



Security Council

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PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE TWO THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-FIFTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 15 April 1986, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. de KEMOULARIA

(France)

Members: Australia
Bulgaria
China
Congo
Denmark
Ghana
Madagascar
Thailand
Trinidad and Tobago
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland
United States of America
Venezuela

Mr. WOOLCOTT
Mr. GARVALOV
Mr. LI Luye
Mr. GAYAMA
Mr. BIERRING
Mr. DUMEVI
Mr. RAKOTONDRAMBOA
Mr. KASEMSRI
Mr. MOHAMMED
Mr. DUBININ
Mr. AL-SHAALI

Mr. MAXEY
Mr. WALTERS
Mr. AGUILAR

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The meeting was called to order at 4.15 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

LETTER DATED 15 APRIL 1986 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL (S/17991)

LETTER DATED 15 APRIL 1986 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF BURKINA FASO TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL (S/17992)

LETTER DATED 15 APRIL 1986 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL (S/17993)

LETTER DATED 15 APRIL 1986 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF OMAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL (S/17994)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): In accordance with decisions reached at the 2674th meeting, I invite the representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to take a place at the Council table. I also invite the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to take a place at the Council table. At the same time, I invite the representatives of Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cuba, Democratic Yemen, the German Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Oman, Poland, and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic to take the places reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Azzarouk (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) and Mr. Al-Atassi (Syrian Arab Republic) took places at the Council table; Mr. Djoudi (Algeria), Mr. Ouedraogo (Burkina Faso), Mr. Velazco San Jose (Cuba), Mr. Al-Alfi (Democratic Yemen), Mr. Hucke (German Democratic Republic), Mr. Nyandoo (Mongolia), Mr. Al-Ansi (Oman), Mr. Noworyta (Poland) and Mr. Oudovenko (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) took the places reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I should also like to inform the members of the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, India, Qatar and Yugoslavia, asking to be invited to participate in the discussion of the question on our agenda. In accordance with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, pursuant to the relevant provisions of the Charter and of rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Maksimov (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic), Ms. Kunadi (India), Mr. Al-Kawari (Qatar), and Mr. Sekulic (Yugoslavia) took the places reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I should like to inform the members of the Council that I have received from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations a letter dated 15 April 1986 which reads as follows:

"It is my honour to request the Security Council to extend an invitation pursuant to article 39 of the Council's rules of procedure to Mr. Clovis Maksoud, the Permanent Observer of the Arab League to the United Nations in the framework of the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda."

That letter will be published as Security Council document S/17997.

If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Council decides to extend an invitation to Mr. Clovis Maksoud, pursuant to article 39 of its provisional rules of procedure.

Since there is no objection, it is so decided.

(The President)

The Security Council will now resume its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I should like to draw the attention of members of the Council to document S/17996, which contains the text of a letter dated 15 April 1986 addressed to the Secretary-General by the Acting Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations.

Mr. DUBININ (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): In the light of the gravity of the situation and the importance of the subject now being discussed by the Security Council, I wish to read out the complete text of the statement issued today, 15 April, by the Soviet Government in connection with this matter. That statement reads as follows:

"United States imperialism has perpetrated a new criminal, evil deed, posing a serious threat to world peace and security.

"During the night of 14/15 April, naval aircraft carriers of the Sixth Fleet and United States aircraft based in the United Kingdom perpetrated an aerial attack against Libya and carried out a series of carefully planned strikes against the cities of Tripoli and Benghazi, including their residential areas. That barbaric raid caused loss of life and considerable material damage.

"This act of aggression carried out by the United States against Libya and the contempt that country has demonstrated for the interests of small States and peoples is giving rise to indignation throughout the world.

"Hence, we see yet another clear and obvious reaffirmation of the fundamentally aggressive policy of the United States towards independent developing countries, a policy which daily becomes more warlike and which endangers the cause of peace. The United States Administration, in the face of common sense and ignoring the realities of the day, is playing with fire. It should be obvious that in this nuclear age all problems in the relations between States must be resolved by political means.

"In the history of our time since the bandit-like United States attack against Grenada there has been no such glaring outrage to international law and universal morality. The fact that once again, on top of the bombardment of Libya on 25 March 1986, the United States has struck a blow against that

(Mr. Dubinin, USSR)

sovereign Arab State irrefutably attests to the fact that the present United States Administration is making violence, aggression and warlike chauvinism a norm of its policy.

"Washington is trying to put into practice the concept of 'neo-globalism', which is distinguished from all its previous variants by the replacement of gunboat diplomacy with aircraft-carrier diplomacy.

"Even the few in the West who continued to harbour illusions about the true aims of the White House have been convinced by the most recent actions of the United States that its present policy is one of aggression, of provoking regional conflicts, of perpetuating confrontation, and of brinkmanship.

"United States aggression constitutes a flagrant, open challenge to all of world public opinion. Irrespective of the 'arguments' now being put forward in Washington, the fact remains that the United States Administration is the major culprit in whipping up tension in the world and in irresponsibly toying with the fate of millions of people. The United States is a great Power and a permanent member of the Security Council; it bears a special responsibility for the maintenance of world peace. But the fact is that it is most grossly violating the Charter of the Organization, which forbids the use of force in international relations.

"The Soviet leadership has warned that such action cannot fail to affect relations between the USSR and the United States. Unfortunately, that warning has not been heeded in Washington - as shown by the aggressive action against Libya. In fact, the Administration has for the present rendered impossible the planned meeting between our two countries at the level of Foreign Ministers.

(Mr. Dubinin, USSR)

"The Soviet Government vigorously condemns the aggressive marauding United States action against Libya, a sovereign State and a Member of the United Nations, and demands that an immediate end be put to that action. Otherwise, the Soviet Union will be forced to draw far-ranging conclusions.

"The policy of blackmail and threats - a policy which in its very essence runs counter to the interests of international peace and security - must be halted once and for all."

The General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Sergeiyeovich Gorbachev, also vigorously condemned today the lawlessness and arbitrary capriciousness of the United States Administration towards Libya. He said that with its armed attack against a small country the United States Administration had uncloaked the essence of its approach to basic international problems. He stated that its action - which cannot be justified by any arguments whatsoever - was but one link in the chain of such provocative actions carried out by the United States in reply to the peace-loving initiatives of the Soviet Union and aimed at undermining the search for ways of improving international relations and at blunting the positive tendencies and hopes which had emerged as a result of the Geneva meeting. They constituted deliberate exacerbation of Soviet-American relations. Mikhail Sergeiyeovich Gorbachev stressed that the entire world community, the United Nations, and, first and foremost, Western Europe and the countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) were faced with a grave choice. Passivity - or, worse still, complicity with and connivance at - such actions threatened to disrupt international relations, with unpredictable consequences.

