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ZONE OF PEACE AND CO-OPERATION OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC

Report of the Secretary-General

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1. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 44/20 of 14 November 1989 entitled "Zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic", the General Assembly called upon all States to co-operate in the promotion of the objectives of peace and co-operation established in the declaration of the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic (see Assembly resolution 41/11 of 27 October 1986) and to refrain from any action inconsistent with those objectives, particularly actions which might create or aggravate situations of tension and potential conflicts in the region; welcomed the assistance that the Office for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Secretariat and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) extended towards the convening by the States of the zone of two seminars, to be held in the Congo in 1990 and in Uruguay in 1991, devoted to the review of the development and implementation of the legal regime established by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea; and requested the Secretary-General to keep the implementation of resolution 41/11 under review and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, taking into account, *inter alia*, the views expressed by Member States,

2. Pursuant to that resolution, the Secretary-General on 6 April 1989 addressed a note verbale to the Governments of Member States requesting their views on implementation of the declaration of the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic.

3. As at 15 October 1990, seven Governments had replied to the Secretary-General. Any replies and notifications that may be received subsequently will be published as addenda to the present report.

11. OTHER ACTIVITIES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ZONE OF PEACE AND CO-OPERATION IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC

4. The second meeting of States of the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic was held at Abuja, Nigeria, from 25 to 29 June 1990. A wide range of political, economic and environmental problems as well as various aspects of co-operation among the States of the zone were discussed. In the final document of the meeting the representatives of the States of the zone of peace and co-operation, recalling General Assembly resolutions 41/11, 42/16 of 10 November 1987, 43/23 of 14 November 1988 and 44/20, reaffirmed that questions of peace and security and those of development were interrelated and inseparable, and considered that co-operation among the States of the region for peace and development was essential to promoting the objectives of the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic; underscored the special responsibility of the States of the region for the preservation of peace and security in the zone and renewed their commitment to work together towards that end; expressed their satisfaction at the relaxation of the tensions on the global level and affirmed their hope that those trends would have positive reflections on the attainment of the objectives of the zone; condemned all situations which adversely affected or posed grave threats to the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of

the States on both sides of the South Atlantic; urged States of the zone, particularly those with relevant capabilities, to consider possible co-operation with interested member States towards the establishment of joint monitoring mechanisms in the South Atlantic, including coastal watch, and stressed the need for peaceful and legitimate maritime transactions in the South Atlantic Ocean that excluded outside foreign interference, military rivalry and nuclear weapons competition; recognised, in view of the adverse international economic environment, the importance of enhanced co-operation in economic and financial matters among member States, and agreed that greater co-ordination of policies at various forums in critical areas like debt, trade flows, market access and investment would contribute significantly to the realization of the objectives; called for co-operation and co-ordination of policies on such activities as regular organisation of trade fairs, foreign investment promotions, exchange of commercial and trade intelligence information, exchanges of information on investment opportunities, and provision of other relevant basic data for use by member States of the zone; agreed that increased trade and commercial co-operation would be facilitated through the setting up of ad hoc groups of experts drawn from member States of the zone and covering key areas of interest) and reiterated that the South Atlantic marine environment should remain free from pollution and, in this context, commending member States that have maintained the "Dump Watch", decided to strengthen that mechanism recommended by the first meeting with the aim of closely monitoring, collating and disseminating information and data on the movement in the region of vessels suspected of carrying hazardous, toxic and nuclear wastes, Considering the integral link of the South Atlantic environment to that of the neighbouring southern continent of Antarctica,' States of the zone further reiterated their preoccupation that Antarctica be safeguarded from environmental pollution, because that might spill over into the South Atlantic Ocean, They also emphasised, as a means of achieving peace and co-operation in the region, the need to further enhance the mutual knowledge of the peoples of the zone by strengthening the links existing among them in the fields of culture, education and public information, as well as by promoting tourism within the region. To that end, they urged member States of the zone to propose through the Co-ordinator practical steps to develop and strengthen such cultural contacts between their peoples.

