

## Information Circular

**INFCIRC/697**

Date: 6 March 2007

**General Distribution**

English

Original: Arabic

---

### Communication dated 23 February 2007 addressed to the Director General from the Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman on behalf of the Arab States that are Members and Observers of the Agency

1. The Director General has received a letter dated 23 February 2007 from the Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman on behalf of the Arab States that are members and observers of the Agency concerning Israeli nuclear capabilities.
2. In the light of the request expressed by the Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman in his letter of 23 February 2007, his letter is attached for the information of all Member States.

Mission of the League of Arab States  
Vienna  
Schwarzenbergplatz 6/Zaunergasse 1-3  
A-1030 Vienna

Date: 23 February 2007

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you, on behalf of the Arab States that are members and observers of the International Atomic Energy Agency (the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, the Republic of Tunisia, the Republic of Algeria, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Republic of Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Republic of Iraq, the State of Qatar, the State of Kuwait, the Republic of Lebanon, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Kingdom of Morocco, the Republic of Yemen, and the State of Palestine (observer), the following letter concerning the dangers posed by the Israeli nuclear capabilities.

1. The Arab States that are members and observers of the International Atomic Energy Agency express their deep concern and great disquiet at what was contained in an interview by Ehud Olmert, Israel's Prime Minister, on German television on 11 December 2006 regarding the possession of nuclear weapons by his country, which he considered is not the first State to produce nuclear weapons in the Middle East, and in which he claimed that Israel does not threaten neighbouring States like Iran.
2. Although this statement comes as no surprise in view of the Arab States' and the international community's previous knowledge of the semi-confirmed military nature of the Israeli nuclear programmes, its importance lies in the fact that it is the first Israeli statement issued at this high level and thus represents a new confirmation of international and Arab suspicions about Israel's military nuclear capabilities.
3. The Arab States consider Israel's possession of military nuclear capabilities to be a clear violation of the will of the international community, as shown in resolutions of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency relating to the application of safeguards in the Middle East, in the text and goals of the NPT, and in the resolution issued by the 1995 NPT Review Conference concerning the Middle East, and furthermore that it conflicts with the initiatives calling for the establishment of a region free from weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, in the Middle East, the most recent being the 2003 Arab initiative which is still a draft 'in blue' in the Security Council.
4. On the other hand, the statement of the Prime Minister of Israel on his country's possession of nuclear weapons confirms how important it is for the various multilateral international forums, and first and foremost the International Atomic Energy Agency, to assume their responsibilities in a practical and serious way without delay, in accordance with the relevant resolutions addressing this dangerous threat to international and regional security and reflected in practical steps vis-à-vis existing cooperation programmes between the Agency and Israel.

Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei  
Director General  
International Atomic Energy Agency

5. The *statements* of Ehud Olmert, the Prime Minister of Israel and other statements confirm anew the fears of States of the region and the international community as a whole about the danger which threatens international security and peace so long as the international community remains incapable of *inducing it* [Israel] to accede to the NPT, to which all the Arab States have acceded, and submit its nuclear facilities to the IAEA comprehensive safeguards system. This clearly shows that a policy of double standards based on political interests is being followed in the region, *as was also reflected in the impedance* of the draft resolution submitted by the Arab Group to the 50th session of the General Conference under this item, a situation that cannot be condoned or allowed to continue.
6. The Arab States reserve their right to take all the necessary measures to deal with the threat posed by the Israeli nuclear capabilities through the various decision-making bodies of the Agency.
7. Finally, we request that the Secretariat circulate the text of this letter to the Member States.

Accept, Sir, our highest consideration.

(signed)      Salim bin Mohamed Al-Riyami  
Dean of the Arab Diplomatic Corps in Vienna  
Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman