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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

REDUCTION OF MILITARY BUDGETS

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF

GOOD-NEIGHBOURLINESS BETWEEN STATES

SECURITY COUNCIL

Thirty-eighth year

Letter dated 16 December 1983 from the Permanent Representative of
Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

With reference to the draft resolution contained in document A/38/L.50 submitted today, I have the honour to bring to Your Excellency's attention the following:

Over the past decade there has been a tremendous flow of arms as well as other forms of extensive military assistance into the Arab countries which regard themselves as "confrontation States" with Israel. Thousands of tanks, artillery pieces, and warplanes have reached these Arab States, turning the Middle East into an enormous war arsenal. Since 1973, as seen in the following table, more than \$US 40 billion of arms have been delivered to these Arab States, while more than \$US 67 billion in outstanding orders for arms remain to be delivered. The following is a breakdown of the arms purchases of these Arab States (in millions of United States dollars):

<u>Delivered to date</u>					
Syria	Iraq	Jordan	Saudi Arabia	Libya	Total
9 200	8 350	980	13 000	9 400	40 930

Outstanding orders

Syria	Iraq	Jordan	Saudi Arabia	Libya	Total
9 200+	14 350+	3 360	30 920	9 850+	67 680+

(All these figures are based on the value of the United States dollar at the time the various arms orders were contracted.)

Moreover, as can be seen in the following table, the projected figures for the military strength of these Arab States by 1986 - just two years from now - do not suggest pacific intent, but quite the opposite.

The projected military strength of the Arab "confrontation States" for 1986 is as follows:

Weapons systems	Syria	Iraq	Jordan	Saudi Arabia	Libya	Total
Tanks	4 000	3 500	1 000	700	3 100	12 300
APC's	2 100	3 700	1 500	2 300	1 500	11 100
Artillery	2 800	2 500	550	600	1 600	8 050
SSM launchers	70	60	?	?	100	230
Combat aircraft	700	700	170	200	600	2 370
Helicopters	250	450	45	100	200	1 045
SAM batteries	150	150	30	40	150	520
Combat vessels	20	24	-	17	40	101

Israel is a staunch advocate of mutual regional disarmament and has in the past repeatedly proposed measures to that end. In my note verbale of 3 June 1981 to the Secretary-General of the United Nations as reported in the report of the Secretary-General, contained in document A/36/343 of 26 July 1981, it was stated:

"Recent experience in the relaxation of international tension clearly underscores the importance of the establishment of confidence-building measures within the context of regional arrangements for disarmament. Such arrangements are especially necessary wherever conflict situations exist. A fundamental prerequisite for the achievement of effective results in regional disarmament is the existence of a political will on the part of the opposing sides to come to terms with each other.

"On a practical level, Israel has proposed the establishment of regional disarmament commissions, composed of all Member States in the region, the task of which would be to review ideas and proposals for intergovernmental regional agreements on arms reduction and control. These commissions should address themselves, inter alia, to finding appropriate solutions to two specific problems related to a comprehensive programme for disarmament:

/...

"(a) To create by common agreement of all Member States of the region the necessary modalities for the limitation of military budgets in conformity with resolution 33/67;

"(b) To implement within a regional basis the terms of the decisions adopted by the General Assembly during its tenth special session in paragraph 93 of the Final Document with reference to confidence-building measures (see A/CN.10/1, p. 28)." (A/36/343, p. 23)

Were the Arab States sincerely interested in mutual disarmament, they would have abandoned the path of hostile rhetoric and resolutions and would have entered into direct dialogue with Israel with a view to achieving that worthy aim.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 34, 58, 62 and 64, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yehuda Z. BLUM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Israel to the
United Nations
