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DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF GOOD-NEIGHBOURLINESS BETWEEN STATES

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 108th plenary meeting, on 16 December 1982, the General Assembly adopted resolution 37/117, entitled "Development and strengthening of good-neighbourliness between States", the operative part of which, inter alia, read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"4. Deems it appropriate, taking into account the report of the Secretary-General concerning good-neighbourliness* together with other ideas and proposals which may be submitted subsequently by Member States, to clarify the elements of good-neighbourliness as part of a process of elaborating, at an appropriate time, a suitable international document on the subject;

"5. Invites once again the Governments and the international organizations that have not communicated to the Secretary-General their views and suggestions on good-neighbourliness, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 34/99 and 36/101, to do so as soon as possible, and the Governments that have already communicated such views and suggestions to supplement them if they deem it necessary;

"6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-eighth session the item entitled "Development and strengthening of good-neighbourliness between States."

2. Pursuant to that resolution, the Secretary-General, on 2 February 1983, addressed a note to the Governments of the States Members of the United Nations requesting their views and suggestions on good-neighbourliness. Moreover, the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Security Council Affairs, on the same date, addressed a letter to the heads of those organs and organizations of the United Nations system that had not communicated to the Secretary-General their views on good-neighbourliness inviting them to do so as soon as possible.

3. As at 1 September 1983, replies containing such views had been received from Belgium, China, Cuba, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Peru, Singapore, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Zambia. The substantive parts of these replies are reproduced in section II. Replies which may be received later will be published as addenda to the present report.

4. This report also contains replies received from Governments and international organizations which were not published. However, ideas and suggestions contained in those replies were presented in the report of the Secretary-General to the thirty-seventh session (A/37/476), which gave an orderly presentation of the comments received in 1981 and 1982.

* A/37/476.

II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

A. Replies received in 1982

CHILE

[Original: Spanish]

[25 June 1982]

1. The Government of Chile is convinced that good-neighbourliness among States is indispensable for co-operation, development and peace among nations.
2. This conviction is based, further, on the codes of international conduct enshrined in existing international legal instruments, United Nations resolutions and universally accepted practice in relations among States.
3. The Charter of the United Nations states itself, in its Preamble, that the peoples of the United Nations are determined to practise tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours.
4. In its resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, the General Assembly unanimously approved the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, and reiterated once again those norms in stating that "the peoples of the United Nations are determined to practise tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours".
5. In the same manner, in its resolution 2734 (XXV) of 16 December 1970, containing the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security, the General Assembly stressed total compliance with those norms and, especially, with a view to fulfilling the purposes and principles of the United Nations, strict observance by States of all the provisions of the Charter.
6. It is the view of the Government of Chile that, in addition to observing the norms of tolerance and good-neighbourliness, it is indispensable fully to respect and unreservedly to comply with all the other international rules that form part of the modern legal order, constituting a harmonious and indivisible whole, consecrated by the Charter and defined in its purposes and principles.
7. Among these, Chile would mention in particular those norms that constitute the basis of its long-standing foreign policy, founded on respect for treaties, peaceful settlement of international disputes, non-recourse to the use or threat of use of force in the solution of international conflicts and respect for the territorial integrity and political independence of States.
8. In this connection, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Chile, Mr. René Rojas Goldames, in his statement of 14 June 1982, on the occasion of the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, stated:

"Mine is a peace-loving country and a faithful supporter of the rule of international law. We abominate war. We condemn and reject the use of force as a means of solving international disputes. We unreservedly abide by the principle of the peaceful solution of disputes, enshrined in Article 2, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations and in other international documents". He went on to say: "We have subscribed to bilateral treaties of arbitration and judicial settlement of disputes and accepted their conclusions, convinced that arbitration and judicial processes represent the most effective and just way to resolve them".

9. Elsewhere in his statement, the Chilean Minister added: "For that reason we feel the need for a much stronger relationship between the obligations which the States Members of the United Nations have contracted under Chapter VI (Pacific settlement of disputes) and the "Action with respect to threats to the peace, breaches of the peace, and acts of aggression", falling within the purview of the Security Council, as provided for in Chapter VII of the Charter. The Council must not remain ignorant of or aloof from the way in which Member States are facing or have faced the primary obligation, that of having recourse to peaceful means of settling disputes".

10. These imperative norms of international law, which Chile has unreservedly supported and to which it can conceive of no exception, constitute, in the view of the Government of Chile, the foundation on which tolerance and peaceful co-existence among good neighbours should be built. For this reason, Chile considers that any initiative to find ways and means of enhancing the norms of achieving development and good-neighbourliness requires, as a corollary, full respect for these basic rules in order to be genuinely effective and to permit harmonious co-existence among neighbouring States in a climate of mutual confidence and co-operation.

11. Guided by these concepts, the Government of Chile will make available its full support and co-operation in the development of this topic and in any initiatives adopted for its effective implementation.

CUBA

[Original: Spanish]

[29 June 1982]

1. The Government of Cuba believes that a climate of good-neighbourliness between States is extremely helpful in the solution of problems between them; it fosters and increases mutual confidence, while helping to strengthen friendly relations and co-operation among States, thus enabling the respective peoples to identify more closely and enjoy greater rapprochement with one another.

2. In the opinion of Cuba, the measures which should be considered with a view to enhancing the principle of good-neighbourliness between States as a means of preventing conflicts include the cessation of the imperialist Powers' practice of interfering in the internal affairs of States, applying pressure to destabilize

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legally constituted Governments, fomenting local conflict and undertaking acts of military, political or economic hostility and aggression against independent countries.

3. The cessation of military manoeuvres of an intimidating and aggressive nature and the dismantling of foreign military bases are also measures that could lead to the establishment of good-neighbourly relations.

4. In general, Cuba takes the view that, as long as there exist practices which are in violation of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law (practices such as those referred to above), it is extremely difficult to see how conditions conducive to the establishment of a climate of good-neighbourliness between States can exist.

5. The Government of Cuba considers that, as long as Israel continues its policy of hostility and constant aggression against the neighbouring Arab countries and continues to violate the most basic rights of the Arab and Palestinian peoples, massacring them and trying to exterminate them by committing barbarities reminiscent of those perpetrated by the Nazi and fascist hordes of the defeated Germany of Hitler (as is now the case in Lebanon, where Israel has launched a massive invasion and is practising genocide with the political, financial, military and diplomatic support of the Government of the United States of America), it is impossible to envisage a climate of good-neighbourliness conducive to the settlement of the conflicts in that region.

6. A similar conclusion may be drawn with regard to the African continent, where we have not only the suffering and heroic struggle of the Saharan people (because of Morocco's obstinate policy of maintaining its colonial rule in what is known as Western Sahara), but also the policy of the racist régime of South Africa, which, in addition to its attempt to perpetuate its illegal occupation of Namibia, is carrying out constant acts of aggression against the States known as the "front-line" States, the most recent example of which was the invasion of Angola and the maintenance of South African troops in that independent country.

7. Elsewhere, in our own region, which is made up of the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean, there are a number of situations preventing relations of good will.

8. The Government of the United States, the nuclear Power on our people's doorstep, not only is maintaining (and steadily tightening) the criminal economic blockade imposed on Cuba over 22 years ago, as well as the illegal occupation of part of Cuban territory (the site of the Guantánamo naval base) against the will of our people and our Government, but has not ceased its policy of aggression and hostility against Cuba. To that end, it is using all possible means, ranging from the attempted assassination of the leaders of the Cuban Revolution, the permanent threat of direct aggression and total blockade, flights over Cuba by spy-planes and large-scale military manoeuvres near our borders and even in the territory of Guantánamo, to the use of bacteriological weapons, which have seriously affected our socio-economic development plans and the population.

