

Inquiry 2017-2018
Packer Collegiate Institute
Role: Israel

Security Committee

Israel faces many threats in terms of global security, especially regarding nuclear weapons. Many countries are in possession of nuclear weapons and advanced military technology that the public is unaware of. Additionally, Israel has Palestinian threats including groups like Hamas in the Gaza Strip and Fatah in the West Bank. Islamist groups like Hamas and Fatah are an ongoing threat to Israel and because they are local they create many security challenges. Due to its location, Israel is surrounded by many threats. Therefore, it is essential for Israel to have adequate security in order to protect the only Jewish state in the world.

Our country's existence depends on our national defense. Many countries pose military and nuclear threats to Israel, especially Iran. They are in possession of a missile that can travel 1,200 miles and reach us and other parts of Europe. Iran has also been shipping weapons to Syria which is much closer to our border becoming a more prominent threat.¹ In addition to Iran's support of Hezbollah, we have many other threats in the Middle East and need to have impeccable border control, especially on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, regarding the Palestinian conflict. Our intelligence analysts make sure that we make the right decisions and are prepared for the worst case scenarios in both military and nuclear warfare.²

The Palestinian conflict is an extreme security threat to our country. The West Bank and Gaza Strip are both very controversial plots of land and the borders must be heavily protected at all times. Israel has conducted military operations and an air campaign in Gaza due to attacks by the Islamist militant groups based there.³ The two intifadas that took place within the last 30 years have

¹ <https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-extends-reach-with-fight-for-land-link-to-mediterranean/>

² <http://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/30116>

³ <https://www.vox.com/cards/israel-palestine/west-bank>

caused there to be less hope for a peaceful solution to the conflict. They have caused the two state solution to become more popular which is also more dangerous.⁴

The spread of nuclear weapons puts every country at higher risk.. Nuclear weapons play a complex yet dangerous role in international security, and also within our country. There are those that say we have a nuclear arsenal, but we have never acknowledged this to be the case. Even if we did, hypothetically, have such weapons, they would only be used in self-defense against the threats posed by our hostile neighbors. We have not signed the Non Proliferation Treaty.⁵ Issued by the UN, the Non Proliferation Treaty was made to minimize the spread of nuclear weapons. We have not signed this treaty because we do not, officially, have nuclear weapons. Even if we did, we see the treaty as poorly worded and not in our best interest. Our country will not sign this treaty in the near future, as nuclear weapons are, hypothetically, the main way to protect ourselves and avoid catastrophic war in the Middle East.

We believe (hypothetically) that having nuclear weapons provides us with protection for potential threats from any of our adversaries despite the fact that many other states have willingly given up their nuclear weapons. South Africa dismantled their nuclear weapons , being the first country to so. In the 1970s, Brazil decided nukes were not the solution to international conflicts. Since the main tension was international, this was easier. Saddam Hussein had nukes in Iraq, but due to many setbacks the US (under Bush control) invaded, and since then no weapons have been found. Many more countries have also dismantled, stalled or halted their nuclear weapons. Our country has never publicly declared that we are in possession of nuclear weapons. But of course, any reasonable observer could understand why we would view the possession of nuclear weapons as an essential deterrent to attacks by our neighbors in the Middle East.

⁴ <https://www.vox.com/cards/israel-palestine/intifadas>

⁵ <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/Nuclearweaponswhohaswhat>

Israel has adequate security. However, it is secretive about its nuclear arsenal to protect itself. (We neither confirm or deny whether we have nuclear weapons.) Our army might be equipped for a preemptive nuclear strike if necessary, however it is highly unlikely that we would do so.⁶ The case where we would need to perform a preemptive nuclear strike has low probability however we do have many enemies that if given the chance to nuke and annex the entire Jewish State they would.⁷ This is why it is of the utmost importance for us to have advanced and powerful protection and intelligence units that can assess any situation and face any threat that our small country may face.

Climate and Energy Committee

While Israel contributes very little to the phenomenon of climate change due to its small population, it is still at risk of being affected by adverse effects ranging from drought to rising sea levels, making it a national issue. Israel sees global warming as inevitable, which has led them to create a plan on how to mitigate climate change, and a plan on how to become more energy efficient and adapt to new alternative energy sources.

