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Agenda items 35 and 153

THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

IRAQI AGGRESSION AND THE CONTINUED

OCCUPATION OF KUWAIT IN FLAGRANT

VIOLATION OF THE CHARTER OF THE

UNITED NATIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL

Forty-fifth year

Letter dated 27 September 1990 from the Permanent Representatives
of Italy and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United
Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit the text, in English, French and Russian, of the Joint Statement of the European Community and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Middle East, issued on 26 September 1990 at the meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Twelve States members of the European Community and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 35 and 153, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Viery TRAXLER
Permanent Representative
of Italy
to the United Nations

(Signed) Yuli M. VORONTSOV
Permanent Representative
of the Union of Soviet Socialist
Republics to the United Nations

ANNEX

Joint statement of the European Community and the Union of
Soviet Socialist Republics, issued on 26 September 1990 in
New York

The European Community and its member States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, concerned that unresolved situations of conflict in the Middle East and the Gulf endanger international peace and security, generate new crises, spur the regional arms race and lead to an escalation of violence and extremism, have decided to adopt the following statement.

I. The Gulf crisis has to be urgently resolved. The invasion and military occupation of Kuwait, a sovereign and independent State, by Iraq have been condemned by the whole international community. These acts must not be tolerated, since they violate fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law and create a new, dangerous source of tension in the region.

Proceeding from the principles of inadmissibility of the use of force to settle disputes between States and of the respect for the right of every State to safeguard its national independence and territorial integrity, the European Community and its member States and the Soviet Union demand that Iraq strictly comply with the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and immediately and unconditionally withdraw its forces from Kuwait.

They express satisfaction at the high degree of consensus among all members of the United Nations Security Council and the international community as a whole concerning the need to put an end, as soon as possible, to the invasion and to restore international legality.

They believe that such a consensus needs to be preserved in order for a political solution of the crisis to be achieved. The condition for this outcome is the full compliance with the embargo decided upon by the United Nations. The European Community and its member States and the Soviet Union are determined to continue to adhere to the sanctions decided by the Security Council and call upon all other States to act in the same way. They are also prepared to consider additional steps consistent with the Charter of the United Nations.

Time does not work for the aggressor. It will only strengthen the determination of the international community to repeal the aggression and to restore fully the sovereignty of Kuwait.

The European Community and its member States and the Soviet Union urge the Iraqi authorities to allow immediately all foreign citizens who so desire to leave Iraq and Kuwait. They hold the Iraqi Government responsible for their safety.

II. The European Community and its member States and the Soviet Union are also determined to multiply their efforts aimed at resolving the other conflicts of the region, such as the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Palestinian problem and the

situation in Lebanon. The European Community and its member States and the Soviet Union stress that they remain committed to the attainment of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region, in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council.

Wishing to contribute to the security and welfare in the area, the European Community and its member States and the Soviet Union confirm their readiness to co-operate with the countries of the area in establishing a comprehensive structure in the region and in drawing up to that end a set of rules capable of fostering peace, tolerance, stability, economic co-operation and development. They will consult each other in order to achieve these objectives.

The European Community and its member States and the Soviet Union believe that practical measures should be taken, concurrently and in conjunction with the peace efforts in the Middle East, to build a climate of confidence aimed at resolving the problems of the whole area, to curb the arms race and to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction through adherence to the appropriate international agreements as well as through specific regional measures.
