



Security Council

PROVISIONAL

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ENGLISH

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE TWO THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED
AND SEVENTY-SIXTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 16 April 1986, at 11 a.m.

President: Mr. de KEMOULAKIA

(France)

Members: Australia
Bulgaria
China
Congo
Denmark
Ghana
Madagascar
Thailand
Trinidad and Tobago
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland
United States of America
Venezuela

Mr. WOOLCOTT
Mr. GARVALOV
Mr. LI Luye
Mr. BALE
Mr. BIERRING
Mr. DUMEVI
Mr. RAKOTONDRAHMANA
Mr. KASEMSRI
Mr. MOHAMMED
Mr. DUBININ
Mr. AL-SHAALI

Sir John THOMSON
Mr. WALTERS
Mr. ACOLAR

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The meeting was called to order at 12 noon.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

LETTER DATED 15 APRIL 1986 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL (S/17991)

LETTER DATED 15 APRIL 1986 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF BURKINA FASO TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL (S/17992)

LETTER DATED 15 APRIL 1986 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL (S/17993)

LETTER DATED 15 APRIL 1986 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF OMAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL (S/17994)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): In accordance with decisions taken at previous meetings on this item, I invite the representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to take a place at the Council table. I also invite the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to take a place at the Council table. I invite the representatives of Algeria, Burkina Faso, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cuba, Democratic Yemen, the German Democratic Republic, India, Mongolia, Oman, Poland, Qatar, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and Yugoslavia to take the places reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Azzarouk (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) and Mr. Al-Atassi (Syrian Arab Republic) took places at the Council table; Mr. Djoudi (Algeria), Mr. Ouedraogo (Burkina Faso), Mr. Maksimov (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic), Mr. Velazco San Jose (Cuba), Mr. Al-Alfi (Democratic Yemen), Mr. Huckle (German Democratic Republic), Ms. Kunadi (India), Mr. Nyandoo (Mongolia), Mr. Al-Ansi (Oman), Mr. Noworyta (Poland), Mr. Al-Kawari (Qatar), Mr. Oudovenko (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) and Mr. Sekulic (Yugoslavia) took the places reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I wish to inform members of the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Viet Nam, asking to be invited to participate in the discussion of the question on our agenda. In accordance with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, pursuant to the relevant provisions of the Charter and of rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Cesar (Czechoslovakia), Mr. Endreffy (Hungary), Mr. Shah Nawaz (Pakistan), Mr. Shihabi (Saudi Arabia) and Mr. Bui Xuan Nhat (Viet Nam) took the places reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The Security Council will now resume its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I should like to draw the attention of members of the Council to the following documents: S/17999, letter dated 15 April 1986 from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General; and S/18000, letter dated 15 April 1986 from the Permanent Representative of Czechoslovakia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General.

I should now like to make a comment as representative of France.

In the course of the debate yesterday something was said that my delegation regards as inadmissible. The suggestion, which I had wanted to verify after the meeting, was that American leaders were the "legitimate heirs of the Hitler clique" (S/PV.2675, p. 38). As representative of France, a country that was one of the most sorely tried by Nazi barbarism, I wish to express to the contrary our

(The President)

gratitude to the great American democracy, which, by contributing to breaking that barbarism, permitted my country to regain its liberty and dignity.

I now resume my capacity as President.

The first speaker is the representative of Algeria. I invite him to take a place at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. DJOUDI (Algeria) (interpretation from French): I should like first, Sir, to convey to you the congratulations of the Algerian delegation on your assumption of the presidency of the Council for the month of April and to wish you every success in your task. I also wish to express our appreciation to your predecessor, His Excellency Mr. Ole Bierring of Denmark, for the way in which he guided the Council's work last month.

