean be convened in New York at a suitable date, which other States not falling within this category, but which had participated or had expressed their willingness to participate in the work of the Committee, could attend; requested the Committee to make the necessary preparations for that meeting; renewed the general mandate of the Committee as defined in the relevant resolutions; and requested the Committee to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session a full report on its work.

13. In 1978, the General Assembly, at its tenth special session, in the Programme of Action contained in the Final Document of that session (resolution S-10/2, sect. III), stated that the establishment of zones of peace in various regions of the world under appropriate conditions, to be clearly defined and determined freely by the States concerned in the zone, taking into account the characteristics of the zone and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and in conformity with international law, could contribute to strengthening the security of States within such zones and to international peace and security as a whole, and in that regard, it noted, inter alia, the proposal for the establishment of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean, taking into account the deliberations and relevant resolutions of the Assembly, and the need to ensure the maintenance of peace and security in the region.

14. By resolution 33/68 of 14 December 1978, the General Assembly urged that the talks between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America regarding their military presence in the Indian Ocean be resumed without delay; renewed its invitation to the great Powers and other major maritime users of the Indian Ocean that had not so far seen their way to co-operating effectively with the Ad Hoc Committee to enter with the least possible delay into consultations with the Committee regarding the implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace; decided to convene a meeting of the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean in New York from 2 to 13 July 1979, as the next step towards the convening of a conference on the Indian Ocean for the implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace as contained in Assembly resolution 2832 (XXVI), such States being listed in the reports of the Committee to the Assembly at its twenty-eighth, thirtieth and thirty-third sessions, 6/ and decided that other States not falling within that category, but which had participated or had expressed their willingness to participate in the work of the Committee, could attend upon the invitation of the Committee; decided that the Committee, performing the functions of a preparatory committee, would make the necessary preparations for convening the Meeting of the

6/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/9209); ibid., Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/10029); and ibid., Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/33/29).

Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean and that the Committee would set up informal working groups for this purpose when necessary; requested the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean to submit its report to the Assembly at its thirty-fourth session; renewed the general mandate of the Committee as defined in the relevant resolutions; and requested the Committee to submit to the Assembly at its thirty-fourth session a full report on its work.

15. By resolution 34/80 A of 11 December 1979, the General Assembly took note with satisfaction of the issues on which the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean had succeeded in harmonizing a common position; ^{7/} expressed its hope for the early implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace as contained in its resolution 2832 (XXVI); urged that the talks between the USSR and the United States regarding their military presence in the Indian Ocean should be resumed without delay and that the parties should refrain from any activity prejudicial to the implementation of resolution 2832 (XXVI); renewed the general mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee as defined in the relevant resolutions; and requested the Committee to submit to the Assembly at its thirty-fifth session a full report on its work. By resolution 34/80 B of the same date, the Assembly decided to enlarge the Committee by the addition of new members to be appointed by the President of the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Committee; invited the permanent members of the Security Council and major maritime users of the Indian Ocean referred to in paragraph 12 (c) of the report of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean that had not yet done so to serve on the expanded Ad Hoc Committee; decided to convene a Conference on the Indian Ocean during 1981 at Colombo for the implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace as contained in its resolution 2832 (XXVI); and requested the Ad Hoc Committee to undertake the preparatory work for the convening of the Conference, including consideration of appropriate arrangements for any international agreement that may ultimately be reached for the maintenance of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace, as referred to in paragraph 3 of resolution 2832 (XXVI), and to hold its preparatory sessions at United Nations Headquarters and at least two such sessions, including the final one, in Mauritius.

