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REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM IN THE  
AGENDA OF THE THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSIONIMPLEMENTATION OF THE COLLECTIVE SECURITY PROVISIONS OF  
THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR THE MAINTENANCE  
OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

Letter dated 30 August 1982 from the Permanent Representative  
of Sierra Leone to the United Nations addressed to the  
Secretary-General

The Government of Sierra Leone proposes the inclusion in the agenda of the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly of an important and urgent item entitled "Implementation of the collective security provisions of the Charter of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security".

As may be recalled, Article 1, paragraph 1 of the Charter expressly states the task of the Organization to be "to maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression ...". In furtherance of this task, and in the event of a threat to the peace, breaches of the peace and acts of aggression, the Charter lays down a framework for prohibitive or remedial action with a view to maintaining or restoring the peace.

However, and notwithstanding the foregoing and the numerous occasions in which there has been an actual breach of the peace, since the inception of the Organization no successful effort has been made at implementing the collective security provisions of the Charter. As is well known, underlying these provisions was the idea that, whenever the peace is threatened or breached or has actually broken down in any part of the world, the Organization was to take measures to restore or maintain it.

In consequence of this lack of successful effort on the part of the Organization, some States have all too often resorted to the unilateral use of

force with dangerous consequences attendant upon such action for international peace and security and the effectiveness of the Organization. The inability of the Organization to enforce the relevant provisions of the Charter in this regard has resulted in its authority being increasingly challenged and seriously undermined.

It is, therefore, the view of the Sierra Leone Government that, if this state of affairs is allowed to continue, not only will the capacity of the Organization to act as the effective instrument of world peace be irretrievably damaged, but world stability would be seriously imperilled. In order to avert this drift towards world calamity, the Sierra Leone Government considers it essential and necessary that the relevant provisions of the Charter be implemented and that practical steps be taken to maintain international security and restore the peace where it has actually broken down.

As a concrete first step and in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Sierra Leone Government believes that Member States could contribute to this successful effort by declaring, in advance of the special agreement or agreements called for in Article 43, that they will make available to the Security Council armed forces, assistance and facilities, including rights of passage, necessary for the purpose of maintaining international peace and security, prior to the signing of a special agreement or agreements. Such a move, in the view of the Sierra Leone Government, would encourage and inspire the Security Council to carry out its responsibility.

As may be recalled, during the early years of the Organization, considerable efforts were made to formulate "general principles governing the organization of the armed forces made available to the Security Council by Member nations of the United Nations". Despite the exertions of the Military Staff Committee, it was not possible to reach an agreement on these principles. Since the report of the Military Staff Committee of 30 April 1947 on this matter (S/336), no agreements under Article 43 have been negotiated or signed. In June and July 1947, the Security Council discussed an agenda item entitled "Special agreements under Article 43 of the Charter and organization of the United Nations armed force". However, no definitive decision was reached on the matter by the Security Council. On numerous occasions during discussions in the General Assembly references have been made to the provisions of Article 43 of the Charter.

In proposing the inclusion of an item on the implementation of the collective security provisions of the Charter, full cognizance is taken of the fact that the initiative in negotiating the agreements for armed forces provided for in Article 43 of the Charter belongs to the Security Council. The urgency and relevance of the matter, however, arises from the fact that, in the present circumstances, the effectiveness of the Organization as the main instrument for the maintenance of international peace and security has been seriously undermined and its capacity at peace-keeping has been called into question in the light of recent events. It is, therefore, of the utmost importance that the General Assembly give full consideration to the matter with a view to recommending ways and means to

implement fully the collective security provisions of the Charter and, in particular, Article 43.

The Sierra Leone Government requests Your Excellency to regard this letter as the explanatory memorandum required under rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and to have it circulated as an official document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Abdul G. KOROMA  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of  
Sierra Leone to the United Nations

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