



Security Council

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PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE TWO THOUSAND  
EIGHT HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-SECOND MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Monday, 31 July 1989, at 12.50 p.m.

President: Mr. PEJIC

(Yugoslavia)

Members: Algeria  
Brazil  
Canada  
China  
Colombia  
Ethiopia  
Finland  
France  
Malaysia  
Nepal  
Senegal  
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics  
United Kingdom of Great Britain and  
Northern Ireland  
United States of America

Mr. DJOUDI  
Mr. ALENCAR  
Mr. KIRSCH  
Mr. DING Yuanhong  
Mr. PEÑALOSA  
Mr. TADESSE  
Ms. RASI  
Mr. BLANC  
Mr. GHAZZALI  
Mr. RANA  
Mr. BA  
Mr. LOZINSKIY  
  
Mr. BIRCH  
Mr. PICKERING

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The meeting was called to order at 12.50 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

THE QUESTION OF HOSTAGE-TAKING AND ABDUCTION

The PRESIDENT: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/20757, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by Canada and Finland.

As agreed in the Council's prior consultations, I shall now make the following statement:

"As we consider the adoption of the draft resolution on hostage-taking and abduction, we meet under the shadow of recent events and the cruel reports that Lieutenant-Colonel Higgins, who serves the United Nations on a peace-keeping mission in Lebanon, may have been murdered today. I wish to express the full support of the Security Council for the statement made by the Secretary-General yesterday, 30 July, in this connection.

"The Security Council will seek further facts on the developments of today, and urges those involved to act with reason, restraint and a proper respect for human life and dignity. The Security Council feels that it should proceed without delay to the adoption of the draft resolution that we have been discussing in private on the subject of hostage-taking and abduction.

"There is a most tragic irony that our efforts to adopt a text on this matter should have coincided with the grave events of recent days.

(The President)

"This illustrates, with utmost clarity, that we need to underline the necessity for effective international action on the subject of hostage-taking and abduction. Indeed, the expression of the unanimous view of the Security Council will, I am sure, serve to deter such unlawful, criminal and cruel acts in the future."

(The President)

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour: Algeria, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Malaysia, Nepal, Senegal, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Yugoslavia.

The PRESIDENT: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 638 (1989).

There are no speakers on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.