5. Pursuant to the decision of the first meeting of States of the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic (see A/43/512, annex) and to General Assembly resolution 44/20, the first meeting of the group of experts on the law of the sea of the States members of the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic was held at Brazzaville, Congo, from 12 to 15 June 1990. At the meeting, particular importance was attached to various problems related to the implementation in the region of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and to the national maritime policies of the States of the zone as well as to the areas of co-operation among States of the zone of peace and co-operation, including, inter alia harmonisation of national legislation and a review of national marine policies, with a view to the development of co-operation at various levels, and the protection and preservation of the maritime environment and of living and non-living marine resources.

III. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

ARGENTINA

[Original: Spanish]

[16 August 1990]

1. The Government of the Argentine Republic wishes to reiterate once again its firm adherence to the declaration of the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic (General Assembly resolution 41/11), in the conviction that the countries of the region have a primary responsibility in the attainment of its objectives. Nevertheless, the Argentine Government considers that the States of all other regions, in particular the militarily significant States, also have a special responsibility to co-operate with one another so as not to impede the achievement of those objectives.
2. Among the exhortations contained in General Assembly resolution 44/20, the Government of the Argentine Republic feels that particular importance attaches to that in paragraph 2, in which the General Assembly "calls upon all States to co-operate in the promotion of the objectives of peace and co-operation established in the declaration of the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic and to refrain from any action inconsistent with those objectives, particularly actions which may create or aggravate situations of tension and potential conflict in the region".
3. It is thus very relevant that on 15 February 1990 Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland issued a joint statement (A/45/136-8/21159) in which they agreed to re-establish diplomatic relations, and to take a series of measures aimed at developing bilateral relations. Those measures include the establishment of the Working Group on South Atlantic Affairs with the mandate of considering formulas relating to some of the problems arising out of the maintenance of the colonial situation. Furthermore, some of the specific measures agreed on have the objective of building confidence and avoiding military incidents in the South Atlantic.
4. In this context it is also important to note that in the Final Document of the second meeting of the States of the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic, held at Abuja, Nigeria, from 25 to 29 June 1990, the States of the region declare, inter alia, that they:

"Recall with concern that serious obstacles for the full implementation of the goals of the Zone of Peace and Co-operation of the South Atlantic still remain, as the colonial situation existing in the Malvinas Islands and the maintenance of a considerable military build-up within the Zone constitute a source of tension and a potential danger for peace and security in the area;

"Take note with satisfaction of the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of the agreements contained

in the British-Argentine Declarations given at Madrid On 19 October 1989 and 15 February 1990;

"Express the **hope** that this new process of dialogue and co-operation should lead, as soon as possible, to the resumption of negotiations with a view to finding a just and durable solution to the dispute on sovereignty existing between both States:

"Urge the full implementation of the United Nations General Assembly resolutions related to the question of the Malvinas Islands, that recommend **at** both States find the means to resolve peacefully and definitively all **aspects** of the future of the Islands, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations".

5. The entry of Namibia into the community of sovereign States. following a long and difficult process which caused great suffering to its people, is a source of gratification to the Argentine Republic, which **welcomes** this new South Atlantic coastal state.

6. Furthermore, the Argentine Government maintains that peace and co-operation in the South Atlantic would be significantly facilitated through strict implementation of the United Nations resolutions aimed at the eradication of colonialism, **racism** and apartheid, and through respect for the sovereignty, national unity and territorial integrity of the coastal States of the region.

7. With regard to the Latin American States adjacent to the South Atlantic, i should be stressed that Argentina is developing a broad process of integration and co-operation with Brazil and Uruguay, the results of which are already **contributing** to strengthening the spirit of the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic.