9. The United States Government is not only taking action which makes increasingly remote the possibility of a climate of goodwill with regard to Cuba; it is also taking similar action against other countries of the region. It is continuing and increasing military and all types of assistance to military dictators who are oppressing and massacring their peoples, as in the case of El Salvador and Guatemala. At the same time, the United States is supporting other countries with Fascist régimes which have been installed over the dead bodies of the best sons of those nations (as in the case of Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay and Haiti), in the face of rejection and condemnation by the international community.

10. On the other hand, the United States is constantly harassing and trying to destabilize Governments of independent countries which have come to power through the will of their peoples, as in the case of Grenada and Nicaragua. Every day, they are subject to new and more serious threats and acts of aggression, simply because they carried out a revolution and far-reaching changes in an effort to choose for themselves the political, economic and social system they wanted in order to effect the improvements necessary to ensure the well-being of their peoples.

11. To cap it all, the United States Government, in addition to continuing restrictive and discriminatory measures, in the economic and commercial spheres, against the Latin American and Caribbean countries, thereby aggravating the situation of those economically under-developed countries, is unrelenting in its colonialist efforts and designs, preventing, at all costs, the people of Puerto Rico from attaining self-determination and independence.

12. Recently, in a grave affront to all of Latin America and the Caribbean, the United States clearly set out to pose as a mediator, only to reveal its true identity before long and support the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland by all possible means, in the colonialist war of reconquest against Argentina during the Malvinas conflict, totally disregarding what was, in this case, the inherent right of Argentina to exercise full sovereignty over all its territories, including those of the archipelago of the Malvinas Islands.

13. In the light of the foregoing, Cuba, to sum up, believes that, as long as the policies followed in the international arena by countries such as Israel, South Africa and the United States, and their allies, persist, there will be no chance of a climate of good-neighbourliness between States that would be conducive to the prevention of conflicts and the promotion of the confidence necessary to eliminate current international tension. Accordingly, the role of the United Nations could and should be to demand the cessation of such policies, strongly condemning the policies themselves and those that follow them.

CYPRUS

[Original: English]

[27 September 1982]

1. Owing to geographic proximity, the development and strengthening of good-neighbourliness between States is of paramount importance. Indeed, a number of conflicts would have long ago been settled had the States concerned genuinely engaged in confidence-building measures through cultural, technological, educational and other exchanges, as well as in the economic fields. The current crisis in the maintenance of international peace and security stems largely in part from the fact that such measures have not been taken. Consequently, there is little the United Nations can do at the international level if its Members, at the regional level, do not possess the necessary political will to engage in bona fide measures, which, in an era of interdependence, acquire dimensions far beyond the geographical confines of the States concerned.

2. Basic to the concept of good-neighbourliness is the settlement of disputes in such a manner that international peace, security and justice are not endangered. In short, there should be strict conformity with the sacrosanct principles entrenched in the Charter of the United Nations at the regional level, which cannot but have positive influence on international relations as a whole.

FRANCE

[Original: French]

[12 August 1982]

1. Attention should first be drawn to the note verbale from the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations dated 2 September 1981 (see A/36/376) on this same subject.

2. In the view of the French Government, an inventory of specific legal and practical problems posed by geographical proximity of the solutions devised for such problems, and of the specific opportunities for co-operation between States and peoples which are created by geographical proximity should obviously be supplemented (or preceded) by an exhaustive study of the treaties and agreements which owe their very existence to good-neighbourly relations. Such a study seems to fall within the competence of the legal specialists of the United Nations Secretariat. In addition, it seems desirable for the concept of good-neighbourliness to be proposed as a topic for study by university working groups or as the subject of international symposia. The French Government, for its part, intends to make suggestions along those lines.

HUNGARY

[Original: English]

[23 August 1982]

1. Hungary, acting in accordance with its consistent policy of peace, is doing its utmost to avert the danger of war, strengthen international peace and the security of peoples, lessen international tension, preserve and increase the results of détente, strengthen understanding and trust among peoples, and develop and deepen mutually advantageous co-operation. It is of the view that the primary interest and task of all peoples of the world is to make maximum efforts in accordance with their facilities and possibilities for the realization of these noble goals.
2. In the age of thermonuclear and other weapons of mass destruction, the preservation of peace is in the vital interest of mankind. Human society bears an historical responsibility for its own future and that of succeeding generations. The level of economic and technical development, the limited and diminishing sources of energy and the economic, environmental and health problems of an increasingly global character call for co-operation among the countries of the world, and good relations among neighbouring countries are especially indispensable for the solution of the tasks facing mankind.
3. The States Members of the United Nations have undertaken to implement the principles and aims enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. This fact requires a special role for the world Organization, while making it an effective instrument of the international community. Hungary welcomes and supports all resolutions and actions of the United Nations seeking to promote the peaceful development of mankind, such as the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security (resolution 2734 (XXV), annex), the International Treaty on the Non-Use of Force in International Relations, and other steps taken or to be taken.
4. Establishment of nuclear-free zones and zones of peace covering whole continents and larger or smaller regions, liquidation of hotbeds of local conflicts and prevention of their emergence, and regional co-operation agreements are important factors for the preservation of universal peace. Hungary, as a European State, attaches especial importance to the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe and supports, inter alia, the establishment of nuclear-free zones in Northern Europe and the Balkans.
5. Most of the local tensions and conflicts existing in different parts of the world are consequences of the shameful colonial system. In the interest of achieving its selfish aims, imperialism is still trying to sow discord and to create tensions and new disagreements in the areas liberated from colonial rule. Particular importance is therefore attached to maintenance of good and peaceful relations between peoples living in regional and close geographical proximity.

6. Full implementation of the aim expressed in the Charter "to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours" would be an historical deed of which every people could be rightly proud, especially in the present complicated international situation. Hungary believes that genuine good-neighbourliness means more than mutual practise of tolerance, simple tranquillity and settlement of controversial issues through negotiations. Good-neighbourliness means conscious pursuit of an active policy to develop political, economic, cultural and human relations to a greater extent than so far.

7. At the same time, good-neighbourly relations should be in harmony with the service of progress and should not be directed against the interests of any outside State nor should their cultivation depend on support to the racist systems based on racial segregation and discrimination in any region of the world.

8. Close geographical location and common natural environment should promote the use of more developed forms of the international division of labour in the production of material goods, in the execution of joint projects and in a fuller and more rational exploitation of resources. There are several common features also in the historical past, even if co-operation was sometimes replaced by hostilities. Better acquaintance with each other's lives, results, achievements and cultural values should be facilitated by conscious efforts, at state and other levels, in the fields of education, book publishing, musical culture, folk arts, sports, and so forth. Contacts between broad segments of the populations should also be encouraged, in which a great role may be played by an organized expansion of tourism.

9. Hungary and most of its neighbours are members of the community of socialist States. Their inter-State relations are of a new type and are based on the community of principles and goals and on common efforts to build a society of a higher order. The treaties of friendship, co-operation and mutual assistance, as well as several agreements and other joint documents, provide a solid framework for these relations. Hungary and Austria maintain exemplary relations, which are governed by the principle of peaceful co-existence among States with different social systems.

10. In this spirit, Hungary will continue to make active efforts to promote friendly relations and co-operation with all peoples of the world, including those of the neighbouring countries.

INDONESIA

[Original: English]

[20 July 1982]

1. Good-neighbourliness, which conforms with the purposes of the United Nations, could be developed and strengthened on the basis of the strict observance of the Charter of the United Nations, the declaration on the promotion of world peace and co-operation of the Bandung Conference of 1955 and the Declaration on the

Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations (General Assembly resolution 2625 (XXV), annex).

