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LETTER DATED 22 JULY 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 18 July 1983 addressed to you by the Permanent Representatives of Democratic Yemen, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the Syrian Arab Republic contained in document S/15872.

This letter, referring to joint training exercises involving military forces of the United States and other nations in the Middle East, contains so much disinformation and so many baseless allegations that my Government is constrained to clarify for members of the Security Council and the United Nations the nature and purpose of these joint exercises.

As set forth in the joint public announcements issued by the Governments concerned well in advance of these scheduled bilateral exercises, the purpose of these activities is to review and enhance the defensive capabilities of the participants through combined training exercises. These exercises are limited in scope and duration, and do not involve contested land, air or sea space. United States forces are participating at the invitation of the host Governments and will depart at the conclusion of the exercises. These activities are entirely consistent with international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

The nations participating in these activities have taken note of the serious instability on the littoral and in the hinterland of the Indian Ocean, which is characterized, inter alia, by ongoing military conflict in Afghanistan, the Horn of Africa, the Persian Gulf and Kampuchea. It ill behoves the four authors of the above letter to protest against the exercise of other States of their legitimate and sovereign right of self-defence, for their Governments have contributed much to the turmoil in the region. Libya conspires against the stability of its neighbours and occupies part of the national territory of Chad. Syria continues to occupy much of Lebanon, despite the wish of the Government of Lebanon that all unauthorized foreign forces be withdrawn from its territory. Iran viciously persecutes its religious minorities and continues to wage war with Iraq, in defiance of the Charter of the United Nations and Security Council calls for a cease-fire and negotiations. Democratic Yemen, for a long time, has extended military and naval facilities to the Soviet Union for carrying out operations in

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the Indian Ocean. The activities of these Governments, Mr. President, have contributed to destabilizing the region and have caused neighbouring States to look for means to enhance their defence.

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

(Signed) Jeane J. KIRKPATRICK
