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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-fifth year

Letter dated 17 August 1990 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Namibia to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of a statement by the Honourable Theo-Ben Gurirab, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Namibia on the Kuwait-Iraq conflict, issued on 15 August 1990 (see annex), and to kindly request that it be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 35 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hinyangerwa P. ASHEEKE
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/45/150 and Corr.1.

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ANNEX

Statement dated 15 August 1990 by the Minister for Foreign
Affairs of Namibia on the Iraq-Kuwait conflict

As a member State of the United Nations, Iraq has no right - legally, politically, morally, strategically - to have invaded and occupied the territory, the sovereign State, of Kuwait. It was a clear violation of the principles of respect for sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of other States. Therefore, the action of Iraq being one which clearly violates the Charter of the United Nations, the rule of international law, Namibia condemns that act as an unprovoked, naked act of aggression.

We call upon Iraq to withdraw all its forces from Kuwait. We call upon the international community, at the same time, to assist Kuwait to re-establish its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. And we recognize the ruler of Kuwait as the sovereign of that friendly country.

However, while we condemn the action taken by Iraq as a naked aggression, and while we also support the action taken by the Security Council in its resolutions, we do not believe it would be in the best interest of the Middle East, the people of that region or for countries outside of that region to amass the kind of military power that we now see moving towards the Middle East.

If indeed it is being done strictly in compliance with the specific terms of the resolutions of the Security Council, we do support it, because we subscribe to the principle of mandatory sanctions against States responsible for violating international law and the Charter of the United Nations. But we do not want to be associated, by word or by action, with any undertaking that may be intended to or which might actually escalate rather than reduce tensions in the Middle East, and thus lead to confrontation and to a major world crisis.