2. Good-neighbourliness could be enhanced, inter alia, in the following ways:

(a) Conclusion of agreements on or reaffirmation of land boundaries by neighbouring States sharing common borders;

(b) Conclusion of agreements on delimitation of territorial sea boundaries, if required, by adjacent and/or opposite States;

(c) Conclusion of agreements, if required, between adjacent and/or opposite States on the delimitation of maritime and sea-bed areas falling under their respective jurisdiction;

(d) Conclusion of agreements or other forms of appropriate arrangements on border-crossings between States sharing common boundaries;

(e) Conclusion of agreements at the bilateral or regional level on questions that may give rise to possible differences or tensions, such as extradition;

(f) Maximum use of existing regional organizations in efforts made by States members of the regional organizations concerned to seek peaceful solution of their differences;

(g) Co-operation among neighbouring States in search and rescue of and/or emergency assistance to victims of air or sea accidents and/or natural disasters occurring in the respective region;

(h) Co-operation among neighbouring States to combat smuggling, piracy and other forms of criminal offences.

MOROCCO

[Original: French]

[24 June 1982]

1. Good-neighbourliness is undeniably a key principle in international relations, although it has not yet been expressly codified in the Charter of the United Nations. Indeed, respect for this principle has become an essential condition for the security, and even the survival, of human civilization. Sadly, however, many parts of the world have been set ablaze because the principle of good-neighbourliness has been violated. Hence the urgent need to ensure scrupulous respect for this principle by all States.

2. Morocco, which has always sought to promote cordial and brotherly relations with its neighbours, and which is unsparing in its efforts to attain this goal,

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believes that States are bound by this principle and by their adherence to the ideals and principles of the United Nations. Although the principle of good-neighbourliness does not appear in the Charter of the United Nations, its shape and strength stem from the very principles of the Charter, in particular respect for the sovereignty, for the territorial integrity and for the social and political systems chosen by other States and, accordingly, respect for one's neighbour, first of all.

3. Morocco, for its part, bases its commitment to this principle not only on its adherence to the provisions of the Charter but also on the teachings of Islam which, because of their moral value and their timelessness, are applicable to relations between members of the international community.

4. For this reason, Morocco encourages and supports any initiative directed towards regulating relations between neighbours and strengthening the principles that govern international relations. Indeed, since it is impossible to change geography, it is extremely necessary to elaborate a solemn, universal document to define rules of conduct and to guarantee security, co-operation and peace between neighbours.

5. Before stating its views on the form that this document should take, Morocco would like to describe its concept of good-neighbourliness. This definition is based on four elements:

(a) The moral and political obligation of neighbours to conduct their relations exclusively on the basis of consultation and negotiation and to settle all their disputes by peaceful means with absolute respect for international law and lawfulness. This completely rules out any use of force, except in cases of self-defence;

(b) A country's mass media should not in any circumstances be used for propaganda campaigns against a neighbouring country or countries, nor should they be used by any third party for the purpose of deception, subversion or exportation of ideologies;

(c) The obligation of every State to refrain from encouraging, organizing, financing, arming or giving refuge in its territory to any group of mercenaries or dissidents with a view to committing aggression against or intimidating a neighbouring country, or of fomenting unrest or creating difficulties there.

(d) The fourth element is not an obligation but rather the context in which good-neighbourly relations could flourish, namely, economic co-operation. Today, development has become part of general international law. This is especially true now that economic weapons, such as protectionism, can be just as cruel and devastating as military activities or subversion.

6. Of course, the rules of good-neighbourliness are not limited to these four elements. However, Morocco, which hopes that the United Nations discussions on this subject will be further enriched by the active participation of all Member States, feels that these four elements offer a framework for any legal and

political instrument elaborated to govern and promote trusting and tranquil relations between neighbours.

7. To this end, Morocco proposes the elaboration of an international treaty. The choice of such an instrument stems from Morocco's concern to ensure that the document has greater binding force than a code of conduct or mere declaration.

8. For this purpose, Morocco proposes the establishment of a special committee that would be responsible for preparing a draft world treaty on the strengthening and development of the principle of good-neighbourliness and for identifying methods and ways and means of promoting this principle.

9. Convinced that the principle of good-neighbourliness is closely connected to the principle of the non-use of force in international relations and to that of the peaceful settlement of disputes between States - principles that are being discussed in two separate committees - Morocco would like to propose that the principle of good-neighbourliness should also be the subject of discussion in an ad hoc committee. The purpose of the future committee would be to collect suggestions and comments from Member States, to discuss them and, on that basis, to work out an international treaty governing good-neighbourly relations.

10. This would guarantee an open, non-exclusive approach in preparing the document desired. Such an approach would have the advantage of combining and harmonizing the different views on good-neighbourliness so as to arrive at a consensus acceptable to all.

11. While all countries ultimately agree on the need to strengthen and develop good-neighbourly relations, there are, none the less, different views on the ways of achieving this. Therefore, Morocco, which was a sponsor of the first General Assembly resolution on good-neighbourliness, would like to repeat its hope that this question will be discussed in a special committee. Morocco hereby pledges its every effort to the success of this endeavour.

OMAN

[Original: Arabic]

[28 March 1982]

1. It is the belief of Oman in the necessity of making endeavours to develop and strengthen friendly and good-neighbourly relations among States that has prompted its constant urging to exert serious efforts to uphold peace and security in the Arabian Gulf region and to develop and strengthen relations of good-neighbourliness and fruitful co-operation with States in the vicinity of the Gulf region and the surrounding area. This serious endeavour is one of the basic pillars of Omani foreign policy.

2. Oman has always striven towards this goal through its participation in the work of the Gulf Co-operation Council, the Arab League and Islamic conferences and

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in every forum and international organization. Oman emphasizes that, for the achievement and strengthening of good-neighbourly relations, there must be respect for the principles of territorial sovereignty and non-intervention in the affairs of States. It constantly urges the necessity of putting an end to attempts to export and implant various forms of government or endeavours to impose alien economic, social and political systems on others.

3. All these principles are interrelated and, in their totality, aim not only at the strengthening of the principles of good-neighbourliness, but also at the positive development of relations among States so as to achieve world peace based on justice. Peace is unimaginable under conditions of threat or seizure of territories by force and under conditions of terrorism and the establishment of bases for the training of saboteurs with a view to changing systems of government by force.

4. If neighbouring States are steadfast and strive to apply those principles with a view to ensuring security, economic, social, cultural and other co-operation, they will achieve much for their peoples, and geographic proximity will become a positive element for the strengthening of relations among neighbouring States. All this forms part of the aims of the Gulf Co-operation Council, which is evolving towards the establishment of more foundations for co-operation and co-ordination among neighbouring States in all fields in order to ensure for the peoples of the region the security and prosperity to which they aspire.

PORTUGAL

[Original: French]

[11 August 1982]

1. History has shown that good-neighbourly relations between States have often brought about events which have proven to be of prime importance for a specific region, indeed for mankind.
2. The importance of such relations for the maintenance and strengthening of international peace and security is undeniable today, and this, in the view of the Portuguese Government, justifies an examination of such relations by the international community with a view to strengthening and developing their content.
3. Geographical proximity has indeed given rise to relations of friendship and co-operation between States. But it has also resulted in conflicts of interests which can become a source of armed confrontation if they are not settled in a timely manner and in a spirit of justice, fairness and respect for the sovereignty of States.
4. The development and strengthening of good-neighbourly relations should, therefore, be one of the main objectives of the policies of States. The efforts of States to attain that objective should encompass all aspects of life in society.

5. The basis for such relations is the observance of the fundamental principles of international law. The principles of respect for the sovereignty of States and of the non-use of force or the threat of force are of primary importance.

6. Political will on the part of States is an essential factor for the achievement of good-neighbourly relations. In particular, States must show a willingness:

(a) To settle all conflicts of interest peacefully through negotiation and mutual effort;

(b) To co-operate in good faith for the attainment of common objectives, including the development or utilization of shared economic resources;

(c) To refrain from any unilateral act which might result in significant damage to a neighbouring State, including the development or utilization of shared natural resources, such as seas, lakes and rivers;

(d) To co-operate for the protection of the environment;

(e) To be open about military activities, especially those which might be interpreted by another State as a threat to its legitimate interests.

