



VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 53RD MEETING

Chairman: Mr. GBEHO (Ghana)

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The meeting was called to order at 11.00 a.m.

AGENDA ITEMS 58, 59 AND 137 (continued)

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will continue its general debate on items relating to international security.

Mr. BALETA (Albania) (interpretation from French): On several occasions in the past the Albanian delegation has stated its views on the policy of good-neighbourliness and its particular importance for the creation of a climate conducive to the establishment and development of just and constructive relations between neighbouring States. My delegation would like now to share its thinking on this problem, which is the subject of agenda item 58 at the present session.

We wish first of all to point out that the establishment, maintenance and normal development of good-neighbourly relations between countries of a given region is more than ever necessary considering the very tense situations which threaten the freedom and independence of peoples and overall peace and security.

Imperialism, social-imperialism and other reactionary forces have been engaging constantly in aggressive and warlike actions. The two imperialist super-Powers, the United States and the Soviet Union, are working even harder to achieve their global strategy for world domination and are pursuing a policy of force and adventurism in order to subjugate and exploit the peoples and place sovereign States under their thumb. In accordance with their expansionist and hegemonistic strategy and ambitions, the two super-Powers are undertaking numerous actions to create tense situations and are engaging in intervention wherever and whenever the opportunity arises. For this purpose they seek to exploit the disagreements and conflicts which might exist between various neighbouring States, the disputes inherited by various countries and nations from the past, and the quarrels and bitterness which they themselves incite between peoples.

The notorious policy of divide and rule remains, as in the past, the favourite method of today's exploiters and oppressors, of the imperialists and neo-imperialists, and, particularly, of American imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism, which unceasingly artificially incite and aggravate quarrels between States and conflicts and tensions in various regions, and involve the peoples in local wars for reasons which have nothing to do with their true interests. In that way, the super-Powers carry on their penetration and cause great harm to others.

(Mr. Baleta, Albania.)

The policies, plots and intrigues of the imperialist super-Powers and Powers are the principal factors preventing the establishment of good-neighbourly relations and thus complicating the international situation.

The importance and benefits of the policy of good-neighbourliness have already been extensively discussed. International law and the Charter of the United Nations affirm that principle as one of the most important which should govern relations among neighbouring States. My delegation believes that the essential thing now is not to try to elaborate or clarify the substance of the principle, but rather to concentrate on the causes preventing its implementation and full observance in the practice of States.

It is incontrovertible that the prime necessary condition which would foster the correct and full implementation of the principle of good-neighbourliness is the existence of political good will and serious intentions on the part of every State to pursue a policy of good-neighbourliness. The interests of the peoples require that the policy of good-neighbourliness become a constant, fundamental element forming a solid basis for relations between neighbouring States, despite the differences which might exist between them concerning social systems, political régimes, levels of development, economic and military power, population, and size of territory. It is only through the establishment of good-neighbourly relations that real understanding and mutual trust can be promoted and mutual interests served. In that way it will be possible too to avoid tensions and promote the cause of peace and international security. But it is not enough to declare oneself a supporter of the policy of good-neighbourliness and to preach hollow sermons, as is often the case with certain States, and then act differently towards one's neighbours.

In order to establish and develop good-neighbourly relations it is essential and imperative that all interested parties take a firm position regarding external factors which tend to disturb those relations. Above all, they must be wary of and oppose interference by, and the intrigues of, the imperialist super-Powers and Powers: it is they who are seeking to implant everywhere the spirit of confrontation and enmity and to aggravate disagreements and misunderstandings so as to impose with greater ease their will and their role as an arbiter for the benefit of their selfish interests.

(Mr. Baleta. Albania)

The Socialist People's Republic of Albania has always pursued the policy of good-neighbourliness with determination and consistency. It has always wanted to maintain the best possible good-neighbourly relations with neighbouring peoples and States and has constantly shown good will and worked with sincerity in that regard. It has welcomed and supported with the greatest seriousness every constructive and positive step. In a speech made on 10 November last on the occasion of the election of Deputies to the People's Assembly, the leader of the Albanian people, Comrade Enver Hoxha, stressed that :

"As is natural, our country devotes special attention to its relations with neighbouring States. This attitude was and is based on the desire to live in good-neighbourliness with those countries, to have fruitful relations with them at all times and to build up normal co-operation based on the principles of complete equality and non-interference in each other's internal affairs, of respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and of exchanges based on mutual advantage."

