

Resolution 457 (1979)

of 4 December 1979

The Security Council,

Having considered the letter from the Secretary-General dated 25 November 1979,⁹⁵

Deeply concerned at the dangerous level of tension between Iran and the United States of America, which could have grave consequences for international peace and security,

Recalling the appeal made by the President of the Security Council on 9 November 1979,⁹² which was reiterated on 27 November 1979 (S/13652),⁹⁶

Taking note of the letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iran dated 13 November 1979⁹⁷ relative to the grievances of Iran,

Mindful of the obligation of States to settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered,

Conscious of the responsibility of States to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the solemn obligation of all States parties to both the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961⁹⁸ and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 1963⁹⁹ to respect the inviolability of diplomatic personnel and the premises of their missions.

1. *Urgently calls upon* the Government of Iran to release immediately the personnel of the Embassy of the United States of America being held at Teheran, to provide them with protection and to allow them to leave the country;

2. *Further calls upon* the Governments of Iran and of the United States of America to take steps to resolve peacefully the remaining issues between them to their mutual satisfaction in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations;

3. *Urges* the Governments of Iran and of the United States of America to exercise the utmost restraint in the prevailing situation;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to lend his good offices for the immediate implementation of the present resolution and to take all appropriate measures to this end;

5. *Decides* that the Council will remain actively seized of the matter and requests the Secretary-General

⁹⁵ *Ibid.*, document S/13646.

⁹⁶ *Ibid.*, *Thirty-fourth Year*, 2172nd meeting.

⁹⁷ *Ibid.*, *Supplement for October, November and December 1979*, document S/13626.

⁹⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 500, p. 95.

⁹⁹ *Official Records of the United Nations Conference on Consular Relations* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 64.X.1), p. 173.

to report urgently to it on developments regarding his efforts.

Adopted unanimously at the 2178th meeting.

Decisions

At its 2182nd meeting, on 29 December 1979, the Council decided to invite the representatives of Australia, Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany and Singapore to participate, without vote, in the discussion of the item entitled "Letter dated 22 December 1979 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/13705)".⁹³

At its 2183rd meeting, on 30 December 1979, the Council decided to invite the representative of Japan to participate, without vote, in the discussion of the question.

Resolution 461 (1979)

of 31 December 1979

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolution 457 (1979) of 4 December 1979,

Recalling also the appeal made by the President of the Security Council on 9 November 1979,⁹² which was reiterated on 27 November 1979 (S/13652),⁹⁶

Gravely concerned at the increasing tension between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States of America caused by the seizure and prolonged detention of persons of United States nationality who are being held as hostages in Iran in violation of international law, and which could have grave consequences for international peace and security,

Taking note of the letters from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran dated 13 November 1979⁹⁷ and 1 December 1979¹⁰⁰ relating to the grievances and statements of his Government on the situation,

Recalling also the letter from the Secretary-General dated 25 November 1979⁹⁵ stating that, in his opinion, the present crisis between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States of America poses a serious threat to international peace and security,

¹⁰⁰ *Official Records of the Security Council, Thirty-fourth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1979*, document S/13671.

Taking into account the Order of the International Court of Justice of 15 December 1979¹⁰¹ calling on the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to ensure the immediate release, without any exception, of all persons of United States nationality who are being held as hostages in Iran and also calling on the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to ensure that no action will be taken by them which will aggravate the tension between the two countries,

Further taking into account the report of the Secretary-General of 22 December 1979 on developments in the situation,¹⁰²

Mindful of the obligation of States to settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered,

Conscious of the responsibility of States to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations.

1. *Reaffirms* its resolution 457 (1979) in all its aspects;

¹⁰¹ *Ibid.*, document S/13697.

¹⁰² *Ibid.*, document S/13704.

2. *Deplores* the continued detention of the hostages contrary to its resolution 457 (1979) and the Order of the International Court of Justice of 15 December 1979;

3. *Urgently calls once again* on the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to release immediately all persons of United States nationality being held as hostages in Iran, to provide them with protection and to allow them to leave the country;

4. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to lend his good offices and to intensify his efforts with a view to assisting the Security Council in achieving the objectives called for in the present resolution, and in this connexion takes note of his readiness to go personally to Iran;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Security Council on his good offices efforts before the Council meets again;

6. *Decides* to meet on 7 January 1980 in order to review the situation and, in the event of non-compliance with the present resolution, to adopt effective measures under Articles 39 and 41 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Adopted at the 2184th meeting by 11 votes to none, with 4 abstentions (Bangladesh, Czechoslovakia, Kuwait, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics).

THE SITUATION IN NAMIBIA¹⁰³

Decision

On 28 November 1979,¹⁰⁴ the President of the Council made the following statement:

“The Security Council met in informal consultations to hear a statement made by the Secretary-General in connexion with his report¹⁰⁵ submitted in pursuance of Council resolution 435 (1978) and to exchange views on the question of Namibia.

“The Security Council expressed its support for the efforts of the Secretary-General to implement resolution 435 (1978) but noted with grave concern that it had not been possible so far to achieve this.

“The Security Council noted that the front-line States and the South West Africa People’s Organization had accepted the concept of the demilitarized zone and that a South African reaction was still awaited.

“The Security Council calls on South Africa to give an urgent reaction concerning an acceptance of the concept of the demilitarized zone, bearing in mind that the General Assembly is to begin its consideration of the question of Namibia on 6 December 1979.”

¹⁰³ Resolutions or decisions on this question were also adopted by the Council in 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976 and 1978.

¹⁰⁴ *Official Records of the Security Council, Thirty-fourth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1979*, document S/13657.

¹⁰⁵ *Ibid.*, document S/13634.