16. By resolution 35/150 of 12 December 1980, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean and the exchange of views in that Committee which, inter alia, indicated that: (a) following the expansion of its membership, there had been a varied and useful exchange of views on important issues regarding the implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, as contained in resolution 2832 (XXVI), and on other related matters; and (b) progress had been made towards harmonizing differing approaches on those issues while a number of fundamental issues remained to be resolved; requested the Committee, in pursuance of the decision contained in resolution 34/80 B to convene a Conference on the Indian Ocean during 1981 at Colombo, and taking into consideration the exchange of views thereon: (a) to continue its efforts for the necessary harmonization of views on the issues related to the convening of the Conference to achieve the objectives of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace; (b) to make every effort, in consideration of the political and security climate in the Indian Ocean area, particularly recent

^{7/} For the report of the Meeting, see Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 45 (A/34/45 and Corr.1).

developments, as well as the progress made in the harmonization of views, to finalize, in accordance with its normal methods of work, all preparations for the Conference, including the dates for its convening; (c) to continue the preparatory work for the convening of the Conference and to hold two preparatory sessions in 1981 totalling six weeks; and (d) to submit to the Conference a full report on its preparatory work; requested the Conference on the Indian Ocean to submit its report to the Assembly; renewed the general mandate of the Committee as defined in the relevant resolutions; and requested the Committee to submit to the Assembly at its thirty-sixth session a full report on the implementation of the resolution.

17. By its resolution 36/90 of 9 December 1981, the General Assembly, at its thirty-sixth session, after noting the report of the Ad Hoc Committee and the exchange of views in the Committee, expressed its regret that the Committee had failed to reach consensus on the finalization of dates for the convening, during 1981, of the Conference on the Indian Ocean; emphasized its decision to convene the Conference on the Indian Ocean at Colombo as a necessary step for the implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, adopted in 1971; emphasized also, in pursuance of that decision and in consideration of the political and security climate in the Indian Ocean area, its decision to request the Committee to continue its efforts for the necessary harmonization of views on the remaining issues related to the convening of the Conference; requested the Committee to continue its work on the necessary harmonization of views on the relevant issues, including those set forth in paragraph 4 of the resolution, and to make every effort to accomplish the necessary preparatory work for the Conference, including consideration of its convening not later than the first half of 1983; renewed the mandate of the Committee as defined in the relevant resolutions; requested the Committee to hold further sessions in 1982 of a total duration of six weeks, including the holding of a Meeting, at a venue outside New York to be decided upon; and requested the Ad Hoc Committee to submit to the General Assembly at its second special session devoted to disarmament and at its thirty-seventh session reports on its work and on the implementation of the resolution.

II. WORK OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE

18. Since its establishment by General Assembly resolution 2992 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean has met annually at United Nations Headquarters and considered the various aspects relating to the implementation of resolution 2832 (XXVI) containing the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace.

19. At its meetings between 27 February and 4 October 1973, the Ad Hoc Committee had before it a working paper prepared by Sri Lanka, dated 12 March 1973, 8/ outlining the main aspects of the question. The Committee devoted its attention to the following questions:

1. Aims and implications of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace.

8/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/9029), annex I.

2. Terms of reference of the Ad Hoc Committee.
 3. Definitions.
 4. Littoral and hinterland States: security and consultations.
 5. Great Powers and major maritime users of the Indian Ocean: question of consultations.
 6. Arms control and disarmament aspects of the peace zone.
 7. Foreign military bases.
 8. Colonial territories.
 9. Law of the sea:
 - (a) Freedom of navigation and communication;
 - (b) Utilization of the resources of the sea.
 10. Expert study by the Secretary-General.
 11. Draft resolution for the twenty-eighth session of the General-Assembly.
20. At its meetings in 1974, the Ad Hoc Committee considered a factual statement of the great Powers' military presence in the Indian Ocean. The factual statement, prepared with the assistance of qualified experts appointed by the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 3080 (XXVIII), was submitted to the Committee on 3 May 1974 (A/AC.159/1). Subsequently, on 11 July 1974, a revised factual statement (A/AC.159/1/Rev.1) was submitted to the Committee by the Secretary-General. The Committee considered the revised factual statement and decided to annex it to its report to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session. ^{9/} At the conclusion of its work in 1974, the Committee submitted the following recommendations:
- (1) The Ad Hoc Committee should continue and intensify its efforts in accordance with its mandate, as stated in paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 2992 (XXVII).
 - (2) The Ad Hoc Committee should proceed with its consultations with the four permanent members of the Security Council which are not members of the Ad Hoc Committee, as envisaged in paragraph 31 of the report to the Assembly at its twenty-ninth session.
 - (3) The Ad Hoc Committee should give priority attention in 1975 to the definition of terms relevant to the understanding of the zone of peace.
 - (4) Consideration should be given for the convening, as early as possible, of a conference of the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean.

