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LETTER DATED 31 MARCH 1972 FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY
COUNCIL TO MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The President of the Security Council wishes to inform the members of the Council that he has received a letter from the representative of Sudan, who was President of the Security Council for the month of February 1972, advising him that he had received a letter dated 25 February 1972 from the Secretary-General of the United Nations in connexion with General Assembly resolution 2880 (XXVI) concerning the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security.

In view of the request to the Secretary-General, in paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 2880 (XXVI), to submit to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session a report on measures adopted in pursuance of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security including relevant information on compliance with the provisions of the Declaration by United Nations organs, the Secretary-General indicated in his letter that he would appreciate receiving information from the Security Council relating to that question before 31 July 1972.

In his letter, which was circulated to members of the Security Council, the representative of Sudan, who was President of the Security Council for the month of February, stated that owing to lack of time he had not been able to take any action on the Secretary-General's letter.

As President of the Security Council for the month of March, I drew the attention of members of the Security Council to the Secretary-General's letter at the beginning of the month and suggested that members of the Council should study that document during the following two weeks and that consultations among members of the Security Council should be held subsequently, if necessary.

On the expiry of that period, the President of the Security Council held consultations with members of the Council on 23 and 24 March.

As a result of those consultations and the exchange of views which took place among members of the Council, the President of the Security Council made the following summary which drew no opposition from the members of the Council.

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"The question of the strengthening of international security referred to in the letter from the Secretary-General of the United Nations is of great importance. A reply should be given to this letter. The Security Council should also pay adequate attention to this question. Members of the Security Council will need about two months to think over the relevant provisions of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security (resolution 2734 (XXV)) and of General Assembly resolution 2880 (XXVI), in particular those provisions that concern the Security Council and the problem of the strengthening of international security as a whole, and to prepare their views and suggestions on this question.

"The members of the Security Council agree that concrete steps be taken on this question around the end of May and the beginning of June without prejudging at the present stage the form of a reply to the letter of the Secretary-General or the procedure for its preparation."

In accordance with the above, this question is subject to further consideration by the Security Council.

