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REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM
IN THE AGENDA OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION

QUESTION OF EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION ON AND INCREASE
IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Letter dated 14 November 1979 from the Permanent Representatives of
Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Guyana, India, Maldives,
Nepal, Nigeria and Sri Lanka to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

On behalf of our respective Governments, we have the honour to request the inclusion of the following additional item in the agenda of the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly:

"Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council."

In conformity with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum is attached.

(Signed) Mohamed BEDJAOUI (Algeria)
Enrique Jorge ROS (Argentina)
Khwaja Mohammed KAISER (Bangladesh)
Dago TSEBRING (Bhutan)
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Ahmed ZAKI (Maldives)
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B. Akporode CLARK (Nigeria)
Biyagamage Jayasena FERNANDO (Sri Lanka)

ANNEX

Explanatory memorandum

1. Since the amendment of the Charter of the United Nations in 1963, enlarging the membership of the Security Council from 11 to 15 members, the membership of the United Nations has increased from 113 to 152. This increase is mainly due to the emergence and admission to the United Nations of a large number of new States from Africa, Asia and Latin America.
2. However, this increase has not been reflected in the membership of the Security Council. Presently the global average of the number of countries represented by one non-permanent seat in the Security Council is 14.7. The number of Asian countries represented by one non-permanent seat is 18.5. The corresponding figure for African States is 16.3, for Latin American States, 14, for the West European and other States, 11 and for Eastern European States, 10. This state of affairs constitutes an under-representation of non-aligned and developing countries on one of the principal organs of the United Nations.
3. In order to strengthen the primary role of the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security, it is necessary that the composition of the Security Council be reviewed with a view to providing for a more equitable and balanced representation that would reflect the increase in the membership of the United Nations.
4. Accordingly, the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session should be called upon to take measures to amend the Charter in this respect.