^{9/} Ibid., Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/9629), annex.

21. Pursuant to resolution 3259 (XXIX), consultations on the convening of a conference on the Indian Ocean were held by the Ad Hoc Committee during its meetings in 1975. Informal meetings of the littoral and hinterland States, which were presided over by the Chairman of the Committee, were also convened for the same purpose. The attention of the Committee was focused particularly on the following six points: (a) purposes of a conference on the Indian Ocean; (b) date and duration; (c) venue; (d) provisional agenda; (e) participation; and (f) level of participation. As a result of the consultations, an agreement in principle on the convening of a conference on the Indian Ocean emerged among the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean. On 31 March 1975, a letter was sent by the Chairman of the Committee to the Governments of the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean inviting them to indicate their views on these six points. Replies were received from the following countries: Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kenya, Kuwait, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Oman, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Republic of Tanzania and Yemen. At the conclusion of its work in 1975, the Committee unanimously recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution, which became resolution 3468 (XXX).

22. At its meetings during 1976, the Committee continued consideration of those six points. On 19 May 1976, the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean addressed a letter to the Governments of the great Powers and major maritime users concerned, inviting them to participate in the consultations of the littoral and hinterland States. In response to the letter, Greece, Liberia and Sweden accepted the invitation. France, Germany, Federal Republic of, the United Kingdom and the United States declined to participate in the consultations. Canada, the Netherlands and Norway expressed the preference not to participate at the current stage. Italy replied that the invitation was under consideration. At the conclusion of its work in 1976, the Committee unanimously recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution, which became resolution 31/88.

23. As in the previous year, the consultations among the littoral and hinterland States continued in 1977. In accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of General Assembly resolution 31/88, the Acting Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee, in a letter dated 14 April 1977, invited the great Powers and major maritime users of the Indian Ocean "to participate in consultations looking forward to the convening of a conference on the Indian Ocean" and to co-operate in a practical manner with the Committee in the discharge of its functions. Replies were received from the following countries: Canada, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America. In the course of the Committee's deliberations, the suggestion was made by one member that it would be useful to hold a preliminary meeting of the States in the Indian Ocean region with a view to arriving at a common position on various issues. In that member's view, the countries in the region could not hold a conference with the great Powers and the other major maritime users of the Indian Ocean until they had reached an agreement among themselves, and a formal conference of littoral and hinterland States might be the only way to achieve such an agreement. At the conclusion of its work in 1977, the Committee unanimously recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution by which it, inter alia, would decide that as the next step towards the convening of a conference on the Indian Ocean, a meeting of the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean be convened, which other States not falling within this category but which had participated or had expressed their willingness to participate in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee could attend. The recommendation was adopted by the General Assembly as resolution 32/86, in

accordance with which it was decided to convene the meeting in New York at a suitable date.

24. Pursuant to paragraph 4 of resolution 32/86, the deliberations of the Ad Hoc Committee in 1978 focused on the convening of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States, namely, its date, duration, objectives, agenda and all other pertinent questions. In its report to the General Assembly, the Committee recommended that the Meeting be convened in New York from 2 to 13 July 1979, and that the Committee itself perform the preparatory work for it. These recommendations were adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 33/68.

