



UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



Distr.  
GENERAL  
  
A/38/291/Add.2  
10 November 1983  
  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-eighth session  
Agenda item 65

STRENGTHENING OF SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS .....	2
Israel .....	2

REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

ISRAEL

[Original: English]

[26 October 1983]

1. Being situated in a region beset by tensions, Israel has always been deeply interested in the idea of disarmament, the importance of which was already recognized in the tenth special session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament. It has been Israel's consistent position that regional disarmament, freely negotiated between the countries of the region, can contribute to the stability, confidence and co-operation within the region and hence facilitate negotiations on some of the areas identified for universal action. Moreover, regional disarmament has been generally recognized as effectively complementing global measures and as an important constituent in the step-by-step approach to global disarmament.
2. On a practical level, Israel has on various occasions given effective testimony to its views by advancing proposals for regional measures. It is Israel's deep-rooted conviction that regional measures in general, and those concerned with the security of the region in particular, must be freely negotiated between all the countries of the region and can only stem from the mutual needs and interests of the countries themselves. In his letter of 25 March 1982 to the Secretary-General (see the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/S-12/12/Add.1 of 4 June 1982), the Permanent Representative of Israel reiterated the proposal regarding the establishment of regional disarmament commissions, to be composed of all Member States in the region and the task of which would be to review ideas and proposals for intergovernmental regional agreements. These commissions should address themselves, inter alia, to finding appropriate solutions to specific problems related to a comprehensive programme for disarmament.
3. In the same letter, the Permanent Representative of Israel also stated Israel's readiness to negotiate, freely and directly, with the States of our immediate region, namely the Middle East.
4. In the light of this position, Israel wishes to reiterate its readiness to negotiate with all the States of the region - including for present purposes also all the Mediterranean States - at any time and without any pre-conditions.
5. Israel's insistence on direct negotiations is not to be regarded as merely a matter of procedure. The issue is primarily one of principle and substance. A refusal to negotiate with a State is inherently identical with a refusal to live in peace with it. Conversely, a readiness to conduct negotiations would in itself constitute a valuable step in the direction of building much-needed confidence among the States of the region. It would immediately reduce fears and tensions, thereby creating a more propitious climate for the settlement of political disputes. The Government of Israel also believes that regional disarmament

conferences could make a vital contribution to advancing the objective of a world disarmament conference. Israel is of the view that no service is done to international causes by seeking ineffectual substitutes for direct and reciprocal national commitment.

6. Replies of certain States in the Middle East to the Secretary-General's note verbale of 7 April 1983 (see A/38/291 of 22 July 1983) are unfortunately not designed to strengthen security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region or, for that matter, international peace and security in general; rather, they demonstrate a desire to distort the issues involved and to undermine this initiative. The States in the region hostile to Israel have been persistent in their refusal to recognize the State of Israel and to conduct with it negotiations of any kind. This conduct - so characteristic of the States in question in their relation to Israel - is in complete disregard of any form of accepted international comity and of the normal relations that should prevail among nations.

-----