It is perfectly obvious that this new act of United States aggression against Libya poses a genuine threat to international peace and security. We see here a

(Mr. Dubinin, USSR)

clear link between the armed anti-Libya action of the United States and Washington's overall policy aimed at subjecting sovereign States to United States diktat, at stirring up existing hotbeds of tension and creating new ones in various parts of the world, and at destabilizing the international situation. Equally obvious is the inconsistency and illegality of United States attempts to justify the act of aggression it has carried out on any pretexts whatsoever, including references to the struggle against international terrorism.

It is the clear duty of the Security Council firmly to condemn the act of armed aggression carried out by the United States against Libya. The Council must also demand that the United States cease forthwith its armed attacks on Libya and must forbid such action in the future. The major goal is now to avert a further increase in the threat to international peace, to defuse the present extremely dangerous situation and to prevent the situation from getting altogether out of control. The Security Council must shoulder the responsibilities entrusted to it by the Charter of our Organization and by all peace-loving States on Earth.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The next speaker is the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic, and I now call on him.

Mr. AL-ATASSI (Syrian Arab Republic) (interpretation from Arabic): At the outset I wish to express to you, Mr. President, and through you to all the members of the Security Council my delegation's gratitude at being given this opportunity of addressing the Council.

I congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Council for the month of April. We are convinced that, thanks to your well-known wisdom and objectivity, you will be able to conduct the Council's work as it should be conducted, especially during the consideration of the present agenda item on United States aggression against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

I also cannot fail to express to the Ambassador of Denmark my delegation's appreciation for the exemplary way in which he directed the Council's work last month.

Yesterday, the world was surprised by the news of the brutal, premeditated act of aggression carried out against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya while the international community, represented by the Security Council, was seeking ways to resolve the dispute by peaceful means. At the Council's meeting on 12 April - Saturday last - the representative of Malta had submitted a draft resolution in which the parties were called upon to show restraint and the Secretary-General was requested to do all in his power to ensure a peaceful solution.

But the United States of America launched a brutal, barbaric attack against the cities of Tripoli, Benghazi and Benina. American bombers took off from United Kingdom territory - unfortunately - to drop weapons of destruction on civilian targets in Tripoli, where women, children and the elderly were still asleep. At

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the same time, aircraft took off from United States aircraft carriers that were in the Mediterranean off the Libyan coast and carried out raids against Benghazi and Benina.

We do not yet have enough information about the human and material losses suffered in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. Preliminary information, however, makes it clear that several dozen persons were killed and that hundreds of innocent civilians, including children, women and the elderly, were wounded. From information in the media, we learn that hospitals, schools, residential areas, centres for the handicapped and embassies of countries friendly to the United States were destroyed.

The attack that has been carried out by the United States is a flagrant violation of the provisions of the Charter and the rules of international law and of civilized conduct. This is all the more true of a great Power like the United States, which, as a permanent member of the Security Council, bears responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. In that context, I wish to pay a tribute here to your Government, Mr. President, for the honourable position it has taken. The preliminary information available indicates that your country refused to allow American aircraft to fly over its territory. Similarly, we express our appreciation to some other European countries for the very honourable position they have taken.

Almost two weeks have passed since the Security Council convened to consider the United States provocations and the subsequent United States aggression against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in the Gulf of Sidra. At this very Council table, representatives of several countries participating in the discussion warned the Council and appealed to it fully to shoulder its responsibility to prevent

(Mr. Al-Atassi, Syrian Arab
Republic)

large-scale aggression against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, which could endanger international peace and security. Today, we stress that if the Council had indeed fully shouldered its responsibility, we would not be gathered here today to consider this flagrant act of aggression against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

We draw the attention of members of the Council to the fact that the United States has repeated its aggression. That super-Power, a permanent member of the Security Council, has once again perpetrated aggression against a small, independent State that is a member of the international community and of the international Organization. This is a very serious precedent in international relations. It could undermine the international Organization, because this action is incompatible with the fundamental purposes and principles of the Organization.

The aggression perpetrated yesterday reveals the determination of the United States Administration to attack Libya. No matter what pretexts that Administration may invoke - freedom of international navigation or unfounded accusations against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya - the aggression was indeed premeditated. No further proof of that is required. All the propaganda and the bilateral agreements with European allies of the United States Administration are designed only to obtain support for premeditated aggression. The aggression was preceded by provocation, by a propaganda campaign and by other manoeuvres. It was not the result of events of the past few days and was not a response to such events. Rather, we are dealing here with a carefully thought out plan. To prove this, it suffices to note the following acts of provocation.

(Mr. Al-Atassi, Syrian Arab
Republic)

On 19 August 1981, two United States aircraft attacked two Libyan aircraft over the Gulf of Sidra. On 6 December 1981, the Libyan People's Bureau in Washington was closed. On 2 February 1983, Washington sent three AWAC aircraft to Egypt to intercept Libyan movements. On 16 March 1984, new restrictions on American exports to Libya were imposed. On 27 December 1985, President Reagan held Libya responsible for the attacks at the Rome and Vienna airports. On 2 January 1986, Washington froze the funds of the Libyan Government in United States banks.

(Mr. Al-Atassi, Syrian
Arab Republic)

On 24 March this year the manoeuvres of the American Sixth Fleet culminated in the sinking of four Libyan ships, bombing missile sites and killing of about 100 Libyans.

At the beginning of April Libya was blamed for inspiring the explosion in the TWA airliner and for planting explosives in the West Berlin discotheque. Finally, as a result of the allegations of President Reagan, the United States committed the act of aggression we are considering today.

What can we conclude from that series of provocations? The answer is simple. The United States has been preparing for a long time now a whole series of acts of aggression. It has carried out the acts of aggression in the Gulf of Sidra and yesterday's aggression. It continues to prepare other acts of aggression, broad in scope, directed against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, with the aim of eliminating Libya's revolution, under the leadership of the Libyan leader Colonel Muammar El Qaddafi.