Once again, within the space of a few weeks, Libya has suffered an unjustifiable attack on its national sovereignty and independence. The resulting grave loss of human life and the extent of the damage demonstrate the particularly serious nature of the armed intervention of which Libya was the victim. The magnitude of the means used and the wide range of military instruments mobilized for the purpose in the Mediterranean and beyond show that it was premeditated aggression. As such, that action was not, as a laborious argument would have us believe, an exercise of the legitimate right of self-defence, recognized by the United Nations Charter; rather, it was a prohibited, and therefore inadmissible, use of force. Article 51 sets exact limits to the exception to the prohibition of the use of force within the exercise of the legitimate right of self-defence, which cannot be invoked in the absence of an act of aggression, and in this case there was no such act by Libya.

(Mr. Djoudi, Algeria)

Moreover, that provision of the Charter provides for the suspension of such a right while the Security Council is seized of the situation. Therefore, because of that Article and in particular because of its position as a permanent member of this body, the United States had the prime duty to do nothing that could have hindered or destroyed the efforts of the Council, which was still considering the situation in the central Mediterranean.

During the discussion of the issue Algeria had appealed to the Council to take measures to prevent a resumption of military action against Libya. Moreover, while reaffirming its solidarity with the fraternal Libyan people struggling to preserve what it has gained, Algeria had also advocated restraint in the face of increasing dangers which we considered had disastrous implications for regional stability and international peace and security.

Libya was again the target of this new act of aggression, but in fact the whole of the Maghreb is affected. Its stability has suffered, but above all the action jeopardizes our patient efforts to build regional harmony, marked by the full enjoyment of all the rights of our peoples and our desire to establish with the other littoral countries of the Mediterranean relationships of dialogue, understanding and co-operation. It is surprising that among the traditional partners of the Maghreb in the Mediterranean and elsewhere some have not understood that effort, have done nothing to promote a climate conducive to its success or shown the moderation and restraint necessary to protect and strengthen a Maghreb undertaking whose success could only re-establish lasting confidence, which would be in the interest of both the Maghreb and its partners.

(Mr. Djoudi, Algeria)

At the same time, it is alarming to note that the military actions of the United States against Libya were prepared with the consent of some of its allies and with the overt participation of another Permanent Member of the Security Council, the United Kingdom. That sudden activity is the more surprising in that it is in sharp contrast with a stolid passivity vis-à-vis the requirements for a settlement of the Middle East crisis. Indeed, is it the unpredictable and uncontrollable extension of that conflict that is now affecting Europe.

The eruption of the phenomenon of violence, in the form of reprehensible terrorist acts, has caused the loss of innocent lives, a loss no one can condone.

(Mr. Djoudi, Algeria)

At the same time, in an impassioned exploitation based on that intermixture, an attempt is being made to inculcate in people's minds an erroneous identification between terrorism and the struggle of peoples for the liberation of their own territory, while blatant acts of State terrorism are being met either with approval or with a complacent silence on the part of certain Powers.

Thus the Zionist aggression against Tunisia, which extended the terrorism reigning in the Middle East to the soil of the Maghreb, must be regarded both as a precedent and as a dangerous development, although its nature and terrorist content have not been recognized for what they are, nor has it been condemned as such by those very entities that claim the eradication of terrorism to be the basic objective of their acts.

In the same way, we cannot hope to tackle international terrorism and simultaneously engage in military interventions that have a devastating effect on international law and order, interventions that can already count among their earliest victims the very credibility of the United Nations system, and of this body in particular. It must be made clear that there is a great deal more honour to be gained in working resolutely towards a just and lasting reduction of tensions to their original or recent dimensions than in pursuing a policy of confrontation fraught with disastrous consequences.

Such an attitude, which is an inherent threat to international peace and security, will inevitably lead to the escalation of violence and further strengthen the logic of military escalation.

That is the firm belief of the members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries who met yesterday in an urgent ministerial meeting at New Delhi and called upon the United States to put an immediate end to its military operations, urging the Security Council to take steps to condemn such acts of aggression and to prevent their recurrence.

(Mr. Djoudi, Algeria)

Thus it is up to this Council not only to carry out its functions but also to preserve its legitimacy by taking a clear and determined stand that will render justice to Libya and dispel the persistent threats hanging over that country.

Algeria, whose people are in full sympathy with the fraternal Libyan people in this harsh trial, would like to take this opportunity to reiterate its firm attachment to the safeguarding of Libya's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. We call upon the Security Council to be alert to the full implications of the challenge put to it and to reestablish the confidence the international community has placed in it.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I thank the representative of Algeria for the kind words he addressed to me.

