

**Declaration on the Prevention of Nuclear Catastrophe
The General Assembly,**

Bearing in mind that the foremost task of the United Nations, born in the flames of the Second World War, has been, is and will be to save present and succeeding generations from the scourge of war,

Recognizing that all the horrors of past wars and all other calamities that have befallen people would pale in comparison with what is inherent in the use of nuclear weapons capable of destroying civilization on earth,

Reaffirming that the universally accepted objective is to eliminate completely the possibility of the use of nuclear weapons through the cessation of their production, followed by the destruction of their stockpiles, and that, to this end, priority in disarmament negotiations should be given to nuclear disarmament,

Convinced that, as the first step in this direction, the use of nuclear weapons and the waging of nuclear war should be outlawed,

Solemnly proclaims, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations:

1. States and statesmen that resort first to the use of nuclear weapons will be committing the gravest crime against humanity.

2. There will never be any justification or pardon for statesmen who would take the decision to be the first to use nuclear weapons.

3. Any doctrines allowing the first use of nuclear weapons and any actions pushing the world towards a catastrophe are incompatible with human moral standards and the lofty ideals of the United Nations.

4. It is the supreme duty and direct obligation of the leaders of nuclear-weapon States to act in such a way as to eliminate the risk of the outbreak of a nuclear conflict. The nuclear-arms race must be stopped and reversed by joint efforts, through negotiations conducted in good faith and on the basis of equality, having as their ultimate goal the complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

5. Nuclear energy should be used exclusively for peaceful purposes and only for the benefit of mankind.

Recorded vote in Assembly as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Bahrain, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bulgaria, Burundi, Byelorussian SSR, Cape Verde, Chad, Colombia, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Fiji, German Democratic Republic, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Saint Lucia, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka; Suriname, Swaziland,^a Syrian Arab Republic, Uganda, Ukrainian SSR, USSR, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

Against: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Argentina, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Central African Republic, Chile, Comoros, Costa Rica, Democratic Kampuchea, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Ireland, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Liberia, Malaysia, Morocco, Niger, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Rwanda, Samoa, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sudan, Sweden, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Zaire.

^a Later advised the Secretariat it had intended to abstain.

**Establishment of
nuclear-weapon-free zones**

As in previous years, the General Assembly adopted resolutions in 1981 on the proposed establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in

Africa (see below), the Middle East (p. 49) and South Asia (p. 55), as well as on Latin America (p. 48) –the only region where such a zone had been established by treaty. It also took action with respect to a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean (p. 94).

Aside from these regions, support for the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Nordic area was expressed by Finland and Sweden, with the latter asserting that such arrangements would have to include concrete commitments by the USSR and the United States. The Byelorussian SSR, Czechoslovakia and the USSR supported the establishment of such zones in northern Europe and in the Balkan region, as well as zones of peace and co-operation in the Mediterranean and South-East Asia. Hungary also favoured the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones in the Balkans and the Mediterranean, and Bulgaria and Romania supported the establishment of such a zone in the Balkans.

By a letter of 11 November,⁽¹⁾ Bulgaria transmitted a speech of 20 October by the General Secretary of the Central Committee of its Communist Party and President of its State Council, proposing a 1982 meeting in Sofia of the leaders of the Balkan States to discuss the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Balkans.

Letter: ⁽¹⁾Bulgaria, 11 Nov., A/C.1/36/11.

Africa

**Implementation of the 1964 Declaration
on the Denuclearization of Africa**

By a resolution of 9 December 1981,⁽¹⁾ the General Assembly reiterated its call on all States to consider and respect Africa-including surrounding islands and Madagascar—as a nuclear-weapon-free zone. It requested the Secretary-General to assist the Organization of African Unity (OAU) towards the realization of the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa, adopted by OAU in 1964, and it condemned nuclear collaboration with South Africa as frustrating the objective of that Declaration. Most of the text dealt with nuclear weapons and South Africa (p. 46).

The resolution, sponsored by 29 African States, was adopted by a recorded vote of 132 to none, with 12 abstentions, after approval by the First Committee on 24 November by a recorded vote, requested by the United States, of 113 to none, with 11 abstentions. Paragraph 4, calling for the termination of military and nuclear collaboration with South Africa, was adopted by a separate vote.

The text was introduced by Nigeria, which said the objective of a denuclearized Africa remained fundamental to the continent's efforts