We may ask ourselves what the United States objectives are. To answer that question does not require much imagination. Libya is a progressive State, which adopts independent political, social and economic policies. It is in the vanguard of the struggle for the liberation of Palestine against the usurper Zionist enemy. Libya enjoys good and cordial relations with the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries. Libya supports liberation movements throughout the world and régimes to which the United States is hostile. Libya condemns the racist régime of South Africa. Is not all that enough to provoke the anger of the United States against Libya and to rouse it to prepare acts of aggression against Libya and to carry them out? American arrogance has reached such a point that no country can tolerate any longer.

(Mr. Al-Atassi, Syrian
Arab Republic)

The American Administration and the American media have been making efforts to prepare the ground for acts of aggression against the people of Libya and the Libyan régime. It is strange that no one asks why only the United States and its institutions throughout the world have served as targets. No one asks that question, and the American public learns only what the imperialist and Zionist media want it to know. The American people knows nothing of the repeated Israeli acts of aggression and attacks by American aircraft in southern Lebanon, as the American Government does not allow it. The American Administration does not discuss why Israel is occupying the Arab territories and why it has annexed the Syrian Golan Heights; it does not wish to consider the reasons for the Israeli occupation of Lebanon and Israel's destruction of its capital, Beirut. All of that is of no interest to the American Administration or media.

The American Administration is not concerned with Israeli practices in the occupied Arab territories or with the establishment of settlements. It may find interest in the murder of an Israeli Secret Service agent. Then it starts moving heaven and earth. Yesterday the representative of the United States told us of his country's concern about the presence of Libyan forces outside their territories, but he did not express his country's concern about the presence of foreign forces on the Palestinian territories for some 40 years now or the occupation of Palestine and other Arab lands by Israel. He spoke of human rights, but he never thought of Palestinian human rights in the occupied territories.

(Mr. Al-Atassi, Syrian
Arab Republic)

I return again to the issue of proof. What leads the United States to believe that Libya is responsible for the bombing of the Berlin discotheque? We know that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) is a strong organization, and that it possesses all the technical means to control radio communications, but did the American Administration suspect anyone other than Libya with regard to numerous American installations that have also been the scene of various incidents during the past few years? The last was the explosion last November of a booby-trapped car in a market in Bonn frequented by American soldiers, which caused more than 20 casualties. Among the American installations that were targets last month were an American air base in Frankfurt and an American base in Heidelberg, where three bombs were discovered last September.

Among other matters which prove the innocence of Libya is information showing the existence of a group of West German revolutionaries which was preparing an attack on the discotheque in West Berlin. Similarly, news media today reported an attack on an American base in Japan, which we do not think Libya is responsible for.

The acts being carried out by the United States at the present time, either on its home front or in conjunction with allies, constitute an obvious breach of the provisions of the Charter and the principles of international law. The threat to use force is a case of violating the Charter and the use of force is a more serious violation of the Charter. The United States has used force against Libya last March and again yesterday. Thus the United States has violated the Charter, despite the fact that it is a great Power and a permanent member of the Security Council, which has obligations under the Charter regarding the maintenance of international peace and security.

(Mr. Al-Atassi, Syrian
Arab Republic)

I have just learned that the media have just reported that American forces have resumed their acts of aggression against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

The threat of the use of force and the use of force are a form of State terrorism. The movements of the American Sixth Fleet off the Libyan coast are designed to carry out acts of terrorism. The Sixth Fleet itself has already committed acts of State terrorism; it did so when American planes took off from carriers of the Sixth Fleet to intercept an Egyptian airliner flying to Tunisia last year.

We understand that Israel and its peer, South Africa, are two terrorist States, created and founded by terrorism, and terrorism is their official function. But we cannot conceive that the United States, a super-Power, a champion of a special doctrine of democracy and liberty, could employ State terrorism.

(Mr. Al-Atassi, Syrian Arab
Republic)

If the founders of this Organization had thought that a great Power would make use of international terrorism they would not have given it the special privileges of permanent membership in the Security Council.

What emerges from the consideration of all these events is that the United States of America has gone from the stage of encouraging acts of aggression on Arabs to the stage of carrying them out by itself. The decision is up to the Security Council. The use of force is a violation of the Charter and practice of terrorism is a violation of all legal and ethical principles. Condemnation is necessary.

In any case, if the Council does not do its duty, Libya will not be alone in its struggle. All the Arab peoples and all peace-loving and freedom-loving countries will stand by the side of Libya and its leaders and people in the struggle for freedom and dignity.

Finally, I should like to say that the communiqué published by the official spokesman of the Syrian Arab Republic considered the American armed aggression against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya an act of aggression against Syria and the entire Arab nation. It added that the American Administration will not win; it will be the sole loser.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I thank the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic for the kind words that he addressed to me.

Before calling on the next speaker, I note that the list of speakers is getting longer. With all due respect, I would ask all those who intend to speak to limit their statements. This is not a criticism; I make the request merely to give the largest possible number of speakers an opportunity to speak.

(The President)

The next speaker is the representative of Oman. I invite him to take a place at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. AL-ANSI (Oman) (interpretation from Arabic): Mr. President, I should like at the outset to congratulate you, on behalf of the delegations of the Arab States Members of the United Nations, which appreciate the outstanding political role that you personally, and your friendly country, France, are playing. We wish you every success in presiding over the Council during this month of April.

At the same time, we should like to thank warmly Mr. Ole Bierring, the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Denmark, a friendly country, for his steady and fruitful efforts in presiding over the Security Council during the month of March.

Mr. President, I should like to reaffirm to you and to the other members of the Security Council and the international community at large that the Arab position continues to be a united and a consistent one, with respect to the emergency convening of the Security Council upon the request of the Arab Group and of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya delegation. Our position on the many other such requests submitted to the Council during the months of March and April has been equally consistent.

In this respect, I should like to cite, inter alia, the following: the letter addressed to the President of the Security Council from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations (S/17946), dated 26 March 1986, and the letter from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Malta to the United Nations, (S/17982), dated 12 April 1986, requesting an emergency meeting of the Security Council.

