

***L.24: Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas***

***Explanation of Vote by Mr. T. P. Seetharam, Minister, Permanent Mission of India  
in Geneva on November 2, 2001***

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**Mr. Chairman,**

**My delegation has requested the floor to explain its vote with regard to OP3 of this resolution, which refers to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia. This proposal goes contrary to the well established principles regarding the establishment of nuclear weapon free zones, i.e. these zones must be established on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the states of the region concerned. The contradiction in OP3 is even more apparent when seen in the context of current realities. The proposal for a NWFZ in South Asia has as much validity as NWFZs in East Asia, Western Europe or North America.**

**Given the distortions and contradictions in OP3, we have voted against this paragraph (and therefore also against the retention of the last three words in that paragraph), while abstaining on the resolution as a whole.**