The next speaker is the representative of Yugoslavia. I invite him to take a place at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. SEKULIC (Yugoslavia): I would like to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of April. I am confident that your acknowledged skills, your wisdom and your knowledge of world affairs will greatly contribute to our deliberations.

I also avail myself of this opportunity to express our appreciation to your predecessor, His Excellency Ambassador Ole Bierring of Denmark, for his competence in guiding the Council during the month of March.

Force has been flagrantly used again in the Mediterranean against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the independent and non-aligned Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. American warplanes have sowed death and destruction. An act of aggression was committed, and the lives of many innocent men, women and children have been lost.

Despite numerous warnings and calls for the cessation of the demonstration or use of force, the generally accepted norms of behaviour among States have been

(Mr. Sekulic, Yugoslavia)

replaced by the right of the stronger to perpetuate violence and aggression. Nothing can justify the use of force, for it has never, nor should it ever, become a means for the solution of problems.

Yugoslavia, with other non-aligned countries, has always pointed out that the military activities of foreign Powers in the Mediterranean must be stopped and that it is an illusion to believe that they can be managed or controlled. In September 1984, at their ministerial conference at Valleta, Malta, the Mediterranean members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries called upon the non-Mediterranean and Mediterranean European States to adhere strictly to the principle of non-use or threat of force and urged them not to use their weapons, forces, bases and military facilities against non-aligned Mediterranean countries. This is also stipulated in the Helsinki Final Act on Security and Co-operation in Europe. It is an obligation incumbent upon all the signatories to that Act.

At the precise moment when the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the non-aligned countries have gathered in New Delhi, India, to make a further contribution to peace and co-operation, the United States of America has carried out a military operation contrary to the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations as well as to the basic norms of international relations. The messages of reason, peace, security and stability, in the best tradition of the policy of non-alignment, have gone unheeded.

The Presidency of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, in its statement of 27 February of this year, pointed to the dangerous development of the situation in the Mediterranean and stressed the inadmissibility of the demonstration and use of military force, outlining the principles and ways upon which peace, security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region can be based.

On 25 March, following the dangerous escalation of the situation marked by aggressive armed attacks by the United States Sixth Fleet on targets and territory

(Mr. Sekulic, Yugoslavia)

of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Presidency of Yugoslavia expressed the greatest concern over those acts, condemned them and demanded the urgent cessation of military operations. On that occasion, the Presidency's assessment was that such developments only reconfirmed that the Mediterranean region, owing to the ever-larger accumulation of military forces and the lack of solutions to the critical situation in the area, had become a new and serious focus of crisis in the world.

Bearing this in mind, the Presidency pointed to the urgent need for immediate action by the widest segment of the international community, and particularly by the United Nations Security Council, aimed at preventing the outbreak of a wider conflict, at creating respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and at reaching a peaceful solution in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter and the policy of non-alignment.

At an urgent session held on 15 April, yesterday, the Presidency of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia considered the latest situation in the Mediterranean created by the United States armed attack on Libya. The Presidency issued a statement which reads, inter alia, as follows:

"The Presidency of Yugoslavia condemns most strongly this armed attack by the United States of America on the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and points out that this flagrant violation of sovereignty and territorial integrity of an independent and non-aligned country, gravely endangers security, stability and peace in the region and beyond. Such development of the situation has been received with grave concern in Yugoslavia.

"The situation created by these armed attacks has been met with the widest international concern and condemnation. The policy of force and military intervention in international relations cannot be a means of solving any problem in the world. Such policy is in direct opposition to the Charter of the United Nations.

(Mr. Sekulic, Yugoslavia)

"The Presidency of the SFR of Yugoslavia points out the need for the urgent cessation of the aggressive military operations by the United States of America and for action by the international community - particularly the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the United Nations and the Security Council - aimed at restoring peace and stability in the region, with consistent respect for independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

"The Presidency of the SFR of Yugoslavia expects that political wisdom and sense of responsibility will prevail on the part of the perpetrators of this military action, in order to avoid further extension and prolongation of the intervention, to safeguard peace and security in this part of the world, and to prevent a general deterioration of the international situation."

