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UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/C.1/35/8
24 October 1980

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-fifth session
FIRST COMMITTEE
Agenda items 38 and 48

Letter dated 23 October 1980 from the Permanent Representative
of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-
General

I have the honour to refer to the Secretary-General's report on the "Comprehensive study on nuclear weapons" (A/35/392), which in paragraph 476 states, inter alia, that "Israel has refused to accede to these calls by the General Assembly and instead posed the pre-conditions of direct negotiations between the States of the region". Since this statement does not reflect Israel's position on the matter, allow me to reiterate the views of Israel as expressed in the statement of the Foreign Minister of Israel, Mr. Yitzhak Shamir, in the course of the general debate of the General Assembly, on 29 September 1980, where he stated:

"Israel has consistently supported resolutions of the General Assembly aimed at preventing the spread of nuclear weapons. This global problem, we believe, can best be solved by way of negotiated regional arrangements. Hence, since 1975, Israel has consistently advocated the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East on the Tlatelolco model. Israel believes that an international conference of all the States in the region and adjacent to our region should be held, leading to the conclusion of a formal, contractual, multilateral Convention between all States of the region. We hope that in the course of this General Assembly, we shall find a suitable opportunity to give concrete expression to our views on this matter. In the meantime, I should like to reiterate my Government's position, which is that Israel will not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons into the Arab-Israeli dispute." (A/35/PV.15)

As the Foreign Minister indicated in his statement, Israel intends to submit in due time a draft resolution for the consideration of the First Committee of the General Assembly which reflects Israel's views on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. A provisional text of the draft resolution is attached herewith.

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I should be grateful if this letter and its attachment could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 38 and 48 (b) of the agenda.

(Signed) Yehuda Z. BLUM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Israel
to the United Nations

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Annex

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

Israel: draft resolution

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming paragraph 60 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly which states that: "The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned constitutes an important disarmament measure",

Aware of the urgency for the establishment of such a zone in the Middle East, in view of conflict situations which threaten the peace of that region,

Convinced that the effective way to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons in the Middle East is through negotiations leading to the establishment of a system of mutually binding obligations which would provide each State in the region with a contractual assurance of others' compliance with the commitment to abstain from introducing nuclear weapons into the region,

Recalling its resolution 31/70 on the comprehensive study of the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all its aspects, particularly paragraph 3 which reiterates the conviction that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones can contribute to the security of members of such zones, to the prevention of proliferation of nuclear weapons and to the goals of general and complete disarmament,

Recalling further its resolution 33/91 B of 16 December 1979 on confidence-building measures and convinced that the adherence of all Member States of the Middle East region to a treaty establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East would in itself serve to reduce tensions and pave the way for the introduction of further confidence-building measures,

1. Calls upon all States of the Middle East and non-nuclear-weapons States adjacent to the region, which are not signatories to any treaty providing for a nuclear-weapon-free zone, to convene at the earliest possible date a conference with a view to negotiating a multilateral treaty establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East;

2. Urges all States of the region to state by 1 May 1981 their willingness to participate in the conference;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the necessary facilities for the convening of such a conference.