The Socialist People's Republic of Albania has been and will be a factor for peace and stability in the Balkans. It will not permit the imperialist super-Powers or anyone else to jeopardize its freedom and independence, or permit these enemies of the Balkan peoples to harm its neighbours across its territory. We hope that others will act in the same way towards us. Albania has made it publicly known, and has repeated many times, that no harm will ever come to neighbouring peoples at the hands of Albania. That is no mere formal statement, but a genuine commitment which is evidenced by the entire foreign policy of our State and most directly and specifically expressed in our Constitution, which prohibits authorizing or installing foreign military bases on our soil.

(Mr. Baleta, Albania)

The Balkans have always been the target of the designs and rapacious aims of the imperialist and expansionist Powers. The peninsula has often been transformed into a battlefield, and has been known as a powder keg. The American imperialists and the Soviet social imperialists are constantly working to stir up trouble in the Balkans in order to revive quarrels and create discord by encouraging negative factors and chauvinistic sentiments so as to impede the positive development of relations of friendship between the peoples of the region, particularly between direct neighbours.

But the Balkan peoples cannot forget the sufferings and ordeals they have endured in the past at the hands of the imperialists, and they realize the dangerous consequences for them of the aggressive aims of the super-Powers today. They do not want to see the map of the peninsula amended in favour of this or that super-Power. In the interests of their peoples and the stability of the zone, the Balkan States must not allow the imperialist Powers to meddle in the Balkans and to interfere with the peace and security of various countries.

Albania is firmly opposed to policies of diktat, tutelage or interference in international relations. It is in favour of free relations based on the right of each country to participate on an equal footing in the solution of problems. We think that each country has the right to express its opinion on international affairs. Albania is opposed to any policy or activity directed against the legitimate interests of peoples and their right to peace, security and good-neighbourliness.

Mr. ROSSIDES (Cyprus): The effective functioning of the provisions of the Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security is the primary and main purpose of the United Nations. Without the effective implementation of Security Council decisions, as expressly required under Article 43 of the Charter, through a United Nations force, that purpose is totally defeated.

The continued existence of the United Nations without international security - which is, as I have said, expressly required by the Charter - gradually lead, and has led, to a world of anarchy and insecurity with tragic consequences of the kind we witnessed a few months ago, which have brought the world to a standstill and uncertainty as to what is going to happen next.

(Mr. Rossides, Cyprus)

In addition, the arms race, and particularly the qualitative perfection of nuclear weapons, is bringing us nearer to total catastrophe. The origin of these threatening developments is the absence of international collective security under the Charter provisions.

This situation still continues, but there are and have been favourable reactions and hopeful signs. The first is the growing awareness of the peoples of the world, in whose name the Charter was drafted and the United Nations established; the peoples are turning towards a freeze in the arms race, which is more of an immediate threat and more apparent to them than the cause of this situation, namely the absence of international security because of the malfunctioning of the United Nations in its main purpose. The second such reaction and favourable sign is the wholesome act of the Secretary-General in using his wise and forthright report (A/37/1) to touch upon the main causes of the anarchy resulting from disregard of a series of unanimous Security Council decisions on a grave issue and the resulting tragic consequences. In his report the Secretary-General speaks courageously of the lack of international security under the Charter as the cause of all this and proposes that he might take the initiative under Article 99 to bring to the attention of the Security Council the compelling need to give effect to its decisions.

This is the world situation. In the circumstances, which are exceptional this year, the First Committee is giving special attention to international security and particularly implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security.

What does "implementation" mean? According to dictionaries and encyclopaedias, it means providing the means of carrying into effect the subject matter by indicating the modalities of the process that should be taken. If the Declaration were vague as to the method of complying with the Charter to attain international collective security and does not specify what should be done, then it should be spelled out that implementation can and should take place through the application of Article 43 of the Charter, which by default or failure of the Security Council has not been complied with, resulting in the lack of international security.