There is a long row of graves marking the path of force and modern weaponry. If this is to be continued, somewhere down the road the independence and sovereignty of peoples run the risk of being buried.

Guided by experience and the duties spelled out in the Charter, the international community, the United Nations and the Security Council must be able to prevent it. Otherwise, we shall be embarking on a path leading to lawlessness in international relations, the total absence of stability, a situation in which arms will replace reason and, ultimately, the very real possibility of wider conflagration.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I thank the representative of Yugoslavia for the kind words he addressed to me.

The next speaker is the representative of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. I invite him to take a place at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. OUDOVENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) (interpretation from Russian): I should like first of all, Sir, to welcome you to the presidency of the Security Council and wish you success in the conduct of our proceedings here this month. Knowing you from our joint work in this body, I am convinced that in you the Council has a very experienced and authoritative President.

We also pay tribute to the Permanent Representative of Denmark, Ambassador Sierring, who guided the Council's work last month.

Once again the Security Council is called upon to consider the situation prevailing in the central Mediterranean area, since that situation is arousing considerable alarm and well-justified concern among the international community. In spite of vigorous condemnation in the Security Council of the aggressive action committed by the United States against Libya on the night of 24 March this year, the United States Administration, continuing its course of exacerbating the international situation, has committed yet one more act of naked aggression against sovereign, non-aligned Libya.

The piratical raid by the United States air force carried out from American bases in the United Kingdom caused considerable loss of human life, particularly among the peaceful civilian population, and tremendous damage was done to civilian targets. The scale and brutality of this armed attack by the United States demonstrates total disregard for world public opinion; it is a flagrant act of defiance of that opinion and a flouting of the universally acknowledged norms of international law and of its obligations under the United Nations Charter. Moreover, Libya is being threatened with further such acts of aggression in the future if the United States "considers it necessary".

As everyone knows, the most recent act of aggression against Libya was preceded by a whole series of provocative actions on the part of the United States. This year alone five major manoeuvres were carried out off the Libyan coast involving dozens of American warships and hundreds of aircraft. Over the past

(Mr. Oudovenko, Ukrainian SSR)

five years Washington has carried out military manoeuvres 18 times off the shores of Libya. First there were vituperative and inadmissible verbal attacks against Libya and its leadership and naked demonstrative acts of provocation against that sovereign, non-aligned country; but now Washington has embarked on naked aggression.

The goal of this latest act of American aggression is to intimidate the Libyan people and also to demonstrate to other peoples that the present United States Administration will not hesitate to use armed force to carry out its hegemonistic political plans. American imperialism has carried out yet another crime at one of the most sensitive times in history when the peoples of the world have pinned great hopes in an improvement in international relations as inspired by the Geneva meeting.

In this context we cannot fail to be seriously alarmed by the deliberate actions of the United States aimed at disrupting international relations, and the consequences of this act are hard to predict.

On 27 March in the Security Council we gave our views on the action of the United States. Today we wish to stress that the events that have been occurring in the Mediterranean are striking confirmation of one of the conclusions of the Twenty-Seventh Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union:

"Imperialism is unwilling to reckon with the political realities of the Day. It disregards the will of sovereign nations, tries to deprive them of their right to choose their own course of development and threatens their security. That is the fundamental reason for conflicts that have broken out in various parts of the world."

No matter how hard United States representatives seek to justify the American act of piracy by references to the United Nations Charter, the facts are irrefutable. Its policy of neo-globalism is typified by total disdain for universally acknowledged norms of international law, encroachment on the

(Mr. Oudovenko, Ukrainian SSR)

sovereignty of States and futile attempts to deprive peoples of their right to live as they choose. In our view, references by United States representatives to Articles 2 and 51 of the United Nations Charter are totally out of place. It is worth recalling today that these very same references were exploited also to justify intervention against defenceless Grenada, the undeclared war against Nicaragua and military intervention in Lebanon and other parts of the world.