In 2014, 41% of Israel's energy was from oil, 28% was from coal, 26% was from natural gases, and 5% came from renewable energy sources (including geothermal, solar, and wind energies).⁸ Currently, Israel is attempting to replace its primary sources of energy (coal and oil), with natural gas. Switching from traditional energy sources to natural gas has become a viable option due to the discovery of the Leviathan gas field off the coast of Israel in 2010.⁹ It is expected that the field

⁶ <http://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/30116>

⁷ <http://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/30116>

⁸ "Fossil Fuel Support Country Note," *Organisation for economic co-operation and development*, Israel, accessed 2/19/18. <http://www.oecd.org/site/tadffss/>.

⁹ Ferry Biedermann, "Israel working hard to realize the dreamsbig farts amish of its gas industry," CNBC, published June 5, 2017, accessed February 19, 2018, <https://www.cnbc.com/2017/06/05/israel-working-hard-to-realize-the-dreams-of-its-gas-industry.html>.

holds over 500 billion cubic meters of natural gas, and by 2019 Israel will be able to extract and produce 19 billion cubic meters of it annually.¹⁰ The Leviathan gas field holds enough energy to supply Israel's domestic needs for approximately 40 years, which is necessary as fossil fuels are becoming less and less abundant.¹¹

By 2030 it is expected that the domestic demand for natural gases in Israel will double, so they plan on adapting the infrastructure to include a mix of energy sources, which would prioritize nuclear and renewable energies. Israel plans by 2030 to reduce per-capita greenhouse gas emissions by 26%.¹² In hopes of achieving this GHG reduction, Israel has allocated 200 million US dollars, worth of grants and issued investment loans for energy efficient projects.¹³

Currently Israel does not use nuclear energy, and does not have a nuclear arsenal. It is a top priority for Israel to acquire nuclear energy for civilian purposes. If Israel were to switch over to nuclear energy sources, the emissions of pollutants would drastically decrease and due to the small size of our country, our use of nuclear energy would not be as significant as that of a large nation such as Iran. Also because of water scarcity in the region, having nuclear energy could help with water desalination.

Israel believes that due to the unstable political nature of the other nations in the Middle east, they should not be allowed to have nuclear energy. Currently, to acquire nuclear energy countries must sign the non-proliferation treaty. The Nuclear Proliferation Treaty has failed to prevent countries like Libya, Iran, and Iraq, from reaching nuclear potential and has caused international danger. If Israel were to sign the NPT, it would prevent them from obtaining nuclear weapons, and Israel would not be able to protect themselves from enemy countries like Libya, Iran,

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ "Israel has a gas conundrum," The Economist, published August 07, 2017, accessed February 19, 2018, <https://www.economist.com/news/middle-east-and-africa/21726744-egypt-could-help-israel-get-rid-its-excess-gas-israel-has-gas-conundrum>.

¹² http://www.sviva.gov.il/English/env_topics/climatechange/NatlEmissionsReductionPlan/Pages/default.aspx

¹³ Ibid.

and Iraq who have broken the terms of the NPT and have capable nuclear arsenals. These countries, who have broken the terms of the NPT, require increased oversight by the United States. They should pay additional fines, and should be required to forfeit their nuclear arsenals and allow Israel to hold some nuclear weapons for protection but dispose of the unnecessary missiles. All of these points are essential if Israel is to even begin thinking about signing the NPT.

Disaster Prep Committee

Being a young country in one of the most unstable regions of the world can offer many threatening situations. Over time Israel has developed several different entities to manage the most likely emergency crises. Many of our response plans are domestically focused, and aim to protect citizens from imminent attack. With regards to the security needs of Israel, every Jewish citizen over the age of 18 is required to serve 2 years and 8 months for men and 2 months for women in the armed services. This means that if a state of emergency did occur the majority of our civilians will have had military experience.

The acquisition of sophisticated missiles by our surrounding countries, such as Syria, Iran, Lebanon, and Palestine has forced Israel to develop advanced anti-missile technology. With help from the United States, Israel instituted a multi layered missile defense apparatus.¹⁴ This was made possible by a \$330 million grant by the United States. Due to the small size of Israel, ballistic missiles have the potential to be devastating.

The 1951 Civil Defence Law was put in place so that all buildings, residential or commercial must contain bomb shelters. This aims to protect our citizens domestically, from any attack on Israeli soil. The National Emergency Authority was put in place in 2007 in order to coordinate military and civilian action during a state of emergency. This aims to, during a crisis, keep order by

¹⁴ <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/israel-missile-defense-systems>

disseminating vital information to civilians. During such times the “Emergency Economy” would also be put in place¹⁵. This is an entity whose job it is to insure the continuation of crucial functions. It allows the recruitment of workers for EMS, medicine, local authorities, food and equipment supply, and communications.