BRAZIL

[Original: English]

[2 August 1990]

1. Since the adoption of resolution **41/11** by the General Assembly on 27 October **1956**, significant changes have occurred on the international political scene, including the emerging of a new willingness on the part of States to engage in dialogue and to establish stable relationships based on a balance of interests and on mutuality of benefits. This climate has made possible the negotiated settlement of old disputes in various regions of the globe, which in many cases were kindled and fuelled by external rivalries. We have witnessed a revival of collective efforts as an appropriate recourse in the search for agreement among parties in dispute.

2. This context of positive evolution in the international situation has been favourably reflected in the South Atlantic region, which has shown unmistakable

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signs of progress. In fact, since 1966, Argentina and the United Kingdom have resumed their dialogue; there has been an improvement in the situation of confrontation in southern Africa, with the independence of Namibia and the resolution of the problem of foreign intervention in Angola) initial but concrete steps are being taken towards the irreversible abolition of the apartheid régime in South Africa, among them, the release of the eminent leader Nelson Mandela.

3. As a further reflection of this positive evolution, to which the intense efforts of the States of the region have contributed, one also notices a continuous and steady consolidation of the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic as an area with its own specific identity and objectives. Since the adoption by the Assembly of resolution 41/11, successive resolutions have met with ever increasing support from Member States, and today there is almost universal support for the zone. This situation is the result of the growing awareness and understanding on the part of other countries of the high and constructive objectives that inspire the South Atlantic States,

4. Aware of the importance of the United Nations to the establishment of an ideal climate of peace and harmony in southern Africa, Brazil continued, in 1990, to contribute with troops, including at command level, to the contingent of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM). Furthermore, in the context of co-operation towards the early integration of an independent Namibia in the community of South Atlantic States, Brazil hosted, in December 1989, a seminar on human resources and development planning for that country, promoted by the United Nations Council for Namibia, as provided for in Assembly resolution 43/26 C. That event made possible the identification of means for technical co-operation between both countries, especially in the areas of agricultural research, transportation, energy and public administration,

5. In the framework of the effort to intensify dialogue and constructive co-operation among the nations of the South Atlantic region, the first Seminar of the Group of Experts on the Law of the Sea from States of the Zone of Peace and Co-operation of the South Atlantic was held at Brazzaville from 12 to 15 June 1990 with the assistance of the Office for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea and the financial support of UNDP. That initiative fulfilled the expectations expressed in this regard by the participants in the first meeting of States of the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic, held at Rio de Janeiro in July 1966, and made it possible for the first time for representatives of the South Atlantic States to exchange views and information on issues related to the law of the sea and their respective maritime priorities. It also laid an important basis for the identification, during the second seminar, to be held at Montevideo in 1991, of concrete projects of co-operation which address the needs of the States of the South Atlantic *region*.

6. Also carrying out the objective of establishing a new kind of relationship, beneficial to all the States on both sides of the Ocean, the second meeting of the States of the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic was held at Abuja, Nigeria, from 25 to 29 June 1990. Indeed, that meeting constituted concrete proof that the idea of fostering peace and co-operation in the South Atlantic region is already beginning to achieve its major aim, which is to stimulate regular

contacts among the nations of the region, thus making possible an objective and realistic evaluation of the efforts undertaken as well as the formulation of new lines for joint *action*.

7. If in the first meeting the main *concern* was to address basically conceptual aspects, in the second meeting concrete ways to implement the objectives set forth in the Rio de Janeiro Declaration were identified. One of these ways is the strengthening of technical co-operation among the States of the area. In this respect, Brazil has developed with the African countries of the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic different programmes and projects in several areas, with the support, where appropriate, of pertinent international organizations. Thus, the Brazilian Government reiterated, during the Abuja meeting, its readiness to continue this co-operation, especially *in* the areas of agroindustry, rural extension, reforestation and environmental protection, and expressed its interest in the strengthening of small and medium-sized enterprises and in the support of industrial rehabilitation.

