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Twenty-sixth session

REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM
IN THE AGENDA OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION

SECURITY OF MISSIONS ACCREDITED TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AND SAFETY OF THEIR PERSONNEL

Letter dated 2 November 1971 from the representatives of Cuba, Iraq, Kuwait, Mauritius, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Upon instructions from our Governments, we wish to propose, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inscription on the agenda of the twenty-sixth session of the General Assembly of an additional item entitled:

"Security of missions accredited to the United Nations and safety of their personnel".

Our delegations wish to stress the important and urgent character of the proposed item and request that the General Assembly should debate it in plenary meetings.

(Signed) Ricardo ALARCON QUESADA (Cuba)
Talib EL-SHIBIB (Iraq)
Sami Yacoub SHAMMAS (Kuwait)
Radha Krishna RAMPHUL (Mauritius)
Rafic JOUEJATI (Syrian Arab Republic)
Yakov A. MALIK (Union of Soviet
Socialist Republics)

MEMORANDUM

1. With reference to the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations,^{1/} to the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations,^{2/} to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations,^{3/} and to resolution 2747 (XXV), adopted by the General Assembly on 17 December 1970, concerning the work of the Informal Joint Committee on Host Country Relations, it is to be noted that the security of missions accredited to the United Nations and the safety of their personnel, within and outside the United Nations, has lately been marked with grave deterioration. In addition to the discrimination against diplomats, harrasment, bomb threats, assaults and incursion into the missions by organized criminal leagues and individuals, now bombs and fire arms are being used to endanger the lives of the personnel of the missions (as occurred on 20 October 1971 to the Mission of the USSR).
2. Regrettably, the authorities of the host country, in spite of the assurances given by their representatives, have not taken the necessary measures to prevent the continuance of these acts of banditry and organized crime. Even in instances where perpetrators of such crimes have been caught, no effective action has been taken. The new dimensions of the deteriorating situation can be illustrated by the numerous instances in which a number of missions and their personnel were subjected to violence.
3. Such an atmosphere of terror, to which an ever-increasing number of missions are subjected, paralyses the efficient and smooth work of the whole fabric of the United Nations. Security is a necessary prerequisite to the good functioning of the United Nations. It is in this light that it has become essential to place on the agenda immediately the question of the security of missions accredited to the United Nations and the safety of their personnel.

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- 1/ Resolution 169 (II) of 31 October 1947.
 - 2/ Resolution 22 A (I) of 13 February 1946.
 - 3/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 500 (1964), No. 7310.