EXPLANATION OF VOTE
on draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.34 entitled
“Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere
and adjacent areas” (item 66-I)

Mr. Chairman,

Pakistan supports the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones freely arrived at among the states of the regions concerned. Therefore, we support the objectives of resolution L-34 and had voted in its favour.

However, we were somewhat perplexed that the draft once again included, in OP-3, a call for the creation of a NWFZ in South Asia. Pakistan had sought to promote this objective unsuccessfully for over two decades. Following the nuclear explosions in May 1998 in our neighbourhood, obliging Pakistan to follow suit, the formality of creating a NWFZ in South Asia became redundant. The reference to South Asia in the text is, therefore, at complete variance with the realities on the ground. That is why we had voted against the last 3 words in OP-3 and abstained on the para as a whole. Our support for the entirety of the resolution reflects our overall sympathy for the creation of NWF Zones in regions where these can be freely agreed upon.