



# SPACEWAR

INCORPORATING TERRAWAR.COM

WAR.WIRE

## Israel armed itself with "nuclear option" 40 years ago: ex-minister

JERUSALEM (AFP) Mar 18, 2005

Israel armed itself with the "nuclear option" 40 years ago for use as a last resort should Arab countries threaten its existence, one of the men responsible for the state's nuclear programme said in remarks published on Friday.

"The Israeli nuclear option had a single aim -- to demonstrate to the opposing camp that we had the same capacities as it (for) the day when they will have the nuclear option," said former science minister Yuval Neeman in an interview with the daily Yediot Aharonot.

The Jewish state has never formally acknowledged having nuclear weapons although foreign experts believe it used its desert Dimona reactor to arm itself with some 200 nuclear warheads capable of being carried by medium- or short-range missiles.

Neeman added: "We were convinced that Arab states would not hesitate to make use of the nuclear option against us" once they had atomic bombs.

The former minister, who was also a senior military intelligence officer and a distinguished scientist, said: "Never did we see this option as a way to get results which more conventional methods would have enabled us to attain."

In November 2001, Labour party leader Shimon Peres revealed how France had provided essential help from 1956 for Israel's atomic programme. It was thanks to Paris that Israel was able to build the Dimona nuclear reactor in the Negev desert in the south, without the United States being told about it.

Neeman, who attended the French military academy, lived in France for a considerable time during the two countries' period of close military cooperation.

### SPACE MEDIA NETWORK

[SPACE WAR](#)  
[MISSILE NEWS](#)  
[NUKE WARS](#)  
[MILPLEX](#)  
[MILITARY SPACE](#)  
[UAV NEWS](#)  
[MILITARY COMMS](#)  
[CYBERWARS](#)

[MISSILE DEFENSE](#)  
[RAYGUNS](#)  
[TERRORWARS](#)  
[SPACE DAILY](#)  
[SPACE TRAVEL](#)  
[SPACE MART](#)  
[ASTRONAUTIX](#)  
[SITE SEARCH](#)

[FREE NEWSLE](#)

[Subscribe](#)

[SEARCH SPAC](#)

[Site Search](#)

Ads by Google

#### [Tsunami Video Report](#)

Video: Tsunami Survivors Return Home  
[www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com)

#### [Disaster Recovery Guide](#)

Your complete resource for info on disaster r  
[www.Commerce-Database.com](http://www.Commerce-Database.com)

#### [Rescue Orphans](#)

Leave your mark on this world Restore the liv  
orphan kids  
[www.warmblankets.org](http://www.warmblankets.org)

## Caring for Coastal Wa

Help Protect & Restore Ma  
Life in Georgia Strait. Giv  
Today.

[www.georgiastrait.org](http://www.georgiastrait.org)

Public Service Ads

### AFF NEWS WIRE

- [Afghan investigators probe ammo dump blast](#)
- [India's Bangladesh independence war hero di](#)
- [Architect of India war against Pakistan that lec Bangladesh's birth dies](#)
- [Dead US pilot found in Iraq](#)
- [Defiant Iran says it will resume some nuclear](#)
- [Seoul says North Korean tunnel under watch ; test fears](#)
- [Japanese defence chief thanks Australian cou Iraq support](#)
- [Iran says it will resume some nuclear activities](#)
- [US intelligence suggests North Korea prepari site: report](#)

A former technician at Dimona, Mordechai Vanunu was jailed for 18 years after revealing Israel's nuclear secrets to the British Sunday Times newspaper which published them. Since his release in April 2004, he has been subject to a raft of draconian restrictions.

Israel has never signed the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty which allows international checks on nuclear installations.

All rights reserved. © 2005 [Agence France-Presse](#). Sections of the information displayed on this page (dispatches, photographs, logos) are protected by intellectual property rights owned by Agence France-Presse. As a consequence, you may not copy, reproduce, modify, transmit, publish, display or in any way commercially exploit any of the content of this section without the prior written consent of [Agence France-Presse](#).

The contents herein, unless otherwise known to be public domain, are Copyright 1995-2005 - SpaceWar. AFP and UPI Wire Stories are copyright [Agence France-Presse](#) and [United Press International](#). ESA Portal Reports are copyright [European Space Agency](#). All NASA sourced material is [public domain](#). Additional copyrights may apply in whole or part to other bona fide parties. Advertising does not imply endorsement, agreement or approval of any opinions, statements or information provided by SpaceDaily on any web page published or hosted by SpaceDaily. [Privacy Statement](#)

- [China arms embargo, NKorea, Myanmar on a Asia-Europe FMs meet](#)
- **SPACEDAILY EXPRESS**
- **May 3, 2005**
- [Micro Spacecraft To Pave The Way For Future Exploration](#)
- [Indian Space Rocket Readies To Blast-Off With Satellites](#)
- [AAS Says Space Science Cuts Threaten US Future In Space](#)
- [Beam Me To Mars](#)
- [Rolling, Rolling, Rolling, Oops..](#)
- [Trinkets for Shenzhou](#)
- [New NASA Software Detects Bugs In Java Code](#)
- [In the Stars: Is There Life On Titan?](#)
- [Tithonium Chasma Up Close](#)
- [First Extra-Solar Planet Desktop...](#)
- [Stay Tuned For A STEREO View Of Stormy Sun](#)
- [Analysis: Bush Energy Plan Fails To Excite](#)
- [The Web: Search Engine Privacy Threats](#)
- [Merging Game Theory With Wireless Networks 'Smarter' Garments](#)
- [Carnegie Mellon Robot Will Run Time Trials Tenth Million Desert Race](#)
- [Loral Skynet, Global Crossing To Provide IP Network British Council](#)
- [VSAT Provider C2SAT Communications Award Certificate Program](#)
- [US Has 'Significant' Deterrent Capability Against Korea: Rice](#)
- [LockMart And Aerosonde Enter Alliance For Lockheed Aircraft System Solutions](#)
- [Salty Staircase In The Atlantic Provides Clues On Mixing](#)
- [Japan Ready To Discuss Site Of ITER Nuclear Fusion](#)
- [Japan's Toyota To Make Hybrid Model Of Best Camry In US: Report](#)
- [After Walkman, Japan Gets 'Teleglass' To Walk On The Go](#)
- [German Government Party Demands Withdraw Nuclear Weapons](#)
- [Rice Supports Fragile European-Iranian Talks](#)
- [Iran Says It Has No Plans For Now To Resume Nuclear](#)
- [White House Says North Korea Missile Launch 'Provocative'](#)
- [Suspected Failed North Korean Missile Launch Friday: Media](#)
- [String Of Moderate Quakes Rattle Japan](#)
- [Britain's Blair Gets Pre-Election Boost -From Media](#)

**Click on your  
favorite screensaver!**



[Click me](#)