(Mr. Rossides, Cyprus)

However, the Declaration itself, in its main paragraphs, deals with this matter and recommends:

"that the Security Council take steps to facilitate the conclusion of the agreements envisaged in Article 43 of the Charter in order fully to develop its capacity for enforcement action as provided for under Chapter VII of the Charter".

The Declaration then calls for such action under the Charter.

If the Declaration itself is so specific as to what should be done, in its implementation implies that the means should be sought towards action by the Security Council to proceed to the measures provided for in the Charter and in the Declaration. It is inconceivable that implementation of the Declaration would involve moving away from its specific requirements and supplementing them by vague statements. Therefore, although one could draw up a vague resolution on those matters, if we are trying to implement that General Assembly Declaration on matters of international security, we have primarily to bear in mind the state of the world today and what has taken place. I have referred to the present situation. We ought therefore to be more precise regarding implementation.

Having said this, and insisting that implementation should be based predominantly on operative paragraph 9, it should be mentioned that a number of subsequent paragraphs aimed at the purpose expressed in operative paragraph 9 revolve around this mode of implementation of the Declaration. And we must bear in mind that the Declaration was adopted unanimously except for one vote, and there were no abstentions. Therefore there is no problem in introducing a draft resolution to the same effect or a comparable one.

But, as we saw from the tragic events of a few months ago, the world has since moved in such a direction that in order to obtain unanimity, as in the case of the original Declaration, under the circumstances we perhaps have to make certain compromises.

(Mr. Rossides, Cyprus)

Yet, we have to make compromises. We must also have full understanding of the situation. Because there has been no international security in accordance with the Charter for so many years, the aspect of the use of force has prevailed, as appears from the existence of military alliances confronting each other and striving for more spheres of military influence. All this is but the result of the continuing lack of international security through the United Nations. With security relying solely on force and armaments within the context of this situation, many things may have been done - and probably have been done - which aimed at acquiring an edge of military superiority. They obviously do not fall within the provisions of the Charter or within the required legitimacy of means and measures. But we must have mutual understanding, and we must see that there is unanimity, in an effort to bring international security to the world by rendering the Security Council's decisions effective through co-operation, namely by understanding of the difficult positions in which those relying entirely on the use of force found themselves, and by helping gradually out of such situations by co-operating for collective security through the United Nations as required by the Charter. In this sense we seek to achieve unanimity in the implementation of the Declaration of international security. And to this end we are ready to make such compromises as would render unanimous the adoption of such a draft resolution; but without essentially detracting from the intrinsic validity and purport of the Declaration, for otherwise it will no longer constitute implementation of the Declaration.

Mr. PHAM NGAC (Viet Nam): This Committee has now finally taken up the items relating to international security. My delegation wishes to recall what we did last year and how the situation has developed since then.

Last year, against the background of the deteriorating international situation, the First Committee engaged in intensive work and this resulted in the adoption of important resolutions by the General Assembly. Those resolutions cover a wide range of aspects of international security and uphold the principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. They also reflect the ardent aspirations of the peoples of the world for peace and security.

However, to the dismay of all, the imperialists and international reactionaries have once again shown their total disregard for the wishes of the international community and during 1982 have caused much frustration and alarm. Obsessed with hegemonistic and expansionist ambitions, they have stepped up the arms race in search of military superiority, resorted to all forms of pressure - political, economic, diplomatic and military - and have even embarked on new military adventures.

As a result, the international atmosphere is poisoned, not only by their policy of confrontation in East-West relations, but also by their acts of war threatening the independence of States.

Contrary to the desire of everyone who works for peace, the danger of nuclear catastrophe has been increased by the elaboration of doctrines on limited and protracted nuclear war and by the recent decision on MX missiles. These acts constitute not only an escalation in the arms race, sabotaging the existing strategic arms limitation agreements, SALT I and II, but also a flagrant challenge to the endeavour of peoples throughout the world to prevent a nuclear holocaust.