25. Pursuant to resolution 33/68, the Ad Hoc Committee, performing the functions of a preparatory committee for the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, held three preparatory sessions from 12 to 16 February, 12 to 16 March and 14 to 23 May 1979, and a regular session from 3 to 19 October 1979. The Committee also established two working groups which met intersessionally. During the three preparatory sessions, the Committee discussed all the relevant aspects of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, including the purpose of the Meeting, the provisional agenda, the rules of procedure, the question of participation, the final document and other issues which were considered to be relevant. At its 59th meeting, on 12 March, the Committee decided to recommend for adoption by the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean the provisional agenda as contained in document A/AC.159/L.16/Rev.1. At its 70th meeting, on 16 March, the Committee decided to recommend for adoption by the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean the provisional rules of procedure contained in document A/AC.159/L.18 and Corr.1. At its 74th meeting, on 23 May, the Committee decided to submit to the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, for its consideration, the draft resolution embodying a draft Final Document as contained in document A/AC.159/L.20/Rev.1 and as amended by the Committee at the same meeting. The Committee concluded its preparatory work by adopting its report to the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean and transmitting to the Meeting its decisions and recommendations as well as a list of relevant documentation. 10/

26. The Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean was held in New York at United Nations Headquarters from 2 to 13 July 1979. The representatives of the following States participated in the Meeting:

(a) Forty-four littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean referred to in paragraph 4 of resolution 33/68: Afghanistan, Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Botswana, Burma, Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kenya, Kuwait, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Thailand, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen, Zambia;

10/ Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean, performing the functions of a preparatory committee for the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean (A/AC.199/1); provisional agenda (A/AC.199/2); provisional rules of procedure (A/AC.199/3); draft resolution embodying a draft Final Document of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean (A/AC.199/4).

(b) China, Greece and Japan, which are not littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean but which are members of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean, as well as Panama, which participated in an observer capacity in the Committee;

(c) The great Powers and major maritime users of the Indian Ocean with which the Ad Hoc Committee had previously held consultations: Canada, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Italy, Liberia, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America. The permanent members of the Security Council participating as observers and several of the major maritime users of the Indian Ocean which had been invited to participate in the inaugural session of the Meeting, made statements during the inaugural part of the Meeting. In accordance with a decision taken by the Meeting, the statements made by the representatives of the permanent members of the Security Council participating as observers were reproduced in extenso in the records (A/AC.199/SR.2, 3, 7 and 10). In addition, at its first meeting, on 2 July, the Meeting decided to invite the following States to participate as observers and to address its inaugural session: Finland, Viet Nam and Yugoslavia. A list of all delegations to the Meeting is contained in document A/AC.199/INF.1 and Corr.1 and Add.1-3. At the opening session of the Meeting, a message from the Secretary-General, Mr. Kurt Waldheim, was read out by the Assistant Secretary-General of the Centre for Disarmament.

27. To prepare a draft Final Document, a working group, consisting of the officers of the Meeting but open to all participants, was established. The working group held nine meetings between 5 and 11 July under the chairmanship of Indonesia, one of its Vice-Presidents. The Meeting adopted its Final Document without a vote on 13 July 1979. Regarding the adoption of the Document, statements were submitted by Australia, Greece, Japan and China, and these were incorporated in the report 11/ of the Meeting. The Final Document is contained in paragraph 33 of that report and, in addition to a preambular resolution, consists of four parts, entitled "Introduction"; "Review and assessment of developments since the adoption of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace"; "Principles of agreement for the implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace"; and "Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace". The Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States also decided to recommend to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session to fix the date and venue of the Conference on the Indian Ocean as called for in resolution 33/68, and to entrust the Ad Hoc Committee, which should be expanded for that purpose, to undertake the preparatory work for the Conference, including consideration of appropriate arrangements for any international agreement that may ultimately be reached for the maintenance of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace as referred to in paragraph 3 of resolution 2832 (XXVI). The Meeting further decided to request the General Assembly to invite the permanent members of the Security Council and major maritime users of the Indian Ocean that had not yet done so to serve on the expanded Ad Hoc Committee in order to facilitate preparations for the Conference.

