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LETTER DATED 22 FEBRUARY 1983 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO
THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The Government of the United States rejects the false and malicious charges of the Government of Libya and calls the attention of the Council to yet another example of a threat to international peace and security posed by the policies of the Libyan Government.

Furious that its plans for illegal, violent action were frustrated, the Government of Libya comes now to the Security Council with lying complaints against the United States. In fact, the United States committed none of the acts charged by the Government of Libya.

The United States dispatched no offensive aircraft into the region, violated no Libyan airspace. As a matter of fact, neither the United States carrier Nimitz nor its aircraft entered water or airspace claimed by Libya on the days in question, although we have every right to enter these international waters, recognized as such under international law. We also have every right to conduct, under appropriate circumstances, training exercises with friendly Governments.

The United States affirms its rights under international law and the Charter of the United Nations and intends to exercise them.

Naturally, the Government of Libya would prefer that no obstacles - however legal - be interposed to its plots and expansionist projects. But peace-loving nations cannot accommodate Libya's designs on its neighbours.

In calling attention to Libya's false charges, the United States notes that such lies mock the serious work of building international peace, just as Libya's repeated efforts to interfere in the affairs of its neighbours destroy security in the region.

On behalf of my Government, I respectfully request that this letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jeane J. KIRKPATRICK
Permanent Representative of the
United States to the United Nations
