**UNITED NATIONS**

**SECURITY COUNCIL**

**ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE**

**IN THE REGION OF THE MIDDLE EAST**

**Report of the Secretary-General**

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INTRODUCTION

1. On 9 December 1974, the General Assembly, having considered the question of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, adopted resolution 3263 (XXIX) which, in its operative part, reads as follows:

"1. Commends the idea of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East;

"2. Considers that, in order to advance the idea of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East, it is indispensable that all parties concerned in the area proclaim solemnly and immediately their intention to refrain, on a reciprocal basis, from producing, testing, obtaining, acquiring or in any other way possessing nuclear weapons;

"3. Calls upon the parties concerned in the area to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;

"4. Expresses the hope that all States, in particular the nuclear-weapon States, will lend their full co-operation for the effective realization of the aims of the present resolution;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to ascertain the views of the parties concerned with respect to the implementation of the present resolution, in particular with regard to its paragraphs 2 and 3, and to report to the Security Council at an early date and, subsequently, to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session;

"6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirtieth session the item entitled 'Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East'."

2. By note verbale dated 19 March 1975, the Secretary-General invited the following States: Bahrain, Democratic Yemen, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates and Yemen, to communicate to him by 30 May 1975 their views concerning the implementation of the resolution and, in particular, of its operative paragraphs 2 and 3. By note verbale dated 13 June 1975, the Secretary-General renewed this invitation to the parties concerned.

3. As of 21 July 1975, replies had been received by the Secretary-General as follows.

/...
REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

EGYPT

Original: English
27 May 1975

1. Egypt is prepared to proclaim solemnly its willingness to refrain from producing, testing, obtaining or acquiring nuclear weapons. This proclamation is conditioned on similar action being taken by all countries in the region, particularly those parties to regional conflicts and disputes.

2. The accession of the parties in the area of the Middle East to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is indispensable for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East. The signature of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons by Egypt in 1968 is a positive stance on the side of Egypt. The refusal of Israel so far to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons has left Egypt with no choice but to stop short of ratifying the treaty. Egypt is ready to ratify the treaty the moment Israel accedes to it and becomes a party thereto.

3. Egypt requests the Secretary-General to consider taking certain measures against those countries in the region which might decline to reply to the Secretary-General's note or fail to implement General Assembly resolution 3263 (XXIX).

4. The full co-operation of all States, and in particular the nuclear-weapon States, is one of the decisive factors for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East.

5. A clear obligation on the part of the nuclear-weapon States neither to use nuclear weapons against countries in the region of the Middle East nor to introduce or permit the presence of nuclear weapons in the region is another prerequisite for the establishment of the nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

6. An effective international control system should be established for the supervision and implementation of the above-mentioned obligations.

IRAN

Original: English
27 May 1975

1. The fact of Iran's strong and clear-cut commitment for the aims and objectives embodied in resolution 3263 (XXIX) is evident from its co-sponsorship of the said resolution concerning the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East, an idea that had been repeatedly advanced by Iran.

...
2. By signing (1968) and ratifying (1970) the non-proliferation treaty, Iran has, from the start, undertaken to refrain from manufacturing, testing, obtaining or receiving nuclear weapons. Furthermore, our safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency, signed under article III of the non-proliferation treaty, would place all our peaceful nuclear activities under international safeguards.

3. We believe that it is now incumbent upon all parties concerned in the area to proclaim solemnly and immediately—in accordance with operative paragraph 2 of the resolution—to refrain, on a reciprocal basis, from producing, testing, obtaining, acquiring or in any other way possessing nuclear weapons.

4. Iran considers that the accession of all the countries in the region to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons would help to realize the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East.

5. As stated during the debate related to our proposal for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East at the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly, Iran's position remains flexible on the question of the ways and means required in achieving the eventual goals of prohibiting the manufacture, acquisition, testing, stockpiling and transport of nuclear arms, under an effective system of control.