More than ever before, mankind feels the need of concerted efforts to preserve peace and international security. In the course of this year we have witnessed the revolt of people on all continents against the nuclear arms race. We have also heard strong protests from people everywhere against the crimes perpetrated in the Middle East, southern Africa, Latin America and elsewhere. The finger points to the same root cause, the policy of the United States and its collaboration with reactionary forces.

(Mr. Pham Ngac, Viet Nam)

The situation in the Middle East is the most tragic of all. The long suffering Palestinian people have again been a target of barbaric slaughter. Israeli troops have killed men, women and children in cold blood. The massacre in the refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila is reminiscent of the horror in My Lai during the Viet Nam war. American weapons have once again been used to murder innocent people. The Israeli aggressors have trespassed on Lebanese territory and the Arab people have fallen victim to Israeli brutality.

All this could not have happened had the United States not encouraged and assisted the aggressors. A lasting solution to the situation in the Middle East therefore requires the cessation of United States assistance to Israel and Israel's withdrawal from all the illegally occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem and the Golan Heights, and respect for the independence of all States in the region and for the right of the Palestinian people, under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), to establish an independent State.

Close to the Middle East, the United States military build-up in and around the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean is also a matter of grave concern. The presence of nuclear weapons, military manoeuvres, the installation of military bases and the establishment of rapid deployment forces pose a constant threat to the independence of States and are an obstacle to the efforts to turn these regions into zones of peace.

In addition to the hotbeds of tension in the area, the undeclared war against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan is yet another case of intervention in the internal affairs of a sovereign State by imperialist and reactionary forces.

(Mr. Pham Ngac, Viet Nam)

In Southern Africa, the last stronghold of colonialism in that continent would have been eradicated long ago had it not been for the United States' attempts to retain its foothold in the continent by maintaining the apartheid régime and repressing national liberation movements, namely, the African National Congress and the South-West Africa People's Organization. The United States linkage of the withdrawal of South African troops from Namibia with the withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola was clearly an attempt to confuse right and wrong. The declaration of the leaders of the front-line States has totally rejected that absurd demand of the United States.

In the light of the present threat by South Africa to Mozambique, it is all the more necessary to strengthen the solidarity with and to give all assistance and support to, the front-line States so that they can retaliate against the aggression by the Pretoria régime. It is equally important that the United States should end its collaboration with South Africa, as has been repeatedly called for by numerous resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

In the same way, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam supports the Republic of Seychelles in its struggle against imperialist subversion and intervention.

In Central America and the Caribbean, the United States poses a permanent threat to heroic Cuba, Nicaragua and Grenada and continues its intervention in El Salvador and other countries in the region. The question of the Malvinas is no exception. The United States, although an American State, was quick to side with the United Kingdom in the war to maintain the colonial status of the islands.

All the above-mentioned events inevitably lead to the conclusion that, different though those regional crises may be, they all come from the same source of tension, the United States policy of confrontation and aggression.

I wish to turn now to the region of South-East Asia. Since the inception of this Organization, mankind has been able to enjoy the longest period of peace in this century. However, the same is not true in the case of South-East Asia, where the region has known no peace and stability. One after another, the aggressors have come and turned Indo-China into a common battlefield with a view to annexing all the three component countries.

(Mr. Pham Ngac, Viet Nam)

For their part, the peoples of Viet Nam, Laos and Kampuchea have always united and successfully driven out their common enemy and preserved their national independence and freedom. Their unity is a matter of vital interest to their nations and is only for the purpose of self-defence. Their forces have never been sent to other countries in the region, while it is clear that troops from neighbouring countries have quite often been sent to Indo-Chinese countries to fight in wars of aggression in the last few decades.

This Committee is now discussing the question of the development and strengthening of good-neighbourliness between States. It is most relevant for my delegation to point out here that the relations of good-neighbourliness among the Indo-Chinese countries has been proven by their long history of fighting together against aggression and gaining victory together. The Vietnamese people attach great importance to the policy of good-neighbourliness. Their sons together with those of Laos and Kampuchea, have shed blood in defence of their independence against much more powerful aggressors. Their policy of good-neighbourliness is also a matter of record. Their readiness to make peace with their neighbours as well as with their former enemy is undeniable.

