



**Security Council**

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LETTER DATED 15 AUGUST 1990 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED  
TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a letter addressed to you by Colonel Muammar Qaddafi, Leader of the Great Revolution of 1 September.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ali A. TREIKI  
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 15 August 1990 from the Leader of the Great  
Revolution of 1 September of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya  
addressed to the Secretary-General

The situation in the Arab Gulf continues to be unacceptable. The beginning, on 14 August 1990, of the blockade of ships in the Arab Gulf is an act of open aggression, since it is being carried out by the forces of free States which are following their military commands. Moreover, regardless of whether the party against which action is being taken is the oppressor or the oppressed, the measure constitutes an act of aggression under international law and is a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and is therefore considered to be a war between the States perpetrating this act and the party against which action is being taken.

Before the situation becomes any worse, threatening international peace and security, and in order to avert a catastrophe in the Arab region to which the great Jamahiriya belongs, we consider it essential that the Security Council should meet at Geneva as a matter of urgency. The Council will determine in a resolution which forces will be permitted to be present in the Gulf and will spell out their mandate. As soon as the resolution is adopted, those forces will don the United Nations uniform, wear its emblem and carry its flag and place themselves under the direct command of the Security Council, which alone has the authority, under the Charter of the United Nations, to determine the size of such forces and the length of their mission.

As for the situation in Saudi Arabia, we believe that it threatens security in the region and that the only possible action is the replacement of American forces with Arab League forces to defend the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, should it become clear that that country is threatened; under such circumstances, the Security Council would have to take a decision.

The request to convene a meeting of the Security Council serves to confirm your statement that only the United Nations has the authority to decide on measures regarding a blockade in implementation of Article 41 of the Charter of the United Nations, which stipulates that the Security Council may decide what measures not involving the use of armed force are to be employed to give effect to its decisions, and that it may call upon the Members of the United Nations to apply such measures. These may include complete or partial interruption of economic relations and of rail, sea, air, postal, telegraphic, radio and other means of communication, and the severing of diplomatic relations. We wish to reaffirm clearly that there is absolutely no justification for invoking Article 51 of the Charter in the current situation, given that that Article is aimed only at repulsing an act of aggression against the territory of the State calling for the

implementation of that Article. The State in the Gulf, however, is not being attacked by Iraq or by any other State.

Muammar QADDAFI  
Leader of the Great Revolution  
of 1 September

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