

UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

UNITING FOR PEACE

Implementation of paragraph 8 of resolution 377 A (V)
adopted by the General Assembly on 3 November 1950.

Note by the Secretary-General: Since the compilation of documents A/1822, A/1822/Add.1, A/1822/Add.2, A/1822/Add.3 and A/1822/Add.4, replies to the letter of 16 April 1951 dispatched at the request of the Collective Measures Committee have been received from the Governments of:

Burma

Ecuador

Union of South Africa

Venezuela.

BURMA

21 August 1951

The Ambassador of Burma presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and has the honour, under instructions of the Government of the Union of Burma, to reply as follows to the inquiry made in Colonel Katzin's letter, dated 16 April 1951 as to the measures taken or contemplated by the Government of the Union of Burma in implementation of paragraph 8 of resolution 377 (V) (Uniting for peace) adopted by the General Assembly on 3 November 1950.

The Government of the Union of Burma desire, at the outset, to reaffirm their full support of the purposes and principles of the United Nations, and in particular of the principle of collective security, which resolution 377 (V) of the General Assembly is designed to strengthen.

In his statement before the First Committee of the General Assembly in the course of the debate on this resolution, the leader of the Burmese delegation, while accepting the principles underlying the resolution, stressed that the circumstances of the Union of Burma were such that the implementation of paragraph 8 was likely to be beyond her capabilities for some considerable time. The circumstances have not undergone any material change. Consequently, the Government of the Union of Burma have been unable to take any measures in implementation of this paragraph, nor are they in a position at present to contemplate the taking of such measures. The matter is, however, being kept under periodical review, and the Secretary-General will be advised of any change in the situation.

EQUADOR

13 August 1951

The Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to transmit to him, with this note, communication No. 207-DAO(1), of 7 August 1951, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, in reply to circular note No. SG 460/5/03, of 16 April 1951, sent by the Secretariat at the request of the Collective Measures Committee.

/Annex

Annex

Quito, 7 August 1951

I have the honour to reply to your note of 16 April 1951 drawing the attention of the Government of Ecuador to resolution 377 (V), "Uniting for peace", adopted by the General Assembly on 3 November 1950.

2. My Government, which is in agreement with the high aims of the above resolution and is anxious to co-operate, to the best of its ability, in putting it into force, has studied the communication in question with interest.
3. Ecuador, which has a solidly peaceful tradition and has based its international conduct on justice and law, always condemning the use of force as a means of achieving political and territorial ends, supported the resolution when it was submitted to the General Assembly. I am consequently glad to take this opportunity of reaffirming, in the name of the people of Ecuador, its whole-hearted support for the principles and rules laid down for the maintenance of collective security, international friendship and the protection of human rights in the United Nations Charter and restated, with fresh vigour, in the General Assembly's resolution "Uniting for peace".
4. Ecuador, as a Member of the United Nations and of the inter-American legal community, has undertaken to participate in the joint task of maintaining international peace and security, settling disputes by peaceful means and taking effective collective measures for the prevention and suppression of acts of aggression. Consequently, without prejudice to the overriding importance of its legitimate national defence, it will devote special attention, so far as is possible and as soon as circumstances allow, to the development and maintenance within its armed forces of elements so trained, organized and equipped as to be available both for the defence of the continent and to render service under the "Uniting for peace" resolution, subject of course to the provisions of Ecuador's Constitution and to its judgment of what its resources permit.
5. My Government thinks that, in order to render feasible this collaboration, which in its case is necessarily limited because of its scanty resources, the assistance of better-equipped countries is required to facilitate technical instruction and the provision of war supplies.

(Signed) L. Nefalí PONCE,
Minister of Foreign Affairs

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

9 August 1951

With further reference to your letter SG.460/5/03(1) of 16 April 1951, I am directed to inform you that the Government of the Union of South Africa have given careful consideration to paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 377 (V) which recommends that "each Member maintain within its national armed forces elements so trained, organized, and equipped that they could promptly be made available, in accordance with its constitutional processes, for service as a United Nations unit or units, upon recommendation by the Security Council or the General Assembly, without prejudice to the use of such elements in exercise of the right of individual or collective self-defence recognized in Article 51 of the Charter".

