Thirty-sixth session

THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE IN THE REGION OF THE MIDDLE EAST

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE IN SOUTH ASIA

Letter dated 3 February 1981 from the Chargé d'Affaires, a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In his letter dated 10 December 1980 addressed to you (A/35/750), the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations asserted that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya is seeking to develop a nuclear weapon capability. The Israeli representative appended excerpts to his letter, which allege that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya is seeking to acquire nuclear weapons, inter alia, through financial assistance to Pakistan's nuclear programme.

The Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations wishes to refute these irresponsible and unfounded allegations.

The nuclear research and development programme of Pakistan is geared entirely to peaceful purposes. Pakistan has not sought or obtained financial assistance from the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya or from any other source in this respect. While the western news media have been deliberately playing up these false allegations of collusion between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Pakistan, to create the bogey of a so-called "Islamic bomb", no proof has ever been offered in support of these allegations. Sensational and concocted stories of large amounts of cash being carted in boxes are so flimsy and ridiculous and so obviously cooked up that no objective observer can treat them with any seriousness.

The nomenclature of an "Islamic bomb" makes it quite evident that the Zionist circles have planted such stories in the information media in an effort to malign Islamic, non-aligned and third world countries. The bogey of the so-called "Islamic bomb" is a part of Israel's over-all strategy of hiding its own real intentions of acquiring nuclear weapons.

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As the Foreign Minister of Pakistan pointed out in his interview of 17 June 1980 to the BBC, several countries are acquiring or have already acquired nuclear technology, but only Pakistan had been made a target by certain sectors of the western media. He wondered at the lack of interest shown by the western media in the programmes and intentions of these countries.

Pakistan for its part has repeatedly assured all members of the international community at the highest level that its nuclear programme is entirely peaceful in nature and scope and is geared to enable this country to meet its growing energy requirements.

Furthermore, Pakistan's efforts to prevent nuclear proliferation are well known to the international community. Pakistan has actively supported the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones everywhere and particularly in South Asia. It has consistently worked for the denuclearization of the Indian Ocean, and, pending comprehensive nuclear disarmament, has called for the adoption of a convention to protect non-nuclear-weapons States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons by the nuclear-weapons States.

From the information that leaks out occasionally through the efforts of unbiased and objective reporters regarding Israel's nuclear intentions and its co-operation with the racist régime of South Africa to explode a nuclear device, the maladies of these two régimes stand fully exposed. For example, a CBS news report of 21 February 1980 stated that the double flash picked up by a United States monitoring satellite in September 1979 off the coast of South Africa was, in fact, a nuclear explosion carried out by Israel with the help and co-operation of the South African Government.

Indeed, it is Israel which had consistently violated international law in its search for nuclear weapons capability. It has ignored the regulations of the International Atomic Energy Agency and refused to accept its inspection and safeguards. Not only that, it has resorted to stealing enriched uranium from nuclear reactors from the United States and has not shied away even from piracy to lay its hands on uranium ore. Investigative reporting has squarely laid the responsibility of pirating uranium from a ship of the Federal Republic of Germany, the "Sherbourg", in the Mediterranean on Israel. The United Nations itself has been investigating Israel's nuclear ambitions and has pointed to evidence clearly demonstrating Israel's efforts to acquire nuclear weapons. Not only that, internal evidence is also available to show that Israel may already be stockpiling nuclear warheads. Reports to this effect have appeared in United States and western news media. Furthermore, according to a book published in Hebrew by Israeli journalists Eri Thaicher and Ami Dor, Israel has been manufacturing nuclear weapons for at least 10 years and has an arsenal which include several dozen atomic bombs and several hydrogen bombs.

The Government of Pakistan would like to express its strong opposition to the misuse by the representative of Israel of the General Assembly of the United Nations as a platform for promoting unfounded, biased and fictional charges, in order to cloak his own Government's intentions and actions in acquiring nuclear weapons.
Pakistan calls upon all Members of the United Nations to condemn such irresponsible allegations and behaviour on the part of Israel and treat these false charges with the contempt they deserve.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under the items entitled "The situation in the Middle East", "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East" and "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia".

(Signed) Shamshad AHMAD
Acting Permanent Representative

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