Sir, the Security Council in fact held its first meeting under your Presidency on Saturday, 12 April 1986. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya reiterated its increasing fear of an imminent attack in a letter addressed to the Secretary-General by

(Mr. Al-Ansi, Oman)

Mr. Kamel Hassan Al-Maghur, Secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison (S/17983), dated 12 April 1986, as well as in a letter subsequently addressed to the Secretary-General and distributed to the members of the Council this morning. That document deals with the deteriorating security conditions in the Mediterranean as a result of the latest military attack on Libya by the United States, which gave rise to the request for an urgent meeting of the Security Council this morning, a request that was submitted by fraternal Libya and Syria. As stated by the representative of Syria, news reached us a short while ago about further acts of United States aggression against the Libyan capital, Tripoli. That news was reported by Western diplomatic sources and media.

As President of the Arab Group for this month and in accordance with the unanimous position adopted at our emergency meeting held last night, 14 April 1986, and after receiving confirmation of the latest act of aggression by the United States against Tripoli and Benghazi and the vast damage caused to civilian targets, peaceful people, innocent families, diplomatic missions, and a hospital in flagrant violation of the principle of the non-use of force in international relations and the principles of international law - a situation which has been aggravated by the extreme disparity of power between the two parties to the dispute, namely, the United States and Libya - I should like to reaffirm here on behalf of the entire Arab Group, the declaration published by the Arab Group and, more precisely, by the Arab League, which held a meeting on 13 April 1986 in Tunisia, in which

"The Secretariat of the Arab League issued the following communiqué:

'For the second time in less than a month the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya fell victim to a wide-ranging campaign by the United States of America, which

(Mr. Al-Ansi, Oman)

violated international law, posing the most serious danger to the region. The campaign launched by the United States against the Jamahiriya is based on obscure, unsubstantiated accusations. In fact, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya was itself among the States that deplored the attack against the TWA airliner. It is impossible to blame this or that Arab State whenever certain desperate or irresponsible persons commit individual acts of violence. We have already stressed that desperate and individual acts of violence cannot be met with greater terrorism on the big-Power level. They should, on the contrary, lead to eradicating the profound causes for the escalation of despair and violence from which we all suffer today'."

(Mr. Al-Ansi, Oman)

In accordance with its charter, the Arab League appeals for reason and lucidity in the consideration of these thorny problems, and it reaffirms its full solidarity with the Jamahiriya in the face of all the threats being brought to bear against its territorial integrity. The draft resolution adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at its eighty-fifth meeting, held at the League's headquarters in Tunis from 24 to 26 March 1986 with the participation of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Arab countries, reaffirms our dedication to the League's charter and our adherence to the Arab Mutual Defence Treaty, as well as our full solidarity with the people of the Jamahiriya in these trying times.

We have just learned today that the Council of the League might soon be convened at the ministerial or summit level.

Today the world is witnessing tensions and crises that have created many victims, and the situation has given rise to widespread concern. For that reason, we have many questions about what has led our world to this pass and plunged it into its present chaos and crisis. Given the prevailing situation, the international community must now, more than ever before, reduce tension in the world in order to achieve international peace and security.

The problem now before the Council is only one of the many problems confronting the international community, and, as a member of the Group of Arab States, we too suffer from the deterioration in world peace and security. We want to co-operate with other members of the international community in reducing the tension with which it is now beset. The Arab States want to establish a better and more tranquil world. We therefore reject terrorism in all its forms and deplore the terrorist acts recently perpetrated in certain European capitals. However, we do not believe that the latest American military action should have been taken. Other means, the means inherent in our international Organization, should have been used, for its Charter has made provision for an appropriate organ for the settlement of disputes.

(Mr. Al-Ansi, Oman)

The Arab States believe that military confrontation is not the proper way to resolve disputes between States, and it is for that reason that we are asking the parties to the dispute to resolve their differences through peaceful means. In that connection, of course, the Security Council must assume a collective responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

The recent events, which have occurred at the height of the debate on international terrorism and its causes, have reopened some old files we had regarded as closed and reraised questions that have been discussed at length in the United Nations and other bodies over the past 40 years at the bilateral and multilateral levels. The Arab nation, which stretches from the Gulf to the Atlantic Ocean, has throughout history been made up of peoples known for their spirit of concord and tolerance. The Arab nation has been the cradle of revealed religion, a beacon for all humanity. As evidence of this, I would note that last year, when the General Assembly was experiencing difficulty in arriving at a unanimous definition of the meaning of international terrorism, the Arab States made a considerable contribution to the consensus that was reached in the Sixth Committee. Members also know that the Arab Group worked hard to achieve the consensus reached at that fortieth session of the General Assembly, and that diligent and determined efforts towards that end were made by an eminent Arab jurist, Mr. Riad Al-Qaysi, Director of the Legal Service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iraq and former Permanent Representative of his country to the United Nations and Chairman of the Sixth Committee. And thus it became possible to break the deadlock for the first time, thanks, as I said, to the support of Arab delegations - above all, the Libyan delegation.

The Arab States, who share an ancient civilization and whose long history reflects enshrined humanitarian principles, are and remain hostile to terrorism in all its forms. They condemn, without any distinctions of any sort, all who commit

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acts of terrorism, for such acts run counter to the tenets of the Arab nation and its religious beliefs, which call for tolerance. It is for that reason that we condemn Israeli terrorism and its authors, just as we condemn that other form of terrorism in South Africa known as apartheid, for they are the two pillars of international terrorism and responsible for its spread throughout our contemporary societies ever since the creation of this International Organization. That is what we must combat. That is what we must fight against. It is only by so doing that the world will become a better place in which to live and that today's enemies will become tomorrow's friends, as they were friends in the past.

I do not want to dwell upon the groundless accusations levelled against Arabs, who are sometimes being accused of being terrorists and sometimes blamed for certain isolated events committed here and there by individuals, acts that have nothing to do with Arabs. This is clear from reading the reports on which the blame being imputed to Arabs is based. The Arab nation is against terrorism and has always stood for human dignity and harmony. Those who do not believe this should reopen their history books. A rereading of those books would refresh the memories of certain amnesiacs.

The Arab nation is united in its opposition to the threat or use of force in international relations, in situations not covered by the Charter, and above all in situations similar to that which we are considering today. We are united against the unlawful, inhuman military raids carried out last night against Libyan civilian targets. As Arabs, we are against terrorism in all its forms. Yet those whose rights have been usurped must have their rights restored to them. We are against those who commit acts of terrorism, and, more precisely, we are against those who have usurped the rights of the inhabitants of Palestine and the other occupied Arab territories, whatever the form of the occupation those inhabitants suffer.

