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LETTER DATED 14 JULY 1970 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ITALY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a communication of the Italian Government regarding the dispute between Austria and Italy concerning the status of the German-speaking element in the Province of Bolzano (Bozen); implementation of the Paris Agreement of 5 September 1946.

I have the honour to request you, upon instructions of my Government, to circulate the communication as an official document of the General Assembly, in view of its relevance to General Assembly resolutions 1497 (XV) of 31 October 1960 and 1661 (XVI) of 28 November 1961.

(Signed) Peiro VINCI
Ambassador

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FIRST VERBAL COMMUNICATION OF THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

As it is well known, the General Assembly of the United Nations, by its resolution 1497 (XV) of 31 October 1960 (entitled "The status of the German-speaking element in the Province of Bolzano (Bozen); implementation of the Paris agreement of 5 September 1946") called upon Italy and Austria to resume negotiations with a view to finding a solution for all differences relating to the implementation of the Paris Agreement of 5 September 1946. This invitation was confirmed in the subsequent resolution 1661 (XVI) of 28 November 1961.

In compliance with paragraph 1 of the above-mentioned resolution of 31 October 1960 and with paragraph 1 of the resolution of 28 November 1961, numerous talks, conferences and consultations between representatives of the Italian and Austrian Governments have taken place from 27 January 1961 onwards. Ways were thus sought to overcome the dispute between the two countries.

On 3 December 1969, the Italian Government informed the Parliament of a series of measures in favour of the inhabitants of Alto-Adige aiming at broadening the sphere of legislative and administrative powers of the Province of Bolzano with the reserved intent of submitting within a short time the appropriate legislation. The Italian Parliament has approved this declaration of the Government.

The Austrian Government has stated that as soon as the measures contained in the document attached to the abovementioned declaration of the Italian Government will have been implemented - that is to say as soon as the Constitutional Act, the bills of ordinary laws and the executive regulations to the Constitutional Act, will have been issued - it will declare that it considers the dispute existing between Italy and Austria, which was the subject of the above resolutions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, as terminated.

The Italian Government, though calling attention to the fact that the announced measures are the result of its free determination and do not represent the fulfilment of any international agreement, has taken note with satisfaction of the above-mentioned statement by the Austrian Government.

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The two Governments have further negotiated an agreement that aims at the applicability, between Italy and Austria, of the rules of chapter I of the European Convention for the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes to disputes concerning the interpretation and implementation of the bilateral agreements existing between the two States, even when such disputes concern facts or situations previous to the entry into force, between the two States, of the abovementioned Convention.

The Italian Government deems to have thus acted effectively towards achieving the aims indicated in the above-mentioned resolutions 1497 (XV) and 1661 (XVI) of the United Nations General Assembly.