7. The establishment of effective procedures and machinery for consultation is a valuable means of enabling States to give effect to their political will to develop and strengthen good-neighbourly relations. The negotiation of agreements and the setting up of commissions for study and consultation are steps which can help to promote that objective.

UGANDA

[Original: English]

[6 July 1982]

1. Since 1979, when the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session adopted a resolution on the development and strengthening of good-neighbourliness between States (resolution 34/99), Uganda has tried its level best to promote this issue in its relations with all its neighbours.

2. Uganda is a developing land-locked country. Its neighbours are the United Republic of Tanzania to the south, Rwanda to the south-west, Zaire to the west, the Sudan to the north and Kenya to the east. Apart from being at peace with all these neighbours, Uganda enjoys the most cordial relations with all of them.

3. The issue of good-neighbourliness is well enshrined in the ruling Uganda People's Congress Manifesto of 1980. The Manifesto states the the UPC Government will:

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(a) Respect, uphold and honour the territorial integrity of all its neighbouring countries and their institutions;

(b) Prohibit refugees to use Uganda as a base for either military or political action against any neighbouring country.

The Manifesto also adds that the UPC Government shall give the fullest meaning of good-neighbourliness in its relations with Rwanda, Zaire and the Sudan and, in particular, respect for each other's territorial integrity, the flow of trade and co-operation in other fields to the mutual benefit of all.

4. In a communication on 17 March 1982, the President of Uganda, Dr. Apolo Milton Obote, pointed out the closest possible co-operation with all Uganda's neighbours as an ideal that the Government of Uganda was trying and continuing to seek. This ideal has been vigorously pursued over the past year and a half since the UPC Government has been in office.

5. Shortly after the December 1980 general elections, heads of State from Kenya, Zambia and the United Republic of Tanzania met at Kampala for a mini-summit. Even just recently, on 1 May 1982, the President of Rwanda, Juvenile Habyalimana paid a State visit to Uganda. On all these occasions, the President of Uganda continued to stress the need for closer co-operation with his country's neighbours.

6. The President has also undertaken a number of initiatives with respect to the strengthening of good-neighbourliness. In his first year in office, the President visited nearly all neighbouring States. Border meetings between officials of the Uganda Government and those from neighbouring countries are also being held regularly to resolve outstanding matters such as poaching, smuggling of Uganda goods, cattle-rustling and also problems caused by ex-soldiers of Amin. Uganda is always trying to solve these incidents by peaceful means.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

[Original: English]

[7 July 1982]

1. The United States of America has followed General Assembly resolution 36/101 with great interest and supported its adoption by consensus at the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly. The views of the United States on that resolution were expressed by Ambassador Kenneth L. Adelman before the First Committee on 3 December 1981.

2. The United States was pleased to have supported draft resolution A/C.1/36/L.59 and to have joined in the consensus.

3. That draft resolution called upon all States to develop good-neighbourly relations. It also sought to identify essential elements of good-neighbourliness and to foster a fuller understanding of what constitutes good-neighbourly relations between States.

4. The United States regards this effort to clarify essential components of good-neighbourliness as both timely and useful.
5. The principles of good-neighbourliness which we support are those which in fact all nations support. The pertinent question is not whether a nation supports principles of good-neighbourliness; all nations do. It is, rather, whether a nation adheres to principles of good-neighbourliness and not all nations do.
6. The United States approaches this matter as a nation having excellent relations with its neighbours, relations which have improved markedly under the Reagan Administration. During the presidential campaign, in fact, Ronald Reagan placed improved relations with Mexico and Canada among his top foreign-affairs priorities, and he has succeeded quite well in implementing that goal. The United States is a country with more than 5,000 miles of open and unguarded land frontier with its neighbours. We have no troops garrisoned along our borders; we have no military installations for protection along our borders; we have no weapons poised along our borders; and we need none. Similarly, our neighbours have no forces along their borders to defend themselves against us; again, there is no need.
7. This stands in sharp contrast with other nations around the world. They too proclaim their undying support for principles of good-neighbourliness, but they do not practise them.
8. A truly good neighbour encourages the free exchange of people and of ideas with neighbours. It does not raise barriers to the dissemination and discussion of views which are not official doctrine. It does not require a rigid political orthodoxy of smaller States on its orders, nor does it resort to massive armed intervention such as we have witnessed on several occasions to enforce that orthodoxy.
9. There is a great deal more to being a good neighbour than pledging it on a piece of paper. The United States hopes that the practice of good-neighbourliness among nations will flourish, that it will enjoy increasing acceptance and respect.
10. We sense a great longing among the nations of this earth, a longing we in the United States profoundly share, for the blossoming of peaceful, constructive relations between States. This blossoming would enable us to devote undivided attention to the great challenge which all of us, neighbours all on this planet, face in the decades ahead.

VIET NAM

[Original: English]

[7 June 1982]

1. The clear and persistent stand of the Government of Viet Nam is to be ready to establish and expand relations of friendship and co-operation with all States throughout the world on the basis of equality, mutual respect and benefit, regardless of political, economic and social systems.

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2. As for neighbouring countries in our region, first and foremost, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the People's Republic of Kampuchea, from one generation to another, Viet Nam has been preserving the pure friendship and the traditions of solidarity among the three nations, unceasingly consolidating and strengthening the social relationship and all-sided co-operation between the three countries on the principle of respect for each other's independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and legitimate interests.
3. Viet Nam has always tried its utmost to fulfil its internationalist duty towards Laos and Kampuchea and, at the same time, endeavours together with them to achieve close co-operation and mutual assistance in all fields with a view to furthering in an increasingly more effective way each country's cause of consolidating national defence and security and building economy and culture.
4. Viet Nam stands for the establishment of good-neighbourly relations with the countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and is always prepared to join them in co-ordinated efforts to build South-East Asia into a zone of peace and stability. Proceeding from the principle that the question concerning South-East Asia should be discussed and settled by the countries in the region on the basis of negotiation and agreement, equality and mutual respect, non-imposition and non-interference from outside, Viet Nam has expressed its sincere goodwill to solve disputed problems between Viet Nam, the other Indo-Chinese countries and the ASEAN countries, particularly Thailand, in the documents of five Conferences of the Indo-Chinese Foreign Ministers (1980-1981) and the seven-point proposal made by the Lao People's Democratic Republic's Foreign Minister representing the Indo-Chinese countries at the recent thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly.
5. Nevertheless, the relations of Viet Nam and the other Indo-Chinese countries with the ASEAN countries are now encountering obstacles created by Peking and Washington. Viet Nam hopes that for the sake of their fundamental interests, and of peace and security in this region and elsewhere in the world, the ASEAN countries will enter into a dialogue and talks with the Indo-Chinese countries in order to settle problems in the relations between the two groups of States and eventually bring about a South-East Asia of peace and stability, friendship and co-operation.
6. Regarding China, the Vietnamese people unswervingly cherishes the long-standing friendship with the Chinese people and is always desirous to restore, at an early date, that friendship and normal relations between the two countries. Viet Nam persistently stands for the peaceful settlement of disputes between Viet Nam and China and has repeatedly put forward a number of positive proposals, including the proposal of 28 January 1981 of the Third Conference of Indo-Chinese Foreign Ministers, concerning the signing of a peace treaty with China and the latest initiative made by Viet Nam on 30 January 1982 regarding the cessation of hostile activities in the border region of the two countries and the resumption of the third round of Viet Nam-China talks in order to ensure peace on the border and discuss all the questions of mutual concern.
7. But the Chinese side has adamantly turned down these goodwill proposals.

