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

Report of the Secretary-General

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REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

CHINA

[Original: Chinese/English]

[18 September 1985]

1. The Government of China has taken note of General Assembly resolution 39/54 of 12 December 1984 on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. The Chinese Government respects and supports the just aspirations and demands of broad sections of non-nuclear States for the establishment, on a voluntary basis, of nuclear-weapon-free zones in the light of the circumstances of their respective regions, in the interests of maintaining peace and security in their regions, opposing the nuclear arms race and reducing the danger of a nuclear war.
2. China has always stood for complete prohibition and total destruction of nuclear weapons. It maintains that all the nuclear-weapon States should undertake unconditionally not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear States and nuclear-weapon-free zones. As early as in 1964, the Chinese Government unilaterally declared that at no time and in no circumstances would China be the first to use nuclear weapons. China has also committed itself not to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear States and nuclear-weapon-free zones.
3. China supports the Middle East countries in their efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region, respects their desires and is ready to assume obligations pertaining to the proposal.

IRAQ

[Original: Arabic]

[29 August 1985]

1. Iraq has always expressed its firm belief in the importance of establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. That position has, in practice, been embodied in its support for the General Assembly resolutions adopted under this agenda item. Iraq has also taken timely steps to extricate the region from the danger of nuclear weapons by ratifying the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and by placing all of its nuclear installations under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency. That measure is a significant step, giving expression to Iraq's good faith with regard to achieving the desired goal. In this connection, we stress that numerous international instruments, conferences and resolutions have called for accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and for supervision by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as an important step towards the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in the world; and General Assembly resolutions 36/27, 37/18, 38/9 and 39/14 and Security Council resolution 487 (1981) all contain references to that effect.

2. In the light of the foregoing remarks, we should like to recall the following facts:

3. First, all nuclear installations in the region are subject to supervision by the IAEA and are covered by the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, except for the Israeli nuclear installations. The Israeli installations have great military potential, as was established by the report of the Group of Experts to Prepare a Study on Israeli Nuclear Armament (A/36/431).

4. Second, the Middle East region is not, in its present situation, free of nuclear weapons because the potential of Israeli nuclear installations with military capabilities has not been ascertained. Numerous international sources have asserted the nuclear-weapon capability of these important installations. We should like, in this connection, to mention some of these assertions:

(a) In a report issued at the end of 1984, the Institute of Strategic Studies of Georgetown University in the United States of America asserted that Israel possessed between 50 and 100 nuclear bombs;

(b) Numerous sources have stated that Israel has installed Jericho II nuclear missiles in the Golan Heights and the Negev desert;

(c) Assertions by Israelis and by members of the Cabinet that Israel is capable of producing nuclear weapons, and the growing fears of the Government of the United States of Israel's possession of nuclear weapons;

(d) Israel's obtaining, in an illegal manner, detonator timing devices and 41 tons of spent uranium capable of being used in the manufacturing of nuclear weapons.

5. Given this background the region must first be made free of nuclear weapons as a first step towards making it really free of nuclear weapons. It is also our understanding that verification of the region's being free of all nuclear weapons comes about through verification by the International Atomic Energy Agency and under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

6. Persistence in not taking the above-mentioned first step is, in itself, tantamount to actual possession of nuclear weapons. It is, therefore, a violation of the basic principles on which any nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East may be based. The mounting evidence that Israel has obtained nuclear weapons, some of which we have mentioned, is based only on its actions during 1984 and 1985. Such conduct has an orientation opposite to that required to achieve the goal.

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

[Original: Arabic]

[9 September 1985]

1. The Syrian Arab Republic has consistently supported the principle of establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones in the world, considering such action to be of importance in serving the general goals of disarmament and reduction in tension, leading in particular to the promotion of international peace and security.
2. On the basis of its support for this principle, the Syrian Arab Republic supported resolution 39/54 concerning the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, with the aim of keeping this and other regions immune from the peril of nuclear destruction. It supported the consensus on this issue because the resolution embodies and emphasizes the following ideas:
 - (a) The need for all parties directly concerned to adhere to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;
 - (b) The need for those parties concerned to place all their nuclear activities under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards;
 - (c) The need for all parties concerned to refrain from developing, producing, testing or acquiring nuclear weapons or permitting the stationing on their territories or territories under their control, of nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices.
3. The Syrian Arab Republic interprets the provisions of resolution 39/54 concerning the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East in this manner and is endeavouring by all the means at its disposal to implement those provisions on this basis.
4. Israel, on the other hand, is impeding the implementation of this resolution and rejecting outright the wishes of the international community as expressed in its consensus, by means of the following actions:
 - (a) Its continued refusal to adhere to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;
 - (b) Its continued rejection of Security Council resolution 487 (1981), which calls on it to place its nuclear facilities under the safeguards of IAEA, and its continued disregard for the safeguard system;
 - (c) Its refusal to refrain from the acquisition of nuclear weapons, despite the repeated calls addressed to it by the General Assembly, the Security Council and IAEA.
5. The Syrian Arab Republic believes that the manner in which the Secretary-General is endeavouring to take action is eminently clear, namely to force Israel to submit to the wishes of the international community, implement its decisions, and put an end to its nuclear aspirations.