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LETTER DATED 16 APRIL 1986 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF GHANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour, upon instructions, to forward the attached statement issued by the Government of Ghana on 15 April 1986 on the air and naval raid on Libya by the United States of America, and respectfully request that it be circulated as a Security Council document.

(<u>Signed</u>) N. K. DUMEVI Chargé d'affaires a.i.

<u>Annex</u>

Statement issued on 15 April 1986 by the Government of Ghana on the air and naval raid on Libya by the United States of America

The Provisional National Defence Council has expressed shock and dismay at the surprise attack launched by the Reagan Administration on Libya in the early hours of yesterday morning culminating in the massive and inhuman destruction of lives and property, including even the Embassy of France, a Western country. The air and naval attack coming soon after the provocative action by the Reagan Administration in the Gulf of Sidra clearly establishes a premeditated intention by the United States to attack Libya with or without reason.

The Provisional National Defence Council further expresses great surprise that Britain, which originally opposed the use of United States bases in Britain for the attack, has now turned round to conjure reasons to justify the shameful action.

Today's grave incident should serve as a serious warning to all progressive and peace-loving countries of the ominous threat to international peace and security posed by the misguided and belligerent policies of the Reagan Administration. Such provocative acts of wanton destruction of lives and property should be vehemently opposed by the international community.

Ghana is convinced that the world cannot continue to bear in silence the shame of the United States aggression against Libya.

The world faces a bleak future if the use of force should be substituted for the settlement of international disputes by peaceful negotiation.

The United States action which cannot be defended under any international law is a flagrant violation of acceptable standards of international behaviour. The act of aggression against Libya is the culmination of a persistent onslaught by the United States against the rights of people throughout the world. It is also a manifestation of the blatant arrogance with which the United States demonstrates its power.

Ghana has consistently condemned terrorism, no matter where it emanates from. Ghana, in that same context, condemns this latest manifestation of State terrorism by the Reagan Administration.

The thrust of the air and naval attack on Tripoli and Benghazi, particularly the bombing of brother Gaddafi's residence, makes it clear that the United States intended to use its State terrorist power to murder the Libyan leader.

On this sad occasion, the people of Ghana express their solidarity and support for the brotherly people of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in their just struggle against the unprovoked aggression by the belligerent Reagan Administration of the United States.

The United States will bear full responsibility for any loss of Ghanaian lives and properties in the course of the unprovoked and unjustifiable attack on Libya.

