



FREE ZONE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

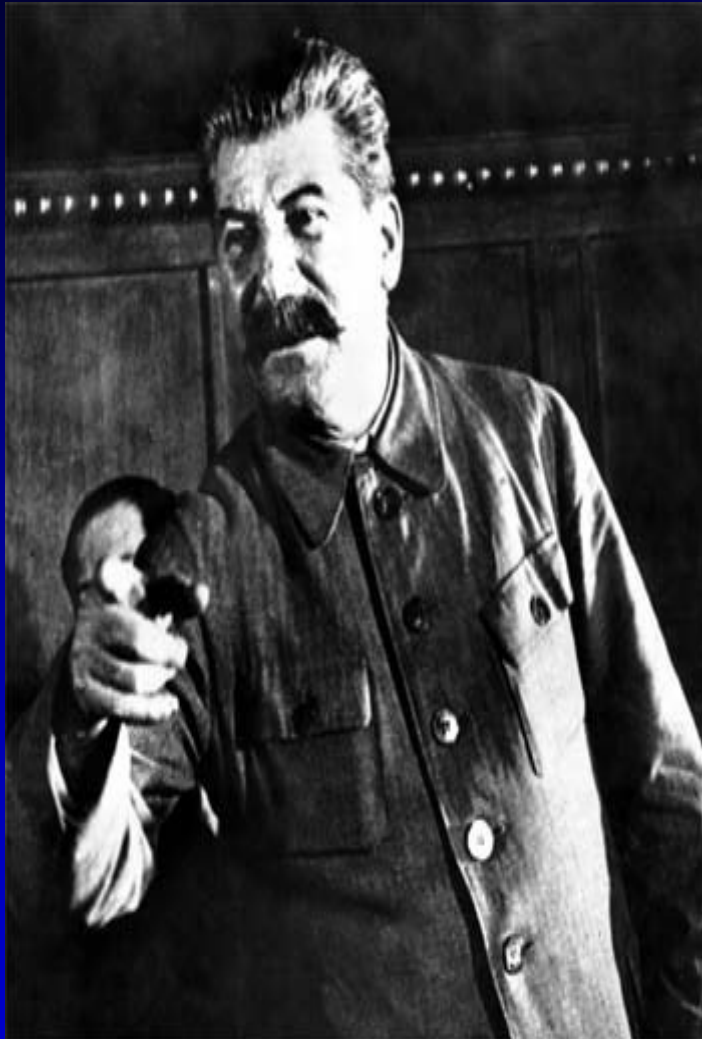
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Eagle and small birds!



At **Yalta**

Conference near
the end of the
WWII , and at a
dinner hosted by
president
Roosevelt , and
attended by the
Big Three .



Stalin : " It is ridiculous to suggest that little Albania should have an equal voice with the great powers , which had won the war together "



**Churchill : " the Eagle
should permit the small
birds to sing and care
not wherefore they
sang" .**

“Small” atomic bombs



Almagorda , New
Mexico , just five
months after Yalta

6 August 1945



- Hiroshima
- Deaths - 118,661
- Injuries - 78,000





Hiroshima in ruins



9 August 1945

- Nagasaki
- Deaths - 73,884
- Injuries - 74,909
- 6.7 million square meters leveled

Hiroshima and Nagasaki



- Ground temperatures reached about **7,000 degrees C**
- “**Black rain**” containing radioactive fallout poured down for hours after the explosions

WHY NWFZ IN MIDDLE EAST?

The notion of a Middle East nuclear weapon free zone has been on international as well as regional agendas for **more than 40 years** .

It may seem to some as just a **dream** ;
however ; the delay in establishing this free
zone in the Middle East is a confirmed
nightmare .

The so called “**existential notion of deterrence**”
, has not been convincing ; other countries of
the region have strived or are striving to create
a nuclear **counterdeterrence**.

NWFZ would foster regional cooperation and help build confidence.

Even more importantly , members of NWFZ can effectively band together to press for greater progress on nuclear disarmament.

NWFZ is also a means of preventing nuclear testing in the region as well as addressing the threat of global nuclear terrorism .

Failing to establish MENWFZ ,will trigger a nuclear arms race , and irreparable damage to the NPT .

Difficulties & Shortcomings

Israel claims that Nuclear Weapons are the ultimate guarantor of national survival against its neighbors , but if Israel has any concerns about national security , its still growing conventional superiority over all its neighbors should provide all the assurances necessary .

