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CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION
OF AFRICAN UNITY

Letter dated 24 October 1990 from the Permanent Representative of
Somalia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In reference to the letter dated 14 September 1990 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations (A/45/517), I am directed to transmit herewith the text of the response of the Government of the Somali Democratic Republic to the statement on Somalia issued on 13 September 1990 by the Twelve States members of the European Community.

I would be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and the attachment circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 30 of the agenda.

(Signed) Abdullahi Said OSMAN
Ambassador and
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Response of the Government of the Somali Democratic Republic
to the statement on Somalia issued on 13 September 1990 by
the Twelve States members of the European Community

The Government of the Somali Democratic Republic would like to refer to the statement of the States members of the European Community, dated 13 September 1990, which, inter alia, accuses the Somali authorities of human rights violations. The Government of Somalia considers the circulation by the European Community of the statement in question as a United Nations document regrettable. It is surprising that the EC has levelled such a serious charge against the Government of Somalia without providing substantiated evidence.

The truth of the matter is that a group of bandits attacked civilian settlements near Berbera killing over 50 people, which provoked retaliation and tribal conflict, resulting in the killing of a number of civilians in that area. The Government of Somalia categorically denies the involvement of the members of its armed forces in this incident. It, therefore, considers a reference in the said statement to their alleged role in the killings, baseless and unfounded.

It is evident that the statement, while highlighting an isolated incident to portray a picture of insecurity of life and property in Mogadishu, fails to refer to the concrete steps taken by the Government of Somalia, not only towards the liberalization of the political processes but also the improvement of the law and order situation in the country. In fact, only a few days ago, the Government introduced far-reaching reforms including the implementation of the new Constitution. All the laws which are contrary to or inconsistent with the Constitution have been abolished. Further, legislation has been introduced for the holding of elections for a multi-party democracy, for the functioning of political parties and for the freedom of the press. In addition a decision has been adopted to release all political prisoners.

The Government of the Somali Democratic Republic hereby declares its firm determination to take concrete measures to protect the life and property not only of its citizens but also of the many foreign nationals who reside in the country. It is, however, unfortunate that opposition groups, instead of co-operating with the Government in this endeavour, have been resorting to acts of violence in order to disrupt internal security and undermine law and order. The Government once again appeals to these groups to respond positively to its call for a meaningful dialogue towards national reconciliation, in order to put an end to internal conflict and lay down a solid foundation for lasting peace and security in the country.
