

UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



GENERAL

A/1822/Add.8
16 October 1951
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH
SPANISH

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 and Adds. 1-7, a reply to the letter of 16 April 1951 dispatched at the request of the Collective Measures Committee has been received from the Government of:

Dominican Republic

51-19105

/DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
A/1822/Add.8

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

2 October 1951

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. SG 460/5/03, of 14 September 1951 informing me that the Chairman of the Collective Measures Committee has asked that my Government's attention should be drawn to the terms of paragraphs 8 and 9 of General Assembly resolution 377 (V) entitled "Uniting for peace".

In accordance with my Government's instructions, I have the honour to inform you - and to request you to transmit the contents of this note to the Chairman of the Collective Measures Committee - that, while the Dominican Government wholeheartedly supports the objectives of the General Assembly resolution entitled "Uniting for peace" aimed at giving effect to the principles of collective security which are the very foundation of the United Nations, there are certain circumstances which my Government must of necessity take into account when considering, in the light of those selfsame circumstances, the grave obligations which are implicit in paragraph 8 of the aforementioned General Assembly resolution. In the first place, the Republic's military establishment and the armed forces at its disposal are inadequate from the viewpoint of the special and additional demands entailed by their use for purposes other than the individual defence of the Dominican nation and the maintenance of public order within the State, to which their use is confined, in principle, in virtue of article 86 of the Constitution of the Dominican Republic.

For example, our youthful Navy, which has been in existence for barely two years, is not adequate by itself to guard our shores, and the regular Army is not large enough to permit us to detach a substantial contingent of men or arms to be used for purposes other than those to which they are devoted at the present time.

No less serious, are the considerations which my Government must bear in mind when reviewing the problems of the security of the Dominican State. These considerations justify the reserve and circumspection which my Government must necessarily observe in respect of any contingency that might divert our military resources to action in the interests of collective security conducted in theatres far-removed from our borders.

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It is a well-known fact that since 1946 the Dominican Republic has constantly been exposed to dangers of a nature to undermine the security and stability of the nation, and these threats have compelled us, and may continue to compel us, to exercise great caution with respect to the fulfilment of certain international obligations.

These same dangers to which the peace of the Republic has been exposed have compelled the Dominican Government to incur expenditures indisputably representing great sacrifice, which has been imposed on the nation in order to meet these unwarranted threats. These dangers are by no means hypothetical, for anyone who is familiar with the international political situation in the Caribbean area must concede that here, at the crossroads of the two American continents, a state of affairs exists which might at any time give rise to another of those deplorable tragedies that confront the United Nations in its onerous task of preserving humanity from the scourge of war.

In the circumstances, it is obvious that the maintenance abroad of units of the nation's fighting forces in the service of the United Nations might constitute not only an additional burden for the Dominican taxpayer but also a serious threat to the internal security of the Republic.

The foregoing statement should not in any way be taken to mean that the Dominican Republic is repudiating the moral obligation it assumed by its endorsement of the General Assembly resolution "Uniting for peace".

On the contrary, the Dominican Government wishes to reaffirm herewith its intention to continue to give careful study to the terms of the resolution. It also wishes to point out that the fact that the resolution refers not to present conditions but to future contingencies will make it easier for my Government to give the text that thorough consideration which it deserves.

(Signed) Max HENRIQUEZ URENA
Permanent Representative of the
Dominican Republic to the
United Nations