- Israel has the solemn guarantee to its security by the sole super power in the world .
- Israel has a peace treaties with Egypt ; and Jordan , and a peace initiative by the rest of the Arab world , which Israel unfortunately has not accepted .

Israel's nuclear weapons are not the last resort deterrent , but rather as a protective umbrella under which the illegal and unjust annexation of the occupied territories continues .

It is an offensive instrument that impedes Israel's willingness to return to its 1967 borders .

If nuclear arms are accepted for Israel as a deterrence, then it should be accepted for its neighbors as a counter-deterrence.

Frustrated efforts

1. In 1974 , Egypt and Iran under the shah became the first to propose a NWFZ in the Middle East to the UN General Assembly .

2. UN Security Council Resolution 687 , which terminated the Persian Gulf War in 1991 , adopted the idea of NWFZ in its preamble and noted in its 14th operational paragraph that Iraq's disarmament represented one step toward such a zone .

3. Meetings of the Arms Control and Regional Security(ARCS). Lasting from 1992 to 1995 .

The ARCS talks failed because of Israel's refusal to discuss the nuclear disarmament nor to accede to the NPT .

4. There were numerous resolutions based on an Egyptian proposal and adopted by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

5. The NPT Review and Extension Conference in 1995 adopted a resolution to establish NWFZ in the Middle East .

6. During the period between the 1995 Review and Extension Conference and the 2000 Review Conference , the remaining embers of the Arab League non-parties to the NPT acceded to the Treaty .

7. The 2000 Review Conference recognized that the 1995 resolution remains valid until its goals and objectives are achieved .

8. The 2000 Review Conference welcomed the fact that all the Arab States acceded to the treaty , and called upon Israel to join the Treaty and place its nuclear facilities under the IAEA safeguards system

9. The General Assembly each year adopts by consensus a resolution calling for the establishment of a nuclear weapon free zone in the region of the Middle East .

10. The General Assembly also continued to overwhelmingly support and adopt every year the resolution entitled " the risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East " .

11. Egypt submitted substantive working papers on the issue of the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East at the sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference .

The Review Conference 2010

The coming Review Conference would be the moment of truth , not exactly a " **make –or-break** " moment , but very close to that as far as the Middle East and many non-aligned countries are concerned .

At stake is the faith in the equity of the regime of Non-proliferation .

For many states , particularly those in the 118 – member Non-Aligned Movement , the Review Conference is an important opportunity for them to have their voice heard .

It would be a mistake to use the conference to instill new interpretations of the NPT and impose additional obligations on member states .

We are concerned that some perceived efforts are designed to restrict states' rights to the civilian nuclear technology , through the imposition of additional obligations.

Point of departure for the 2010 Review Conference should be based on the cumulative results of the outcome of the previous conferences.

An integrated package deal, if the 1995 resolution on the Middle East were compromised , all the outcomes of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference would be compromised .

Way forward

Unequivocal call demanding that Israel accedes to the NPT without delay , and should take the following steps for the implementation of the 1995 resolution and 2000 outcome on the Middle East :

1. Any supply arrangement for the transfer of source or special fissionable material or equipment to Israel , should require , as a necessary precondition , Israel's accession to the Treaty as a non nuclear State

2. United Nations to convene an international Conference by 2011 .

3. **IAEA** to prepare background documentation for the above mentioned conference.

4. States parties to **disclose** in their national reports on the implementation of the resolution on the Middle East , **all information available to them on the nature and scope of Israeli nuclear facilities and activities , including information pertaining to previous nuclear transfers to Israel ;**

5. **Standing committee to follow up** in the intersessional period progress achieved in the implementation of the resolution on the Middle East .

7. **Follow up mechanism** for the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East .

Conclusion

MENWFZ is not only a legal commitment , but also **a moral imperative** .

It is not a question of simple disarmament issue ; **it is the very existence of the states in the Middle East , of the trust placed by those states in NPT ;and of the value of the promises made to NPT non-nuclear states .**

Some critics in the Middle East are advising their governments **not to buy the same horse twice** ; and some governments see the merit of this advice .But we believe that *raison* will prevail , and those swayed by the arrogance of power would realize that we are all in the same boat .

Let the birds sing !



I hope that my presentation has clarified some aspects of the Middle East message to the coming conference , which we pray would not be just “**business as usual**” , and that the **Big Eagles** would care for the songs of small birds .