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Press Release

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**SECURITY COUNCIL STRONGLY ENDORSES UNOSOM II ACTIONS OF PAST THREE DAYS
AS PART OF PROGRAMME TO NEUTRALIZE ALL HEAVY WEAPONS IN SOMALIA**

**Expresses Deep Regret at Any Civilian Casualties
Says Investigation of 13 June Incident is Under Way**

The following statement was issued to the press today by the President of the Security Council, Juan Antonio Yañez-Barnuevo (Spain):

The Security Council has received an interim report by the Secretary-General on the situation in Somalia, particularly regarding the actions undertaken by the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) in the past three days.

The members of the Security Council strongly endorse these actions which have been carried out in accordance with resolutions 814 (1993) and 837 (1993), as well as other relevant resolutions adopted by the Council.

These actions form part of a continuing programme to disarm the Somali society and neutralize all heavy weapons. Another major objective of the coordinated military actions was the neutralization of radio Mogadishu, which has been used to incite violence against UNOSOM II.

The primary objective of the mandate entrusted by the Security Council to UNOSOM II is to put an end to the plight of the Somali people. Therefore, the restoration of law and order is essential if UNOSOM II is to effectively carry out its tasks relating to the delivery of humanitarian assistance and the promotion of national reconciliation and social and economic reconstruction in Somalia.

The members of the Security Council deeply regret the casualties which have occurred among Somali civilians. An investigation on the 13 June incident is under way. Preliminary reports indicate that civilian crowds, including women and children, have been used by General Aidid and his supporters as human shields to screen attacks on fixed guard posts or strong points. Furthermore, it would appear that shots were fired from the crowd at United Nations soldiers on the ground.

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The members of the Security Council are determined that law and order is restored in Somalia and that the resolutions of the Council are fully and effectively applied for the good of the Somali people as a whole.

Once again, the members of the Council wish to pay tribute to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Admiral Jonathan Howe; the Force Commander, Lieutenant-General Cevik Bir and to all UNOSOM II personnel for their courage and commitment in the performance of their mission.

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