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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON  
THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Strengthening of security and co-operation in  
the region of the Mediterranean

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

ALGERIA

[Original: French]

[10 August 1982]

1. The Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria views the establishment of zones of peace and co-operation in various regions of the world as part of the general effort to bring about a climate of peace and security for the benefit of all countries. In the context of the global approach to international peace and security, particularly as defined in the Final Document, these zones give every indication of constituting suitable areas for its immediate application.
2. The Mediterranean, which links three continents and forms a cross-roads of civilizations, is an obvious candidate for such a zone.
3. As a coastal country, Algeria places great hopes in the solidarity among Mediterranean countries and the promotion of their joint interests through the transformation of the Mediterranean into a zone of peace and co-operation. Consequently, the designation of the Mediterranean as a zone of peace and co-operation has been a constant factor in Algeria's international action, both bilaterally and multilaterally.
4. The Movement of Non-Aligned Countries has endorsed this concern, which it has reaffirmed at all the meetings of its various bodies and within the United Nations. Thus, at the tenth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, the non-aligned countries once again proposed the establishment of a zone of peace in the Mediterranean (A/S-10/AC.1/37).
5. In addition, as early as 1972, Algeria took the initiative in proposing the Mediterranean component in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, as a result of which the declaration on the Mediterranean contained an acknowledgement of the relationship between security in Europe and in the Mediterranean basin, and enunciated the principles governing relations with Mediterranean countries not participating in the Conference.
6. While the notion of transforming the Mediterranean into a zone of peace has received increasingly broad support, developments regarding the situation in the region have taken a very different course: a worsening of the Middle East conflict through the denial of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people and the occupation of Arab territories, the persistence of sources of tension, the establishment and reactivation of foreign military bases, the concentration of naval fleets and the build-up of armaments, particularly nuclear armaments.
7. From the Algerian Government's point of view, the highly precarious situation in the Mediterranean makes the need to establish conditions to facilitate the transformation of this region into a zone of peace more urgent than ever. These conditions should include in particular:

(a) The defusing of crisis situations in strict accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Charter and relevant resolutions, and notably by guaranteeing that peoples deprived of their right to decide their own future can freely exercise their right to self-determination and independence.

(b) The dismantling of foreign military bases, the withdrawal of foreign naval fleets and an end to the policy of obtaining facilities for purposes of intervention.

(c) The renunciation of the policy of force, and, particularly, intervention and interference in the internal affairs of States.

(d) The promotion of good-neighbourliness which, in addition to the notion of co-habitation based on geographical proximity, implies the development of a political dialogue and economic co-operation between the States of the region.

(e) The commitment of Powers outside the region to respect the status of the zone.

8. Obviously, the achievement of this objective, regardless of the extent to which the States of the region pursue it and the outside Powers with a military presence in the Mediterranean support it, will be a long-term project. As such, it calls for the initiation of a process of reflection, common to all States concerned, as the first phase in the transformation of the Mediterranean into a zone of peace and co-operation.

#### CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

[Original: French]

[19 August 1982]

Because of its geostrategic location between two oceans and the fact that it touches three continents - Europe, Asia and Africa - the Mediterranean is a trouble spot which should be transformed into a zone of peace. It is therefore vital and urgent that the international community should work for the strengthening of security and co-operation in that region. We are currently witnessing an accumulation of weapons of mass destruction and competition between the super-Powers which cause constant hostile tension. The Central African Republic therefore greatly appreciates the initiatives which led to the Helsinki and Madrid Conferences on Security and Co-operation in Europe, despite the differences of views which dominated the discussions. Such efforts should be encouraged and supported. Accordingly, the Central African Republic proposes the establishment of an ad hoc committee on the Mediterranean, comprising all the coastal States and representatives of the United Nations and the regional organizations, with a view to concerted action aimed at transforming the Mediterranean into a zone of peace and co-operation.

FRANCE\*

[Original: French]

[9 September 1982]

1. France fully appreciates the importance of considering the purpose, substance and implications of the concept of a zone of peace and co-operation in the Mediterranean. France is thoroughly aware of the interest that attaches to the strengthening of security and co-operation in a region of which it is an integral part.
2. France believes that, in the consideration of this question, the emphasis should be placed on and priority should be given to its regional aspects. It notes in this connexion that, since the Helsinki Final Act includes specific provisions relating to Mediterranean questions, those provisions are being discussed within the framework of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.
3. Moreover, it seems clear to France that it would be at variance with the complex situation in the region to try to consider questions relating to security in the region of the Mediterranean separately from consideration of the issues affecting the security of the European continent as a whole.
4. Under these circumstances, one can only say that the concept of a zone of peace and co-operation in the region of the Mediterranean needs to be studied and defined further.
5. In general, France believes that the proliferation of hotbeds of tension in the region of the Mediterranean can only induce the countries concerned to seek means of achieving a just and lasting solution to the problems which now exist in the region and to refrain from the use of force in settling them.
6. It should be recalled that the signatories to the Helsinki Final Act are at present considering, within the framework of the proceedings of the Madrid Conference, the possibility of adopting terms of reference for a disarmament conference in Europe. The adoption by such a conference of militarily significant confidence-building and security measures applicable to the entire European continent would undoubtedly benefit the whole region, including the Mediterranean area.
7. France is also convinced that the contribution of States to peace, justice and security in the region of the Mediterranean and the development of co-operation among all the countries of the region are closely linked to respect for the principles of and the obligations under the United Nations Charter and, in the case of the signatories to the Helsinki Final Act, for the principles on which they have agreed with regard to their mutual relations.

