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DRAFTING OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION AGAINST
THE TAKING OF HOSTAGES

Letter dated 19 December 1978 from the Permanent Representative
of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General

As host country of the 65th Inter-Parliamentary Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), held at Bonn from 5 to 13 September 1978, the Federal Republic of Germany has been asked to effect the circulation, as a document of the General Assembly, of the resolution entitled "The role of parliaments in the study and elaboration of means to combat international terrorism" adopted by the Conference.

I therefore have the honour to request that this resolution, of which copies in English and French are enclosed, be distributed as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 120.

(Signed) Rüdiger von WECHMAR

ANNEX

Resolution adopted unanimously by the 65th Inter-Parliamentary
Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN THE STUDY AND ELABORATION
OF MEANS TO COMBAT INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

The 65th Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

Disturbed by the growing number of international terrorist acts and their effects upon innocent victims around the world,

Emphasizing that the commitment of the entire international community, including the establishment of co-operation among States in this field, is necessary to combat terrorism,

Recalling the resolutions adopted on this subject by the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council and by the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Taking note of the entry into force of international legally binding instruments to combat certain forms of terrorism and of the adoption of relevant regional conventions,

Concerned at the inadequacy of the measures that have been taken so far and at the lack of progress in the elaboration by the United Nations of a comprehensive convention relating to international terrorism,

Asserting that acts of international terrorism involving hijacking of or other threats to various means of transport or to the safety of travellers, and the taking of hostages, are directed at innocent victims and violate established norms of international behaviour,

Confirming the inalienable right to self-determination and independence of all peoples under colonial and racist régimes or other forms of alien domination, as well as the inalienable right of every people to combat aggression and foreign occupation, a right which must always be exercised in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant resolutions of the latter, and in conformity also with the rules of international law, particularly with regard to respect for human rights in armed conflicts,

1. Affirms its indignation at and condemnation of all forms of international terrorism wherever they occur, whether they originate from States or individuals;

2. Emphasizes the importance of international co-operation, through treaties and other measures, including regional and bilateral conventions, in the effective prevention of such terrorism;

3. Calls on the National Groups to encourage their respective Parliaments:

(a) To undertake examination of the root causes of terrorism and contribute to the study and elaboration of legal standards for the prevention and punishment of acts of terrorism;

(b) To continue their efforts to seek and adopt, in accordance with international law, just and peaceful solutions; for the purpose of eliminating the roots and causes of acts of international terrorism;

(c) To make every effort to ensure the adoption of adequate laws punishing such acts, and, with a common accord, outlaw terrorism;

4. Urges all Parliaments and Governments to use their influence to bring about prompt accession to or ratification of the Tokyo (1963), The Hague (1970) and Montreal (1971) Conventions on the safety of international aviation, and the New York (1973) Convention relating to internationally protected persons;

5. Calls on all Governments of the world not to permit the existence and activity on their territories of terrorist organizations and groups acting against other States, to refuse the right of asylum to perpetrators of and those proven to be responsible for acts of terrorism, and either to prosecute or extradite such persons;

6. Calls upon all Parliaments and Governments of the world:

(a) To condemn all acts of violence by any régime;

(b) To condemn the continuation of repressive and terrorist acts by authoritarian, colonial, racist and alien occupying régimes in denying peoples their legitimate right to self-determination and independence and individuals their human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(c) To observe strictly their obligations to abstain from directly or indirectly supporting terrorist activities or subversive or other similar actions directed against other States;

(d) To uphold the legitimacy of the struggle of national liberation movements, which must always be expressed in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant resolutions of the latter, as well as in accordance with the rules of international law;

(e) To refrain from supporting directly or indirectly the taking of hostages for political or other purposes;

7. Supports the efforts of the entire international community to acquire effective juridical means of preventing and punishing terrorist acts;

8. Urges all Governments and Parliaments to introduce and adopt all measures within their power and enact necessary legislation to prohibit and severely punish financing of all terrorist acts and actions tending to subvert legally established Governments, from whatever sources such financing may emanate.