28. Subsequent to the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, the Ad Hoc Committee held four formal meetings as well as a number of

11/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 45 (A/34/45).

informal meetings from 3 to 19 October 1979. The Committee concluded its work by adopting its report to the General Assembly. The report contained, inter alia, two draft resolutions unanimously recommended by the Committee to the Assembly. These were adopted by the Assembly and became resolutions 34/80 A and B.

29. Pursuant to resolution 34/80 A, by which the General Assembly renewed the general mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee as defined in the relevant resolutions, and resolution 34/80 B, by which it requested the Committee to undertake the preparatory work for the convening of the Conference on the Indian Ocean during 1981 at Colombo, the Committee held three sessions in 1980, meeting from 4 to 8 February, 2 to 13 June, 21 July to 8 August and 30 October 1980.

30. At its 79th meeting, on 4 February 1980, the Ad Hoc Committee adopted its agenda (A/AC.159/L.23), item 5 of which read as follows:

"5. Preparations for the Conference on the Indian Ocean as called for in General Assembly resolution 34/80 B including, inter alia:

"(a) Provisional agenda;

"(b) Participation;

"(c) Level of representation;

"(d) Organizational matters and rules of procedures;

"(e) Documentation;

"(f) Consideration of appropriate arrangements for any international agreement that may ultimately be reached for the maintenance of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace;

"(g) Report of the Ad Hoc Committee to the Conference."

31. At the same meeting, the Committee decided to request its members to submit their views on item 5 of the agenda. It also requested the Secretariat to prepare a document classifying, under the various headings, the replies received from Governments. Replies were received from the following countries: Australia, China, Greece, Indonesia, Japan and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (A/AC.159/L.24).

32. In accordance with the decision taken at its 81st meeting, on 6 February, the Ad Hoc Committee undertook a general exchange of views on agenda item 5. At its 91st meeting, on 5 June, the Committee decided to proceed with a substantive discussion of the issues underlying subitems 5 (a) and (f) of the agenda. At its 97th meeting, on 12 June, the Chairman presented, under the heading "Preparations for the Indian Ocean Conference to implement the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace", an informal list of topics, prepared by him at the request of the Committee with a view to facilitating the substantive discussion of subitems 5 (a) and (f). Those topics were formulated in the informal list as follows: geographical limits, foreign military presence, nuclear weapons, security, peaceful settlement of disputes, use of the Indian Ocean by foreign vessels and aircraft and other matters.

33. At its 99th meeting, on 13 June, the Ad Hoc Committee embarked on a general exchange of views of subitems 5 (a) and (f) within the framework of the informal list of topics. In accordance with the Committee's decision, the Chairman of the Committee, on 25 June, sent a letter to the members of the Committee requesting them to submit in writing their views on subitems 5 (a) and (f).

34. Replies were received from the following countries: Australia, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Canada, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Madagascar, Netherlands, Pakistan, Poland, Seychelles, Somalia, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Yemen (A/AC.159/L.26 and Add.1-9).

35. The inclusion of new members in the Ad Hoc Committee enabled it to have a wider and more intensive exchange of views on issues related to the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace. This exchange of views, in particular on topics referred to above, demonstrated the interest of all members of the Committee in a comprehensive identification and analysis of the issues related to the implementation of the Declaration. The discussions in this context reflected the current international situation, the sensitivity and complexity of the issues involved and the extent of the differences of views on certain fundamental points. These discussions were useful and demonstrated the willingness of all members to develop a better understanding of each other's views, thereby helping efforts to harmonize approaches on these issues and thus contributing towards the preparations of the Conference.

36. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 35/150 of 12 December 1980, the Ad Hoc Committee held two preparatory sessions (A/AC.159/SR.118-159) from 17 February to 16 March 1981 and from 1 to 19 June 1981, and one regular session from 17 to 28 August 1981.

