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SUPPORT BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM OF THE EFFORTS OF
GOVERNMENTS TO PROMOTE AND CONSOLIDATE NEW OR RESTORED
DEMOCRACIES

Letter dated 2 June 1997 from the Permanent Representative
of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the referendum in Slovakia issued on 30 May 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 38 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) N. H. BIEGMAN
 Permanent Representative of the
Netherlands to the United Nations

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    * A/52/50.

ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

<u>Statement issued on 30 May 1997 by the Presidency of the
European Union on the Slovak referendum</u>

The European Union wishes to express its concern regarding the events accompanying the holding of a referendum on both membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and direct presidential elections in Slovakia on 23 and 24 May 1997.

The European Union has noted the ruling of the Constitutional Court on the compatibility of the referendum on direct presidential elections with the Slovak Constitution and regrets the lack of proper follow-up by the responsible Slovak authorities. The European Union has also noted the conclusions of the Central Referendum Committee declaring that the referendum has not been carried out according to the law and has taken note of the resignation of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Pavol Hamzik.

The European Union continues to take a close interest in events in Slovakia as a country which has a Europe Agreement, including a perspective of accession, and calls upon the Government of Slovakia to respect the rule of law and the principles necessary for strengthening a democratic society.