

necessary measure to ensure strict implementation of its resolution of 19 June and other United Nations resolutions, and to prevent Israel from repeating its aggression and its violation of the rights of other States.

Iraq said the Council had failed to adopt effective measures because of the threat by the United States to use the veto, in spite of the fact that the Council had previously warned Israel that the provisions of Chapter VII of the Charter would be applied should it again resort to aggression. Since the Council had been prevented from fully shouldering its responsibilities, Iraq added, the Assembly was called upon to remedy the situation within its competence and to try to restore the dignity of the Organization, especially considering that Israel had rejected the unanimous Council decision.

The Syrian Arab Republic requested the Assembly not only to adopt a resolution condemning Israeli aggression and placing the attack on the reactor within the framework of official acts of terrorism committed by Israel against Arab peoples, but also condemning the United States, which continued to provide Israel with instruments of destruction as part of its strategic alliance. A number of other countries, including Albania, Bulgaria, the Byelorussian SSR, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Ukrainian SSR, the USSR and Viet Nam, criticized the support and encouragement of Israel's policies by the United States.

Most speakers rejected Israel's argument that it had performed an elementary act of self-preservation and exercised its inherent right of self-defence. Many reiterated that the assault also constituted an attack on the IAEA safeguards régime. A number of countries, including Cyprus, Poland, Romania and Turkey, stressed the right of States to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

Israel maintained that its military operation against the Iraqi nuclear reactor was neither an attack on IAEA nor an expression of no confidence in the Agency's safeguards system. Iraq had already acquired weapons-grade plutonium; it could have proceeded with its nuclear-weapons programme and then withdrawn from the non-proliferation Treaty on three months' notice, without fear of sanctions.

China underscored the inalienable right of all countries to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, but said it firmly opposed the clandestine development of nuclear weapons by Israel as a menace to neighbouring States and a threat to peace and security.

Egypt viewed the Israeli attack not as an act of self-defence but rather an act of self-

destruction; peace and security in the Middle East could be achieved not by aggression or preemptive attacks but by the elimination of fear, suspicion and centuries-old hatred and through serious and responsible efforts to ensure a just and peaceful settlement.

Albania, India, Morocco and others said it was impossible to separate Israel's constant aggressive conduct against its Arab neighbours from its continual refusal to acknowledge the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

The United Kingdom, speaking for the EC members, reiterated their condemnation of the Israeli attack, said there must be no repetition of such action by Israel or any other country, emphasized the central role of the IAEA safeguards system in the non-proliferation régime and urged all Middle East States including Israel to refrain from any action that would increase the danger which would result from the development of nuclear weapons in the region. Austria said it was essential for the Assembly to retain the unanimity reached in the Security Council on this matter. Japan was among a number of countries that urged Israel and other non-parties to adhere to the non-proliferation Treaty.

The IAEA Director-General, rejecting the argument that the Agency's safeguards inspection system would not have detected diversion of plutonium from the Tamuz reactor for weapons purposes, said the Israeli attack had also been an attack against IAEA, the non-proliferation Treaty and the climate of trust generated by the Treaty and its verification mechanism.

Israel, as it had done before the Security Council, advocated a regional non-proliferation régime and arms control arrangements and the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone through direct negotiations among the States concerned, a proposal which was supported by the United States. A number of countries, for example Jordan, regarded this suggestion as contradictory and deceptive because of Israel's continued refusal to adhere to the non-proliferation Treaty, the only multinational instrument to prevent proliferation.

The USSR stated that Israel's refusal to comply with United Nations decisions was eloquent proof that its real objective was to establish its own nuclear domination in the Middle East. This view was shared by most Arab States: Lebanon, for example, said the raid had revealed Israel's decision to ensure its right to police 20 Arab countries.

Letters and telegram (t):

IAEA: ⁽¹⁾12 June, S/14532 (t); ⁽²⁾15 June, S/14532/Add.1.

Iraq: ⁽³⁾8 June, S/14509; ⁽⁴⁾10 June, S/14514; ⁽⁵⁾24 July, S/14619.