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\* This reply of the Government of France replaces that previously published in document A/37/355.

ITALY

[Original: French]

[14 September 1982]

1. As a country situated in the Mediterranean area and member of the European Community and of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Italy endeavours by every means to strengthen the bonds of friendship and co-operation in all fields with the Mediterranean countries of Europe, Africa and Asia. Italy has consistently sought to do this in tangible ways. Thus, not only has it made an active contribution in all efforts to promote co-operation in the fields of economic relations, science, culture and ecology, particularly within the framework of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe but, above all, it has also become directly involved in undertakings aimed at strengthening security and peace in the Mediterranean. The Italian-Maltese agreements on the neutrality of Malta and Italy's participation in the multinational peace-keeping forces in the Sinai and Lebanon are indisputable proof of the action it has taken to strengthen security and develop co-operation in the region of the Mediterranean.

2. As regards the possibility of a "zone of peace and co-operation" in the Mediterranean, it should first be noted that the international community has not yet worked out an unambiguous and clear definition of the very concept of a "zone of peace" or "zone of peace and co-operation", as regards neither its substantive aspects nor the criteria for defining its geographical scope. In that connexion, the disappointing experience in the ongoing deliberations of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean raises questions about the real prospects of having a fruitful discussion relating to the Mediterranean at this stage. It was for that reason that the spokesman for the European Community made a statement in explanation of vote at the thirty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly, which, in Italy's view, is as valid today as it was then:

"... as to ... the transformation of the region of the Mediterranean into a zone of peace and co-operation, we are puzzled by the conceptual vagueness of the idea. We are convinced that ideas and proposals relating to any specific area, particularly a very complex and non-homogeneous one such as the Mediterranean, should be dealt with in the appropriate regional frameworks. Furthermore, questions concerning security and the Mediterranean area cannot be considered in isolation."

3. It must be recognized that it would not be in keeping with the complex realities of the region to seek to deal with questions relating to security in the region of the Mediterranean independently of a consideration of problems relating to security in the European continent as a whole. Indeed, the region of the Mediterranean is not a homogeneous one in which solutions relating to security can be applied which do not take into account political and military balances and conditions within the framework of existing alliances.

4. Bearing in mind the distinctive characteristics of the area, the unavoidable interrelationships with other political and security conditions, and the need to

avoid duplication, Italy considers that the questions relating to the region of the Mediterranean, including various security matters, could be considered in an expanded regional context on the basis, inter alia, of chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations.

5. From that perspective, it is useful to recall that the Helsinki Final Act contains a section on questions of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean. Those questions are, moreover, to be considered within the process of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, which, in the view of the Italian Government, is the forum most likely to achieve progress in this area.

MOROCCO

[Original: French]

[6 August 1982]

1. It is of concern to the Kingdom of Morocco, for a number of reasons, that the region of the Mediterranean should be, and continue to be, a region of peace and co-operation. This position is based on the desire of our country to combine its efforts with those of the other coastal countries in order to protect the Mediterranean basin from struggles for influence and from the presence of foreign Powers in the region. It is also dictated by the geographical location of our country, whose security is closely bound up with the security of the entire area.
2. Our country, which participated in the work of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe held recently at Madrid, recalls that its concern for the strengthening of peace and co-operation in the region is justified by the historical, cultural and economic ties between, and the security requirements of, the two shores of the Mediterranean. It is gratified by the relations it maintains with one of them, Spain, by virtue of a certain time-honoured "historical closeness" and a common desire to create and strengthen the foundations for positive mutual co-operation, particularly in the western Mediterranean. In this connexion, it may be mentioned that it is the ambition of Morocco and Spain to link themselves together by means of a fixed and permanent crossing over the Straits of Gibraltar and thus link Europe with Africa and the Arab world. This project is calculated to promote the development and strengthening of co-operative relations and trade between the two continents and would involve a remodelling of the rail and road networks both south and north of the Mediterranean.
3. A further point in connexion with the western Mediterranean is that Morocco has constantly endeavoured, since acceding to independence, to bring about general and complete disarmament in the North African region and to lay the foundations for the kind of economic complementarity that could unite the Greater Arab Maghreb for the welfare and progress of its peoples. In this regard, it would perhaps be useful to recall the message addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on 8 February 1967 by His Majesty King Hassan II, in which His Majesty expressed the desire of Morocco to co-operate with its neighbour, Algeria, in bringing about a mutual reduction of armed forces in the region. In that message, His Majesty said in particular:

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"We should like the principle of disarmament also to be extended throughout the region to which our country belongs. To that end, we propose to you the establishment, under United Nations auspices, of a commission which would have a twofold task:

- (1) To recommend that Algeria and Morocco should renounce any increase in their respective military potentials in order to protect North Africa from the dangers of the arms race.
- (2) To carry out on the spot, by appropriate ways and means, a survey of the armaments held by each of the two parties, in terms of quality and quantity, and to evaluate the level of their respective needs for the maintenance of order in each of the two countries."