37. The agenda of the Ad Hoc Committee was adopted at its 127th meeting, on 25 February 1981 (A/AC.159/L.34). Items 4 and 5 of the agenda read as follows:

"4. In implementation of resolution 35/150, and operative paragraph 2 thereof which reads, inter alia: in pursuance of the decision contained in resolution 34/80 B to convene a Conference on the Indian Ocean during 1981 at Colombo, and taking into consideration the exchange of views thereon:

"(a) Continuation of the efforts for the necessary harmonization of views on the issues related to the convening of the Conference;

"(b) Consideration of the political and security climate in the Indian Ocean area;

"(c) Finalization of the dates for the Conference.

"5. Other preparatory work for the Conference on the Indian Ocean:

"(a) Provisional agenda for the Conference;

"(b) Participation;

- "(c) Level of representation;
- "(d) Organizational matters and rules of procedure;
- "(e) Documentation;
- "(f) Consideration of appropriate arrangements for any international agreement that may ultimately be reached for the maintenance of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace."

38. Following the adoption of the agenda, the Chairman stated, at the 127th meeting, that there was a divergence of views among members of the Committee concerning the formulation of the agenda. While no specific time would be formally allocated to the discussion of the different subitems of agenda item 4, the Chairman would take into consideration the desire of the Committee to have a general exchange of views on agenda item 4 that week and early the following week and to take a decision on the finalization of the dates before the end of the current session. The Committee agreed with this arrangement and proceeded to have a general exchange of views on agenda item 4. Following the conclusion of this general exchange of views, the Committee took up consideration of agenda item 4, particularly subitems (a) and (b) regarding the harmonization of views on issues related to the convening of the Conference on the Indian Ocean, and the political and security climate in the Indian Ocean area.

39. At the 138th meeting of the Committee, on 6 March, it seemed evident that the discussion on subitem 4 (c) had shown that it was not possible for the Conference to be held in August 1981 as proposed, as some delegations preferred to defer to the June session the decision on the dates of the Conference.

40. At the same meeting, Ethiopia, India, Iraq, Madagascar, Pakistan and Sri Lanka submitted a working paper entitled "Nucleus of draft agenda for the Conference on the Indian Ocean to implement the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace" (A/AC.159/L.35).

41. At the Committee's 145th meeting, on 8 June, Iraq proposed that the Committee issue a declaration condemning the attack by Israel on an Iraqi nuclear reactor on 7 June 1981. At the 149th meeting, on 10 June, the Chairman noted that a large number of delegations had expressed their views on the subject and that those views ranged from expressions of utmost concern to strong condemnation of the Israeli action. With respect to the Iraqi proposal concerning the issuance of a statement expressing the collective views of the Committee, the Chairman pointed out that questions of legal implications had been raised. It was not possible for the Committee to arrive at a consensus on the proposal, as one group of delegations, for reasons of procedure, had been unable to agree to the issuance of a statement or any other form of collective expression of the Committee's views. The Chairman added that the implications of the Israeli action for agenda item 4 (b) might need to be discussed further and could be dealt with again at a later stage and, to that extent, the subject was not closed. He did not doubt that when the Security Council took up the matter, it would not be oblivious to the strength of feeling among members of the Committee and that it could not be unaware of the discussions in the Committee.

42. At its 151st meeting, on 12 June, in relation to item 4 (a) and (b), the Chairman noted that the Committee had not reached consensus on the question of harmonization of views. The Committee concurred with that conclusion.

43. At the 152nd and 153rd meetings, on 12 and 15 June, the Committee discussed item 4 (c) regarding the finalization of dates for the convening of the Conference on the Indian Ocean, including a proposal by some delegations to hold the Conference in December 1981.

