

Information Circular

INFCIRC/692

Date: 22 December 2006

General Distribution

Original: English

Communication dated 20 December 2006 received from the Resident Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Agency

The Director General has received a letter dated 20 December 2006 from the Resident Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The letter and, as requested therein, its attachment, are herewith circulated for the information of Member States.

In the name of God



*Permanent Mission of
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)*

*Heinestr. 19/1/1 A-1020 Vienna/Austria
Phone: (0043-1) 214 09 71 Fax: (0043-1) 214 09 73 E-mail: PM.Iran_IAEA@chello.at*

No. 164/2006

20 December 2006

Excellency,

I would like to convey the serious concern of my country regarding the announcement of the Israeli Regime on the possession of nuclear weapons, on 12 December 2006, and consequently its threat against regional and international peace and security.

The concern has also been conveyed to the Secretary General of the United Nations H.E. Mr.Kofi Annan as well as to the President of the Security Council through the attached communication. I would also like to request that the content of the said letter to be made public as an INFCIRC document under the title "Threat of the acknowledged nuclear weapons of Israel to the regional and international peace and security".

Accept Sir, the assurances of my highest considerations.

Yours sincerely,

A. A. Soltanieh

Ambassador, Resident Representative

Excellency,

Upon instructions from my Government, I wish to draw Your Excellency's attention to the public admission of Israeli clandestine development and unlawful possession of nuclear weapons by the Israeli regime's Prime Minister, in an interview with a German television on 12 December 2006.

The inaction imposed on the Security Council over the past several decades in addressing the well-documented illicit nuclear-weapons program by the Israeli regime has given the audacity to its Prime Minister not only to explicitly acknowledge possession of nuclear weapons but even to publicly boast, in the above-mentioned interview, about its dangerous nuclear weapons.

It is undisputable that nuclear weapons in the hands of a regime with an unparalleled record of non-compliance with Security Council resolutions and a long and dark catalogue of crimes and atrocities such as occupation, aggression, militarism, state-terrorism, and crimes against humanity, poses a uniquely grave threat to regional as well as international peace and security.

The Israeli regime, as the only obstacle for the establishment of a nuclear weapons-free-zone in the Middle East, has constantly and obstinately disregarded international demands and concerns repeatedly raised about its clandestine nuclear weapons program in different fora, particularly in the NPT Review Conferences, which have by name called upon this regime to accede to the NPT immediately and without any condition.

Moreover, Israeli regime's clandestine development and possession of nuclear weapons not only violate basic principles of international law, United Nations Charter, the NPT as well as numerous General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, but also clearly defy the demand of the overwhelming majority of the UN member states who have, time and again, called on this regime to renounce nuclear weapons and accede to the NPT.

In this regard, as recently as in September 2006, the Heads of State or Government of 118 members of the Non-Aligned Movement urged the Israeli regime "to renounce possession of nuclear weapons, to accede to the NPT without delay, to place promptly all its nuclear facilities under IAEA full-scope safeguards according to Security Council Resolution 487 (1981), and to conduct its nuclear related activities in conformity with the non-proliferation regime." The NAM members also "expressed great concern over the acquisition of nuclear capability by Israel, which poses a serious and continuing threat to the security of neighboring and other States, and condemned Israel for continuing to develop and stockpile nuclear arsenals." The same demands have been also constantly made by the member states of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

In view of the above, the Security Council should fulfill its Charter-based responsibility to address such a clear and serious threat to international peace and security, and take prompt and appropriate actions accordingly. The Council should, *inter alia*, condemn Israeli regime's clandestine development and possession of nuclear weapons, compel it to abandon nuclear weapons, urge it to accede to the NPT without delay, and demand this regime to place promptly all its nuclear facilities under IAEA full-scope safeguards. Should the Israeli regime fail to do so, the Council must take resolute action under Chapter VII of the Charter to ensure compliance.

The reversal of the hypocritical policy of "strategic ambiguity" by the Israeli regime has removed any excuse – if there ever were any – for continued inaction by the Council in the face of this actual threat to international peace and security. The reaction of the Security Council will show whether the Council is acting – as it is obliged to under Article 24 of the Charter – on behalf of the members of the international community who have made their views abundantly clear on this issue, or whether it is merely a tool for a few permanent members who have made no secret of their policy to allow and even encourage the Israeli regime to persist in its lawless behavior with impunity.

Peace and stability cannot be achieved in the Middle East while the massive Israeli nuclear arsenal continues to threaten the region and beyond.

I would be grateful if you could have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 81, 87, 93 and 13, and of the Security Council.

I am also sending an identical letter in this regard to the President of the Security Council.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest considerations.

M. Javad Zarif

H.E. Mr. Kofi Annan
Secretary General, United Nations,
New York