
**Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review
Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the
Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

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Working paper submitted by the delegation of Palestine

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The delegation of Palestine wishes to endorse and support the statements made earlier on behalf of the Arab Group by His Excellency the Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman and support that of the League of Arab States made by Mr. Wa'el al-Assad. We endorse and support the statement made by His Excellency the Ambassador of Indonesia on behalf of the members of the Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the NPT concerning the Middle East issue and, in particular, the reference to the 2000 Review Conference which reaffirmed the importance of Israel's accession to the NPT and the need to subject all of its nuclear installations to the comprehensive safeguards regime of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in order to achieve the objective of universal accession to the Treaty in the Middle East. My country's delegation wishes to emphasize the proposals put forward by members of the League of Arab States, calling on Israel to implement the 1995 Review and Extension Conference resolution on the Middle East as a matter of necessity. It also wishes to emphasize the need to call upon the United Nations to hold an international conference in accordance with the paragraph on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, in preparation for the elimination of nuclear weapons from the Middle East region, and that no State party to the NPT should transfer supplies, information, materials, installations, resources or equipment related to nuclear weapons or provide peaceful or military nuclear assistance to Israel. It is noted that no progress has been made with regard to the accession of Israel to the Treaty and the extension of the scope of the safeguards to include all of its nuclear installations and the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

We strongly urge Israel, as the only State in the region that has not acceded to the NPT, to lose no time in desisting from its possession of nuclear weapons and in acceding to the Treaty. We also urge Israel to submit all of its nuclear installations to full IAEA safeguards immediately.

The possession by Israel of nuclear weapons is a cause for concern for all of us. It represents a perpetual threat to us, the Palestinians, first of all, particularly in view of the risk of earthquakes or radiation leakage from the Dimona reactors, specifically, which are well past their useful life and are so cracked as to cause



concern to the Israelis themselves. They also constitute a serious threat to the security of neighbouring and other States.

In view of the above, we can only strongly condemn the continued development and stockpiling by Israel of its nuclear arsenal, which is increasing daily.

In a recent report, the environmental protection agency Greenpeace revealed the existence of an Israeli nuclear weapons installation close to the village of 'Aylabun in Lower Galilee in the north of Israel, in addition to two nuclear bases one in Dimona and one in Sourik in the south of Israel. It also indicated, as an example, that there is a naval base in the city of Haifa in the north of Israel in which there are 20 missiles with nuclear warheads.

Dr. Avner Cohen, the specialist researcher in nuclear energy, revealed in his book *Israel and the Bomb* that Israel began seeking to obtain nuclear weapons in the early 1950s and that it possesses at least 200 bombs, not to mention chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction.

Israel began to pursue a "policy of nuclear ambiguity" as stated by more than one Israeli official at the highest level.

It has become widely known that Israel possesses no less than five nuclear reactors and also has nuclear warheads. There are also confirmed reports which indicate that Israel is conducting a series of underground nuclear tests. During the meetings of the seventh session of the Arab Technical Committee mandated by the Arab Foreign Ministers to follow up on and monitor Israeli nuclear activity contravening the NPT, information was disclosed relating to the recruitment by Israel of thousands of scientists and experts from the former Soviet Union over the years, many of whom are specialized in nuclear weapons and satellites. Some years ago, Israel conducted significant nuclear activity on one of three German Dolphin submarines which it received. A warning was issued concerning military exchange with Israel by some States, whether signatories to the NPT or others, as such cooperation damaged Arab national security. It should be pointed out here that the United States should desist from applying double standards in the case of weapons of mass destruction.

These reports of Israeli nuclear activity are considered new and even provocative, as the Israelis have pursued a policy of ambiguity with regard to their nuclear policy for almost half a century. However, observers and other interested parties are aware that Israel possesses a huge arsenal comprising of some 400 nuclear warheads, according to recent estimates, not to mention other chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction. Moreover, those States that have assisted Israel have considerable information about the Israeli nuclear arsenal.

Since some heads of delegations have pointed to the political situation in our region in their statements, I should like to record here that the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) at its most recent meeting, chaired by President Mahmoud Abbas, affirmed the necessity of working urgently to implement the decisions of the most recent Riyadh Summit and, in particular, expanding international and regional recognition of the Arab Peace Initiative as a basis for the peace process in the Middle East. In this context, the Quartet must be encouraged to move to unblock the Israeli-Palestinian negotiation process. This is the real benchmark by which seriousness is measured in dealing with the Arab Peace Initiative, and which could bring the discussion on the political horizon, concerning

a balanced and just resolution of the conflict in the region, onto a serious and positive track.

The Palestinian people and its legitimate and only representative, the Palestine Liberation Organization, chose peace as a strategic option and aspire to a just, comprehensive and lasting peace based on resolutions with international legitimacy, in particular the relevant Security Council resolutions. In that regard I wish to emphasize to you that the peace sought in the Middle East will be achieved only when the Palestinian people obtains its freedom and independence and an independent Palestinian State is established with Jerusalem as its eternal capital and the vision of President Bush of the United States of America, of the existence of two neighbouring States for the Palestinian and the Israeli peoples, is realized. The right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and to compensation in accordance with General Assembly resolution 194 (III) must also be emphasized.
