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GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
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Item 59 of the preliminary list\*  
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING  
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Thirty-seventh year

Letter dated 5 March 1982 from the Permanent Representative  
of the United States of America to the United Nations  
addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of my Government, I wish to take this opportunity to respond to the charges contained in the letter of 3 February 1982 addressed to Your Excellency by the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (A/37/82-S/14860).

I wish to inform you that the Government of the United States categorically rejects the false claim of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya that United States aircraft harassed Libyan commercial aircraft on 31 January 1982. The facts are as follows.

The aircraft carrier USS John F. Kennedy, which was operating in the central Mediterranean, was the only aircraft carrier at sea in the Mediterranean on 31 January 1982. On that date, five unidentified aircraft entered the carrier's operating area. In keeping with standard operating procedures, Navy F14s proceeded to identify them visually. All five were subsequently identified as commercial aircraft by US Navy aircraft.

The identification of unknown aircraft approaching an aircraft carrier is a normal and prudent peacetime practice in naval operations. In this case, pilots of the F14s did not get close enough to identify any of the aircraft as Libyan.

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\* A/37/50.

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I would be grateful if you would kindly circulate the text of this letter as a document of the General Assembly, under item 59 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jeane J. KIRKPATRICK

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