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Implementing measures to reduce the risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East

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Forum:	General Assembly 1 - International Security and Disarmament
Issue:	Implementing measures to reduce the risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East
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Introduction

World War II is recognized as the 'Atomic Age', as then started the use of nuclear weapons. The United States of America were the first to drop a nuclear bomb on to Japan in 1945, and it started a trigger of nuclear weapons to be unleashed such as those by the former Soviet Union, The United Kingdom, France and China. Due to this, there was a treaty formed called the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT). This treaty was put in place to set boundaries on who could release nuclear weapons and to prevent proliferation between nations. In 1968, many states left their nuclear weapon programs, but many continued without signing the treaty. Such nations included India, Pakistan and Israel. Therefore, many states are continuing to possess and use nuclear weapons without the right to.

In the Middle East, nuclear proliferation is a vast problem. Countries that play a big role in the nuclear proliferation in the Middle East include Israel and Iran. They both are accused of developing and producing nuclear weapons, as they are pursuing research on uranium enrichment. The enriched uranium serves as a vital part of powerful nuclear reactors and technology, seeing as it increases the percentage of pure uranium in the machine. Therefore, it has led to conflicts between countries who want to develop such powerful uranium, such as the Iraq War, which started in 2003, led by the US in to Iraq.

Definition of Key Terms

Nuclear proliferation

"The spread of nuclear weapons, fissionable material, and weapons-applicable nuclear technology and information to¬¬ nations not recognized as 'Nuclear Weapon States'."

Nuclear weapon

A destructive device, which explodes through nuclear reactions such as fission or fission/fusion.

Middle East

Refers to the countries located in the region of Western Asia and Egypt.

Nuclear Arsenals

A collection of weapons and military equipment.

Warheads

A head of a missile, which can explode.

Disarmament

The withdrawal of military weapons.

General Overview

The issue of nuclear proliferation is one that can affect and endanger all citizens. The issue of proliferation is more severe in some countries than others, and this includes the Middle East. Nuclear weapons are being used to ensure states of international security, however this comes with many problems.

Discovering the Neutron

In the 19th century, knowledge on Chemistry and Physics greatly increased and scientists started discovering more about atoms and radioactivity. In June 1920, scientist Ernest Rutherford discovered that the anatomy of the atom and the properties of the neutron were very different to what scientists first thought. He started spreading his knowledge through lectures worldwide. In 1930, 2 German scientists discovered that radiation was emitted when many alpha particles were fired at beryllium, and there were many thoughts that this radiation was gamma rays. Shortly after this took place, many experiments were conducted and it was concluded that it was in fact neutrons that were being released from the matter. Here came the idea to set up a chain of these nuclear reactions to create a vast amount of energy, which can be dangerous.

Fission

At the end of 1938, it was German scientists who discovered a real technique for multiple nuclear reactions to take place in a chain reaction, called fission. Fission includes firing a slow-moving neutron at Uranium-258 to make an unstable atom, which will release radiation. Fission not only releases a vast amount of energy, but also extra neutrons to carry on a chain of reactions to create an even larger amount of energy. Fission is now used worldwide in all nuclear weapons such as bombs.

The Atomic Age

World War II was the global war that lasted from September 1939 to September 1945. This time period was also called the 'Atomic Age', and served as the start of the use of nuclear weapons. It started by famous scientist Albert Einstein who was also working on the power of radioactivity, telling former President of the US Franklin Roosevelt about the discoveries. He suspected that other countries such as Germany were already working on such nuclear bombs and therefore they strived to be the first country to unleash such technology. This worked, as in 1945 they let off their first bomb in New Mexico, and its power shocked the whole world.

After World War II had ended, there continued to be conflicts in the Pacific region. And so, former US president Harry Truman released a first nuclear bomb on to the Japanese city of Hiroshima in order for the Japanese government to surrender and a second later that year on the city of Nagasaki. "Five years later, as many as 340, 000 people, or 54% of the original population, has died from the two explosions."

Other countries, such as the former Soviet Union, started catching up with the technological advances of the US. However, many wanted the use of nuclear weapons to be eradicated due to the huge impact and disaster it made on the Japanese cities.

The Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty (NPT)

In 1970**,** The NPT was created by the United Nations (UN) to forbid the spreading of nuclear weapons or technology. It also sets out to promote peaceful uses of nuclear technology such as an energy source. All countries in the United Nations have signed this treaty except a few. Listed below are the main points of Article I and III, of the NPT (a link to the full treaty can be found in Appendix III);

- Article I "Each nuclear-weapon State Party undertakes not to transfer to any recipient whatsoever nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices… and not in any

way to assist, encourage, or induce and non-nuclear weapon State to manufacture or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons…"

- Article III "Each State Party to the Treaty undertakes not to provide (a) source of special fissionable material, or (b) equipment or material especially designed…, to any non-nuclear-weapon State for peaceful purposes"

The Nuclear Weapon States and their power

There are 5 countries, which are called 'Nuclear Weapon States', that have been recognized by the NPT to having possession on nuclear weapons and technology. These countries are Russian Federation, United States of America, United Kingdom, China and France. They are allowed nuclear arsenals however they cannot be built to last forever.

Non-NPT States

Israel, Pakistan, South Sudan and India are the only UN members that have not signed on to the treaty. Also, North Korea resigned from the treaty in 2003, however they are all known to have nuclear weapons. Israel is thought to have "between 80-100 nuclear warheads, with fissile material for up to 200."

Uranium Enrichment

Uranium enrichment programmes are set up to create a purer substance of Uranium, which includes a higher percentage of Uranium-235. Enriched Uranium is produced in Uranium enrichment plants. It increases the number of uranium atoms that can be split during nuclear fission, and therefore increased the amount of energy released when it reacts.

Uranium-235 is the most common substance used in nuclear reactors and nuclear weaponry, and therefore is seen as very important. Nuclear reactors will use the enriched Uranium to product a larger amount of energy and electricity for our ever-growing planet, whereas nuclear weaponry will include using enriched Uranium in powerful nuclear bombs. One of the first nuclear bombs to be released, which was on the city of Nagasaki, used the substance of Plutonium-239, however there is not enough of this substance in nature to be able to make the demand countries are looking for. Therefore, the attention is on Uranium-235, as there is enough of Uranium-235 and -238 in nature to supply our demand. The inequality of some countries having more resources and research stations than others creates conflict.

The International Uranium Enrichment Centre (IUEC)

The IUEC is located in Siberia, and serves as the first International Enrichment Centre. It is operated and paid for by the Russian Federation. These centres were created following the idea of the IAEA, with the purpose of eventually create all new enrichment capacity under international control. This specific centre provides low-enriched uranium for nuclear power reactors to nuclear power states, so that they are all on an equal level with each other. This project, however, gives no nuclear research or technology to the states for them to create their own in their home country.

Uranium Enrichment used for Peaceful Purposes

Enriched Uranium-235 is used in nuclear reactors, which can be used to generate electricity for the Earth's population. Nuclear energy is becoming a new source of renewable energy seeing as it creates a vast amount of energy in a small amount of time. The enriched Uranium serves as the fuel for these reactors, and therefore is extremely useful. This is an example in ways that enrichment can be used for peaceful purposes, instead of in nuclear weaponry. Another way could be in medical isotopes or in powering research reactors. However, there is no surveillance on whether the uranium enrichment, which is being produced, is being used for these peaceful purposes, or in weaponry.

The Iraq War

The Iraq War began in early 2003, where the United States invaded the country of Iraq. It is a prime example of how nuclear weaponry can lead to conflict. The War was first called the *2003 Invasion of Iraq*, which lasted from the 19th March to 1st May 2003. However, this invasion started the later conflict called the Iraq War, which didn't end till 2011. The War was led by the US, however the UK also played a big role in the mission. According to the president at that time, President G. Bush, the general mission was "to disarm Iraq of weapons of mass destruction, to end Saddam Hussein's support for terrorism, and to free the Iraqi people." Seeing as Saddam Hussein was the president of Iraq at that time, this was a huge mission, and a protracted one. General Tommy Franks of the United Kingdom, added to this, stating the mission was, "…to identify, isolate and eliminate Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. … to collect such intelligence as we can related to the global network of illicit weapons of mass destruction…" Further details of the objectives of the mission can be found in Appendix IIII. The war ended with the fall of Iraq's capital, Baghdad, and the resignation of Saddam Hussein.

Proliferation in the Middle East

Recently many countries such as Iran, Saudi Arabia and UAE have been interested in obtaining nuclear weapons. Current president of the US, Barack Obama, has stated, “It will not be tolerable to a number of states in that region for Iran to have a nuclear weapon and them not to have nuclear weapon… so the threat of proliferation becomes that much more sever… The danger of an Iran getting nuclear weapons that then leads to a free-for-all in the Middle East is something that would be very dangerous for the world.” The scare is that once one Middle Eastern country has power over nuclear energy that many will follow. In April 2009, King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia stated “If [Iran] get nuclear weapons, we will get nuclear weapons.” If states continue to share nuclear technology, it could pose as a serious threat to international peace and security. Transporting nuclear weapons is not a difficult task. Israeli military, for example, transport nuclear weapons through land, air and sea.