As has already been quite rightly pointed out at meetings of the Security Council, increasing tension in the central Mediterranean and threats of violence against a small State whose independent policy is not to the liking of Washington runs the risk of not only seriously exacerbating the situation in the Mediterranean but also undermining peace and security throughout the world.

That is confirmed by the statement of the Soviet Government that was read out yesterday by Ambassador Dubinin. This statement in particular stresses that

"The United States Administration, in the face of common sense and ignoring the realities of the day, is playing with fire. It should be obvious that in the nuclear age all problems in the relations between States must be resolved by political means." (S/PV.2675, p. 6)

A very constructive and concrete answer was given in Mr. Gorbachev's statement on 26 March this year to the legitimate question of what can and must be done in this extremely explosive situation that has arisen in the Mediterranean.

(Mr. Oudovenko, Ukrainian SSR)

He formulated proposals on behalf of the Soviet Union that could bring the Mediterranean towards an easing of tension and convert that part of the world into a zone of stable peace and security, which would be promoted through the convening of the proposed representative conference.

An example of the USSR's responsible and realistic approach is its readiness immediately to enter into talks on the question of the simultaneous and mutual withdrawal from the Mediterranean of the fleets of the USSR and the United States. However, Washington's response to that proposal also has been negative. The countries that participated in the Warsaw Treaty have joined in the international community's appeal in defence of the Libyan people and its inalienable right to freedom and independent development. Their statement stresses that the present difficult situation in international relations requires all States to take a particularly responsible approach and to demonstrate restraint in their policies and make active efforts to support and maintain universal peace. These are precisely the goals that have inspired and will continue to inspire the fraternal socialist countries in all their political actions.

The Ukrainian SSR vigorously condemns the aggressive, piratical actions of the United States against Libya. We would express our condolences on the loss of all those who have been killed as a result of the American bombing of Libyans and citizens of other States.

We wish once again to express our solidarity with the Libyan people, who are defending their sacred right to freedom and independence against imperialist attacks.

In the circumstances the Security Council must with the utmost vigour condemn the acts of aggression committed against Libya and demand that such acts not be repeated in the future. An end must be put to them. It is time to exclude from international relations methods of force, pressure and threat.

(Mr. Oudovenko, Ukrainian SSR)

The international community expects of the Security Council energetic measures in the implementation of the tasks it faces in the maintenance of international peace and security.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I thank the representative of the Ukrainian SSR for the kind words he addressed to me.

Mr. WOOLCOTT (Australia): We are dealing with a very serious matter, but I should like to take a moment to say how glad my delegation is to see you, Sir, the Permanent Representative of France, presiding over the Council at this time of international anxiety. We are confident that your combination of diplomatic skills, objectivity, Gallic logic and good humour will enable you to guide our deliberations most effectively.

Although I was not in New York at the time, my delegation and other representatives have told me of the considerable skill and fairness with which the Ambassador of Denmark conducted the presidency last month, and I should like to place on record the Australian delegation's warm appreciation of his efforts.

The Australian delegation today has very much in mind the primary responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security. World attention is focused on this body at present, and people around the world look to the Council to take positive action to achieve a peaceful resolution of the issue before us. We must respond effectively to that challenge.

As tension has developed in the central Mediterranean, Australia has continued to counsel restraint. As a matter of principle Australia rejects any attempts to resolve differences between nations by violent measures and in particular through terrorism. This is a principle which has guided the Australian delegation in its approach to many of the issues which have come before this body.

As the Australian Prime Minister, Mr. Hawke, said on 15 April, the Australian Government deeply regrets that this conflict has taken place. We urge both

(Mr. Woolcott, Australia)

sides to engage in genuine efforts to bring about a peaceful resolution of their differences.

It will mean, as an absolute and essential condition, that Colonel Qaddafi terminate his Government's direction of, export of and support for terrorist activities against civilians and civilian targets, such as have recently been directed against United States civilians. This would also mean that the United States should desist from further military action against Libya.

