

Transcript: DG intervention on Israel statement, 18 June 2009

I regret that I have to take the floor to respond to a totally distorted statement by the Representative of Israel.

We work here in an organization that is an organization of law. We apply international law, not selectively, but across the board.

When Israel took it upon itself to destroy a facility, what was claimed to be a nuclear facility, without giving the Agency the opportunity to verify that, in accordance with the Statutes and international law, this was not only making it almost impossible for us to establish the facts, but it was a clear violation of international law. It was the same as Israel did in 1981, in the case of Iraq. The Security Council condemned Israel unanimously and asked Israel, in 1981, to put all its nuclear facilities, all its nuclear facilities, under IAEA Safeguards.

If we talk about international law, about the Security Council, we always have to refresh our memory. We cannot apply it selectively.

He is mentioning that Syria should be deplored and condemned. We are doing our best to establish the facts. But one fact we also know is that Israel, with its action, is deplored by not allowing us to do what we are supposed to do under international law.

You are saying that we refrain from using tools. Israel is not even a member of the regime; to tell us what tools are available to us.

You cannot sit on the fence, making use of the system, without being accountable. We are using all the tools available to us.

Here are the people, the technical people. We will continue to use all the tools available to us. So we would appreciate it if you could stop preaching to us how we can do our jobs.

I refer to Israel and I will continue to refer to Israel, because you are the one who has bombed the facility - unless you tell me that you haven't, then it's an act of God and we will then have to look in a different direction.

Israel's answer to me ...when I asked whether Israel used depleted uranium, was simply one line, saying "It could not have come from us" quote, unquote. That is almost an insult to our investigative process. I will continue to ask your government to report to us exactly what sort of ammunition you used, what information led you to circumvent the Agency process, and to tell us all the information you have that can help us with our investigation.

Meeting with the Israeli officials - I continue as you know, Sir, as the Ambassador of your government, to meet with you any time you want. Your technical people, they meet with our technical people. I don't meet with them, because they want to discuss technical issues. But I should also tell you that these same technical and political people have been addressing letters to me and making public statements at the ministerial level, which are "cheap". And I have two options: either to share it with the Board or to throw it in the waste basket. I decided to do the latter.

To say that I am biased, I will not dignify that with a response. I will leave it to the Board, who can decide whether we are doing our work with the required impartiality and professionalism, as we are doing it in every area where we have jurisdiction.

Thank you very much.