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

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

BAHRAIN

Original: English
22 September 1975

The Government of Bahrain supports the establishment of a nuclear weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3263 (XXIX) adopted on 9 December 1974. Such support arises primarily from its desire to protect the region from the devastation of a destructive war and protect its people from confrontation which is not in the interest of humanity or the people of the region. The stockpiling, production or development of nuclear weapons is first and foremost, a threat to the peace and security of the people of the area and, second, a threat to world peace and a direct threat to human civilization and the aspiration of people for peace and for building their economy and civilization.

In response to the provisions of the General Assembly resolution, the Government of Bahrain is undertaking to satisfy the constitutional procedures required to accede to the Treaty of Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons adopted by the General Assembly on 12 June 1968, under resolution 2373 (XXII). Furthermore, Bahrain Government is ready to proclaim solemnly, in accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution 3263 (XXIX), its intention to refrain from producing, testing, obtaining, acquiring or in any other way, possessing nuclear weapons provided that all States situated in the region of the Middle East are ready to make the same proclamation.
ISRAEL

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The Government of Israel wishes to state its support for the establishment of a nuclear weapon-free zone in the Middle East and considers that this would be a desirable further step towards a just and durable peace in the region, in the light of the new climate created by the recent agreement between Israel and Egypt.

At the same time, it wishes to observe that the notable precedents recalled in the resolution, such as the establishment of a nuclear weapon-free zone in Latin America, were the result of negotiations and agreement between all the States of the regions concerned. In conformity with this precedent and in accordance with general international practice, it is the view of the Government of Israel, that such negotiations, leading ultimately to the conclusion of a formal agreement between all the States of the region, are the only means by which a nuclear weapon-free zone can be established.

The Government of Israel, for its part, confirms its readiness to participate in a conference of all the States of the region convened for this purpose, and regrets that the Arab States have so far shown no readiness to take part in such a conference. This casts doubt on the sincerity of their support for a nuclear weapon-free zone in the region.

With reference to operative paragraph 2 of the resolution, the Government of Israel supports the principle of such a proclamation, to be made jointly and on a reciprocal basis by all the States of the region, but considers that the proclamation could only be meaningfully made after the successful outcome of negotiations for the establishment of a nuclear weapon-free zone in the region.

With reference to operative paragraph 3 of the resolution, the Government of Israel cannot disregard the fact that Governments of Arab countries bordering on Israel and beyond, unstintingly evoke the threat of force and attempt actively and increasingly to ostracize Israel from the international community. It notes with regret that the Syrian Arab Republic made the following declaration upon ratification of the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

"The acceptance of this treaty by the Syrian Arab Republic shall in no way signify recognition of Israel or entail entry into relations with Israel thereunder." This declaration is incompatible with the aims and spirit of the treaty, and constitutes a grave obstacle to the establishment of a nuclear weapon-free zone in the region. The Government of Israel, for its part, voted in favour of the treaty, supports its principles, and is at present studying its legal and other implications.