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NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At the end of the 2608th, commemorative, meeting of the Security Council, held on 26 September 1985, the President of the Security Council, His Excellency, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, made the following statement:

"The members of the Security Council have authorized me to make the following statement on their behalf.

"The Security Council met in public at the Headquarters of the United Nations in New York on Thursday, 26 September 1985, at the level of Foreign Ministers, to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Organization.

"The meeting was chaired by the Foreign Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as the President of the Security Council for September. Statements were made by the Foreign Ministers of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Thailand and Peru; by the Permanent Representative of Madagascar to the United Nations; by the Minister of State for Commerce of India; and by the Foreign Ministers of France, Egypt, Denmark, China, Burkina Faso, Australia, the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as well as by the Secretary-General.

"The agenda for the Commemorative Meeting was:

'United Nations for a better world and the responsibility of the Security Council in maintaining international peace and security.'

"The members of the Council welcomed the opportunity provided by the 40th Anniversary of the United Nations to reaffirm at a high level their obligations under the Charter and their continued commitment to its purposes and principles. They conducted a wide-ranging review of the international

situation. They expressed their deep concern at the existence of various threats to peace, including the nuclear threat. While acknowledging that it has not always proved possible for the Organization to eradicate these threats, they underlined the continuing relevance of the United Nations as a positive force for peace and human advancement. They welcomed the continuing growth of the membership of the Organization to a point where the objective of universality of membership, which they endorsed, has almost been achieved.

"The members of the Council were cognizant of the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security conferred by the Charter on the Security Council and of the special rights and responsibilities of its permanent members. They stressed that a collegial approach within the Council was desirable to facilitate considered and concerted action by the Council as the main instrument for international peace. They acknowledged that the high hopes placed in the Organization by the international community had not been fully met and undertook to fulfil their individual and collective responsibility for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace with renewed dedication and determination. They agreed to employ appropriate measures available under the Charter when considering international disputes, threats to the peace, breaches of the peace and acts of aggression. They recognized the valuable contribution made on many occasions by United Nations peace-keeping forces. They called again upon the entire membership of the United Nations to abide by their obligations under the Charter to accept and carry out decisions of the Security Council.

"They agreed that there was an urgent need to enhance the effectiveness of the Security Council in discharging its principal role of maintaining international peace and security. Accordingly, they resolved to continue the examination of the possibilities for further improvement of the functioning of the Security Council in carrying out its work in accordance with the Charter. In this context they paid special attention to the suggestions addressed to the members of the Security Council in the Secretary-General's annual reports on the work of the Organization. They thanked the Secretary-General for these reports and encouraged him to play an active role within the scope of his functions under the Charter."