(Mr. Al-Ansi, Oman)

The Arab Group hopes that the Council will act so as to restore the usurped rights of those peoples in accordance with the principles of the Charter and in keeping with its heavy responsibilities for international peace and security.

The most recent events in the dispute between the United States and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya may well jeopardize the sincere efforts being made to achieve a just and comprehensive Middle East peace and a settlement of the Iraq-Iran conflict. Last night's act of military aggression against Tripoli and Benghazi and all the resultant damage have been reported by the media - even the American media - in Libya, events that have occurred at a time when thousands of American citizens and other foreigners are residing in Libya in complete freedom, free from any restraints whatsoever, and in full dignity. The Council must take a firm stand and vigorously condemn the aggression. We believe that the draft resolution submitted by the non-aligned delegations on the Council is the least that could command unanimity or, at least, an absolute majority.

All the Arab States have unanimously supported the request submitted by fraternal Libya and Syria and Burkina Faso for the convening of an urgent meeting of the Security Council. We unreservedly support Libya against foreign aggression. Such is the Arab position with regard to the act of aggression of which Libya has been the victim.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I thank the representative of Oman for the kind words he addressed to me.

Mr. GARVALOV (Bulgaria): May I begin by expressing to you, Sir, the congratulations of the Bulgarian delegation on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of April. I am quite sure that your wisdom and your high professional qualities will enable you to guide the Council's proceedings successfully.

May I also extend my congratulations to Ambassador Bierring, Permanent Representative of Denmark, on the skill and competence with which he conducted the work of the Council last month.

We do not have to convince anyone now that Malta's request for an immediate meeting of the Security Council last Saturday was justified and warranted. The persistent calls of a number of States for the prevention of a dangerous escalation of tensions in the central Mediterranean into open armed conflict went unheeded despite the extraordinary efforts exerted to that end.

Today we have before us the requests of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Burkina Faso, the Syrian Arab Republic and Oman, and we are discussing this question again.

The dire forebodings of the international community have tragically come to life as an armed aggression has been committed against sovereign and independent Libya. A number of targets on Libyan territory have been bombed, including the capital city of Tripoli and other civilian targets. There are victims among the civilian population. Considerable material damage and destruction has been inflicted.

All this carnage has been perpetrated under the spurious and demagogic pretext of combating international terrorism and in the name of the sacred right to self-defence. Hardly anyone would now condone the irresponsibility and adventurism

(Mr. Garvalov, Bulgaria)

of the United States, which, driven by a dangerous and pathological ambition to play the role of world policeman, has arrogated to itself the right to attack and punish inconvenient sovereign States either in its immediate geographic vicinity or thousands of miles away from its own shores.

And all this comes on the heels of the unequivocal and forthright demand of the vast majority of Member States which took part in the recent discussion of the Council on the question of ending forthwith the United States aggression against Libya. It is no accident that only two countries have come out in support of this adventurist and criminal action of the United States military.

By and large, the events of the last few days, and particularly of yesterday, have hardly come as a surprise to the international community. It is well known that this is not the first United States military aggression against Libya. In spite of the generally recognized norms and principles laid down in the Charter of the United Nations, the United States policy vis-à-vis independent Libya has for years now taken the form of undisguised military preparations, economic blockades and open military actions against that country. Pretexts have constantly been used to launch open aggression against Libya. It is no coincidence that over the past few months we have witnessed an unprecedented and premeditated large-scale anti-Libyan campaign. All conceivable tools have been unleashed in the efforts to discredit Libya. That small country, thousands of miles away from the territory of the United States, has been officially declared a unique and singular threat to United States national security and foreign policy.

We learn from history the sinister phrase "lynch law". American dictionaries explain it as being "an illegal execution conducted by a self-appointed body", but the same dictionaries also indicate that those lynched were as a rule not criminals but innocent and defenceless people subjected to racial and political persecution.

(Mr. Garvalov, Bulgaria)

Their victimisation was supposed to instil fear and to enforce conformity in society. Today sovereign States that have dared to pursue independent policies not to the liking of imperialism are threatened with lynching. Likewise, evidence is being fabricated, mobs are being worked up into a frenzy of hatred, destructive raids are being prepared and carried out, this time using aircraft carriers, jet bombers, missiles and nuclear submarines as well as the network of United States military bases on foreign soil.

However, in spite of that fact, or precisely because of it, today peoples are fully determined not to allow the international arena, at the end of the twentieth century, to resemble the shoot-out playground of a last-century town of the American wild west. Whatever the spurious pretext used in this particular case, the United States will be unable to justify before the international community the criminal and irresponsible nature of its adventurist military actions. This is so because its policy towards Libya is in flagrant violation of international law as well as the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. As is known, Article 2 (4) of the Charter explicitly stipulates as a basic principle the obligation of Member States to refrain from the threat or use of force in international relations.

These brutal actions, as well as the widely publicized statements made throughout last week by the President and other high-ranking United States officials that the United States was ready to strike at Libya, fall completely within the category of such unlawful actions. History and international practice are replete with examples of shallow pretexts being used by aggressive forces to "punish", "avenge", "teach lessons", "defend vital spheres of interest", "execute a proportionate response" or simply to allow them to play the role of global gendarme without being in any way authorized to do so. According to prominent American

(Mr. Garvalov, Bulgaria)

legal experts, the consequences of such actions can only be international tension, chaos and anarchy.

In view of those considerations, and fully sharing the deep concern of the international community, the People's Republic of Bulgaria believes that the United States will bear full responsibility. These actions are totally incompatible with the universally acknowledged principles of international law, such as respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of States, the non-use of force in international relations and the peaceful settlement of all disputes. These actions can only be viewed as a manifestation of the policy of curtailing the sacred right of peoples to determine for themselves their future and their road of independent development. It is this imperial and militaristic approach that the United States has adopted in its policy towards any independent and sovereign State pursuing a foreign policy not to the liking of Washington.

The People's Republic of Bulgaria demands that all United States military actions and aggression, as well as its encroachments against sovereign and independent Libya, be halted once and for all. It calls for effective measures to be undertaken to stop all aggressive actions against Libya. The Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria has just issued a declaration on this question, in which, inter alia, it states that the People's Republic of Bulgaria resolutely condemns the new act of State terrorism of the United States against the friendly Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and demands that the United States Administration stop its aggressive actions, which threaten peace not only in the Mediterranean but also throughout the world.