The Vietnamese people are proud of this tradition and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam has always pursued that policy.

On 7 July 1982, the Foreign Ministers of the three countries of Indo-China met in Ho Chi Minh city and put forth new proposals for peace. They proposed to China that it sign treaties of non-aggression and non-intervention and called for the resumption of the third round of talks between Viet Nam and China. They proposed that a regional conference on South-East Asia be convened with the composition of participants, agenda, place and time to be agreed upon by the countries directly involved, namely, the countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations and the Indo-Chinese countries.

They also highlighted principles governing the resolution of differences between the two groups of countries. These were, first, mutual respect for each other's legitimate interests and, secondly, equality and mutual agreement without any imposition whatsoever and without interference from outside.

(Mr. Pham Ngac, Viet Nam)

In the same way, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam supports the proposal of the Mongolian People's Republic for the conclusion of a convention on non-aggression and non-use of force in relations among countries in Asia and the Pacific.

The relations between States in Asia, big or small, must also be based on the principles of equality, non-aggression and non-interference. However, the aggression against Viet Nam and the threat by the Peking leaders to teach Viet Nam "another lesson" as well as their use of armed groups for subversive activities in all South-East Asian countries constitute a gross violation of those principles.

My delegation shares the views of many delegations expressed earlier in this Committee that the policy of confrontation and aggression should have no place in international life. A healthier atmosphere must be created. Those who hope to profit from tension, pressure, provocation and threats will find themselves isolated in today's world and their policy of confrontation and aggression will fail.

The Vietnamese people, with justified pride and firm confidence in the cause they have pursued over the past decades, will accomplish their goal of preserving independence and freedom and they have their part to play in the maintenance of peace and stability in South-East Asia. Their efforts are fully in step with the trends of our time.

The Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam has always given its unreserved support to the struggle for peace and national independence. It has supported all proposals for peace. It has also never failed to support national liberation movements in the struggle for self-determination. This is the position of principle of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. My delegation will continue to display such an attitude in this Committee.

Mr. HASSAN (Iraq) (interpretation from Arabic): The endeavour to strengthen international peace and security is a responsibility borne by all countries and not only by the few large and powerful ones. This responsibility must be based on the letter and spirit of the principles of the United Nations Charter and the rules of international law and not on the interests and policies of one State or a group of States, or on those of the current international polarization centres. Such an endeavour undoubtedly is an intricate and multi-faceted one and can only be realized or implemented through a series of positions and measures taken within the framework of the United Nations. Such steps rest on two basic principles. The first involves in-depth international negotiations, which include a comprehensive review of the international Organization's resolutions in this respect. The second is the need to demonstrate the international will which would guarantee that the commitments required for the strengthening of world peace and security are honoured.

The salient feature of the general debate on disarmament items was the expression of profound anxiety over the deterioration of the world situation. This is a correct position, which reflects the strong attachment to peace and stability in the world. Today, and in the context of the general debate on the remaining items, especially the promotion of international peace and security and the development and strengthening of good-neighbourliness between States, my delegation believes it is necessary once again to address this important question.

(Mr. Hassan, Iraq)

There are dangerous and abnormal phenomena characterizing the international situation today which constitute a basic obstacle to any progress towards the strengthening of international peace and security and cast a dark shadow over the efforts to develop and promote good-neighbourliness. Furthermore, such phenomena constitute a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations. The most important of these phenomena is the escalation of armament, especially nuclear armament, the exercising of military, economic and political pressure and intervention in the internal affairs of countries, the refusal to recognize the inalienable rights to self-determination and independence of peoples and territories subjected to colonial or foreign domination, aggression and armed intervention, the presence of foreign forces and bases on the territories of others, the use of mercenaries and irregular forces in various guises against the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of countries, the application of hostile political, economic and other measures against countries that follow an independent policy free from world polarization centres. The forces of world imperialism, neo-colonialism, apartheid and racism, including zionism, still constitute a real threat to world peace and security.