6. Moreover, it must be stressed that the full co-operation of all States, and in particular the nuclear-weapon States, as stated in operative paragraph 4, is necessary for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East. In this connexion, it bears emphasizing that a clear commitment on the part of the nuclear-weapon States neither to use nuclear weapons against countries in the region of the Middle East nor to allow the introduction of nuclear weapons into the region would be useful for the successful establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.
IRAQ

[Original: English]
[21 July 1975]

The Government of the Republic of Iraq advocates the idea of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East. As far as operative paragraph 3 of resolution 3263 (XXIX) is concerned, Iraq has signed and ratified the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and considers the accession to the treaty of all parties concerned in the region as an essential step to the implementation of United Nations resolution 3263 (XXIX).

KUWAIT

[Original: English]
[12 May 1975]

Kuwait voted in favour of resolution 3263 (XXIX).

Kuwait signed the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on 15 August 1968.

Kuwait was reluctant to ratify the treaty because it noticed that Israel did not sign or accede to the treaty. Kuwait is willing to ratify the treaty provided that Israel accedes to it.

Kuwait is willing to proclaim solemnly its intention to refrain, on a reciprocal basis, from producing, testing, obtaining, acquiring or in any other way possessing nuclear weapons provided that all parties concerned, especially Israel, make a similar declaration.
OMAN

[Original: English] 12 May 1975

Oman fully supports resolution 3263 (XXIX) and this is manifested in the fact that Oman does not possess any nuclear weapons, nor does it intend to become a nuclear weapon nation in the future. As for acceding to the non-proliferation treaty, Oman is now studying the question favourably.

QATAR

[Original: English] 16 May 1975

Israel's abstention regarding that resolution 3263 (XXIX) during the twenty-ninth session warrants us to act as expected from us by paragraph 2 of that resolution. Because of Israel's position on that matter, the trend in the Arab countries is to postpone the adherence of those who have not yet joined until Israel joins.

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

[Original: Arabic] 5 June 1975

1. The Syrian Arab Republic welcomes in principle the idea of establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, and has expressed this position by supporting General Assembly resolution 3263 (XXIX). It believes, however, that the establishment of such a zone in the Middle East would not in itself be an adequate measure for ensuring the security and peace of the peoples of the region, unless it is accompanied by the adherence of all parties concerned to, and support for, all other steps aiming at halting the spread of nuclear weapons, prohibiting all types of nuclear tests and ascertaining that nuclear energy and nuclear technical know-how are being used exclusively for peaceful purposes under effective international control and supervision.

2. The Syrian Arab Republic considers that if a nuclear-weapon-free zone is to be effectively established in the Middle East, the provisions of operative paragraph 2 of the above-mentioned resolution would have to be implemented, in which case the competent international bodies would request all parties concerned in the region to proclaim officially - in accordance with the provision of the
paragraph - their undertaking to refrain from producing, testing, acquiring, obtaining or possessing nuclear weapons in any form. It also believes that adequate international control measures should be established to ensure the constant respect by those parties concerned for their commitments under the above-mentioned declaration.

3. Naturally, no official declaration issued in this connexion by any of the parties concerned in the area would have any significance of seriousness and sincerity unless such a party first signs and ratifies the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons or accedes to it and respects its provisions and terms. The Syrian Arab Republic considers the measures provided for in the operative paragraphs 2 and 3 of resolution 3263 (XXIX) as forming an indivisible whole and an indispensable prerequisite for the realization of the idea of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East.

4. It must be pointed out, however, that the Syrian Arab Republic already signed and ratified the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, took positive stands on all disarmament questions and supported all the important resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its last as well as at previous sessions. Israel, on the other hand, has taken an opposite stand by refusing to sign, ratify or accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Moreover, it continues to take negative attitudes on the disarmament questions and to refrain from supporting a number of relevant important General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 3263 (XXIX), a case that categorically proves lack of good faith on its part in as far as this most critical aspect of security is concerned.