The Australian delegation regards the adoption by consensus of a resolution - 40/61 - on measures to prevent international terrorism as one of the achievements of the fortieth session of the General Assembly. That resolution unequivocally condemned as criminal all acts, methods and practices of terrorism, wherever and by whomever committed. The resolution, I repeat, was adopted by consensus. And yet terrorism has continued.

The Australian Government accepts that there is a substantial body of evidence of Libyan involvement in and direction of international terrorism. This situation cannot continue. We have all condemned such outrages. We have deplored the loss of innocent human lives and the poisoning of relations among States which result from these pernicious acts. We therefore stand ready to work with the whole membership of this Organization to bring international terrorism to an end.

If terrorism cannot be rooted out, the international community faces a dark future of increasing violence. Already the situation has reached the point where the United States has felt compelled by Libyan actions to regard it as necessary to take military action. Threats of further violence have followed from several quarters. There have been some calls to arms, when the world should be calling for mediation, negotiation, conciliation - in short, a peaceful settlement. If we do not take a stand in favour of peaceful means, we will be surrendering to an intensifying cycle of violence.

(Mr. Woolcott, Australia)

Having stated the general position of the Australian Government on the question before the Council, I should like now to move onto some new ground.

In this debate so far, we have heard a substantial number of interventions. In some cases these statements have been deficient in that they have not addressed clearly and sufficiently the question of what can be done to contain and stop this conflict, and in particular what the Security Council can do to this end.

We must look to the future. If our work this week is not to be a complete failure and yet another sterile exchange without a constructive result, it is necessary that all of us, members of the Council and Members of the United Nations, turn our minds actively and without delay to the discharge of our responsibilities to avoid further tensions and to bring our deliberations to a constructive conclusion.

(Mr. Woolcott, Australia)

As we know, the Security Council has wide powers in this regard under Chapter VI of the Charter. I mention Article 33 (2), whereby the Council may call upon the parties to settle their dispute by a variety of means; Article 34, whereby the Council may investigate any dispute, and Article 36 (1), whereby the Council may at any stage recommend appropriate procedures.

From previous statements we have heard, it is clear that members of the Council may have difficulty in agreeing upon the precise nature of this dispute. But there should be no question of disagreement that, within the purposes of the Articles I have cited, the maintenance of international peace and security has been endangered. Article 36 (1) captures this point precisely in its reference to a dispute of the nature referred to in Article 33 "or of a situation of like nature".

There is also a range of procedures available for the Council to pursue these objectives which would merit our urgent examination in the case before us. In saying this, my delegation has in mind the role the Secretary-General might play in this matter, and Australia would naturally support any such endeavours on the part of the Secretary-General.

It is my objective now to press the Council to assume its responsibilities in this regard.

I do not wish to make firm proposals as to the exact methods the Council itself might employ. That is for consideration and decision by Members. But the Council needs to act constructively, and with the co-operation of the parties. It may assist the Council's deliberations if I identify several possible courses: the Security Council must play its part, and I have every confidence, Mr. President, in your capacity to exercise your responsibility under the Charter in channelling the Council's energy in constructive ways; the peaceful means of settling disputes, elaborated in Article 33 of the Charter, are also worthy of careful consideration

(Mr. Woolcott, Australia)

by the Council. Finally, I note that the parties themselves could bring the dispute to a speedy end by making and strictly observing genuine and binding commitments to the Security Council about their future conduct. These commitments would include, on the one hand, a pledge concerning the strictest respect for, and adherence to, the terms of General Assembly resolution 40/61, which unequivocally condemns terrorism and calls on all States to refrain from organizing, instigating, assisting or participating in terrorist acts. They would also include, on the other hand, a reciprocal commitment to refrain from resort to armed force. The Council could examine urgently how such commitments might be undertaken by the present parties and by all States concerned.

I have indicated that the Australian Government wishes the Council to move from the stage of debate to the stage of accepting its responsibilities to promote a peaceful settlement, on terms acceptable to the parties and to the world community.

I suggest that you, Mr. President, might institute and pursue consultations among Member States to this end. You will have the full support and co-operation of the Australian delegation in that endeavour.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I thank the representative of Australia for the kind words he addressed to me.