The Need for Nuclear Weapons

The member states of the Middle East have different reasons for wanting to withhold nuclear weapons. The main reason is that nuclear weapons currently stand as a defence mechanism for security for many member states. Pakistan, for example, wants to have more tactical nuclear weapons to fend off the much larger military armies of its surrounding states, such as India. With these weapons, they find power. Iran wishes to have nuclear weapons to discourage the American military from interfering with the Iranian government. They have already done this, for example, in Baghdad, the capital of Iraq, and the Iranians do not wish for this to happen to Tehran. Other countries, for example the US, are scared that if the Middle East has possession of nuclear weapons it could start dangerous events from occurring from extremist groups or “terrorists”.

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

Israel

Israel is one of the 4 UN member states, which have not yet signed the NPT treaty, despite voting in favour for it in the UN General Assembly. Israel has since been known to possess a high number of nuclear weapons in their country, as shown in Appendix I, despite neither denying nor confirming this fact. Israel is part of the Middle East and therefore plays a big part in the proliferation that takes place in the region. They have got their nuclear material from France and it is thought that Israel has been part of proliferation by giving nuclear technology to South Africa in the 1970’s.

Iran

In 2002, the IAEA was curious to whether Iran has access to uranium enrichment facilities, and therefore is building nuclear weapons. This would, however, be against the NPT, which Iran has signed. In 2006, a 6-nation group confronted Iran on this enrichment facility and proposed for them to stop, otherwise they would ask for a case in the UN Security Council.

The case in the Security Council went ahead, and the Resolution passed in 2006. It states, “demands that Iran suspend all enrichment-relate and reprocessing activities, including research and development, … or face the possibility of economic and diplomatic sanctions to give effect to its decision” (see further details in Appendix II). Despite this motion, which was voted in favour 14-1(Qatar), Iran is still suspected to possess such nuclear weapons with no international authorization. “Iran continues to insist that its enrichment plans are purely for civilian use. Although analysts believe Iran is still some years away from building nuclear weapons, there is concern that the United States may stage a military attack on Iran’s nuclear capabilities.”

Iran also stand as the centre of nuclear weaponry in the Middle East, as many surrounding member states have admitted that if Iran comes clean on possessing nuclear weaponry, they will follow in their path. This could cause a dangerous increase in nuclear weaponry in the Middle East as a whole.

The United States of America

Having been the first country to release a nuclear bomb, and being one of the countries part of the NTP, the United States has a big say in nuclear proliferation not only globally but also in the Middle East. The US was the main party in going forward on the Iraq War in 2003. They are a stern believer that nuclear weaponry should not be allowed in the Middle East to secure the safety of their inhabitants. President at the time of the War, G. Bush, stated that the US sent Marines in to Iraq “to disarm (Iraq) of weapons of mass destruction”. They do not wish Iraq or any countries in the Middle East to possess such weapons that can cause mass damage. Another objective of the mission was to “…immediately deliver humanitarian support to the displaced and to many needy Iraqi citizens.” This shows the US’s concern on the humanitarian aid of the inhabitants of Iraq, and that it should come before nuclear weaponry.

Iraq

Having been the target of the Iraq War in 2003, Iraq plays a big role in the question of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East. Iraq has been questioned several times by the UN Security Council for possessing nuclear weaponry. It was asked in the UN Security Council Resolution 1441 that Iraq follow an inspection in their country for WMD's.

The resolution stated, "Decided that Iraq shall provide The United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) and IAEA immediate, unimpeded, unconditional, and unrestricted access to any and all, including underground, areas, facilities, buildings, equipment, records, and means of transport… and private access to all officials and other persons…" The inspection was successful and found 12 chemical warheads, where 11 were empty and 32 missiles. Furthermore, Iraq later submitted an almost 12,000-word report stating that it did not possess any WMDs. Late 2003, Iraq agreed to destroy its missile stock, but there is no proof that this did occur.

After the inspection withdrew, the US went to war on Iraq, which most thought was because of their knowledge of Iraq possessing dangerous weapons. However, in December 2009, "the former British prime minister, Tony Blair, stated that he "would still have thought it right to remove [Saddam Hussein]" regardless of whether Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction or not."

