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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION
ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 25 June 1981 from the Permanent Representative of
Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my authorities, I have the honour to draw your attention to the attached declaration of the Government of the Republic of Italy with respect to the neutrality of Malta, issued on 15 May 1981 and provided for by the "Exchange of notes constituting an agreement between Italy and Malta on the neutrality of Malta, with an attached Protocol on financial, economic and technical assistance" signed in Valletta and Rome on 15 September 1980 and entered into force upon the exchange of instruments of ratification which took place in Rome on 8 May 1981. This agreement was filed for registration with the United Nations Secretariat according to Article 102, paragraph 1, of the United Nations Charter by joint request of Italy and Malta on 25 June 1981.

In this regard, I have the honour to request that the attached declaration be circulated as a General Assembly document under item 58 of the preliminary list. I also have the honour to draw your special attention to paragraph 3 of the attached declaration, which reads as follows:

"3. Invites all other States to recognize and respect the sovereignty, independence, neutrality, unity and territorial integrity of the Republic of Malta, to act in conformity therewith in all respects, and to refrain from taking any action which is incompatible with those principles;"

(Signed) Umberto LA ROCCA
Ambassador

* A/36/50.

ANNEX

DECLARATION

BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC
OF ITALY
WITH RESPECT TO THE
NEUTRALITY OF MALTA

The Government of the Republic of Italy

Welcoming with satisfaction the Declaration whereby the Republic of Malta has made known that, in the exercise of its sovereignty, it has assumed a status of neutrality;

Taking note of that Declaration which, with the concurrence of the Government of the Republic of Malta, is incorporated in the present Declaration as an integral part thereof, and the text of which is as follows:

" The Government of the Republic of Malta

" Faithful to the decision of the People of the Republic of Malta to eliminate all foreign military bases after March 31, 1979, and to contribute to peace and stability in the Mediterranean region by changing their country's unnatural role of a military fortress into a centre of peace and a bridge of friendship between the Peoples of Europe and of North Africa;

" Conscious of the special contribution the Republic of Malta can make towards that end by assuming a status of neutrality strictly founded on the principles of non-alignment;

" Aware of the support which neighbouring European and Arab Mediterranean states will give to Malta's new role and to such a status of neutrality;

" 1. Solemnly declares that the Republic of Malta is a neutral state actively pursuing peace, security and social progress among all nations by adhering to a policy of non-alignment and refusing to participate in any military alliance;

" 2. Affirms that such a status will, in particular, imply that:

(a) no foreign military base will be permitted on Maltese territory;

(b) no military facilities in Malta will be allowed to be used by any foreign forces except at the request of the Government of Malta, and only in the following circumstances:

(i) in the exercise of the inherent right of self-defence in the event of any armed violation of the area over which the Republic of Malta has sovereignty, or in pursuance of measures or actions decided by the Security Council of the United Nations;
or

(ii) whenever there exists a threat to the sovereignty, independence, neutrality, unity or territorial integrity of the Republic of Malta;

but the Government of Malta will immediately inform the neighbouring Mediterranean States which have made like Declarations welcoming the present declaration and giving appropriate undertakings of the steps taken under this paragraph;

(c) except as aforesaid, no other facilities in Malta will be allowed to be used in such manner or extent as will amount to the presence in Malta of a concentration of foreign forces;

(d) except as aforesaid, no foreign military personnel will be allowed on Maltese territory, other than military personnel performing, or assisting in the performance of, civil works or activities, and other than a reasonable number of military technical personnel assisting in the defence of the Republic of Malta;

(e) the shipyards of the Republic of Malta will be used for civil commercial purposes, but may also be used, within reasonable limits of time and quantity, for the repair of military vessels which have been put in a state of non-combat or for the construction of vessels; and in accordance with the principles of non-alignment the said shipyards will be denied to the military vessels of the two superpowers;

" 3. Expresses its hope that, with the concurrence of the Government of the Republic of Malta, neighbouring Mediterranean States will make like declarations welcoming the present one and giving such undertakings as may be appropriate. The Government of the Republic of Malta will inform each of such States of the declarations made by other States."

1. Solemnly declares that it recognises and will respect the sovereignty, independence, neutrality, unity and territorial integrity of the Republic of Malta, and will act in conformity therewith in all respects;

2. Undertakes, in particular:

(a) not to take any action whatsoever which could in any way, directly or indirectly, endanger the sovereignty, independence, neutrality, unity or territorial integrity of the Republic of Malta;

(b) not to take any action whatsoever which could in any way, directly or indirectly, endanger peace and security in the Republic of Malta;

(c) not to take any part in any act of such nature;

(d) not to induce the Republic of Malta to enter into a military alliance, or to sign an agreement of this kind, or to accept the protection of a military alliance;

3. Invites all other States to recognize and respect the sovereignty, independence, neutrality, unity and territorial integrity of the Republic of Malta, to act in conformity therewith in all respects, and to refrain from taking any action which is incompatible with those principles;

4. Undertakes to consult, at the request of the Government of the Republic of Malta or of the Government of a neighbouring Mediterranean State making a like Declaration as the present one, with the Government of the Republic of Malta and of the other States aforesaid whenever one of them declares that there exists a threat of violation or a violation of the sovereignty, independence, neutrality, unity and territorial integrity of the Republic of Malta;

5.1. Without prejudice to the application of Article 35 of the Charter of the United Nations, undertakes that, on the happening of any of the events mentioned in paragraph 2(b) of the Maltese Declaration, the situation will be brought to the attention of, or referred to, the Security Council;

5.2. It further undertakes that, at the request of the Republic of Malta and after consulting the aforementioned States, it will, in any of the events and under the conditions of the preceding paragraph 4 of the Italian Declaration, or should the need arise for the exercise of the right of self-defence in the circumstances set out in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, adopt any other measure, not excluding military assistance, it will consider necessary to meet the situation;

6. Reserves the right, if it considers that changes have taken place which alter substantially the neutrality of the Republic of Malta as envisaged in the Declaration of the Government of the Republic of Malta reproduced above, to

request that consultations take place between it and the Governments of the Republic of Malta and of other neighbouring Mediterranean States making a like declaration as the present, and if, following such consultations, it considers that the maintenance of the neutrality of Malta is not ensured, it may decide to cease to be bound by the present Declaration. Any such decision will be communicated to the Republic of Malta and other interested States.