44. During the course of the discussion on item 4 (c), it became clear that there were two broad views concerning the dates for the holding of the Conference on the Indian Ocean. A large number of delegations in the Committee favoured the convening of the Conference in 1981 as scheduled. While conceding that further harmonization of views was preferable, these delegations felt that complete harmonization of views was not essential since the Conference itself would be a stage in the process of reaching the objective of making the Indian Ocean a zone of peace. These delegations also felt that the grave deterioration of the political and security climate in the area was the very reason which compelled the urgent convening of the Conference. Other delegations, on the other hand, felt that it was premature to set the dates for the Conference. They considered that before a Conference could be convened it would be necessary for adequate progress to be made on the harmonization of views. These delegations also felt that the adverse current political and security climate in the area militated against the early convening of a Conference. Their view was that a Conference convened in those circumstances would be unlikely to succeed and would therefore place in jeopardy the eventual realization of the concept of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean. In the light of those differences, at its 154th meeting, on 15 June, the Committee found it could not reach a consensus on finalizing the dates for the Conference to take place in 1981.

45.* During its 155th to 159th meetings, the Committee considered the implications of the lack of consensus on agenda item 4 for its mandate and future programme of work. In that connexion, at the concluding meeting (159th) of its second session, on 19 June, it became clear that, while there was agreement on the need to hold the Conference on the Indian Ocean, the question of fixing a new date for the Conference was open. It was noted that unless there was a consensus for changing it, the present mandate of the Committee should be maintained. At those meetings, the question whether the Committee should proceed to the consideration of agenda item 5 or to agenda item 7 was also discussed. No consensus on this was reached.

46. Between 19 and 28 August 1981, the Committee met in formal as well as informal meetings to consider its report and recommendation to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session. Between the end of the session and 21 October 1981 when the Committee held its next formal meeting, the Chairman undertook informal consultations on those matters. The Committee held additional formal meetings on 2 and 11 November and on 16 November it adopted its report and recommendation to the General Assembly. By resolution 36/90 of 9 December 1981, the General Assembly took note of the report and adopted the recommendation therein.

47. Pursuant to resolution 36/90, the Committee held its first session of 1982 from 1 to 12 March and its second session from 20 to 28 May.

* Some delegations believed that this paragraph did not accurately reflect either the range of views expressed in the Committee on the question of the Conference or the discussion in the Committee about the Committee's mandate.

48. The Ad Hoc Committee held, during its 169th to 171st meetings, an exchange of views on the matters relating to its provisional agenda and organization of work for 1982. At its 172nd meeting, the Chairman informed the Committee of the text of item 4 of the provisional agenda which had been arrived at through informal consultations and read as follows:

"Implementation of resolution 36/90 of 9 December 1981

"(a) Work on the substantive and organizational issues related to the Conference on the Indian Ocean in accordance with paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of resolution 36/90, including consideration of 1983 Conference dates

"(b) Report of the Ad Hoc Committee to the General Assembly at its second special session devoted to disarmament

"(c) Report of the Ad Hoc Committee to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session."

49. The Ad Hoc Committee adopted its agenda for the year 1982 at its 173rd meeting, on 4 March, on the understanding, as made clear in the Chairman's statement at the preceding meeting, that substantive issues would be taken up before consideration of organizational issues and that adequate time would be devoted to substantive issues without precluding sufficient work on organizational matters (A/AC.159/L.42).

50. Thereafter, during 10 meetings from 8 to 12 March 1982 (173rd to 182nd meetings), the Committee undertook an exchange of views under item 4 of its agenda in accordance with the understanding referred to above. On the one hand, the discussions revealed a strong feeling that the Committee should proceed without delay to practical preparations for the Conference and make every effort to complete the necessary preparations for holding the Conference not later than the first half of 1983, as a necessary step for the implementation of the Declaration on the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, adopted in 1971. On the other hand, it was emphasized by some delegations that the lack of real progress on the harmonization of views and the prevailing political and security climate in the region were not conducive, at this stage, to the convening of the Conference.

51. At the 178th meeting of the Committee, on 9 March the delegation of the German Democratic Republic, on its own behalf and that of the delegation of Bulgaria, introduced a working paper entitled "Conception for a possible structure and procedure of the Conference on the Indian Ocean" (A/AC.159/L.43).

52. During five meetings from 25 to 28 May 1982 (186th to 190th meetings), the Committee resumed the exchange of views under item 4 (a).

