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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Thirty-sixth session
Items 46, 51, 53, 55 and 58 of the
preliminary list*
ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE
ZONE IN THE REGION OF THE MIDDLE EAST
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED
BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH
SPECIAL SESSION
CONCLUSION OF AN INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF
THE SECURITY OF NON-NUCLEAR-WEAPON
STATES AGAINST THE USE OR THREAT OF
USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS
GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-sixth year

Letter dated 26 February 1981 from the Permanent Representative of
Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that the Government of Egypt has completed the process of ratification of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (General Assembly resolution 2373 (XXII), annex) on 22 February 1981. Further, the instruments of ratification have been deposited today, 26 February 1981, with the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Kindly find attached to this letter a copy of the statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt on the occasion of depositing the instruments of ratification of the herein referred to treaty.

I further wish to seize this opportunity to bring the following to your attention:

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- (a) Egypt signed the non-proliferation Treaty on 1 July 1968 and ratified it on 22 February 1981 as a further expression of its deep commitment to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.
- (b) Egypt has, since the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly, in 1974, advocated the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. It was on the basis of Egypt's initiative that the General Assembly adopted its resolution 3263 (XXIX) of 9 December 1974 on the creation of such a zone. Since that time, the General Assembly has adopted a series of resolutions, upon the initiative of Egypt, the last of which is resolution 35/147 of 12 December 1980.
- (c) Egypt's ratification of the non-proliferation Treaty should be seen as a concrete manifestation of its commitment to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in general and a tangible contribution to ensuring that a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East be established in particular.
- (d) In acceding to the Treaty, Egypt has fulfilled its obligations under paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 35/147 and is, therefore, reiterating its call for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

I kindly request you to circulate this letter, together with the statement attached, as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 46, 51, 53, 55 and 58 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) A. Esmat ABDEL MEGUID
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Statement
by The Ministry of Foreign Affairs
On the Occasion of the Deposit by the
Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt
of its Instruments of Ratification of the
Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Egypt's signing and subsequent ratification of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons stems from its conviction that the proliferation of nuclear weapons threatens the security of mankind and, therefore must be curbed. It may be pertinent to recall in this respect that Egypt, being among the first countries calling for the early conclusion of the Treaty, played an instrumental role in its negotiation. The Treaty was a logical culmination to the earlier efforts that successfully lead to the conclusion of the 1963 Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water.

Egypt's commitment by virtue of the provisions of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, to refrain in any way from acquiring or manufacturing nuclear weapons, should not impair its inalienable right to develop and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, in conformity with the provisions of Article IV of the Treaty, which affirms the inalienable right of all the parties to the Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination. The stipulation

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of that right in the Treaty itself is, in fact, a codification of a basic right, which can neither be waived or derogated from.

It is based on this premise that Egypt attaches special attention to the provisions of Article IV of the Treaty calling on the Parties to the Treaty, who are in a position to do so, to co-operate in contributing to the further development of the application of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, especially in the territories of non-nuclear-weapon States Party to the Treaty, with due consideration for the needs of the developing areas of the world.

Accordingly, as Egypt is embarking on the construction of nuclear power reactors to generate electric power in order to meet its increasing energy needs necessary for the prosperity and welfare of its people, it feels justified to expect the assistance and support, from industrialized nations possessing a developed nuclear industry. This, we emphasize, would be in consonance with the letter and spirit of Article IV of the Treaty. Particularly, since Egypt, in accordance with the provisions of Article III of the Treaty, accepts application of the safeguards system of the International Atomic Energy Agency to peaceful nuclear activities carried out within its territory.

Within the framework of the rights provided for in the Treaty for all Parties thereto in so far as the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes is concerned, Egypt wishes to refer to the

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provisions of Article V of the Treaty, which states that potential benefits from any peaceful applications of nuclear explosions will be made available to non-nuclear-weapon States Party to the Treaty. Though such applications pose at present certain difficulties, particularly in view of their detrimental effects on the environment, Egypt nevertheless, is of the firm view that the nuclear-weapon States Party to the Treaty should not be relieved from their responsibility to promote research and development of these applications, in order to overcome all the difficulties presently involved in such applications.

Egypt wishes to express its strong dissatisfaction with the nuclear-weapon States, in particular the two Super-Powers, because of their failure to take effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race and to nuclear disarmament. Although it welcomes the 1972 and 1979 Strategic Arms Limitation Treaties, known as SALT I and SALT II, Egypt cannot but underline the fact that the Treaties have not only failed to bring about an effective cessation of the nuclear arms race, quantitatively and qualitatively, but have also permitted the development of a new generation of weapons of mass destruction.

Moreover, and in spite of the fact that more than 17 years have elapsed since the conclusion of the 1963 Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water, the nuclear-weapon States allege that various difficulties still stand in the way of an agreement on a permanent ban on all nuclear weapon tests; what is required, in fact, is the need for a political

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will to achieve that end.

Consequently, Egypt avails itself of this opportunity, namely the deposit of its instruments of ratification of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to appeal to the nuclear-weapon States Parties to the Treaty to fulfil their obligation whereby the nuclear arms race will be stopped and nuclear disarmament achieved.

Egypt also calls upon all nuclear-weapon States to exert all possible efforts so as to achieve a permanent ban of all nuclear weapon tests at an early date. This will bring to an end the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction, in as much as the cut-off of fissionable material for military purposes, will curb the quantitative increase of nuclear weapons.

As regards the security of non-nuclear weapon States, Egypt is of the considered view that Security Council resolution 255 of 19 June 1968 does not provide non-nuclear-weapon States with a genuine guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons by nuclear-weapon States. Egypt, therefore, appeals to the Nuclear-weapon States to exert their effort with a view to concluding an agreement prohibiting once, and for all, the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons against any State.

The undertaking of these steps is consistent with the letter and spirit of the basic guiding principles formulated by the General Assembly of the United Nations for the conclusion of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, in particular the principle of balance of

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mutual responsibilities and obligations of the nuclear and non-nuclear Powers; and that stipulating that the Treaty should be a step towards the achievement of general and complete disarmament and in particular, nuclear disarmament.

Based on Egypt's firm conviction that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in different parts of the world shall be instrumental in enabling the Non-Proliferation Treaty to achieve its goal, it has exerted great efforts to establish nuclear-weapon-free zones in the Middle East as well as in Africa.

In this respect, Egypt expresses its satisfaction with the United Nations General Assembly resolution 35/147 adopted by consensus at its 35th session inviting the countries of the Middle East, pending the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zone in the area, to declare solemnly their support for the achievement of this objective, that they will refrain on a reciprocal basis from producing, acquiring or possessing nuclear weapons, and to deposit such declarations with the United Nations Security Council.

In conclusion, Egypt wishes to point out that it has ratified the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, out of the strong belief that this step conforms with its vital national interests, insofar as the Treaty succeeds in curbing the proliferation of nuclear weapons throughout the world, particularly in the Middle East- a region which should remain completely free of

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nuclear weapons - if the Treaty is to effectively contribute to peace, security and prosperity for its people as well as for the world at large.

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