8. However, Viet Nam hopes that, for the sake of the common interests and aspirations of the Vietnamese and Chinese peoples, as well as the South-East Asian peoples and the peoples of the world, the Chinese side will respond positively to Viet Nam's above-mentioned constructive proposals.

B. Replies received in 1983

BELGIUM

[Original: French]

[4 April 1983]

Belgium subscribes wholly to the principles of "good-neighbourliness" in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations. However, it would prefer that the legal aspects of the concept of "good-neighbourliness" be, to begin with, defined by the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly before proceeding to a codification of the matter.

CHINA

[Original: Chinese/English]

[25 August 1983]

1. To oppose and stop wars of aggression, safeguard international peace and security and establish friendly and good-neighbourly relations between States accord with the purposes and principles of the United Nations and are the common desires of the people the world over. It is of significance that the General Assembly discussed the subject, namely the "Development and strengthening of good-neighbourliness between States" advanced by Romania and other countries. The Chinese Government hereby wishes to express its appreciation and support for it.

2. China has always pursued a foreign policy aimed at maintaining international peace and security and promoting friendly relations and co-operation among peoples of all countries. In 1954, China and some other Asian countries jointly initiated the five principles of "mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence". Always taking these principles as the principled basis guiding relations between States, China has maintained and developed friendly and good-neighbourly relations with its close neighbours and, in this spirit, settled with some neighbours problems left over from history. The Chinese Government is of the view that countries, irrespective of size, strength and social system, should treat each other as equals in international affairs and respect each other and live together in peace. No force from outside has the right to interfere in the internal affairs of any country. A big country must not bully a small one. A strong country must not oppress a weak one. And a rich country must not exploit a poor one.

3. Hegemonism poses a threat to international security and good-neighbourliness. The super-Powers, with military strength far exceeding that of any other country, are engaged in a world-wide rivalry for hegemony. This constitutes a major source of intranquillity and turmoil in the world. The numerous developing countries suffer directly and deeply from the hegemonists' policies of expansion and aggression. Therefore, in order to develop and strengthen good-neighbourliness between States, it is imperative to oppose hegemonism in all forms.

4. In order to develop and strengthen good-neighbourliness between States, it is also imperative to abide strictly by the Charter of the United Nations. In order to secure a just settlement of some existing international questions and promote and strengthen international peace and security, it is imperative to implement the relevant United Nations resolutions regarding the questions of Afghanistan, Kampuchea, the Middle East and southern Africa.

5. China is a developing socialist country and has never posed a threat to any country or sought hegemony of any kind. China does not have a single soldier on foreign soil or a single military base abroad. The Chinese people, who were long subjected to the scourge of aggression and interference, deeply appreciate the value of peace. China's socialist modernization programme calls for a peaceful international environment. To oppose hegemonism and safeguard world peace is the fundamental principle underlying China's foreign policy, a policy that is written down in China's Constitution. The Chinese Government is firm in carrying out this policy and will play its part in opposing hegemonism, strengthening international security, establishing good-neighbourliness between States, safeguarding world peace and working for progress together with all the other peace-loving and justice-upholding countries and peoples.

CUBA

[Original: Spanish]

[31 May 1983]

1. The views of the Government of Cuba on the subject of good-neighbourliness were already circulated in 1981 and 1982. At that time, Cuba pointed to the benefits that would stem from a climate of good-neighbourliness between States. The last Cuban reply also mentioned, as an indispensable means of achieving that climate, the cessation of the imperialist practices of interference in the internal affairs of States, exerting destabilizing pressures on lawfully constituted Governments, fomenting local conflicts and engaging in acts of hostility and aggression against independent countries, carrying out intimidating and aggressive military manoeuvres, maintaining foreign military bases or, in short, engaging in practices that violate the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law.

2. Cuba believes that the kinds of activities that militate against good-neighbourliness among States, as outlined in its reply of previous years, have simply intensified in the last few months as a result of an increase in imperialist aggression on a global scale and in different regions of the world.

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3. In the Middle East, Israel's policy of hostility and constant aggression vis-à-vis its neighbouring Arab countries and peoples attained an unprecedented level with the occupation of Lebanon - for which it received renewed political, financial, military and diplomatic support from the Government of the United States of America - and with the Zionist attempts to bring pressure to bear on sovereign decisions of the Government of Lebanon and the other Arab Governments to compel them to yield to its hegemonist interests. Only if Israel and its protectors renounce their policy of force, aggression and massacre - diametrically opposed to the promotion of good-neighbourliness - will favourable conditions be created for all-inclusive negotiations leading to a settlement conducive to the establishment of a lasting peace and genuine good-neighbourly relations in the Middle East region.

4. A similar deterioration in the situation has also taken place in the African continent where Morocco is intensifying its stubborn policy of subjugating a neighbouring people, the Saharan people.

5. In the southern part of the continent, tension has reached extraordinary proportions in the last few months with the racist Pretoria régime's heightened aggression against all neighbouring States. The effect of redoubled North American imperialist support for South Africa has been to further entrench that régime in its refusal to agree to the already overdue independence of Namibia; to increase the frequency and intensity of its attacks against Angola, Mozambique and all the other neighbouring States; to encourage it to commit punitive acts against small States like Lesotho; and even to plan and execute mercenary coups such as the one engineered against the Government of Seychelles. Also, in the case of Africa, if good-neighbourliness is to be promoted, Namibia must be decolonized. South Africa's aggression against its neighbours must cease, and the imperialist policy of intimidation - as applied repeatedly against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya by the imperialist Government of the United States - and of fomenting confrontations between nations must be relinquished.

6. Other instances that exemplify the policy of the imperialists and their allies can be found in the Asian region. There is, on the one hand, the artificially-partitioned peninsula of Korea where, despite repeated appeals by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and its readiness to bring about the reunification of the entire Korean territory, the negotiating process is being increasingly prolonged and accompanied by constant acts of aggression and violations of that country's sovereignty by the Republic of Korea, where a large North American contingent is stationed and which is related to the acts of aggression and, what is more, adversely affects the situation in the area in the present circumstances.

7. Then there are the three countries that comprise the Indo-China peninsula - Viet Nam, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the People's Republic of Kampuchea - the express desire of whose Governments is to maintain good and friendly relations with the countries of the region and seek a climate of peace so that they can devote themselves to the reconstruction of their countries and the economic and social development of their peoples. Yet, while already suffering the effects of the genocidal wars of aggression unleashed there by North American imperialism, they continue to be victims of the imperialist policy of the

Government of the United States which, in close conjunction with its Asian allies, particularly the People's Republic of China, is persisting in its efforts to overthrow the Governments in power there and cause serious damage to their economies. To those ends, it is organizing, financing and training counter-revolutionary bands and puppet governments and also engaging in direct armed attacks against the territories of those countries, as typified lately by the situation on the Chinese-Vietnamese border.

8. Cuba believes that recent developments on the American continent provide very clear examples of policies that are the antithesis of the rules of good-neighbourliness; these are the policies of the Government of the United States of America.

9. The United States Government is intensifying the criminal economic blockade it imposed upon Cuba 23 years ago; it is organizing provocative manoeuvres in the vicinity of Cuba; it is continuing to usurp the portion of Cuban territory it illegally occupies; and both its rhetoric and its actions are becoming increasingly hostile. Its actions have ranged from further assassination attempts against the leaders of the Cuban Revolution to standing threats of direct aggression and naval blockade, provocations of all kinds and the use of all kinds of weapons and means against Cuba, including some outlawed by international instruments to which the United States Government is a party.

