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and 64 of the preliminary list*

THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA: THREATS

TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY AND

PEACE INITIATIVES

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CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL)

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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

SECURITY COUNCIL

Forty-third year

Letter dated 30 June 1988 from the Permanent Representative of
the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the English and French texts of the conclusions of the Heads of State of the Twelve States members of the European Community at the European Council which was held on 27 and 28 June 1988 at Hannover, Federal Republic of Germany (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 22, 29, 30, 36, 37, 40, 48, 63 and 64 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alexander COUNT YORK
Ambassador

* A/43/50.

ANNEX

Conclusions of the European Council held on 27 and 28 June 1988
at Hannover

1. East-West relations

The European Council noted that East-West relations had moved into a more dynamic phase. The Twelve are determined to continue to play an active role in this process. They welcomed the evidence of the Moscow summit that a climate of increased confidence and co-operation has now been established in United States-Soviet relations.

The Twelve are encouraged by the recent progress in arms control and disarmament. They stress their willingness to work for further progress in the current and future negotiations with a view to achieving stability at a lower level of arms. The principle of asymmetrical reductions and stringent verification provisions laid down in the INF treaty establishes a valuable precedent.

The Twelve also look for continuing progress towards the peaceful resolution of regional conflicts, universal respect for fundamental human rights, and the free exchange of people and ideas.

The European Council welcomes the more outward-looking attitude now being shown by Eastern European countries in their economic contacts with the West, as witnessed by the establishment and development of relations with the Community. This should be encouraged as contributing to the wider opening up of their economies and societies. The East-West economic conference proposed by the Twelve at the Vienna Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) follow-up meeting will also serve that purpose.

The European Council calls upon other CSCE participating States to join in an effort to conclude the Vienna meeting with a substantive and balanced document permitting significant progress in all areas, in particular in the human dimension. The draft concluding document proposed by the neutral and non-aligned States on 13 May offers a suitable basis to elaborate such a document. A successful conclusion of the Vienna meeting will make possible an early start of negotiations on conventional stability in Europe, the key issue of European security, aiming at the establishment of a stable and secure balance of conventional forces in Europe at a lower level, and on a further set of security and confidence-building measures, as well as other follow-up proposals supported by the Twelve.

2. Afghanistan

The European Council calls upon all concerned to implement fully the peace process set out by the Geneva agreements on Afghanistan. It expects the Soviet Union to complete the withdrawal of its troops in accordance with these agreements. It supports all efforts to establish a representative government

formed in a process of self-determination in which the resistance have a full part to play.

The European Council declares the readiness of the Community and its member States to provide humanitarian assistance under the programme to be carried out by the United Nations co-ordinator, non-governmental organizations and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in favour of the voluntary repatriation and resettlement of the refugees and displaced persons.

The Community and its member States are also prepared to provide reconstruction assistance for Afghanistan after the formation of a representative government and the establishment of internal peace.

3. Middle East

The European Council expressed its concern at the increase in tension in the Middle East. The status quo in the occupied territories cannot be sustained. On the basis of their established positions the Twelve will continue to work towards the early convening, under United Nations auspices, of an international peace conference, which is the suitable framework for the necessary negotiations between the parties directly concerned, and is essential to the bringing about of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the region. The Twelve will support all initiatives to this end.

The continuation of the war between Iraq and Iran endangers the security and stability of the entire region. The Twelve deplore that, nearly one year after its unanimous adoption by the United Nations Security Council, resolution 598 (1987) has not yet been implemented. They will continue to support the efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General to secure its early and full implementation. The Twelve condemn the use of chemical weapons and renew their commitment to uphold the principle of freedom of navigation in the Gulf.

The Twelve remain deeply preoccupied by the situation in Lebanon. They confirmed the importance they attach to the orderly and legal conduct of the forthcoming presidential election. They also recalled their support for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and reiterated their strong appeal for the immediate release of all hostages still being held in Lebanon.

The European Council welcomed the recent signature of the co-operation agreement with the Gulf Co-operation Council and the intensification of relations with its members. It also welcomed the recent Troika-meeting in the Euro-Arab dialogue and hoped this would lead to increased productive co-operation.

4. South Africa

The European Council noted with great concern that relations between the Twelve and South Africa run the risk of being worsened even further. In this respect, it urged that all legal options available in South Africa, including if necessary the granting of clemency by President Botha, should be used to prevent the death penalty from being carried out against the Sharpeville Six.

On 18 July, Nelson Mandela will mark his seventieth birthday. The European Council strongly appeals to the South African authorities to free him and all other political prisoners.

The European Council confirms that the enactment of the proposed bill designed to deprive anti-apartheid organizations, striving for peaceful change, of financial support from abroad would place additional strain on the relations of the Twelve with South Africa.

5. Southern Africa

The Twelve recalled their established position concerning Namibia and supported the current efforts to secure peace for Angola and independence for Namibia on the basis of United Nations Security Council resolution 435 (1978).

6. Latin America

The European Council discussed the situation in Latin America and underlined the fundamental importance of the rule of democracy and the normal functioning of democratic institutions as a key factor for stability in the sub-continent. The continuity of the peace process in Central America is essential for achieving peace, justice and the observance of human rights in the whole region. The Twelve remain determined to provide continued support for this process.