8. At the first meeting of States of the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic, there was an *extensive exchange* of information on ways of protecting the marine environment. In the Final Declaration, the participants agreed that the South Atlantic marine *environment* must remain free from pollution and expressed their willingness to study and adopt measures to prevent and control the dumping of hazardous, toxic and nuclear wastes in the maritime areas of the region, including the high seas. As the host country of the 1992 United Nations Conference on *Environment and Development*, Brazil indicated at the second meeting its particular interest in strengthening co-ordination among the South Atlantic States in the elaboration of converging positions on the subject, as reflected in the Final Declaration of the Abuja meeting.

9. In his inaugural address, President *Fernando Collor* indicated the intention of the Brazilian Government to strengthen the tradition of friendship, of efforts towards regional peace, of co-operation and dialogue with the Latin American countries. As to the African countries, he stressed the Government's readiness to work to restore dynamism to our relationship, much affected in recent years by the difficulties developing countries were generally confronted with. President Collor also stated that "we will stress our identity, deepening a notion of cultural and historical community and condemning racism, particularly the *apartheid* régime in South Africa, that we hope is in its terminal phase".

10. The participation of Brazil in the second meeting of States of the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic reflected, therefore, the continuing commitment by Brazil to the ideals of peace and co-operation among the States of the region, for the benefit of all its peoples.

BULGARIA

[Original: Russian]

[14 August 1990]

1. The People's Republic of Bulgaria maintains its favourable attitude towards the proposal to declare the South Atlantic a zone **of** peace and co-operation. This attitude **is based on** Bulgaria's consistent position on regional confidence- and security-building measures and the creation of nuclear-weapon-free **zones** and zones **of peace in various parts of** the world.
2. A number of positive trends are currently discernible in international political life. These trends have **been** felt particularly **strongly** on the continent of Europe. The **events** in Eastern Europe and the USSR in the past **year** have opened the way to the assertion **of** democratic ideals. There are real prospects **for** the successful completion **of** the first stage of the negotiations on the reduction of conventional weapons and on **confidence-** and security-building measures in Europe.
3. The existing process of nuclear disarmament has gained new dimensions. Following the Treaty on the elimination of intermediate-range and shorter-range **missiles**, the time has now **come for** an **agreement on** the reduction of the strategic offensive weapons of the **Soviet** Union and the United States. Bulgaria believes that nuclear disarmament must become a continually expanding process in which the other nuclear States could genuinely join.
4. Given this extremely favourable international situation, special importance attaches **to** the proposal to declare the South Atlantic a zone **of** peace and co-operation. The purpose of this idea is to exclude this region of the world from the sphere of activities of military alliances, a move which will inevitably lead **to** a reduction **of** tension and the strengthening of peace and good-neighbourliness.
5. The proclamation of the independence of Namibia is evidence of the great opportunities which now exist for the solution of the principal **problems** of peace and security in **the** world by peaceful means, by means of dialogue and negotiation.
6. Bulgaria regards the elimination of the last colony in Africa as a major success for the Namibian people and the international community. It has established diplomatic relations with the new State and has indicated its readiness to develop mutually advantageous co-operation with it in all areas of common interest.
7. **Bulgaria** believes that the international community **must** support the dialogue which has been initiated between the Government of South Africa and the leaders of the African National Congress. It supports the steps taken to find a just settlement of the internal African conflicts in the People's Republic of Angola and the People's Republic of Mozambique. It supports the proposal of those **States** concerning the initiation of direct negotiations with **UNITA** and RENAMO with a view to finding sensible and mutually acceptable compromises and solutions.

8. The proposal for the establishment of a **zone of peace** and co-operation in the South Atlantic is **serious** evidence of the **promising prospects for the** guaranteeing of national security **on the basis of regional and international** security. This **region** is the site of important **maritime lines of communication and trade routes and of** various kinds of international co-operation. Bulgaria believes that this co-operation could be expanded and strengthened in the future in **conditions of** reduced international **tension and greater détente** in all parts of the world, including the seas and oceans. The limitation and reduction of naval armaments should also be linked to the implementation of **certain measures** to build confidence and good-neighbourly relations which are already being applied in international affairs.