4. In general, we feel that further efforts are still necessary in order to transform the Mediterranean basin into a zone of peace and co-operation. These efforts should, of course, take into account the principles of equal security for all the countries of the region, their sovereignty and their independence on the basis of respect for international law and for the principles governing international relations. In this regard, in his statement to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session, Mr. M'Hammed Boucetta, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, said in particular:

"On the Mediterranean, for several years now Morocco has devoted itself to devising and establishing, with all the countries that border that sea, the foundations for the type of co-operation that will assure all coastal States of permanent security and prosperity. We are today deeply concerned by the ugly clouds of tension that can be described there. Because of its geographical location and the strategic position that it occupies, Morocco is fully alive to the particular responsibilities it bears in seeking conditions guaranteeing the security of that sea, especially in the Strait of Gibraltar. That is why we declare our readiness to join in the efforts of all those coastal countries which wish to turn the Mediterranean into a zone of peace."

YEMEN

[Original: Arabic]

[18 August 1982]

1. The Yemen Arab Republic supports the efforts being made by the international Organization for the strengthening of security and stability in the region of the Mediterranean and sees in these efforts true dedication to the objectives of the Organization and its Charter, which, in its opening lines, stresses the commitment "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war". We believe that it would be useful to convene a special conference of Mediterranean States to discuss regional co-operation between their countries, the declaration of the Mediterranean Sea as a zone of peace and harmony, free of war fleets and military alliances, the need to affirm the principle of peaceful co-existence between the Mediterranean

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States, of respect for their different social systems and of the resolution of all problems by peaceful means on the negotiating table, as a service to the peoples of the region, who aspire to life in peace and prosperity, far from the violence of international polarization and its complications, which threaten the security of the Mediterranean States at the present conjuncture.

2. The Yemen Arab Republic firmly believes that the political and military practices followed by some Mediterranean States have a negative effect on the cause of peace and security in that region and threaten the present and future of their peoples with the most serious consequences. In this connexion, we wish to draw attention to the aggressive expansionist practices followed by Israel against the Arab nation, Israel's constant insistence on violating international laws and resolutions, its persistence in refusing to recognize the rights of the Palestinian people, its usurpation of Arab lands, its aggression against neighbouring Arab States and its pursuit of a policy of military hegemony in the region, which makes the road to peace and the search for it a path beset with dangers and thorns, if not blocked as a result of those unlawful actions. Unquestionably, the adoption by the international community of a decisive policy towards Israel, preventing it from repeating its aggression against the Arab States and compelling it to recognize the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people would constitute an appropriate starting-point for the creation of the natural and realistic conditions for the strengthening of security and stability in the region of the Mediterranean. It must be emphasized that the strategic co-operation between the United States and Israel has encouraged the latter to persist in its expansionist course of aggression against the Arab States, placed new obstacles in the path of the efforts made to bring about peace in the region and produced a negative effect on the future of international peace and security and may draw the States of the region into a new war, as a result of the incalculable Israeli adventures which have employed the strategic co-operation agreement in the service of its goals and ambitions, which are outside the pale of international law. In this connexion, co-ordinated international efforts must be made to urge the United States to halt its support for Israeli aggression and the barbarous methods which Israel employs against the people of Palestine, if the United States really wishes to assume its responsibilities for peace and security in the region of the Mediterranean and to remove the States of the region from the feverish pressure of alliances, spheres of influence and the cold war.

3. The Yemen Arab Republic believes that the question of international peace and security is an indivisible whole and that the resolution of certain thorny issues in Europe and the continuation of the dialogue between the Soviet Union and the United States of America will, unquestionably, help the States of the region to arrive at a joint formula, or even a collective agreement, for making the Mediterranean a zone where peace, security and co-operation between peoples prevail. It is, therefore, necessary to encourage the United States and the Soviet Union to resume the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks, to confirm the achievements of SALT II, to agree on the necessity of the limitation and reduction of medium-range nuclear-weapon systems in Europe and to end the freeze in the Vienna talks on the reduction of armed forces and armament in Central Europe. The achievement of any progress on such topics would speed the possibility of strengthening peace and security in the Mediterranean basin and removing the spectre of military rivalry in

its waters and in its bays. This does not, however, mean that the foregoing constitute a set of linked conditions without which the realization of peace and the creation of ideal formulae governing co-operation between the States of the region is not possible, but these issues will affect, negatively or positively, any efforts or talks relating to the strengthening of the causes of peace, security and co-operation in the Mediterranean basin, which is today the most important region of the world involved in the clash of major-Power rivalries, struggles and polarizations.

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