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REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ITEM IN THE PROVISIONAL
AGENDA OF THE TWENTY-NINTH SESSION

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

Letter dated 15 July 1974 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Iran to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

On instruction from my Government, I have the honour to request the inclusion of an item in the provisional agenda of the twenty-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-free zone in the region of the Middle East", in accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. An explanatory memorandum pertaining to this request is herewith attached.

(Signed) Manoucher PISHVA
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The strengthening of international peace and security has always been the focal point of Iran's foreign policy. In pursuit of this policy Iran has taken every opportunity to contribute to the building of solid structures for peace both at regional and global levels. It was within this policy framework that as early as 1968, His Imperial Majesty the Shahanshah of Iran introduced the idea of the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in the region of the Middle East.

Developments since then have imparted a particular sense of urgency to this proposal. While prospects for implementation of an all-encompassing denuclearization scheme in the region of the Middle East appear now to be more promising, greater access by States to nuclear technology has rendered the danger of nuclear weapons proliferation and a concomitant collapse of the non-proliferation structure, a more acute problem.

The above considerations have prompted His Imperial Majesty recently to renew his proposal on the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in the region of the Middle East.

The Government of Iran has concluded that the General Assembly of the United Nations is the most appropriate organ in which a proposal of this nature could be brought up and has therefore requested the inclusion of an item on the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in the area, in the agenda of the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

Decision on the precise limit of the denuclearized zone should, in the view of the Iranian Government, be left to the General Assembly. Such delimitation by the Assembly is appropriate not only because of the ambiguity inherent in the geographical designation of the region but also because the security interests of the entire region must be taken into consideration. The Government of Iran therefore believes that the zone should encompass as wide an area as possible.

It is the earnest hope of the Iranian Government that the United Nations General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session would commend this proposal to the attention of the States of the region and make a recommendation to these States to take as soon as possible all necessary steps to achieve this objective and report back to the General Assembly. It is the considered opinion of the Iranian Government that the implementation of this proposal would constitute a major feat in pursuit of security and lasting peace.