MEXICO

[Original! Spanish]

[29 June 1990]

1. The Government of Mexico reiterates its support for the establishment of the **zone** of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic, which, it believes, will contribute to the maintenance of peace and security in the region, and will be a useful instrument for promoting co-operation and development among the nations of the area.
2. Mexico attaches special importance to paragraph 5 of resolution **44/20 in which** the General Assembly urges all States to abstain from transferring nuclear wastes to the region **and** from using it for the disposal of hazardous, toxic or nuclear wastes.
3. Furthermore, in the opinion of the **Government of Mexico, the preservation of** the environment in this region is an imperative **necessity, and for that reason it** concurs with the General Assembly's view that the States of the region should adopt necessary **measures** in order to ensure its protection against environmental damage.
4. In order to consolidate the South Atlantic **as a zone of peace and** co-operation, it is essential that all the States of the region should undertake to settle peacefully, through negotiations, any disputes that **may exist** between themselves or with other States outside the region, in the framework of the norms governing the **coexistence of** nations, and that countries outside the region should agree to observe scrupulously the same undertaking as regards their disputes with States of the zone.
5. In this context, the **Government of Mexico** would have wished resolution **44/20** to include a reference to the obligation of all States to respect the principles of the United Nations Charter and General Assembly resolutions, which would make a significant contribution to the consolidation of the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic, in accordance with the original objectives of the States of the area.

6. Mexico reaffirms its satisfaction at Namibia's attainment of independence and its admission as a State Member of the United Nations. This achievement, shared by the Namibian people and the international community as a whole, opens up prospects for the total eradication of the apartheid régime and its consequences in southern Africa, which is a prerequisite for the achievement of the objectives of the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic.

7. As a party to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Government of Mexico welcomes the assistance that the Office for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Secretariat and the United Nations Development Programme are extending towards the convening by the States of the zone, of two seminars to review the development and implementation of the legal régime established by the Convention on the Law of the Sea, to be held in the Congo in 1990 and in Uruguay in 1991.

POLAND

[Original: English]

[30 August 1990]

1. The foreign policy of the Republic of Poland rests on the fundamental assumption that the activities of the international community should be aimed at extinguishing and eliminating all conflicts that put States as well as social and political movements against each other and at creating suitable conditions for establishing fruitful co-operation in all spheres. For this reason Poland believes that all efforts aimed at establishing zones of peace, security and international co-operation in various regions of the globe are of exceptional importance,

2. It is in this spirit that the Government of the Republic of Poland gives consideration to the important initiative put forward by the United Nations concerning the transformation of the region of the South Atlantic, situated between Africa and South America, into a zone of peace, security and friendly co-operation of States of that region and of the super-Powers, in particular the United States and the Soviet Union, which have political, economic and military interests both in South America and Africa.

3. The zone of the South Atlantic has not been free from dangerous conflicts, including armed ones. The war between Great Britain and Argentina for the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) as well as the still not extinguished armed conflicts in the South of Africa, waged on the territories of Angola and the Republic of South Africa, only confirm this. Only a few months have passed since Namibia gained independence after 24 years of armed struggle and 40 years after the question of Namibia was placed at the United Nations. The United Nations played a key role in the process of Namibia's decolonisation and in its liberation from South African occupation, and now this great success should bear fruit in Namibia's inclusion into the commonwealth of States of the South Atlantic basin.

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4. The Government of Poland is strongly convinced that all the Member States, guided by the desire to extend also onto this region the principles of friendly relations and co-operation among States, should without hesitation give their full support to the idea of establishing the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic. An important step towards putting into practice the resolution of the General Assembly would be the elimination from the South Atlantic of the United States and Soviet war fleets, which have now become a relic of the receding epoch of confrontation and rivalry between these two super-Powers; as well as a speedy conclusion of the withdrawal process of Cuban troops and groups of Soviet and East German instructors from Angola.

