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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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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 Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Ghana to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honor to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued on 5 January 1989 by the Government of the Republic of Ghana on the shooting down of planes of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya by the United States of America (see annex).

I shall be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under the agenda 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) E. Obeng KUFOR

ANNEX

Statement issued on 5 January 1989 by the Government of the Republic of Ghana on the shooting down of planes of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya by the United States of America

The Government of Ghana is outraged and dismayed by the news of the shooting down of two Libyan planes yesterday over the Mediterranean by United States jet fighters.

The Government vehemently condemns this action as an unjustified, premeditated and unprovoked aggression against a sister African State.

In the recent past the United States Administration has been accusing the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya of preparing to produce chemical weapons at a plant near Tripoli and has been threatening pre-emptive action despite the Jamahiriya's firm denial coupled with an invitation to the United States and the international community to inspect the plant in question. Significantly, the United States Administration has declined this offer and has continued to repeat its allegation. In these circumstances, no impartial observer will fail to recognize a direct connection between Wednesday's air strike and the unsubstantiated allegation against the Jamahiriya. Contrary to United States claims of acting in self-defence, it is reported that the Libyan planes were unarmed and on routine reconnaissance mission. The Government believes that the attack was deliberate and was motivated by a sinister desire to intimidate and cow the Jamahiriya into submission over the alleged chemical weapons plant.

The whole incident is fraught with gross injustice. It is recalled in this connection that the United States of America possesses several thousand tons of chemical weapons. So do a number of other States. In the recent past, there have been reports of the actual use of chemical weapons by certain countries against others or against minority communities within their borders. The United States did not consider it compelling to act against these States. Its menacing posture against Libya even in the face of that country's repeated denial of involvement in chemical weapons production is therefore totally unwarranted. The United States concern over chemical weapons would be more credible if it took immediate steps to eliminate its own arsenal of these deadly weapons.

The Government of Ghana further considers the timing of this latest United States attack particularly unfortunate in view of its likely negative impact on current peace efforts in the Middle East.

It calls upon the international community and all progressive forces to call the world to rally behind the Jamahiriya in this latest act of aggression perpetrated by the United States of America and to reaffirm the paramount need for all States to observe the elementary principles of international law. It further calls upon the two parties to resolve any differences between them through peaceful means.