(Mr. Garvalov, Bulgaria)

The Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria expresses its firm solidarity with the just struggle of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in defence of its independence, its sovereign rights to decide freely its own path of progressive social and economic development and to conduct its anti-imperialist foreign policy.

As was emphasized clearly and unequivocally at the recently concluded XIII Congress of the Bulgarian Communist Party:

"We support the legitimate aspirations of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America for independent development, genuine national independence and equitable international relations, as well as their struggle against the neo-colonial policy and the hegemonistic and expansionist actions of imperialism ... We are resolutely opposed to the policies of the United States and other imperialist States which have found reflection in brutal interventions, open aggression, terrorist acts, undeclared covert and overt wars against the newly-liberated countries."

Under the present circumstances, the Security Council, which bears the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, is duty-bound to take immediate action to prevent further aggravation of the conflict and to discharge its mandate vis-à-vis the open aggression against sovereign and independent Libya.

Against this background, the resolution on the Mediterranean adopted by consensus by the General Assembly years ago stands out as being even more relevant. It stresses the importance of peace and security in the Mediterranean, voices concern at the extension of military operations in various parts of that region and calls for curbing tensions and armaments, for non-use of force or threat of force, respect for the sovereignty of States and the peaceful settlement of disputes. The latest timely proposals of the Secretary-General of the Central

(Mr. Garvalov, Bulgaria)

Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev, aimed at reducing current tensions and at lowering the military confrontation in that politically and strategically sensitive region are in the same spirit. Of particular importance is the readiness of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to begin forthwith talks with the United States for the mutual withdrawal of the two countries' navies from the Mediterranean.

In conclusion, my delegation believes it is high time that the United States Administration listened to reason and responded to the justified concerns of the international community over the fate and survival of mankind.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I thank the Representative of Bulgaria for the kind words addressed to me.

The next speaker is the Representative of Cuba. I invite him to take a place at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. VELAZCO SAN JOSE (Cuba) (interpretation from Spanish): I should like first of all, Sir, to congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of April. On this occasion in particular, everyone is well aware that your country refused to be an accomplice to the infamous act which is today arousing the indignation of world public opinion. We are certain that under your guidance, and thanks to your recognized skill and diplomatic experience, the Council will be able to conduct its work in an efficient and satisfactory way.

I also wish to take this opportunity to thank your predecessor, the Permanent Representative of Denmark, Ambassador Bierling, for the exemplary and dedicated way in which he guided the work of the Council in March.

Last night, United States war planes indiscriminately bombed civilian sectors of the cities of Tripoli and Benghazi in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, causing dozens

(Mr. Velasco San Jose, Cuba)

of casualties and leaving many injured and demonstrating once again the aggressive nature of the current United States Administration.

With a cynicism characteristic of those who today feel proud to be the legitimate heirs of the Hitler clique, the President of the United States and his Secretaries of Defense and of State boasted and without the slightest hesitation invoked Article 51 of the Charter and alleged self-defence.

This new and shameless act by the Reagan Administration reveals the real criminal nature of the clique which from the White House ordered the bombing of cities, acting in the night like common criminals.

In the infamous one-upmanship between Washington, Pretoria and Tel Aviv to see which of the three can most cruelly apply the policy of State terrorism, the United States Government managed to win first place by involving as an accomplice to its misdeeds the British Government, which lent its territory as a staging ground for the aggressors. In the past Washington collaborated with London in the criminal adventure in the Malvinas; today the favour is returned and thus Mrs. Thatcher can add to her balance sheet the murder of innocent Libyan citizens.

The men, women and children who lie injured today in the hospitals of Tripoli and Benghazi, or buried under the ruins of their houses, victims of Yankee genocide, are showing to the world how far the international criminal who is today guiding the destiny of the United States can go.

It is the hegemonic designs of this Administration, its hatred of revolutions, its desire to change the course of history and its unscrupulous nature that are in evidence in this new barbaric act against a country of under 4 million inhabitants.

It is the same policy that is feverishly seeking to uproot the Sandinista revolution in Nicaragua and that is arming the UNITA murderers in Angola. It is a visceral hatred of any mass movement that does not agree to heed the dictates of

(Mr. Velazco San Jose, Cuba)

Washington. It is the use of force against all those who follow an independent policy and who rebel against what they consider to be unjust and immoral. It is the same policy that has been carried out against my country all these years.

The Security Council is confronted once again with the brazen violation of the United Nations Charter by the United States Government. The Council must assume its historic responsibility, a responsibility given it by the Charter itself, and it must not allow international crimes to go unpunished. It must not allow force to prevail in international relations.

(Mr. Velasco San José, Cuba)

As stated in an editorial in today's edition of Granma, the organ of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba,

"Whatever the pretexts, the manipulation and the deception through which the United States is attempting, on a wave of chauvinism and 'patriotism', to set itself up as the prosecutor, judge and executioner of mankind, the true goal of the anti-Libya hysteria and of the pressures and threats leading to yesterday's genocidal bombings is the subjugation of the heroic Libyan people and the destruction of its revolution. At this time of trial, that fraternal people is rising up and rallying round its leader, Comrade Mu'Ammar Al-Qaddafi. The solidarity of progressive and revolutionary forces the world over, which that people has earned by its firmness and determination, will help it in these difficult times."

The Libyan victims of today join those who in Nicaragua, Angola, Namibia, South Africa and Palestine have paved with their innocent blood the path of independence, national dignity and the defence of revolutionary principles. We pay a tribute to them and assure them that sooner rather than later their executioners will pay for the crimes they are committing today with impunity.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I thank the representative of Cuba for the kind words he addressed to my country.

The next speaker is the representative of Democratic Yemen. I invite him to take a place at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. AL-ALFI (Democratic Yemen) (interpretation from Arabic): Permit me at the outset, Sir, to say how pleased we are to see you presiding over this meeting of the Security Council.

(Mr. Al-Alfi, Democratic Yemen)

We also wish to thank His Excellency Ambassador Ole Bierring, Permanent Representative of Denmark, for the outstanding manner in which he guided the work of the Council last month.