10. While the only new element in the North American imperialists' "bad-neighbourly" policy towards Cuba is the degree of intensity reached, in recent times, in the case of Grenada, Nicaragua, Suriname and other countries in the region, patterns are emerging similar to those which two decades ago set the stage for the policy of violent confrontation with Cuba chosen by that powerful neighbour to the north. Statements by the highest leadership of the current North American Government about extending the frontiers of its so-called "national interest" to the entire Central American and Caribbean area necessarily have very negative implications for peace in the region, especially when they are made in the context of growing military and other support to bloody régimes like those in El Salvador and Guatemala and the use of third countries - such as Honduras - as a springboard for aggression against revolutionary Nicaragua. There can be nothing more dangerous and further removed from the rules of good-neighbourliness than the stated intention of changing the course of the internal affairs of other countries according to the criterion of what would be helpful or harmful to the great Power in the hemisphere.

11. In this connection, another point of friction in relations between the United States and its neighbours - and one which will no doubt become worse in the future - is the attempt to prevent the people of Puerto Rico at all costs from exercising their self-determination and independence, especially if, as recent indications suggest, the United States Government should embark on an accelerated process of annexing that Latin American country.

12. The attitude of the United States Government to its closest neighbours became apparent when, during the Malvinas conflict, it gave all possible support to the colonial Power in its war of reconquest and scorned the rights of Argentina, which

were fully supported by Latin America. On that occasion, the nature of the North American policy towards the countries south of the Rio Grande was made quite clear.

13. Even in the European region, where the successive Conferences on Security and Co-operation in Europe had provided, over the years, examples of possible ways of establishing good-neighbourly relations, the climate has recently deteriorated as a result of attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of States and decisions to deploy a significant number of weapons of mass destruction that would even threaten countries situated beyond Europe.

14. Cuba believes, in short, that, as long as the policies pursued on the international scene by such countries as Israel, South Africa and, above all, the United States are increasingly applied, and until they begin to be reversed, it will not be possible to create conditions to ensure that the norms of good-neighbourliness needed to avoid conflicts and to promote mutual trust will prevail.

15. Cuba also feels that the United Nations can and must play an important role in achieving these objectives.

16. Moreover, with regard to concrete measures to be taken in this area, Cuba fully supports, as far as the Latin American region is concerned, the recommendations made in the Communiqué of the Ministerial Meeting of the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Countries, held at Managua from 10 to 14 January 1983 (see A/38/106-S/15628) and, at the international level, those recommended in the Final Declaration of the Seventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at New Delhi from 7 to 12 March 1983 (see A/38/132-S/15675). Application of the assessment and proposals of the non-aligned countries would effectively pave the way for a universal coexistence in which good-neighbourly relations among all States would prevail.

GERMANY, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF

1. History and geography have made the Federal Republic of Germany a fervent supporter of a strict policy of peace based on the principles and purposes of the United Nations, in particular on the renunciation of the use or threat of force.

2. Since its inception, the Federal Republic of Germany has pursued policies of good-neighbourliness striving for reconciliation, confidence, dialogue and co-operation with all its neighbours.

3. The firm desire of the Federal Republic of Germany to live and to co-operate in peace with all its neighbours has been manifested by its active participation in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. The Helsinki Final Act contains essential elements for creating good-neighbourly relations between States, including those with different social systems. Confidence-building measures in the military sector, and improved economic co-operation will promote good-neighbourliness. The respect of human rights and of the right to self-determination and the opening of frontiers for the free exchange of people,

information and ideas are also essential elements in building true good-neighbourliness, which is based on mutual confidence and trust.

4. The process of European regional integration and unification is a particularly inspiring example for the depth and diversity that relations between neighbouring States can assume to their common advantage. In view of this experience, the Federal Republic of Germany shares the opinion that regional organizations and bodies can play an important role in fostering the development of good-neighbourliness. Regional arrangements, provided they take each region's particular situation into account and are backed by all States concerned within this region, may be of value for the establishment of zones of peace and co-operation.

5. The concept of good-neighbourliness reflects a general policy objective and needs further clarification. To pursue policies of good-neighbourliness means to engage in a dynamic process aimed at the improvement and deepening of relations. The first and foremost pre-condition for good-neighbourly relations is the maintenance of international peace and security. However, beyond mere prevention of confrontation, the concept of good-neighbourliness implies a positive development of confidence, trust and mutually fruitful relations in all fields. The paramount primary condition for the development of good-neighbourly relations is respect for, and implementation of, the principles of international law, in particular of the Charter of the United Nations, most importantly the renunciation of the use or threat of force in international relations, the respect for sovereignty, equality, independence, territorial integrity, the self-determination of peoples and for human rights. Thus, the basis for good-neighbourliness is "the rule of law", which implies in particular strict observance and full application of international obligations and settlement of disputes by peaceful means only.

6. Furthermore, the establishment and development of good-neighbourliness calls for, inter alia:

(a) Restraint and moderation in the pursuit of individual interests;

(b) Readiness for partnership, dialogue and compromise, resulting in a balance of interests as well as in the realization that no State can achieve security at its neighbours' expense, but that security can only be established by an agreed balance at the lowest possible level of armaments;

(c) Creation of mutual confidence and trust, which presupposes predictability and reliability of political conduct. In this respect, agreement on militarily significant confidence-building measures could be an important contribution;

(d) Preparedness and political will for crisis management and - even more important - for preventive diplomacy that can defuse causes for friction before they develop into hot conflicts;

(e) Establishment of a dynamic framework of rules and structures conducive to peaceful change, social and economic development and progress towards greater freedom, self-determination and the realization of human rights;

(f) Insight that good-neighbourliness cannot flourish when human rights are disregarded.

7. The ever-growing interdependence of the world has led to a situation in which developments in one continent have repercussions in others. Therefore, the concept of good-neighbourliness ought to be extended beyond States sharing common borders. Peace and stability in the world are indivisible.

8. The Federal Republic of Germany deems it useful to examine further the concept of good-neighbourliness with a view to exploring its potential for the strengthening of international peace and security and, in particular, for the enhancement and universal application of the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.

9. In doing so, care must be taken that the universal and binding character of those principles and the balance existing between them will not be affected but rather reinforced. In this context it should not be overlooked that crises and tensions in general are not caused by lack of guiding principles of international law, but by failure or unwillingness to respect and implement the existing principles.

GREECE

[Original: French]

[12 May 1983]

1. Greece has always attached great importance to the development and strengthening of good-neighbourly relations among all States. Especially since 1981, the Government of Greece has multiplied its efforts towards that end - particularly in the political, economic, cultural and technical spheres.

2. Given the fact, as history has demonstrated, that the security of nations and the maintenance of international peace and security depend, to a great extent, on the nature of the relations between neighbouring States, it is consequently necessary to strengthen and increase the efficacy of the role of good-neighbourliness among States.

PERU

[Original: Spanish]

[14 February 1983]

1. Peru considers that the development and strengthening of good-neighbourliness between States constitutes one of the fundamental elements in the international action of States, since it makes possible tolerance, understanding and peaceful co-existence between them. Immediate geographical proximity promotes co-operation and mutual advantage in the various spheres of the activities of nations.

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2. The Government of Peru believes that good-neighbourliness exists and is manifested especially in the established international legal order. Good-neighbourliness presupposes compliance with each and every international obligation undertaken. Postulated upon good-neighbourliness and closely related to it is the principle of faithful compliance with obligations arising out of treaties, or pacta sunt servanda. The special relation between good-neighbourliness and compliance with international obligations gives rise to and nourishes the elements that make peaceful co-existence between States possible.

3. In the case of States that are geographically contiguous, it should be pointed out that the existence of good-neighbourliness depends on respect for the obligations arising out of the treaties by which frontiers have been defined, most especially if those legal instruments are in clear and express agreement with the norms of international law.

