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LETTER DATED 14 APRIL 1986 FROM THE ACTING PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO
THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, I wish, on behalf of my Government, to report that United States forces have exercised the United States right of self-defense by responding to an ongoing pattern of attacks by the Government of Libya. As stated by President Reagan on April 14, "self-defense is not only our right; it is our duty. It is the purpose behind the mission undertaken tonight, a mission fully consistent with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter."

Over a considerable period of time Libya has openly targeted American citizens and U.S. installations. The most recent instance was in West Berlin on April 5, where Libya was directly responsible for a bombing which resulted in the death of one U.S. soldier and injury to a large number of American servicemen and other persons.

The United States exercised great care in restricting its military response to terrorist-related targets. It took every possible precaution to avoid civilian casualties and to limit collateral damage. The United States objective was to destroy facilities used to carry out Libya's hostile policy of international terrorism and to discourage Libyan terrorist attacks in the future. These facilities constituted essential elements which have enabled Libyan agents to carry out deadly missions against U.S. installations and innocent individuals.

The Libyan policy of threats and use of force is in clear violation of Article 2(4) of the United Nations Charter. It has given rise to the entirely justifiable response by the U.S.

The Government of the United States views with grave concern the Libyan practice of threats and use of force in violation of the Charter. In view of the gravity of Libya's action, and the threat that this poses to the maintenance of international peace and security, I ask that you circulate the text of this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Herbert S. OKUN
Ambassador
Acting Permanent Representative