It will be noted that this paragraph refers specifically to the right of collective self-defence and that a similar reference to collective self-defence is included in paragraph 11 of the resolution, dealing with the duties and terms of reference of the Collective Measures Committee. This paragraph also refers to the question of regional arrangements.

As is generally known, a number of Member States have undertaken general or specific obligations for the maintenance of peace and security on a regional basis. The Union of South Africa similarly has announced its acceptance of certain military responsibilities in regard to the preservation of the security of the African continent against aggression.

These responsibilities postulate that the principal contribution of the Union of South Africa towards the United Nations objectives of peace and security should be undertaken with special reference to the African continent. Nevertheless the willingness of the Union of South Africa to contribute to the security of areas outside those for which the Union has special responsibilities has been effectively demonstrated by the dispatch of a fully equipped fighter squadron with auxiliary ground personnel to serve under United Nations Command in Korea.

Having regard to the responsibilities they are undertaking in respect of the preservation of the African continent against aggression and taking into account the contribution they have made towards United Nations forces in Korea, the Government of the Union of South Africa consider that they are already contributing effectively towards the objectives of the "Uniting for peace"

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resolution. In view of these commitments the Union Government do not contemplate the organization of additional units of the Union Defence Forces specifically for service with the United Nations.

Nevertheless the assurance is given that South Africa will continue, in the light of its existing commitments, to give careful consideration to any request from the United Nations for active co-operation in the maintenance of international peace and security and in collective action against acts of aggression, whenever such occasions may arise.

I shall be grateful if the foregoing could be communicated to the Collective Measures Committee.

(Signed) JORDAAN

Deputy Permanent Representative.

VENEZUELA

Caracas, 17 August 1951

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has the honour to refer to the Secretariat's communication SG 460/5/03(1) of 16 April 1951 in which, at the request of the Collective Measures Committee, the Venezuelan Government's attention is drawn to resolution 377 (V) adopted by the General Assembly on 3 November 1950. Particular emphasis is laid on section C, paragraph 8 of the said resolution, in which the General Assembly recommends to the States Members of the United Nations that "each Member maintain within its national armed forces elements so trained, organized and equipped that they could promptly be made available, in accordance with its constitutional processes, for service as a United Nations unit or units, upon recommendation by the Security Council or the General Assembly, without prejudice to the use of such elements in exercise of the right of individual or collective self-defence recognized in Article 51 of the Charter". For the purpose of informing the Security Council and the General Assembly, the Committee also asks the Venezuelan Government to state what measures have been adopted in conformity with the aforementioned paragraph 8.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has given due attention to the request of the Collective Measures Committee and has the honour to inform it, through the Secretariat, that the Venezuelan Government will do everything in its power to give

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effect to the aforementioned resolution 377 (V). In accordance with the historical tradition of the country, the Venezuelan Government has always made a point of faithfully complying with all international agreements of a general or regional character dealing with collective security. It has always rejected the use of force for political purposes and territorial expansion and therefore accepts and supports the principles and rules of international law set out in the United Nations Charter for the maintenance of peace and security by the community of nations.

In view of these considerations, the Venezuelan Government, as stated on previous occasions, is giving particular attention to improving its national armed forces for the principal purpose of exercising its right of self-defence, because the geographical situation of the country, its large area and the strategic materials produced there warrant special attention on the part of the military authorities at times like the present when international tension and threats to peace exist. These factors, and others referred to in note No. 2029 of 14 July 1951 addressed to the Secretary-General, are, in the Venezuelan Government's opinion, of basic importance to the assistance which the country may be able to give in support of United Nations action, for which purpose the units of the national armed forces need not only technical training but also the modern equipment and material necessary for such important functions.