Security Council

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 August 1983 addressed to you by Col. Muammar Qaddafi, Chief of State of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, contained in document S/15912 of 6 August 1983, and a similar letter dated 9 August contained in document S/15914 of 9 August 1983. The first letter refers to joint training activities involving military forces of the United States, and those of other countries in the region. The letter totally misrepresents the purposes of the exercises.

The purposes and scope of these joint exercises are clearly set forth in my letter to you, contained in document S/15887 of 22 July 1983, and in advance announcements by several of the Governments whose forces are participating in the exercises. These training exercises threaten no one, are wholly defensive in nature, do not involve contested land or sea space, and are entirely consistent with international law and the United Nations Charter.

The United States unequivocally states that the exercises pose no threat to the security of any country in the African/Middle Eastern region, and that the exercises are not a response to any other situation or activity which may be taking place in any neighbouring country or countries.

These exercises were scheduled and planned before Libya launched its invasion of Chad with ground and air forces. No amount of obfuscation on the part of Libya can disguise the fact that Libyan conspiracies, threats, and aggressions against its neighbours - now graphically demonstrated by Libyan armoured battalions and warplanes operating deep within the territory of Chad - have upset the peace and security of the region.

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

(Signed) Jean J. KIRKPATRICK