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
December 13th, 1938	Nuclear fission was discovered.
August 6th, 1945	US released first nuclear bomb called "Little Boy" on the Japanese city of Hiroshima.
August 9th, 1945	US released second nuclear bomb on the Japanese city of Nagasaki.
July 5th, 1955	Israel signed a peaceful nuclear weapon agreement with US.
July 1st, 1968	NPT was released
September 16th, 2002	Iraq agreed to an inspection for Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs) in accordance to the UN Security Council Resolution 1441
November 8th, 2002	UN Security Council passes Resolution 1441
December 7th, 2002	Iraq submitted a 11, 800- word page report stating that it supplied

	no WMDs, as part of their inspection was to produce a full declaration of it's current status regarding producing weaponry
2003	The Democratic Republic of North Korea withdrew from the NPT and announced that it has several nuclear explosives
January 16th, 2003	Inspectors from IAEA and UNMOVIC find 12 chemical warheads in Iraq
March 18th, 2003	Inspectors from IAEA and UNMOVIC withdraw from Iraq
March 20th, 2003	The United States began to invade Iraq, starting "The Iraq War"
November 2003	Iran agrees to pause uranium enrichment and accepts IAEA suspension
2006	The Democratic Republic of North Korea tests a nuclear weapon for the first time
December 26th, 2006	The U.N. Security Council votes to impose sanctions against Iran for failing to suspend its nuclear program.
September 5th, 2007	The International Uranium Enrichment Centre (IUEC) and Fuel Bank in Angarsk, Serbia, was founded
May 28th 2010	The 2010 Review Conference, for the parties to the NPT at the UN Headquarters in New York, ended
December 1st, 2010	The IUEC officially opened, as it was fully stocked and operational
March 2011	IAEA Board of Governors approved the production of 2 more Fuel Banks, which will be controlled by the IAEA themselves
January 12th, 2014	Iran stated that it will start destroying it's nuclear stockpile later in the year

UN involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

The UN General Assembly and Security Council have already done a sufficient amount of work on this issue whether it is nuclear proliferation in general or on a specific country, such as the resolution focusing on Iran in 2006. Furthermore, the main treaty this problem refers to is the NPT created in July 1968. In this treaty, which the larger majority of the UN has signed on to, it states the outlines of who has right to nuclear weaponry. Also, the most recent General Assembly resolution on 'the risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East' was released in November 2014. Listed below are the relevant resolutions, treaties and events in further detail;

- The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), 1 July 1968
- Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty, 26 August 1996 (**A/50/1027**)
- Security Council Resolution 1441, 8 November 2002, (**S/RES/1441**)
- Non-proliferation, 29 March 2006 (**S/2006/589**)
- Application of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards in the Middle East, 25 September 2014 (**GC(58)/RES/16**)
- The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East, 12 November 2014 (**A/69/443**)

Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

Both Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) have seen this issue as one that needs to be solved, as it is endangering the lives of many citizens. Governments have attempted to control proliferation by setting up treaties such as the NPT with the help of intergovernmental organizations such as the UN, IAEA and International Court of Justice (ICJ). The NPT has been the main attempt to resolve this issue, however it clearly is not all that effective. Firstly, not all parties have signed this treaty, and many are disobeying this treaty even though they are signed on to it. No effective measures have been taken against such parties and therefore are not solving this issue from the core.

NGO's such as the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) have also started controlling this issue by spreading information to educate governmental organizations about the proliferation that is occurring. This way, the governments are receiving information on this issue and are becoming convinced that this issue is one that needs to be solved in the short-term so that major disasters do not occur.

Possible Solutions

The first obvious solution is to make sure that all countries within the UN have signed and are in alliance with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. This includes persuading those

who have not done so, or who have retracted their signature from the treaty to sign. This will then form a controlled start from all parties to conquer this issue.

Collaboration between border control agencies to ensure proper security of monitoring weapons, which enter the country, could be effective. Currently, the transportation through borders is not an issue for those illegally importing nuclear weapons in to surrounding countries. However, stricter rules and properly trained experts can prevent this. This could include more thorough investigations, especially to those who are already suspected of illegal activity. Furthermore, there should be better security around stockpiles of weapons. There are many weapons which are no longer in use or functional, and still kept in such stockpiles.

Another possible solution could be to increase the number of people aware about this issue, and therefore raise awareness to prevent the issue in the future. Advertising the CPT and peaceful purposes of uranium enrichment can be the first step in doing this, and further educating those about who has authorized right to withhold nuclear weapons and for what uses. Also, the main use of uranium enrichment for only peaceful purposes needs to be implemented. Uranium can be an effect source of energy for the future generation, and therefore it needs to be used as a source of renewable energy than in nuclear weaponry. The main issue is that many do not know that enriched uranium can be used for this instead of extremely powerful weapons, and that is what must be advertised and promoted.