Today this Council is considering another crime that has been added to the list of evil deeds perpetrated by the United States against Arab peoples. That crime caused many casualties among brotherly Libyan civilians and among foreigners as well. I refer to the brutal act of military aggression carried out by the United States against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, and to the barbarous, indiscriminate attacks on the cities of Tripoli and Benghazi, targeted against public and civilian buildings and against residential districts; these caused great damage to buildings and installations.

We are witness today to a new and flagrant example of State terrorism practised by the United States against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and against our Arab peoples in general. This has revealed the true intentions of the United States and of the Zionists, which aim at undermining the security and stability of our region and which seek to bring our Arab peoples to their knees and place us under the heel of Zionism and imperialism. This brutal act of aggression carried out by the United States of America with the complicity of the United Kingdom - an act which, according to the press agencies, they have just resumed - reaffirms that the United States is the primary enemy of our peoples and the major factor which permits the Zionist entity to launch its own acts of aggression and territorial expansion against our Arab peoples. The United States is the principal conspirator against the just Arab rights and causes.

The United States military arsenal has always been the mainstay of Israel's wars of aggression; and in the meantime, it has been the source of direct armed aggression against the Arab peoples. We have not forgotten the events of 1983,

(Mr. Al-Alfi, Democratic Yemen)

when United States naval forces bombarded Beirut; nor have we forgotten that the United States was the only country to give its blessing to Israel's aggression against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Tunisia and that it has perpetrated acts of air piracy against civilian airliners.

Worse still, two weeks ago the United States perpetrated an act of aggression against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Libya.

Moreover, it continues to adhere to its recalcitrant attitude in denying the Palestinian people its legitimate national right of return to its homeland, its right of self-determination and its right to create an independent State on its national soil. Those rights have been recognized by the international community to be a prerequisite for the establishment of a just peace in the Middle East. Moreover, the United States is directly contributing to the liquidation of the Arab Palestinian people.

This brutal, premeditated act of military aggression carried out by the United States against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and its brotherly people was preceded by an enormous campaign of disinformation against our Arab peoples, aimed at discrediting our civilization and our values. The purpose of this was to satisfy Zionist territorial ambitions in the region, to implement the aggressive expansionist comprehensive strategy developed in imperialist and Zionist circles against our Arab States and peoples, in order to re-establish colonial domination over our destinies.

Democratic Yemen vigorously condemns this brutal act of military aggression carried out by the United States against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, and which constitutes a flagrant violation of international law, norms and conventions, and is directed against the independence and sovereignty of a State Member of the United Nations.

(Mr. Al-Alfi, Democratic Yemen)

It is ironic that in its attempt to justify this aggression the United States should have invoked Article 51 of the Charter. Does that mean that the United States - which continually declares at every level that the Arab region is a region of vital interest to it - has arrogated unto itself the right to perpetrate continuous acts of aggression against our Arab States and peoples?

The most worrying aspect of this entire matter is that, with this act of aggression, the United States - which, we must recall, is a super-Power and a permanent member of the Security Council, thus bearing special responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security - has claimed the right to ignore the Security Council and to exploit the Council's powerlessness to consider justly problems of international peace and security after having contributed to perpetuating such powerlessness through its abuse of its right of veto.

(Mr. Al-Alfi, Democratic Yemen)

Democratic Yemen once again expresses its full solidarity with the brother people of Libya in dealing with this aggression launched against its sovereignty and independence. Together with it we are waging a struggle against all imperialist plots, against everything that encroaches on Libya's sovereignty and is designed to crush its 1 September Revolution. We are sure that the Libyan people, which has held its own in the face of brutal United States aggression, which has remained faithful to its principles and values and which has managed to thwart all the plots and conspiracies hatched against it, will again today be able to resist all these acts of aggression aimed at impeding its national aspirations. For peoples that struggle for their just cause are stronger than any challenges they may have to face. Experience will demonstrate, as it has done in the past, that aircraft, battleships - indeed, the entire sophisticated United States war machine - will not succeed in smashing the will of our Arab peoples or in usurping their legitimate right to liberation and progress.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I thank the representative of Democratic Yemen for the kind words he addressed to me.

The next speaker is the representative of India. I invite her to take a place at the Council table and to make her statement.

Ms. KUNADI (India): May I extend to you, Sir, the felicitations of my delegation on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of April. France and India have traditionally enjoyed a very cordial relationship marked by close co-operation in various fields. Your own high diplomatic skill and experience and personal qualities are well known. We are confident that under your wise and able leadership the Council will be able to arrive at a speedy and satisfactory outcome on the item before it.

(Ms. Kunadi, India)

May I also take this opportunity to express our appreciation to your predecessor, the Permanent Representative of Denmark, for the exemplary manner in which he guided the Council's proceedings last month.

We are meeting today at the request of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Burkina Faso and Syria, and Oman in its capacity as the Chairman of the Arab Group, to consider the grave developments resulting from the bombing of some Libyan cities by United States aircraft and to take appropriate and urgent measures with regard to this situation. India is deeply shocked by these actions, which constitute nothing less than a clear act of aggression against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Libya. Such actions threaten the delicate fabric of peace and security not merely in the region but in the world at large. They are in total disregard of international law and purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter. In a statement made earlier today, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said that India and the entire Non-Aligned Movement strongly deplored the United States bombing of some Libyan cities. As Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, he called upon the United States and others to exercise the utmost restraint and not to do anything to aggravate further the already tense situation in the region. It will be recalled that during the last three months, in response to anxieties expressed about the threats and possible use of force against Libya, the Government of India had repeatedly urged that no precipitate steps should be taken, as situations of this kind are best resolved through dialogue and not through pressure. It is unfortunate that these appeals were ignored.

(Ms. Kunadi, India)

We have followed with close attention and anguish the statements by several preceding speakers. It has been sought to justify United States actions as retaliation for terrorist acts allegedly committed by Libya. The Movement of Non-Aligned Countries has consistently condemned all forms of terrorism, whether committed by individuals or organized by States. Libya has also declared itself against all terrorist operations. United States actions are therefore all the more unjustifiable.

