



**Security Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

S/15789  
25 May 1983

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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LETTER DATED 24 MAY 1983 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE  
PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to the letter of 10 May addressed to you by the Permanent Representative of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya contained in document S/15755.

The allegations in that letter are wholly without foundation. In order to set the record straight, the Government of the United States of America sets out the following facts regarding recent United States naval operations near Libya.

Aircraft of the Sixth Fleet carrier Nimitz conducted routine flight operations in international airspace above the central Mediterranean on 25 April 1983, while the carrier was transiting the area. Those operations were entirely routine, were conducted only in international airspace, were undertaken in accordance with International Civil Aviation Organization flight procedures (including due regard for the safety of other aircraft) and were preceded by the filing of a notice to operate within the relevant flight information region.

Neither vessels of the United States Sixth Fleet nor participating United States aircraft violated Libyan territorial waters or airspace. Nor did they take any actions which endangered civil aviation. Assertions to the contrary, as well as charges that the United States is planning "aggressions" against Libya, are without substance.

I would be grateful if you would circulate this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jeane J. KIRKPATRICK