Under certain catastrophic circumstances, we are willing to accept refugees from neighboring countries. However due to our size and lack of infrastructure, it would be difficult to accept large amounts of such asylum seekers.¹⁶ There are situations in our neighboring countries which have prompted a tremendous influx of refugees. Due to the magnitude of these mass-migrations we are extremely cautious as to uncover information as to the status of nuclear weapons capability in the region. We have used resources such as the secret service to gain intelligence about the development of nuclear weapons and other threats in our surrounding area. Many of our plans regarding attack, have been recently improved in order to assure the security of our country in a state of emergency.

Sovereignty Committee

For the entirety of our country’s history we have been in conflict with the Palestinians, who feel entitled to occupy our land. We fully believe in our right to self-government and are strongly against other states attempting to control our affairs. Foreign governments should not be able to dictate to our country and that is an irrefutable fact. However, in certain cases intervention is necessary to prevent attacks against civilians including the acquiring of destructive weapons.

The Principle of Non-Intervention in international law mandates that one state cannot dictatorially involve itself in the affairs of another state and that no state can harm or threaten

¹⁵ <https://www.algemeiner.com/2013/05/30/netanyahu-warns-israel-faces-greater-threats-than-before/>

¹⁶ <https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-says-africans-slated-for-deportation-not-refugees/>

another state's independence. However, it stresses the difference between interference and intervention, the key being that interference does not include one state controlling another.¹⁷ While Israel understands the importance of prohibiting the use of military force to threaten another state's independence, we believe that there can be exceptions to this rule. For example, many have criticized our recent use of airstrikes against Syria, but we believe that we as a nation have a responsibility to intercept and prevent the passage of potentially arms to potentially dangerous countries, such as Syria.

We have not and will not sign the Non-Proliferation treaty because its wording conflicts with our own interests. The Non-Proliferation treaty prevents the use of nuclear force. As such, were we to ever have nuclear weapons, we would not be able to utilize them to defend ourselves against potential attacks on us by our enemies in the Middle East.¹⁸

Sovereignty is especially important to our country because we are currently the only Jewish state in the world. However, security is also especially important because we are constantly at risk of attack from many of the hostile actors in the region. There is a lot of controversy over the sovereignty of Judea and Samaria in the West Bank. Recently, there was a push for our control of the area which would not make for a two state solution.¹⁹ Our Security becomes more important than the sovereignty of other nations when and if there is serious danger of a nuclear attack and we need to defend ourselves. There are several countries, including Syria and Iran, with nuclear capabilities that would be able to make our global security more important than their national sovereignty. It is of the utmost importance for our state to remain a Jewish one and we will not let any country get in the way of that.

¹⁷ <https://pesd.princeton.edu/?q=node/258>

¹⁸ <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/Nuclearweaponswhohaswhat>

¹⁹ <http://www.jewishpress.com/news/israel/settlements-israel/conference-urges-israeli-sovereignty-over-judea-and-samaria/2012/08/01/>

Being the only Jewish state, especially when surrounded by deeply devout countries, we believe that we are threatened significantly by the prospect of other countries with different values/beliefs possessing nuclear weapons. In some cases, we believe that nuclear weapons can be used to infringe on another state's independence, however we do not feel that this sentiment is applicable to this circumstance. If we, Israel, were to potentially be in possession of a nuclear arsenal, it would be a different situation than if certain other countries had that power. We have little other means to protect ourselves from attacks from countries with dangerous ideologies, using violence to enforce their beliefs. .

Although we are not currently recognized as a nuclear state, we maintain that if we were to have some nuclear arsenals, we would hardly be the first to introduce them into the Middle East.

Being ostracized from the rest of the surrounding area, we do not believe that another state should have the right to dictate whether we should or should not be in possession of nuclear warheads. Our independence is threatened regularly by those foreign powers that hold contrasting ideologies to our own. Given this, we believe that we should have the right as our own country and state to, if ever needed, possess nuclear weapons. However, in other cases, we believe that when necessary that other states should be able to get involved to prevent or disrupt the nuclear capability of other countries. We personally have interfered with the transport of warheads and weapons into the Middle East because our main priority is to protect Israel.