4. As to the ways and means of enhancing good-neighbourliness between geographically contiguous States, Peru believes that the promotion of co-operation between those States is essential to the attainment of that goal. Such co-operation should be governed by the principle of good faith. To that end, Peru has, for some time, been putting into practice various forms of co-existence with its neighbours, forms manifested in the economic, commercial, social, cultural and other fields. This particular relation arising out of geographical contiguity strengthens harmonious co-existence, which is the fundamental element for a positive projection towards regional units of larger political and economic dimensions.

SINGAPORE

[Original: English]

[24 August 1983]

1. The development and strengthening of "good-neighbourliness" is central to the achievement of the goals of the Charter of the United Nations and to the aspirations of all people to live in peace and security.

2. The Government of Singapore strongly subscribes to the principles of the establishment of friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principles of territorial integrity, equal rights and the non-interference in the internal affairs of States. To that end, the strengthening and development of "good-neighbourliness" would be a positive step. Singapore co-sponsored General Assembly resolutions 34/99 of 14 December 1979 and 36/101 of 9 December 1981 as an expression of its support for this idea. In the conduct of its bilateral and regional relations, Singapore has taken concrete steps in this direction.

3. Singapore is a party to the Treaty of Amity and Co-operation in South-East Asia, together with the other member States of the Association of South-East Asian Nations. The Treaty is open to accession by other nations in South-East Asia. The parties to the Treaty undertook to be guided by the following principles in their relations with each other:

- (a) Mutual respect for the independence, sovereignty, equality, territorial integrity and national identity of all nations;
- (b) The right of every State to lead its national existence free from external interference, subversion or coercion;
- (c) Non-interference in the internal affairs of one another;
- (d) Settlement of differences or disputes by peaceful means;
- (e) Renunciation of the threat or use of force;
- (f) Effective co-operation among themselves.

SUDAN

[Original: Arabic]

[17 May 1983]

1. The Sudan's experience in the field of good-neighbourliness has not been confined to conflict situations on the ground but has extended to the resolution of common problems of grazing and agriculture and the devising of an ideal formula for the co-existence of those living on or near common frontiers.

2. The Sudan endeavoured in the past, and still endeavours, to uphold and promote the policy aimed at the creation of permanent channels of communication with all States generally, and with neighbouring States with which we have common frontiers in particular. To this end, it has managed to create technical commissions specialized in frontier affairs and answerable to joint ministerial advisory commissions, which have been established with Ethiopia and Kenya, and joint local frontier commissions, whose task is to resolve minor local problems and which have been established with Ethiopia, Kenya and Chad. This experiment has proved successful, for these commissions have, on many occasions, arrived at appropriate solutions of questions that had occupied the minds of officials at the local and the national levels. This has led the Government of Sudan to believe that these local channels of communication are no less important than the national channels of communication and it is considering giving the commissions wider powers and greater freedom of movement in order to encourage the co-existence and safeguard the security of frontier nationals and to establish firmly the policy of good-neighbourliness. The successes of the above-mentioned commissions are concentrated in the areas of the regulation of grazing, the combating of animal diseases, the safeguarding of security, the placing of temporary markers on local frontiers, the settlement of minor conflicts and the creation of an atmosphere of harmony between nationals on both sides of the frontiers. All this serves to promote the policy of good-neighbourliness.

3. Experience has shown that it is possible to utilize the decisions and recommendations of a district or provincial frontier commission in resolving the

problems of other districts or provinces through the transfer of experience, because the problems are similar.

4. The experience of the joint local commissions system, which the Sudan has adopted as a steady policy in its relations with its neighbours and the success of which has been proved, can be transferred to other regions of the world in order to help to establish the concept of the development and strengthening of good-neighbourliness between States, which was approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 37/117 of 16 December 1982.

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

[Original: Arabic]

[June 1983]

1. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic envisages the concept of good-neighbourliness in terms of the following considerations:

(a) States must declare their commitment to regional and international agreements. The Syrian Arab Republic is committed to the purpose and principles of the Pact of the League of Arab States and of the Charter of the United Nations and to the purposes and principles of the non-aligned movement;

(b) Good-neighbourliness cannot exist at the same time as policies of aggression, expansion, occupation, annexation of territories, threats, intervention, destruction and colonialism in both its forms, old and new, the practices of apartheid and zionism and denial of the right of peoples to self-determination. We must call attention here to the need to safeguard the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people, including their right to establish their own independent State and to return to their land, and also the right of the people of Namibia to self-determination. There can be no good-neighbourliness in the face of disregard and defiance of United Nations resolutions and the violation of the Charter and the principles of international law, particularly the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territories by force. The Security Council must apply Chapter VII of the Charter to all who oppose these purposes and principles and pursue such policies;

(c) The concept of good-neighbourliness is based on the peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with Article 33 of the Charter, the strengthening of the role of the United Nations in the resolution of disputes and conflicts and the establishment of economic, social, cultural, information and other relations based on justice and respect for the principles of non-alignment, first and foremost the principle of refraining from joining military alliances within the context of the great Power conflict and rivalry, dismantling of existing foreign bases, non-establishment of new bases, the strengthening of the role of regional organizations, respect for regional and international treaties and fulfilment in good faith of the obligations arising therefrom. Good-neighbourliness stands in close relationship to general and complete disarmament, the halting of the arms

race and the reallocation of military resources for the benefit of the developing countries. The concept of good-neighbourliness is based also on the rejection of neo-colonialist policies, in particular the policy of the formation of intervention forces and the threat or use of force.

ZAMBIA

[Original: English]

[6 July 1983]

1. It is the policy of the Party and the Government of Zambia to establish joint permanent commissions of co-operation with friendly neighbouring countries. The aim of these commissions is to co-ordinate and accelerate economic, political, social and cultural development and co-operation. In this connection, Zambia has, since 1975, signed 12 agreements creating joint permanent commissions of co-operation with Mozambique, Zaire, Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya and Lesotho. It is also proposed to establish one with Uganda.
2. The Zambia/Mozambique Joint Permanent Commission of Co-operation was formed in April 1976 and, since its formation, has met six times. The last meeting was held at Lusaka in August 1981. Another meeting was envisaged for December 1982 but, due to the meetings of the Preferential Trade Area of Eastern and Southern Africa, it was postponed to later dates in the new year. The main areas of co-operation include transport and communication; public works such as the Bene/Katete road project; the air services; telecommunications; technical co-operation and exchange of students; and exchange of information in all fields of human endeavour.
3. The Zambia/Zaire Joint Permanent Commission of Co-operation was established in December 1976 and it has since held five meetings, the last of which was held at Lusaka from 31 October to 2 November 1981. Another meeting was to be held in November 1982, but was postponed to 1983 due to other commitments. The main areas of co-operation include demarcation of boundaries; border security problems; problems of smuggling; construction of the Chamber Bridge on the Luapula River; tarmacking and maintenance of the Mokambo Road; air services; and immigration and related problems.
4. The Zambia/Angola Joint Permanent Commission of Co-operation was established in May 1978 and has since not met, though one of its sub-committees has met twice, the third meeting scheduled for September 1982 was postponed. The main areas of co-operation include: trade; technical co-operation; air services; joint ventures in fishing and shipping; transport; telecommunications; and road links.
5. The Zambia/Botswana Joint Permanent Commission of Co-operation was established in June 1979, and has since met three times, the last time at Gaborone on 16 and 17 September 1982. The main areas of co-operation include: information and broadcasting; trade and industry; finance and industry; finance and technical co-operation; co-operation by the central banks of the two countries; and transport and telecommunications.