What we are witnessing today is a sharp escalation of tension and conflict in the Central Mediterranean as a result of an increasing recourse to the use or threat of force, in violation of the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter. The Non-Aligned Movement has always taken a firm stand against all forms of aggression, occupation, domination, interference or pressures. These latest developments were comprehensively discussed in an emergency session at the ministerial-level meeting of the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries in New Delhi on 15 April, and I wish to quote the communiqué adopted by the ministerial meeting:

"The Ministers and Heads of Delegation of non-aligned countries, meeting in emergency session in New Delhi on 15 April 1986, noted with deep shock and profound indignation the armed attacks by the United States of America undertaken with support and collaboration by its NATO military ally the United Kingdom against the territory of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. They strongly condemned this dastardly, blatant and unprovoked act of aggression against a fellow non-aligned country, which constituted a violation of international law and of the principles of the United Nations Charter, and endangered international peace and security. This act of

(Ms. Kunadi, India)

aggression by the United States was all the more condemnable since, by virtue of its position as a permanent member of the Security Council, it has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and to abide by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

"The international community has condemned all terrorist activities, whether perpetrated by individuals, groups or States. These attacks by the United States were therefore all the more reprehensible.

"The Ministers and Heads of Delegation recalled that the Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, meeting at New Delhi in 1983, had noted with concern 'that policies of intervention and interference, pressure and threat or use of force continued to be pursued against many non-aligned countries, with dangerous consequences for peace and security', and had called upon all States to abide by the principle that force or the threat of force will not be used against the territorial integrity or political and economic independence of States.

"The Ministers and Heads of Delegation recalled also that the ministerial meeting of the Mediterranean members of the Non-Aligned Movement held at Valletta in September 1984 had called upon all States to adhere strictly to the principles of non-use or threat of force and urged them not to use the armaments, forces, bases and military facilities against Mediterranean members of the Non-Aligned Movement.

(Ms. Kunadi, India)

"They further recalled that the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, meeting in New York on 6 February 1986, had 'cautioned against any precipitate steps by the United States of America as such situations were best resolved through dialogue and not through pressure or use of force'. The Co-ordinating Bureau had met again on 26 March 1986 in New York and 'expressed grave concern over the provocations and the use of force against the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya' and 'condemned these acts of aggression which created dangerous escalation of the situation in the Central Mediterranean and endangered international peace and security'.

"The Ministers and Heads of Delegation demanded that the United States of America put an immediate halt to its military operations, which violate the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, endanger peace and security in the Mediterranean region, and pose a grave threat to international peace and security. They also demanded that full and prompt compensation be provided to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for the human and material losses that it has suffered.

"The Ministers and Heads of Delegation called on the United Nations Security Council to take urgent action to condemn this act of aggression and to prevent the repetition of such acts. They also urged that the Security Council should take steps to ensure that full and prompt compensation be provided to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

"The Ministers and Heads of Delegation affirmed their full support to, and solidarity with, the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in safeguarding and in defending its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. They extended their heartfelt sympathies to the authorities and people of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for the losses that they have suffered.

(Ms. Kunadi, India)

"The Ministers and Heads of Delegation decided that this statement made in Emergency Session, held at New Delhi on 15 April 1986, be sent immediately to the President of the United Nations Security Council." (S/17996, annex)

It is our profound conviction that peace in the region cannot rest on the foundation of policies of intervention and interference and intimidation or of the threat or use of force, nor of coercive measures of any kind. For any peace to be enduring, it must be based on an acceptance of the principles of political and socio-economic pluralism by States, not only for themselves, but for the region as a whole, and adherence to the principle of the non-use of force as well as that of non-intervention and non-interference.

It is imperative that tension should not be allowed to build up any further, and that immediate steps be taken to defuse the situation in the region. We hope that the Security Council will be able to discharge its responsibilities in that direction.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I thank the representative of India for the very kind words she addressed to me and to my country.

Mr. LI Luyi (China) (interpretation from Chinese): At the outset, Sir, allow me to congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of April. Your outstanding diplomatic skill convinces me that you will certainly be able successfully to discharge your heavy responsibilities this month. There exist good relations of friendship and co-operation between France and China, which are also reflected in the ties between our two Missions working in the Security Council. I also take this opportunity to thank Ambassador Ole Bierring of Denmark, President of the Council for March, for his dynamic guidance of the Council to the successful completion of its work last month.

(Mr. Li Luye, China)

Since the Security Council started consideration of the situation in the Mediterranean, in March, people have hoped that the situation in the region will soon be eased, and that peace and stability will be restored. However, the situation there has become even more grave, contrary to people's expectations. In the small hours of 15 April, United States naval and air forces once again attacked the territory of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, drastically worsening the situation in the Mediterranean and the Middle East. The Chinese Government has expressed its deep concern and anxiety over this development, and has condemned such an act of attacking the territory of another State and encroaching upon its sovereignty, in violation of the norms governing international relations.

The Chinese Government has always opposed and condemned all forms of terrorism and opposed the use of terrorist means in carrying out political struggle. At the same time, we are against encroachment upon the territory of a sovereign State under the pretext of striking terrorism.

We have always been in favour of seeking a fair and reasonable settlement of differences between States through peaceful dialogue. The use or threat of force can only further complicate an issue, rather than facilitate its settlement. We ask the United States Government to stop forthwith its encroachment upon the territory and sovereignty of Libya, and call on the parties concerned to exercise restraint, cease hostilities and avoid a further deterioration of the situation, in the interest of the maintenance of peace and stability in that region.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I thank the representative of China for his kind words addressed to me.

I wish to inform members of the Council that the list of those wishing to speak is rather long, but in view of the late hour I would adjourn the meeting now. However, the representative of the United Kingdom has asked to speak in exercise of the right of reply.

Mr. MAXEY (United Kingdom): A number of speakers in today's debate have referred to the fact that my Government consented to the use of British territory by the United States for the operations that it carried out yesterday. My delegation will make a statement later in the debate setting out the British position, which will in effect respond to those comments. But I cannot let the offensive and personal attack on my Prime Minister made by the Cuban representative this afternoon pass without comment. Such remarks have no place in civilized exchanges, least of all in a body of the status and dignity of this Council. It was a piece of the exaggerated and crude rhetoric that we have come to expect from Cuban spokesmen. As such, it does not merit a reasoned reply, but only contemptuous rejection.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): As I have already told members of the Council, in view of the late hour I propose to adjourn the meeting now. The next meeting of the Security Council to continue consideration of the item on its agenda will take place tomorrow, Wednesday, 16 April 1986, at 11 a.m.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.