In occupied Palestine and in the Middle East in general we witness the accumulation of the factors of danger resulting from the policies of the Zionist entity and its constant aggression and expansionist measures. Such a policy has transformed the area into one of the critical hotbeds of tension threatening international peace and security. There is no doubt that the removal of the elements of tension from the Middle East region could take place only through the unconditional and total withdrawal of the Zionist entity from the Palestinian territories and from the other occupied Arab territories, including the Holy City of Jerusalem, and by enabling the Palestinian people, under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, its sole legitimate representative, to enjoy its inalienable rights to the return of its territory, to self-determination, to the achievement of national independence and to the establishment of an independent and sovereign State in Palestine.

(Mr. Hassan, Iraq)

In Africa, the heroic struggle waged by the African peoples has secured great triumphs over the forces of racism and colonialism. Yet the vestiges of colonialism, imperialism, apartheid and racism continue to seek to accentuate their aggressive military tendencies and intransigence, especially in Namibia and South Africa, and strive to perpetuate their brutal domination. There is no doubt that peace, security and stability can never be restored to southern Africa unless we eradicate the system of the repressive and illegal apartheid régime in South Africa. A worsening of the threats to peace and security on the African continent has been caused by the connivance of Israel with the racist régime of South Africa and their co-operation in order to acquire nuclear capability for military and aggressive purposes.

As for the Mediterranean region, we must express our concern over the escalation of tension in the area as a result of the hotbeds of tension there which have not yet been eliminated. This leads to the increasing deployment of foreign naval forces and the presence of military bases in spite of the commitments that have been reaffirmed in declarations concerning the Mediterranean region and the Final Act of the Helsinki conference. It is urgent to remove the sources of tension in that vital area and to seek practical and just solutions to the conflicts on the basis of the United Nations Charter. With regard to the interdependence of questions related to security in Europe and security in the Mediterranean area, it is necessary to emphasize the importance of continuing and expanding the efforts aimed at putting an end to the increasing tensions in Europe, establishing just co-operation and eliminating the hotbeds of tension in such a way as to give effect to the principles of the final document of the second review conference held in Madrid, and the objectives expected from it. At that conference, an opportunity to eradicate the phenomena of the cold war and to deepen and widen the process of international détente was lost. In the Indian Ocean region we must point out the need to protect the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the countries of the region, to dismantle foreign bases and military establishments, to denuclearize the Indian Ocean and also to eliminate weapons of mass destruction, so as to keep the region free of super-Power rivalries and to eliminate their military presence from the Indian Ocean and its natural extensions.

(Mr. Hassan, Iraq)

Another source of profound anxiety is the presence of the forces of the super-Powers in the Arab gulf region, as well as the policies of those Powers aimed at involving the countries there in super-Power rivalries to the detriment of their national interests, their security, their independence and their sovereignty.

The tension now existing in certain parts of the Central American and Caribbean region is the result of imperialist policies which are hostile to the interests of the peoples of the region and constitute a threat to their national independence and to peace and security in that area. Here we must emphasize the need to respect the political independence of the countries of the region, their sovereignty and their territorial integrity, and we must reject all forms of intervention or outside pressure.

From the seventeenth to the twenty-fifth sessions, the General Assembly made great strides forward, in most cases with good results, in the field of codification of important norms of international law. It adopted resolution 2625 (XXV) on the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. Because of the objective relationship and complete interdependence of the principles of international law concerning friendly relations and co-operation among States and the subject of agenda item 58, that is, the development and strengthening of good-neighbourliness between States, we support the view that it is necessary that the General Assembly accord due importance to this vital matter and mobilize efforts so as to develop the different viewpoints thereon in order to take another step forward in the development of international law and relations among States and to consolidate the rule of law among countries in such a way as to implement the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter.

(Mr. Hassan, Iraq)

Such a step will undoubtedly contribute towards strengthening international peace and security and remove hotbeds of tension in the world today.

