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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
IRAQI AGGRESSION AND THE CONTINUED
OCCUPATION OF KUWAIT IN FLAGRANT
VIOLATION OF THE CHARTER OF THE
UNITED NATIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-fifth year

Letter dated 30 October 1990 from the Permanent Representative of
Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit the texts, in English and French, of the declarations of the European Community on the Gulf crisis (see annex I) and on the Middle East (see annex II).

We should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 35 and 153, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vieri TRAXLER
Ambassador

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ANNEX I

Declaration on the Gulf crisis

The European Council expresses its deep concern at the continuing deadlock in the Gulf crisis, with the persistent violation of international legality by Iraq, and in particular the prolonged and destructive occupation of Kuwait, the oppression and deportation of its population, the holding of foreign hostages and the repeated violations of conventions governing diplomatic relations. Such acts cannot be tolerated. The European Community and its member States attach the highest priority to the solution of this crisis, on the basis of the United Nations Security Council resolutions, and reaffirm that no solution is possible without the prior implementation of these resolutions.

The European Council demands that Iraq immediately, completely and unconditionally withdraw its forces from Kuwait, that the legitimate Government of Kuwait be restored and that all foreign citizens who so desire be allowed to leave Iraq and Kuwait.

The European Council, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, condemns the Iraqi practice of holding foreign nationals as hostages and keeping some of them in strategic sites; it reminds Iraq of its international obligations in this respect and holds the Iraqi Government fully responsible for their safety. The member States of the European Community reaffirm their total solidarity in achieving the freedom of all foreign citizens trapped in Iraq and Kuwait and denounce the unscrupulous use that Iraq is making of them with the sole and vain purpose of trying to divide the international community. They unreservedly condemn this manoeuvre which, carried out in contempt of the most basic humanitarian rules, can only complicate prospects for a solution to the crisis. They affirm their determination not to send representatives of their Governments in any capacity to negotiate with Iraq the release of foreign hostages and to discourage others from doing so. They ask the Security Council to continue its efforts to achieve the immediate departure of all hostages and they encourage the Secretary-General to send a special representative to Iraq to this end.

The European Council also demands that, in accordance with the Vienna Convention, Iraq permit the free and unhindered departure of diplomats accredited to Kuwait who are at present prevented from leaving Iraq.

The European Council expresses its satisfaction at the high degree of consensus among all members of the United Nations Security Council and the international community as a whole on the above principles. It believes that such a consensus needs to be preserved in order for a peaceful solution of the crisis to be achieved. The Community and its member States are determined scrupulously to adhere to the embargo and to the other measures decided by the Security Council and call upon all other States to act in the same way. They are also prepared to consider additional steps consistent with the Charter of the United Nations.

The Presidency will notify the Iraqi Government of the text of this declaration.

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ANNEX II

Declaration on the Middle East

The European Council expresses its deep dismay at the continuing violence in Lebanon. It hopes that a process of national reconciliation will effectively develop in that country. It reaffirms its strong support for the implementation of the Taif Agreements, which must be carried out by all concerned as soon as possible, thus bringing about the full restoration of the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of a Lebanon free of all foreign troops. The European Council calls upon all parties in Lebanon to take part in this process and to co-operate with a view to the immediate restoration of conditions preventing the recurrence of such violence. The European Community and its member States will continue to support that process fully and stand ready to participate in the reconstruction of the country.

The European Council reaffirms its long-standing commitment to a just solution to the other problems of the region and the determination of the Community and its member States to spare no efforts to that end.

In this context, it intends to work for a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem in conformity with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and the principles set out by the Community in its previous declarations. To this end, it repeats once again its support for the principle of the convening, at an appropriate time, of an international peace conference.

The lack of any progress in the search for a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict is a source of deep concern to the Community and its member States, which are determined to encourage all efforts to promote dialogue between the parties directly concerned. The European Council welcomes United Nations Security Council resolutions 672 (1990) and 673 (1990), reaffirms its support for the role that the United Nations can and should play in protecting the rights of the Palestinian people, and calls once more upon Israel to meet its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and to co-operate with the United Nations. The tragic events that have occurred in Jerusalem show once more that the status quo in the occupied territories is unsustainable. Just as the Community and its member States deplored those events, so they express the same feelings concerning the tragic acts of violence committed against Israeli citizens. Reminding all concerned that violence breeds violence, they repeat their appeal for calm and restraint.

The European Council welcomes the normalization of the relations between the Community and its member States and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The European Council believes that all opportunities should be taken for the solution of the conflicts in the region. It is convinced that relations of trust and co-operation must be fostered among the countries of the region so as to establish a situation of stability, security, economic and social welfare and

respect for civil and political rights, to prevent the recurrence of crisis, to curb the arms race and to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The Community and its member States are ready to co-operate with the countries concerned in the search for principles, rules and structures to that end and to contribute to the success of the task entrusted by relevant resolutions to the United Nations Secretary-General to examine measures to enhance security and stability in the region.

Just and lasting solutions to the different problems of the region can only contribute to strengthening the historical links between Europe and the countries of the Middle East and to giving full meaning to the role that the Arab world should play in the international community.