5. It is the opinion of the Government of Poland that further deepening and acceleration of the process of basic internal transformations in the Republic of South Africa, aimed at abolishing the system of apartheid, as well as the stabilisation of the internal situation in Angola, achieved on the basis of a compromise between the authorities in Luanda and the opposition forces headed by UNITA, are indispensable conditions for the establishment of the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic. The Government of Poland supports these actions, nurturing the conviction that a constructive solution of the South African and Angolan problems will create necessary conditions for the establishment of the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic.

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

[Original: Russian]

[12 July 1990]

1. The Soviet Union has consistently spoken out in support of regional initiatives to remove the threat of war and secure concerted action by the States concerned for the solution of common problems, since it regards such initiatives as an effective means of making the disarmament process universal and creating a new model of international security. These considerations also apply fully to the idea of establishing a zone of peace and co-operation in the South Atlantic, an idea which is gradually becoming a reality as a result both of the general improvement in the international political climate and of the favourable processes unfolding in the region itself.

2. The consolidation and development of the qualitative changes in the region would be facilitated by the speedy dismantling of the system of apartheid in South Africa. In the opinion of the USSR, at the present stage one of the primary tasks of the United Nations and of the whole international community is to step up efforts to ensure that the positive breakthroughs in South Africa become irreversible.

3. Further steps to resolve the internal conflict in Angola by political means must also become an integral part of the efforts to create a zone of peace and co-operation in the South Atlantic.

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4. The Soviet Union is **convinced** that the transformation of the South Atlantic into a **zone** of peace and co-operation means that efforts to secure a political **settlement** of conflicts must be supplemented by vigorous measures to **ensure** security in the military sphere. This applies above all to the need for further action **to** invest the zone with a genuine non-nuclear status, **inter alia**, by the accession of the States of the region, above all South Africa, to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and by bringing the whole of South Africa's **nuclear** activity under the **control** of the **International** Atomic Energy Agency. For its part, the USSR **remains** ready to discuss with the United States and the other major military Powers, **as** well as with the States of the South Atlantic **region**, the question **of** what needs to be done to comply with the appeal of **the** General Assembly for a reduction of the military presence and **a** ban on nuclear and other types of weapons of mass destruction in that part of the world. It believes that another important practical step would be to move towards the adoption of measures to build confidence and **ensure** the security of the maritime lines of communication in the South Atlantic. The elaboration of such measures might be based on the document concerning **disarmament** in the field of naval arms approved by the United Nations Disarmament Commission in May 1990. The beginning **of** multilateral substantive consideration **of** the problems indicated above would not only encourage progress towards the establishment of a **zone of** peace and co-operation in the South Atlantic but would also clearly serve the cause of strengthening global strategic stability.

5. The **multifarious** co-operation within the **zone** which is gradually gaining ground is also destined to be a corner-stone **of** security **in** the South Atlantic. Extremely promising, too, are the steps taken to establish regional co-operation in the field of environmental protection, which are particularly relevant in view of **the** United Nations **Conference** on the environment scheduled for 1992. **In** the opinion **of** the USSR, the United Nations and its organs, if so requested, could support the efforts of the States of the region, in **accordance** with the appeal of the General Assembly, **in** both the environmental and other fields in order to achieve the goals of the declaration of the South Atlantic as a zone of peace and co-operation.

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

[Original: English]

[6 September 1990]

The British Government welcomes the objectives of General Assembly resolution **44/20**, which are to promote peace and co-operation in the South Atlantic. In this **regard** it wishes to draw attention to the joint statement of the British and Argentine Governments of 15 February 1990 (A/45/136-S/21159, annex). Paragraph 5 of this document and the associated appendices describe specific measures taken to build confidence and to avoid incidents **in** the military sphere in the South Atlantic, which **are** designed to promote the same objectives **as** those of the resolution.