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STRENGTHENING OF SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN THE
MEDITERRANEAN REGION
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE DECLARATION ON THE
STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-fourth year

Letter dated 6 January 1989 from the Permanent Representative
of Madagascar to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the message which His Excellency Mr. Didier Ratsiraka, President of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar, addressed to you on 6 January 1989 following the aerial incident which occurred in the Mediterranean on 4 January 1989 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the text of this letter and its annex as an official document of the General Assembly, under the items entitled "Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region" and "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Blaise RABETAFIKA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 6 January 1989 from the President of Madagascar
addressed to the Secretary-General

The further renewal of aggressive manoeuvres against the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, which were officially announced and perhaps scheduled and which, in any event, have been translated into an aerial incident in the Mediterranean, cannot be viewed with indifference by any country committed to peace and justice.

Now that the United Nations can be justly proud of its remarkable successes settling lethal international conflicts and continues to make its contribution to the establishment of international peace and security by negotiated means, the Democratic Republic of Madagascar deeply regrets this new source of tension, which owes its emergence to alleged intentions and a deliberate will to solve a political difference by the use of violence.

Accordingly, to the extent that it still appears possible to avert what may become irreparable, and so that the Security Council will not have to deal with an inextricable situation after the event, I urge you to do everything in your power, as is your custom, to enable the United Nations to control the dangerous process which is forming.

In any event, the question of chemical weapons, both their production and use, does not concern a single country alone. The forthcoming Paris Conference seems the appropriate forum for a democratic debate on this subject. No State, regardless of its importance and responsibilities, can decide that it has the right to act alone and unilaterally settle a matter which concerns the international community as a whole.
