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LETTER DATED 10 AUGUST 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 5 July 1983, addressed to you by the Acting Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya contained in document S/15910 and to another letter addressed to you by the Acting Permanent Representative of the Soviet Union dated 8 August 1983, and circulated as document S/15913. Both documents accuse the United States of provoking tension in the Mediterranean and Africa by activities undertaken in connection with the intervention of Libyan forces in Chad. The letter from the representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya further implicitly accuses the Governments of certain neighbouring countries of contributing to the tension through their participation in joint training exercises with United States forces.

The statements contained in these two documents are clearly designed to divert attention from the fact that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya itself bears the primary responsibility for tension and conflict in Chad and the surrounding area. It has been conclusively demonstrated that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya is engaged in the unlawful use of armed force against the territorial integrity and political independence of Chad. Over an extended period, aircraft of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya have conducted an intensive campaign of bombing cities in Chad using incendiary as well as conventional bombs. Units of the Army of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya have penetrated deeply into Chad and are now engaged in offensive military action against the armed forces of Chad.

These Libyan forces have been equipped by the Soviet Union with highly sophisticated military equipment, including aircraft, helicopters, tanks, armoured personnel carriers, missiles and artillery which is being used against military targets and civilian population in Chad.

The United States and other concerned countries have responded to this unlawful use of force. At the request of the Government of Chad, a country with a very limited, purely defensive military capability, the United States has provided logistical support and assistance in monitoring the situation to aid Chad in its struggle to defend itself against the unprovoked acts of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

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The Council should be aware that we are dealing with a case of aggression by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya which constitutes a major threat to the peace and security of the region.

All of the actions of the United States have been designed to assist the Government of Chad to exercise its inherent right of self-defence. These actions are wholly consistent with international law and the United Nations Charter.

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

(Signed) Jeane J. KIRKPATRICK