53. At the 186th meeting of the Committee, on 27 May, the delegation of Australia, on its own behalf and that of the delegations of Canada, Germany, Federal Republic of, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, introduced a paper entitled "Proposal for a set of principles on the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace" (A/AC.159/L.44).

54. At its 188th meeting, on 27 May, the Committee, in accordance with paragraph 7 of resolution 36/90, decided to hold its third session of 1982 from 3 to 20 August, at Geneva.

55. At its 182nd meeting, on 12 March, the Rapporteur introduced a working paper (Conference Room Paper 1982/1 and Add.1-3) containing a draft of the report, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its second special session devoted to disarmament pursuant to resolution 36/90. The Chairman undertook informal consultations on that draft, during the intersessional period. At its 183rd to 190th meetings and in the course of informal meetings held between 20 to 28 May, the Committee considered the revised draft report (Conference Room Paper 1982/2) and at its 190th meeting adopted its report to the General Assembly at its second special session devoted to disarmament, contained in document A/AC.159/L.45, as amended.

56. At its 39th meeting, on 18 April 1977, the Ad Hoc Committee, decided to entrust its Chairman with the task of entering into consultations with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States, in order, inter alia, to seek further clarifications of the statements made by the respective leaders of the two countries relating to developments in the Indian Ocean. Consultations were undertaken by the Chairman with the representatives of the USSR and the United States, during which they separately informed him of the progress of the talks on questions relating to the Indian Ocean.

57. On the unanimous recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee, the General Assembly in the seventh and eighth preambular paragraphs of its resolution 32/86 of 12 December 1977, noted that talks between the USSR and the United States regarding their military presence in the Indian Ocean had been initiated and that the two countries had established contacts with the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean through its Chairman and had expressed the hope that those talks between the USSR and the United States would contribute to the attainment of the objectives of the Declaration and lead to practical and effective co-operation on their part with the Committee and the littoral and hinterland States. By resolution 33/68 of 14 December 1978, the General Assembly, noting that the USSR and the United States had kept the Committee informed of the current situation concerning these talks, regretted, however, that the talks had been suspended.

58. At the 71st meeting, on 14 May 1979, the Chairman reported that, as requested by the Committee, he had continued consultations with the USSR and the United States and had urged them to resume their bilateral talks. The most recent communications from the two countries concerning these talks are contained in paragraphs 16 to 19 of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session. 12/

59. In a letter dated 8 August 1980, the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Madagascar conveyed to the Chairman of the Committee a message from the President of Madagascar regarding the holding in Antananarivo of a summit conference of all countries concerned with peace and security in the Indian Ocean. This message was circulated as an official document of the Committee (A/AC.159/L.32).

12/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session,
Supplement No. 29 (A/34/29).

III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

60. The Ad Hoc Committee recalled the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session of the Assembly devoted to disarmament, in paragraph 64 of which it was stated that the establishment of zones of peace in various regions of the world under appropriate conditions, to be clearly defined and determined freely by the States concerned in the zone, taking into account the characteristics of the zone and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and in conformity with international law, can contribute to strengthening the security of States within such zones and to international peace and security as a whole. In this regard, the Assembly noted the proposals for the establishment of zones of peace, inter alia, in the Indian Ocean, taking into account the deliberations of the Assembly and its relevant resolutions and the need to ensure the maintenance of peace and security in the region.
61. At its thirty-sixth session, the General Assembly reaffirmed its conviction that concrete action for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace would be a substantial contribution to the strengthening of international peace and security.
62. While it expressed deep concern at the danger posed by the grave and ominous developments in the area and the resulting sharp deterioration of peace, security and stability which particularly seriously affect the littoral and hinterland States, as well as international peace and security, the General Assembly called for renewing genuinely constructive efforts through the exercise of political will necessary for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace.
63. The General Assembly, at its second special session devoted to disarmament, might wish to make specific recommendations to facilitate the expeditious discharge by the Ad Hoc Committee of its mandate and to implement Assembly resolution 36/90 of 9 December 1981.

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