Lastly, a possible solution that has been discussed by many, including US statesmen, is to eradicate the use of nuclear weapons completely. Some find it redundant that only a handful of countries are allowed to have international security by possessing nuclear weapons. The fact is that nuclear weapons are dangerous whoever possesses them, as they have the power to destroy thousands of innocent people. Making a ban on nuclear weapons would result in some kind of revolution, and many believe this is the correct route to take to solve this international issue.

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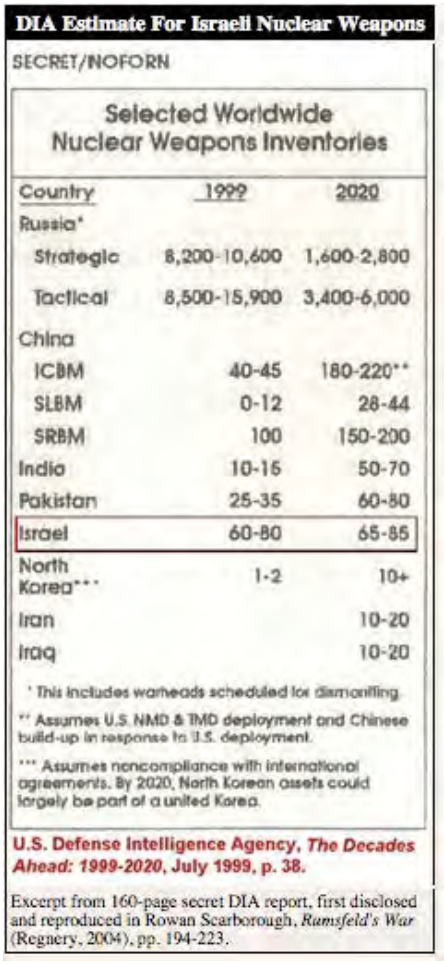
Appendix

Appendix I

Chart showing estimated nuclear weapon possession in 1999 compared to 2020



DIA Estimate For Israeli Nuclear Weapons

SECRET/NOFORN

Selected Worldwide Nuclear Weapons Inventories

Country	1999	2020
Russia*		
Strategic	8,200-10,600	1,600-2,800
Tactical	8,500-15,900	3,400-6,000
China		
ICBM	40-45	180-220**
SLBM	0-12	28-44
SRBM	100	150-200
India	10-15	50-70
Pakistan	25-35	60-80
Israel	60-80	65-85
North Korea***	1-2	10+
Iran		10-20
Iraq		10-20

* This includes warheads scheduled for dismantling.

** Assumes U.S. NMD & TMD deployment and Chinese build-up in response to U.S. deployment.

*** Assumes noncompliance with international agreements. By 2020, North Korean assets could largely be part of a united Korea.

U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency, *The Decades Ahead: 1999-2020*, July 1999, p. 38.

Excerpt from 160-page secret DIA report, first disclosed and reproduced in Rowan Scarborough, *Rumsfeld's War* (Regnery, 2004), pp. 194-223.

http://fas.org/nuke/guide/israel/nuke/

Appendix II

Extract from resolution passed by Security Council in 2006, “Non-Proliferation” concerning Iran

“1. *Calls upon* Iran without further delay to take the steps required by the IAEA Board of Governors in its resolution GOV/2006/14, which are essential to build confidence in the exclusively peaceful purpose of its nuclear program and to resolve outstanding questions,

"2. *Demands*, in this context, that Iran shall suspend all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities, including research and development, to be verified by the IAEA,

http://www.un.org/press/en/2006/sc8792.doc.htm

Appendix III

Full NPT http://www.state.gov/t/isn/trty/16281.htm

Appendix IV

Quote by General Tommy Franks, explaining the mission of the Iraq War

"First, end the regime of Saddam Hussein. Second, to identify, isolate and eliminate Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. Third, to search for, to capture and to drive out terrorists from that country. Fourth, to collect such intelligence as we can related to terrorist networks. Fifth, to collect such intelligence as we can related to the global network of illicit weapons of mass destruction. Sixth, to end sanctions and to immediately deliver humanitarian support to the displaced and to many needy Iraqi citizens. Seventh, to secure Iraq's oil fields and resources, which belong to the Iraqi people. And last, to help the Iraqi people create conditions for a transition to a representative self-government."

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq_War#Iraq_disarmament_and_pre-war_intelligence