6. The Zambia/Zimbabwe Joint Permanent Commission of Co-operation was established on 19 January 1981, and it met for the first time in September 1982 at Livingstone. The main areas of co-operation include: economic development; trade; tourism; energy resources; mining co-operation; transport and communications; and food security plan.
7. The agreement for the establishment of the Zambia/Swaziland Joint Permanent Commission of Co-operation was signed on 29 June 1981 at Lusaka during the visit to Zambia of His Excellency Prince Mabandla Dlamini. The first meeting of this Commission was scheduled for September 1982 but was postponed due to the King's death in Swaziland. The main areas of co-operation include: trade; air services; social and cultural co-operation; and regional economic development.
8. The Zambia/Tanzania Joint Permanent Commission of Co-operation was established in February 1982 at Lusaka and it has not held any meeting yet. The main areas of co-operation will include: planning and implementation of various bilateral programmes of co-operational trade; markets and marketing arrangement; economic co-operation; and Tazara and Zam Tan.
9. The Zambia/Malawi Joint Permanent Commission of Co-operation was established in March 1982 at Blantyre, Malawi. Its first meeting was to be held in December 1982 but postponed because of meetings of the Preferential Trade Area of Eastern and Southern Africa. The first meeting was held at Lusaka during the first week of February 1983. The main areas of co-operation include: trade; economic co-operation; railway links; transport and communication; and development of energy resources and programmes.
10. An agreement establishing the Zambia/Rwanda Joint Permanent Commission of Co-operation was entered into at Kigali on 6 April 1982. The first meeting of the Commission will be held some time in 1983. The main areas of co-operation will include: economic development of the two countries through joint ventures; trade; development of transportation and communication through Lake Tanganyika and Burundi; legal issues; and social and cultural exchange.
11. The Zambia/Burundi Joint Commission of Co-operation was established on 8 April 1982 at Bujumbura, Burundi. It hopes to hold its first meeting in 1983. The main areas of co-operation will include: agriculture; mining; trade; tariffs and non-tariff barriers; development of Mpulungu port and road/rail link from Kasama to Mpulungu; development of Lake Tanganyika; energy resources; and social and cultural co-operation.
12. The Zambia/Kenya Joint Permanent Commission of Co-operation was established on 8 September 1982 at Nairobi. Its first meeting was held at Nairobi from 8 to 12 November 1982. The second meeting is to be held in Zambia in 1983. The main areas of co-operation include: trade promotion; technical co-operation; transport and communications; payments; tariffs and taxation; export and import licencing; tourism; training opportunities; and science and technology. It should be noted that, prior to the establishment of this Commission, Zambia and Kenya had set up a Consultative Committee in 1976 and it had four sub-committees on central banks; power, transport and communications; agriculture; and commerce and industry.

13. An agreement establishing the Zambia/Lesotho Permanent Commission of Co-operation was signed at Lusaka on 17 December 1982. Its first meeting will be held in 1983. Its main aims and objectives will include: trade, markets and marketing facilities; development of transportation and communications facilities within and beyond the borders of the two countries; and development of energy resources and programmes.

14. A draft agreement on the creation of a Zambia/Uganda Joint Permanent Commission of Co-operation has been prepared and both countries are studying the draft. It is hoped that the agreement can be signed in 1983.

15. Zambia's relations with other neighbouring States around or south of the equator, such as Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Somalia, to East Africa, to the Congo and Gabon and to West Central Africa, are very warm and friendly. Apart from Congo and Gabon, Zambia co-operates with the countries in the establishment of the Preferential Trade Area of Eastern and Southern Africa. Everything possible is being done to develop and intensify other areas of co-operation with these sisterly countries.

16. As regards South Africa, Zambia has no plans to establish formal relations until the racist régime abolishes its apartheid policy. Zambia, however, looks forward to the time when Namibia achieves independence, in order to start negotiations for the establishment of a Zambia/Namibia Joint Permanent Commission of Co-operation.

III. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM ORGANS AND ORGANIZATIONS
OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

A. Replies received in 1982

1. In their replies, all the United Nations organs and the specialized agencies stressed that, through their specific activities, they contributed, directly or indirectly, to the development and strengthening of good-neighbourly relations between States.
2. Regional commissions - the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Economic Commission for Africa - sent information on their specific activities at the regional level in various fields (energy, industry, agriculture, trade, transport, science and technology, human settlements, environment, etc.). They mentioned that good-neighbourliness, as a direct objective, did not feature in their work programmes. However, indirectly, each and every one of inter-country activities contributed in some measure to the promotion of good-neighbourly relations.
3. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) stressed that it was endeavouring to contribute to the development and strengthening of good-neighbourliness between States mainly through promotion of mutually advantageous trade and economic co-operation based on justice and equity and through specific activities such as technical co-operation and integration at the regional and subregional levels. Information was also forwarded on the policy of UNCTAD towards the solution of the transit and transport problems of land-locked developing countries and the Conference's special programmes in regard to bilateral agreements and other arrangements for transit trade and transport, which were entirely dependent on good-neighbourly relations.
4. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization presented certain regional projects and programmes in several developing countries as concrete examples that contributed to the purpose and intent of General Assembly resolution 36/101 of 9 December 1981 on the development and strengthening of good-neighbourliness between States.
5. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) was of the opinion that, within its field of competence and in accordance with its constitution, ILO contributed to the implementation of the objectives contained in resolution 36/101 with regard to the development and strengthening of good-neighbourliness between States.
6. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) considered that its active support towards collective self-reliance and mutual economic and technical co-operation in food, agriculture, fisheries and forestry were fully in line with resolution 36/101. In the opinion of FAO, economic co-operation in the field of food and agriculture between neighbouring countries was not only a contribution to the elimination of malnutrition and hunger but also a contribution to peace, as "these evils" were at the root of most situations of conflict. FAO

considered that, although its activities and programmes were not always directed exclusively at neighbouring countries, they had a direct effect on the promotion of economic co-operation among countries linked by geographic proximity.

7. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) pointed out that good relations between States, in particular between neighbouring States, were promoted by it through various forms of international co-operation in which UNESCO engages pursuant to its constitution. In this regard, two forms of such co-operation were mentioned as relevant to the development of relations of good-neighbourliness, namely, intergovernmental programmes and regional activities. It also emphasized that co-operation with intergovernmental organizations and bodies contributing to regional and subregional integration had been developed, particularly with a view to greater compatibility between their activities and those of UNESCO.

8. The World Health Organization mentioned that, by promoting international co-operation in the field of health, it indirectly contributed to the promotion of good-neighbourly relations between States.

9. The World Bank mentioned that, while its operational activities did not address specifically the objectives of resolution 36/101, it considered that the Bank's economic development work, particularly its financial and technical assistance to regional and co-operative programmes, helped indirectly to enhance the climate for better relations among neighbouring States. The Bank underscored that, through its regional activities, it forged economic co-operation among countries and enhanced the prospects for improved relations among neighbours.

10. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) felt that its regular work makes an important contribution to the realization of the objective of developing good-neighbourliness between States.

11. The International Atomic Energy Agency replied that it undertook certain activities relating to good-neighbourliness within the general objective set forth in the Agency's statute, namely, "to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world".

12. The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) mentioned that it provided a legal framework for the conduct of international trade and trade relationships and a forum for promoting trade among countries, preventing disputes from arising between them and settling any that might arise. GATT underlined that all aspects of its aims and activities could, therefore, be considered as relevant to the development of relations of good-neighbourliness between States.

B. Replies received in 1983

13. In its reply, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) stressed that one of the cardinal features of the technical assistance activities supported by UNDP is the pursuit of functional co-operation between States at a regional or subregional level. UNDP mentioned that, to the extent that the implementation of

such projects by the participating member States transcended political, geographic and cultural boundaries, it was self-evident that activities in support of economic and physical integration in various regions constituted a manifestation of good-neighbourliness between the States concerned. In the view of UNDP, by the very nature of regional projects through which Governments worked together towards the solution of common problems, the idea of good-neighbourliness was implicit from their inception. Moreover, UNDP underlined that the formulation of regional programmes for States from different regions could also contribute to the development and strengthening of good-neighbourly relations between States.
