

Information Circular

INFCIRC/654

Date: 23 August 2005

General Distribution

English

Original: Arabic

Communication dated 12 August 2005 received from the Resident Representative of Yemen to the Agency concerning a letter from the Secretary General of the League of Arab States to the Director General

1. The Secretariat has received a letter dated 12 August 2005 from the Resident Representative of Yemen attaching a letter dated 8 August 2005 from Mr. Amre Moussa, Secretary General of the League of Arab States, to the Director General.
2. In the light of the request expressed by the Resident Representative of Yemen in his letter of 12 August 2005, his letter and the letter of the Secretary General of the League of Arab States are attached for the information of all Member States.

Embassy of the Republic of Yemen and the
Permanent Mission to the United Nations
Office and the international organizations
Vienna

Ref. No.: 234/2005

Date: 12 August 2005

Dear Sir,

I have the honour to attach the letter sent from His Excellency the Secretary General of the League of Arab States, Mr. Amre Moussa, to His Excellency Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, concerning the assistance provided by the British Government to Israel in the production of its nuclear weapons by supplying it with heavy water in 1958.

Please be so kind as to circulate this letter to the Member States of the Agency as well as the contents of the Secretary General's letter to you.

Please accept the expression of my highest esteem and respect.

(signed) Ali Hameed Sharaf
Ambassador and Resident Representative to the United
Nations Office and the international organizations

[stamp of the Embassy of the Republic of Yemen,
Vienna]

Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei
Director General
IAEA



League of Arab States
The Secretary General

8 August 2005

Dear Dr. El-Baradei

I am writing to you today regarding the news that was uncovered this week concerning Britain's secret sales to Israel of a key ingredient for the latter's nuclear program in 1958 enabling her to produce nuclear weapons. This news that was based on official British documents is quite disturbing especially since it indicated that there were no peaceful use conditions posed on the sale nor was there a guarantee to this effect by Israel.

There is much that can be said in criticizing such a policy. First among which is its effect in encouraging proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and an eventual arms race in a region that should have benefited from efforts to achieve peace, security and stability. The United Kingdom was an active member contributing to the establishment of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in 1957 as well as in drafting its statute in 1955. These sales seem to contradict both the spirit and letter of the British commitments in this regard.

When one watches the unfolding negotiations between Iran and a number of European Countries, including the United Kingdom, over Tehran's wish to develop its nuclear program for peaceful use; when one recalls the misery, pain and the death toll that the Iraqi people had to endure because of the alleged nuclear ambitions of its previous regimes; and when one follows these days the sombre and sad remembrance of the victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we have the right and even a responsibility to question the real intentions and standards pertaining to the non-proliferation policy.

The complaints that we often hear in many multilateral fora regarding the possible collapse of the non-proliferation regime cannot be separated from the policies under which such sales took place. I believe that you would agree with me that such practices, even if they belong to the past, do have a strong bearing on peace, security and stability in the Middle East in the present as well as in the future.



League of Arab States
The Secretary General

Now that this story is uncovered, I believe that it warrants an official investigation to clarify the facts and the implications of this incident and its adverse effect on the current system of non-proliferation and on the efforts to establish a zone free from weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

I hope you can inform me of the steps that the IAEA intends to take in pursuance to its mandate and responsibilities in this regard. I request that this letter be circulated to all members of the IAEA.

Sincerely,

Amre Moussa

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amre Moussa", with a horizontal line underneath.

H.E. Dr. Mohamed El-Baradei
Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna - Austria