

Explanation of vote by Mr. D.B.V.Varma, Director, Ministry of External Affairs on Agenda item 76: "The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East" on November 3, 2003

Mr. Chairman,

"India has abstained on the resolution as a whole and cast a negative vote on PP6 as it makes a reference to the Final document of the NPT Review Conference held in 2000 on which India's position is well known. Our position on PP5 should also be seen in this light, even though we have not asked for a separate vote on that preamble paragraph.

We note the substantial contribution made by Egypt, the main sponsor of this resolution to global disarmament efforts which we respect.

Further, we believe that it is necessary to limit the focus of this resolution to the region that it intends to address.

India believes that the issues in this resolution have received widespread consideration in the international community and we hope that it will be possible to make progress on the issues involved in the coming years, through positive contributions by the concerned States of the region.

Thank you.

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