

# Iran Asks U.N. Action to Keep Region Free of Nuclear Arms

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UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., July 12 — Iran asked today for United Nations action to keep nuclear weapons out of the Middle East.

The Iranian initiative was made in a request that the General Assembly that opens here Sept. 17 take up an item entitled: "Establishment of a nuclear-free zone in the region of the Middle East."

Iran did not define the geographic area to be covered and could leave this to be decided by the 135-member General Assembly. However, it was assumed here that the Middle East would be regarded as including Israel and the neighboring Arab countries, the Persian Gulf nations including Iran and Iraq and countries such as Turkey, Pakistan and possibly North African nations.

Some Western representatives said that Iran probably was motivated by concern that her immediate neighbors might acquire atomic weapons — meaning Pakistan and Turkey.

## Earlier Ban Suggested

Shah Mohammed Riza Pahlavi of Iran proposed five years ago the idea of an international ban against nuclear weapons in the Middle East. But his suggestion was made at a time of high political tensions and did not attract any support.

The new move is now being made, according to Iranian sources, because it was felt that the prospects of getting the Middle East countries to agree were improved as a result of recent Arab-Israeli disengagement agreements.

Second, there is a feeling of urgency in trying to prevent the spread of nuclear arms technology as a result of India's explosion of a nuclear device.

Eighteen Latin-American countries asked that the coming General Assembly also take up the failure by two nuclear powers—obviously France and the United States—to sign and ratify a protocol to the 1967 treaty in which Latin-American nations banned nuclear weapons from their area. The protocol applied the treaty to territories under French and American control.

## India Test Reported Known

WASHINGTON, July 12 (AP) — Senator Henry M. Jackson said today that the United States was aware months in advance that India was preparing to explode a nuclear device and did nothing to stop it.

India tried unsuccessfully to set off a nuclear explosion in February, more than three

months before a successful blast, the Democratic Senator from Washington said. Mr. Jackson is a member of the Senate-House Atomic Energy Committee.

The Senator was questioning John A. Erlewine, general manager of the Atomic Energy Commission, who was appearing before a Senate banking subcommittee which is studying United States proposals to export nuclear technology to Israel and Egypt. Mr. Erlewine said he knew nothing about the Senator's assertion.