

be a substantial contribution to the strengthening of international peace and security,

Noting the resolution adopted at the Fifth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries on the subject of the Indian Ocean Peace Zone Proposal,³⁵

Deeply concerned that there has been an escalation of the military presence of the great Powers conceived in the context of great Power rivalry in the Indian Ocean, and believing therefore that the implementation of the purposes and objectives of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace has acquired a new urgency,

Regretting that, despite repeated invitations, certain great Powers as well as certain major maritime users of the Indian Ocean have not so far found it possible to co-operate with the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Indian Ocean and the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Indian Ocean,³⁶ in particular section II thereof concerning the consultations entered into by the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean in pursuance of paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 3468 (XXX);

2. *Requests* 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;

3. *Invites 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 *Ad Hoc* Committee in the discharge of its functions;

4. *Requests* the *Ad Hoc* Committee to continue its work and consultations in accordance with its mandate and to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session a report on its work;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to render all necessary assistance to the *Ad Hoc* Committee, including the provision of summary records.

*98th plenary meeting
14 December 1976*

31/89. Conclusion of a treaty on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3478 (XXX) of 11 December 1975, in which it called upon all nuclear-weapon States to enter into negotiations, not later than 31 March 1976, with a view to reaching agreement on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests, with twenty-five to thirty non-nuclear-weapon States participating in such negotiations,

Deploring the fact that such negotiations have not yet begun,

Convinced that the early cessation of nuclear-weapon tests, including underground tests, everywhere and by

everyone, would contribute to the reduction of the nuclear-arms race and to the further relaxation of international tension,

Also convinced of the need for again exerting every effort to achieve an international agreement on the cessation of all types of nuclear-weapon tests,

Noting that during the thirty-first session of the General Assembly proposals have been made and relevant documents submitted with a view to finding a compromise basis for a generally acceptable understanding regarding the supervision of compliance with such an agreement,

Believing that the conclusion between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America of treaties on the limitation of underground nuclear-weapon tests and on underground nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes contributes to the creation of favourable conditions for the cessation of all nuclear-weapon tests,

Taking note of the note by the Secretary-General³⁷ stating that twenty-six non-nuclear-weapon States are ready to participate in the negotiations with a view to reaching agreement on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests,

1. *Again calls upon* all nuclear-weapon States, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3478 (XXX), to proceed as soon as possible with negotiations on the conclusion of a treaty on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests with the participation of non-nuclear-weapon States;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to render such assistance as may be necessary for the negotiations and to transmit to the group referred to in paragraph 1 above all documents relating to the consideration by the General Assembly at its thirty-first session of the item entitled "Conclusion of a treaty on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests";

3. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-second session the item entitled "Conclusion of a treaty on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests".

*98th plenary meeting
14 December 1976*

31/90. Strengthening of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3484 B (XXX) of 12 December 1975, in which it decided to carry out a review of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament,

Noting that the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Review of the Role of the United Nations in the Field of Disarmament has carried out the task entrusted to it by the General Assembly in the aforementioned resolution,

Having considered the report of the *Ad Hoc* Committee, which contains, *inter alia*, a set of agreed proposals with regard to the following subjects:³⁸

³⁵ A/31/197, annex, p. 124.

³⁶ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/31/29 and Corr.1 and 2).*

³⁷ A/31/228.

³⁸ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 36 (A/31/36), para. 18.*

(a) Improved methods of work of the First Committee in disarmament matters,

(b) Relationship between the General Assembly and other United Nations bodies in the field of disarmament,

(c) Role of the United Nations Disarmament Commission,

(d) Role of the United Nations in providing assistance on request in multilateral and regional disarmament negotiations,

(e) Relationship between the General Assembly and the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament,

(f) Increased use of in-depth studies of the arms race, disarmament and related matters,

(g) Improvement of existing United Nations facilities for the collection, compilation and dissemination of information on disarmament issues, in order to keep all Governments, as well as world public opinion, properly informed on progress achieved in the field of disarmament,

(h) Assistance by the Secretariat, on request, to States parties to multilateral disarmament agreements in their duty to ensure the effective functioning of such agreements, including appropriate reviews,

(i) Strengthening of the resources of the Secretariat,

Recognizing the vital interest of all States of the world, including developing States, in contributing to the cause of disarmament,

1. *Endorses* the agreed proposals made by the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Review of the Role of the United Nations in the Field of Disarmament as a step towards the strengthening of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament;

2. *Decides* to keep the question of the strengthening of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament under continued review;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to implement as soon as possible the measures recommended by the *Ad Hoc* Committee falling within his area of responsibilities, bearing in mind the importance of recruiting the staff for the proposed Centre for Disarmament on as wide a geographical basis as possible, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session;

4. *Urges* Member States to make every effort to realize the objectives set out in the report of the *Ad Hoc* Committee.

*98th plenary meeting
14 December 1976*

31/91. Non-interference in the internal affairs of States

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2734 (XXV) of 16 December 1970 containing the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security,

Recalling its resolution 2131 (XX) of 21 December 1965 containing the Declaration on the Inadmissibility

of Intervention in the Domestic Affairs of States and the Protection of Their Independence and Sovereignty,

Recalling further its resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970 containing the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the right to self-determination, freedom and independence of peoples under colonial or other forms of alien domination as well as their right to struggle to that end and to seek and receive support in accordance with the principles of the Charter,

Reaffirming the right of each State to choose its own economic, cultural and social system in accordance with the will of its people, free from outside interference, coercion or threat in any form,

Noting with great concern that several Member States have been subjected to various forms of interference, pressure and organized campaigns of vilification and intimidation designed to deter them from pursuing their united and independent role in international relations,

Aware that a wide range of direct and indirect techniques, including withholding assistance and the threat of withholding assistance, subtle and sophisticated forms of economic coercion, subversion and defamation with a view to destabilization, are being mobilized against Governments which seek to free their economies from foreign control and manipulation, to restructure their societies and to exercise permanent sovereignty over their natural resources,

Conscious that the use of such techniques of destabilization can produce distrust and cause unrest and disorder within and between States, adversely affecting thereby the maintenance of international peace and security,

Mindful of the provisions of Article 2, paragraph 4, of the Charter, which requires all Member States to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable sovereign right of every State to determine freely, and without any form of foreign interference, its political, social and economic system and its relations with other States and international organizations;

2. *Declares* that the use of force to deprive peoples of their national identity constitutes a violation of their inalienable rights and of the principle of non-intervention;

3. *Denounces* any form of interference, overt or covert, direct or indirect, including recruiting and sending mercenaries, by one State or group of States and any act of military, political, economic or other form of intervention in the internal or external affairs of other States, regardless of the character of their mutual relations or their social and economic systems;

4. *Accordingly condemns* all forms of overt, subtle and highly sophisticated techniques of coercion, subversion and defamation aimed at disrupting the political, social or economic order of other States or destabilizing the Governments seeking to free their economies from external control or manipulation;

5. *Calls upon* all States, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United