The next speaker is the representative of the German Democratic Republic. I invite him to take a place at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. HUCKE (German Democratic Republic): At the very outset, Sir, permit me to congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for this month and to wish you the best of success in the discharge of your responsible task. At the same time my delegation would like to express its high esteem for the President of the Council for the month of March, the Permanent Representative of Denmark, His Excellency Ambassador Biering.

(Mr. Hucks, German Democratic Republic)

Allow me, Mr. President, to thank you and through you the other members of the Council for the opportunity given me to explain the position of the German Democratic Republic on the item under discussion.

The aggravation of the situation in the southern Mediterranean is being followed with deep concern the world over. The people and Government of the German Democratic Republic fully share this concern.

The situation in that region is the result of armed aggression by the main imperialist Power against the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. The aggression dangerously threatens peace and security in the region and in the world at large. Therefore, the request for convening an urgent meeting of the Security Council to consider the situation and to apply appropriate measures to restore peace is fully justified and necessary. Only two weeks ago the Security Council had to deal with military provocations launched against Libya. In that debate almost all State representatives clearly called for halting those provocations and for settling all disputes by peaceful means.

Now we see that the United States has disregarded those justified demands. In the early morning hours of 15 April, United States warplanes intruded into Libyan air space and bombed the cities of Tripoli and Benghazi.

Whatever pretext the present United States Administration may invoke for this criminal assault, there is no justification for it whatsoever. This act of terror constitutes a flagrant violation of the most elementary norms for the peaceful co-existence of nations, a gross disregard of the United Nations Charter and a defiance of international public opinion. This is more than an act of State terrorism: this is aggression.

The United States air raids against Libyan cities come within the clear statutory definition of an act of aggression set forth in resolution 3314 (XXIX).

(Mr. Huckle, German Democratic Republic)

In article 3 of that resolution it is stated that

"Any of the following acts, regardless of a declaration of war, shall... qualify as an act of aggression:" - and I refer especially to subparagraph (b), which states:

"Bombardment by the armed forces of a State against the territory of another State or the use of any weapons by a State against the territory of another State".

The act of aggression resulted in a great number of casualties. Property was destroyed and damaged, including property of my country. The German Democratic Republic most resolutely condemns the use of military force and expresses its deep sympathy for the innocent victims of the criminal assault.

(Mr. Huckle, German Democratic Republic)

The German Democratic Republic holds the view that this act of aggression against Libya must not be regarded as an isolated event. It should rather be seen in connection with the attempts of reactionary imperialist circles to justify their policy of arms build-up and global hegemony as well as interference in the internal affairs of other States by heating up international tensions.

The invasion in Grenada, the policy of threat and blackmail against the heroically fighting people of Nicaragua and the intrusion into the territorial waters of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Bulgaria by United States warships are links in the chain of provocation. They are an expression of the policy of globalism and world domination.

The continuation of nuclear explosions, the measures aimed at militarizing outer space and the latest air raids against Libya illustrate the adventurous character of that policy.

The German Democratic Republic is of the opinion that this dangerous situation requires that everything be done to prevent any new acts of aggression which might lead to a military escalation. Guided by such an approach, the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic has declared in various statements that what is required in this situation is statesmanlike wisdom and prudence on the part of all who bear responsibility. What is most urgently called for is not irresponsible military actions but rather the transformation of the Mediterranean into a zone of stable peace and international security.

Therefore, the German Democratic Republic fully supports the proposals submitted by the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev, on 26 March this year.

(Mr. Hücke, German Democratic Republic)

The German Democratic Republic firmly sides with the Libyan people. No one must encroach upon the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of other States. The peoples cannot be intimidated by acts of military violence such as those perpetrated by the United States. They will successfully continue their struggle for peace and security and for national freedom and sovereignty and against imperialist attacks. Everybody should be guided by common sense and realism, including those who have caused the latest acts of piracy against Libya.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I thank the representative of the German Democratic Republic for his kind words addressed to me.

In view of the lateness of the hour, I propose, with the consent of members of the Council, to adjourn this meeting and meet again at 3.30 p.m.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.