Iraq, which is an active member of the Non-Aligned Movement, considers, on the basis of its independent policy that it is necessary to abide by the principles of the United Nations Charter and to adhere to the principles of international law on friendly relations and co-operation between States. We are convinced of the need to co-ordinate efforts with a view to developing and promoting good neighbourliness, despite the losses in lives and property resulting from the armed aggression waged upon Iraq by the fanatical régime in Iran which follows expansionist policies which are at variance with the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law. Since it first resorted to legitimate self-defence against aggression with a view to protecting its independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty, Iraq has taken initiatives, with no reservations whatsoever, to co-operate with the United Nations, the Non-Aligned Movement and the Islamic Conference with a view to putting an end to the conflict and to resolving outstanding issues between the two neighbouring countries by peaceful means, based upon the United Nations Charter and the principles of sound international practice.

Iraq has supported all resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly aimed at putting an end to the armed conflict being waged and at resorting to peaceful means to resolve the outstanding issues between the two countries.

The Arab region, and all its member countries, have for many years now been facing foreign ambitions and attempts to impose influence and hegemony upon them. The Zionist invasion of Palestine has been and continues to be the most serious threat to peace and security in that region and in the world. In the light of the explosive international situation that has now existed for some years, as well as the various dangers which threaten sovereignty and Arab national security, on the one hand, and peace and security in the world, on the other hand, Iraq has taken the initiative of issuing a national proclamation, which is a proposal for a charter to govern relations between the Arab countries, on the one hand, and relations between the Arab countries and neighbouring countries, on the other.

(Mr. Hassan, Iraq)

On 8 February 1980, Mr. Saddam Hussein, President of the Iraqi Republic, issued that proclamation officially. The proclamation includes the following principles: first, the rejection of the presence of foreign armies and military forces or any foreign forces or bases in the Arab homeland and the rejection of anything that might facilitate such presence in any form and under any pretext; secondly, prohibition of the use of armed forces by any Arab country against any other Arab country and the settlement of any conflict that may arise between Arab countries by peaceful means and on the basis of the principles of common national action and in accordance with supreme Arab interest; thirdly, the principle of the second provision applies to the relations between Arab countries and nations neighbouring the Arab homeland. It is hence forbidden to use armed force in disputes with those States except in the case of defence of sovereignty and self-defence against threats directed to the security and vital interests of the Arab countries; fourthly, reaffirmation of the commitment of all Arab countries to international law and custom in relation to the use of waterways, airspace and territories by any State not at war with any Arab country; fifthly, solidarity of all Arab countries against any aggression or violation by any foreign party of the territorial integrity of any Arab country; sixthly, non-involvement by Arab countries in international conflicts and wars and the observance of neutrality and non-alignment in regard to any party to a conflict or war so long as no party to that international conflict or war violates Arab territorial integrity and the inalienable rights of the Arab countries under international law and custom. The Arab countries shall refrain from partial or total participation by their armed forces in armed warfare and conflicts in the region or outside the region on behalf of any foreign State or party; seventhly, the commitment by Arab countries to establish constructive economic relations between one another in such a way as to provide and enhance a common basis for an advanced Arab economic structure and Arab unity. Arab countries are eager to refrain from any action that might harm such relations or hamper their growth and development, in spite of the diversity of Arab régimes and marginal conflicts that may arise among them, so long as the parties to the relationship remain committed to the principles of that proclamation.

(Mr. Hassan, Iraq)

The initiative of President Saddam Hussein in submitting such a charter to govern and promote positive and constructive relations between Arab countries, on the one hand, and between Arab countries and neighbouring States, on the other, represents a sincere call to thwart attempts to impose power politics and foreign hegemony on the countries of the region and their attraction to international centres of polarization. The goal is to avoid any foreign military presence, to reinforce the principles of mutual respect and to enhance the peaceful foundations upon which friendly relations, co-operation and good-neighbourliness can be established, in harmony with the principles of the United Nations Charter and the norms of international law.

The CHAIRMAN: I should like to inform members that the report of the Secretary-General relating to agenda item 54, namely, chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons, contained in document A/37/259, is now available to the Committee for consideration. It is my intention to allocate Wednesday morning's meeting to consideration of this issue, in order to enable the Committee to conclude consideration of agenda item 54. May I therefore invite delegations to inform the Secretariat if they wish to speak on this question.

The meeting rose at 12 noon.