



"People and Wetlands: The Vital Link"
**7th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties
to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971),
San José, Costa Rica, 10-18 May 1999**

Information Document

Letter from the Permanent Mission of Israel

Mission Permanente d'Israel
auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies
et des Organisations Internationales à Genève

Mr Delmar BLASCO
Secretary-General
Convention on Wetlands
28, chemin de Mauverney
1196 Gland

19 March 1999

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

Further to our telephone conversation of 15 March 1999, I am requesting that the enclosed document be circulated by the Secretariat as an official COP-7 document.

Please accept, Mr. Secretary General, the assurances of my highest consideration

David Peleg
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

1-3, avenue de la Paix - 1202 Genève - Téléphone 716 05 00 - Télécopie 716 05 55
E-mail: mission.Israel@tles.itu.int

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Cop/7 Doc. 30 refers to the Pan-Asian Regional Meeting held in Manila on 22-24 February 1999 and erroneously claims, in paragraph 5, that “the meeting decided that the Delegation of Israel should leave the meeting”.

The record, based on the extract of the minutes of the meeting, as attached to Doc. 30, clearly points to a different fact: it was the Chair’s request, not the meeting’s, that Israel should leave! That request was arbitrary: it was not supported by either a consensus, or a vote. The record shows, unmistakably, that a number of delegations dissociated themselves from the Chair’s ruling and from any interpretation that some other delegations may have attached to it.

The incontrovertible disagreement on this issue among Asian Contracting Parties can only lead to the conclusion that the Chair’s one sided ruling in the Manila meeting is totally irrelevant to the proceedings of COP-7