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REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ITEM IN THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA
OF THE THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION

CONSIDERATION OF EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO ENHANCE THE PROTECTION,
SECURITY AND SAFETY OF DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR MISSIONS AND
REPRESENTATIVES

Letter dated 11 June 1980 from the representatives of Denmark,
Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to request, on behalf of the five Nordic countries, the inclusion in the provisional agenda of the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly of an item entitled "Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives".

In submitting this item for consideration by the General Assembly, we would request you to circulate the attached explanatory memorandum as an official document of the Assembly under rule 20 of its rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Wilh. ULRICHSEN
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations

Ilkka PASTINEN
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations

Kornelíus SIGMUNDSSON
Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of Iceland to the United Nations

Ole ÅLGÅRD
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations

Anders THUNBORG
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations

ANNEX

Explanatory memorandum

1. The respect of the rules of international law governing the exercise of diplomatic and consular relations, in particular the inviolability of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, is a basic prerequisite for an orderly conduct of relations between sovereign States and for the fulfilment of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.
2. The strict observance of these rules has particular significance in view of the rapid increase of the number of sovereign States and the ensuing intensification of contacts between States in all fields. The establishment and maintenance of appropriate guarantees and conditions for an unimpeded conduct of international relations is therefore in the common interest of all nations.
3. From early history, envoys have been granted special protection in the interest of creating favourable conditions for peaceful negotiations. For centuries, these ancient customary rules have been the basis of the privileges and immunities granted to diplomatic and consular missions and representatives. In modern times, they have been further defined and codified in binding rules, recognized by international law. They have been elaborated and strengthened through a number of international conventions. The most important of these conventions are the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations a/ and the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations b/ which have to date been ratified or acceded to by well over 100 States.
4. In recent years, however, there have been increasingly frequent violations of or failures to observe the relevant provisions of international law, and specifically conventions governing diplomatic and consular relations, including the physical safety of diplomatic and consular personnel and the inviolability of diplomatic and consular premises. This development constitutes a risk of bringing irreparable harm to the very fabric of international relations. It invariably leads to international friction and may cause disputes likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security. In the light of this development, the international community should agree on effective measures to improve the present situation, which undermines the normal functioning of international co-operation.
5. The General Assembly has in the past dealt with certain aspects of this problem. It has repeatedly called for strict observance of the relevant rules of international law. In view of the importance of the normal functioning of the diplomatic and consular relations for the entire international community

a/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 500, No. 7310, p. 95.

b/ Ibid., vol. 596, No. 8638, p. 261.

and for the fulfilment of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, it is urgent that the General Assembly consider ways and means of enhancing the respect of the rules of international law governing diplomatic and consular relations. It is therefore requested that an item entitled "Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives" be included in the agenda of the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly.