Terrorism Committee

Since the inception of Israel our nation has been consumed by terrorism from surrounding territories and state sponsored insurgencies. The most significant threat in recent times has been from Hezbollah which is located in Lebanon. It has menaced Israel constantly, a threat that reached its peak during the Lebanese War in 2006. With a large military and extra financing from Iran they

have been able to build up a significant blockade at the Israeli-Lebanon border that has wreaked havoc on our nation as well as forcing us to stay on high alert in that region.

The second major terrorism threat is Hamas, which controls territory in the Gaza strip, and is yet another terrorist organization that is funded by Iran. This group is a very large threat to our nation because of their off and on terrorist attacks, such as suicide bombings that they commit against innocent civilians in Israel. Other terrorist factions, mostly Palestinians, are located in the West Bank of Israel and have been the leading cause the increase in terrorist attacks in recent years. In 2017 twenty Israelis were killed and 196 were wounded in 99 attacks in the West Bank. It is for these reasons that Israel is under a constant threat from terrorist organizations and various parties in close proximity to our nation.

Nuclear terrorism is not an immediate concern to Israel thanks to non proliferation treaties and intervention by foreign militias namely the U.S. to stop nations like Iran and Iraq who are anti Israel from developing nuclear weapons. None of the arab nations that are downright enemies of our state and do not think we have a right to exist possess nuclear capabilities, but if they were able to enrich uranium and develop missiles which has been rumored in the past, we would be in extreme danger. Furthermore, any nation that would be foolish enough to attack Israel with nuclear weapons would be met with an equally destructive response of the kind only several nations are capable of. (wink wink)

The current world order in our modern and globalized planet is generally one of international cooperation for collective prosperity and safety and we greatly embrace our allies and friends. It is amazing to see what can be accomplished when we work together, and Israel hopes that with foreign aid and assistance we can rid our land of the terror and attacks that have long plagued our people from anti semitic terrorists. But we'll act alone if necessary and not stand by idly if the world ignores our legitimate right to defend ourselves.

Economics Committee

Israel has a special history as a unique country in a very big and unpredictable world. As a developing country just decades ago, Israel is now seeing great growth economically, and intends to keep the upward trend as it starts to reach the level of larger, more influential world powers.

The past few years have been prosperous for Israel for many reasons. Most important is its healthy economy, and the necessary actions that are required to protect this growing country and its economy. In the last few years the unemployment rate in Israel has declined steadily, while its population has grown steadily. This reflects a consistent ability to provide jobs and general employment, despite a growing population. Furthermore, Israel's economic growth has remained positive, reaching new heights that begin to measure up to the American dollar.²⁰ However, this economic growth is partially reliant on Israel's ability to feel comfortable and safe with its neighboring countries. Because of this, it is essential for Israel to continue developing weapons that will ensure its safety and sovereignty. Israel's strong trade and investment connections outside of the Middle East help insulate Israel's technologically advanced free-market economy from regional political instability.²¹ Israel is quite industrialized and it is able to do most of its manufacturing which is a huge economic advantage over neighboring nations in the Middle East.²² The country has put a lot of emphasis on the development and manufacturing of arms needed for the protection of the state and its citizens. The large investments in the aviation and armament industries have resulted in the creation of new technologies that further defend the surrounded nation from its unhappy neighbors.

²⁰ <https://www.focus-economics.com/countries/israel>

²¹ <https://www.heritage.org/index/country/israel>

²² <http://www.mfa.gov.il/mfa/aboutisrael/economy/pages/economy-%20sectors%20of%20the%20economy.aspx>

Israel's involvement with nuclear weapons has been greatly aided by economic deals with foreign countries. In 1956, Israel provided valuable intelligence to British and French militaries about the Suez Canal and conflict in Algeria. In exchange, the French provided weapons to help Israel defend against their surrounding adversaries. Not long into the war over the Suez Canal, Israel was forced to back out of the fight but only after France agreed to give them exponentially more resources for their nuclear program. At the time, Israel paid over 80 million dollars to France in exchange for a much more advanced reactor. As a young and developing country, this was a huge sum to pay for Israel. Israeli leader David Ben-Gurion employed the help of Jewish-Americans with deep pockets to help fund nearly half of the funds needed to complete the deal.²³ They were able to pay the other 40 million dollars or so and ended up advancing their military technology and gained strength and traction as a young nation. Now, Israel, although they have never officially confirmed, has an extensive arsenal of WMD and is increasing their nuclear capabilities to this day. It only serves to show how powerful and prominent Israel has become due to foreign influence economically.

²³ <http://nationalinterest.org/blog/the-buzz/the-american-who-paid-israels-nuclear-bomb-23574?page=2>