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CONSIDERATION OF MEASURES FOR THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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70-18986
The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait adverted to the question of the strengthening of international security in his opening statement before the General Assembly, delivered on Tuesday, 22 October 1968, when he said the following:

"Kuwait has an unshakable faith in the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter and has formulated its policy in the spirit of the Charter, from which it derives constant inspiration in tackling international problems and seeking to find solutions for them. However, the principles of the Charter, which truly reflect the hopes of mankind to live in peace and security, are still without substantive and practical application in the international field.

This is due to the fact that some Governments, especially big Powers, pursue policies which promote narrow national interests and seek to impose their will regardless of the principle of sovereign equality of all Members of the international family.

The main shortcoming is that the United Nations is ineffective in dealing with international problems which constitute a threat to world peace and security; we must seriously consider applying the enforcement measures embodied in Chapter VII of the Charter regarding the action to be taken with respect to threats to the peace, breaches of the peace and acts of aggression. Only thus can the United Nations become an effective instrument in upholding the rule of law and justice in international relations.

Previous experience has taught us that we must accord to the Secretary-General of the United Nations wide powers, in accordance with Articles 98 and 99 of the Charter, so as to give effect to the principles of the Charter and prevent their infringement. The assumption of greater responsibilities by the Secretary-General is tantamount to enhancing the prestige of the world organization and enabling it to perform a more effective role, not merely in the maintenance of peace and security, but also in coming to grips with the most difficult international problems objectively. In this manner we can dispel the impression in the minds of peoples that the main organs of the United Nations are merely a debating
forum and have no efficacy in enforcing the provisions of the Charter relating to the maintenance of international peace and security". 1/

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait will have more to say on this question in his opening statement before the forthcoming session of the General Assembly.

MONGOLIA

(Original: Russian)
25 June 1970

The Government of the Mongolian People's Republic considers that the strengthening of international security is the most important problem in international affairs today.

The consistent struggle of the socialist countries and all progressive forces for the strengthening of peace and the active advocacy of that same cause on the part of a large number of peace-loving States and the broad masses of the people in all countries are a decisive factor in eliminating the threat of a new war. These forces are calling for the strict observance by all States of the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and the maintenance and consolidation of world peace as a basic condition for the guarantee of security and progress of all mankind.

However, imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism increasingly threaten international peace and security, and seek to impede the irresistible advance of mankind along the path of democracy and social progress. The reckless actions of the imperialist forces, which take the form of gross violations of the sovereignty of States and interference in their domestic affairs even to the point of unleashing armed aggression against them, make the problem of the maintenance of world peace and security particularly urgent at the present time. This requires the United Nations, as an instrument for the maintenance of international peace, to increase the effectiveness of its actions and take practical measures to achieve its primary purpose.

1. The Government of the Mongolian People's Republic considers that the essential condition for strengthening international security and guaranteeing

1/ A/1702, p. 51.
lasting peace lies in the strict observance by all States of the principles of peaceful co-existence between States with different social systems – the principles of sovereignty, equal rights, non-intervention in each other's domestic affairs, and the territorial integrity of each State.

The observance of the principles of renunciation of the use of force in relations between States and the settlement of disputes by peaceful means also has great significance for the development of co-operation between States and the strengthening of the foundations of a peaceful order.

2. The existence of colonialism and other forms of enslavement of peoples and the denial of their inalienable right to self-determination are a major cause of the aggravation of international tension and of the outbreak of conflicts between nations, posing a threat to world peace and security. The speedy and final elimination of colonialism in all its forms and manifestations and the renunciation of all methods of suppressing the national liberation movement of the peoples should take their place among the most important measures for the strengthening of international security.

3. The achievement of general and complete disarmament under strict international control would constitute a reliable material guarantee of the elimination of wars from the life of human society. In the present international circumstances, when obstacles are being placed in the way of general and complete disarmament, attention should be concentrated primarily on measures for the prevention of a world-wide thermonuclear catastrophe and the limitation and elimination of missiles and nuclear armaments. Serious attention should also be given to the question of prohibiting other types of weapons of mass destruction, namely, chemical and bacteriological weapons. The United Nations must seek new ways of solving the problems of disarmament which would be applicable in the existing international situation.

4. One cause of the aggravation of the international situation is that the imperialist Powers place obstacles in the way of the economic progress of the developing countries, which constitute the majority of the States of the world. Particular attention should be paid to the application to world economic relations of principles and concepts of justice which take into account and respect the interests of all Parties, appreciating the urgent needs arising from rapid economic
growth in the developing countries and the liquidation of the harmful effects of colonial domination and economic enslavement.

5. The present international situation makes it imperative to increase the effectiveness of United Nations action for the maintenance of international peace. The Security Council, as the principal organ responsible for the maintenance of international peace, should be enabled to take effective steps to discharge its responsibilities under the Charter, even to the extent, when required, of adopting enforcement measures to prevent or put an end to acts of aggression.

In the light of the above considerations, the Government of the Mongolian People's Republic warmly welcomed the initiative of the Government of the Soviet Union, which proposed to the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session that the question of strengthening international security should be considered. The Mongolian People's Republic holds the view that the General Assembly at its forthcoming session should address an appeal to all States, setting forth recommendations for practical measures to strengthen international security. Such an appeal, made by the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session, would be in the interests of all States, large and small, and would help to increase the effectiveness of the United Nations as an instrument for the peace and security of nations. It would represent a serious contribution by the United Nations to the cause of peace and would be a fitting way to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Organization. The draft (A/61/L.468) submitted by the Soviet Union, together with the additions which its delegation subsequently submitted, could serve as the basis for the above appeal.

With regard to the recommendations contained in the General Assembly resolution, in which States Members of the United Nations were requested to supply information on measures they take for the purpose of strengthening international security, it should be stated that the Government of the Mongolian People's Republic directs its foreign policy, as it has always done, towards the strengthening of international peace and security and the development of co-operation between all nations.

The Mongolian People's Republic is steadily developing political, economic and cultural links with countries having differing social system on the basis of the principles of peaceful co-existence. This is reflected in the treaties
and agreements concluded by the Mongolian People's Republic with other countries, in which particular emphasis is placed on co-operation and mutual consultations with a view to promoting the strengthening of peace and security in Asia and the entire world. The same purpose is served by the negotiations on existing international problems conducted by the Mongolian People's Republic with many countries of the world on the occasion of high-level exchanges between governmental, parliamentary and other official delegations.

The Mongolian People's Republic attaches great importance to discussions with African and Asian countries, in which it pays particular attention to the vital questions of the struggle against imperialism, colonialism and neocolonialism, racism and apartheid and for peace, national independence and social progress.

The Mongolian People's Republic strives to the fullest possible extent to play a constructive part in the work of the United Nations and its organs, including the Committee on Disarmament, with a view to assisting them in the successful discharge of their responsibilities in connexion with the strengthening of international security, the reduction of tension and the implementation of effective measures for disarmament.

PORTUGAL

[Original: English]
22 July 1970

1. Peace and security result from the rule of law. The question of international security is therefore inseparable from that of observance by all States of an agreed set of rules governing their relations.
2. These rules exist and they translate certain principles consecrated alike in international law and in the Charter of the United Nations. It does not seem that, in the present set-up of the international community, any better principles or rules can be devised. The nations of the world are organized as sovereign States, equal among themselves, each having the unquestionable right to live its own life in accordance with its own Constitution and without any interference from outside. As far as the United Nations is concerned, the Constitution of each

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State is recognized by the Organization at the time of its admission as a Member. The question of international peace and security cannot but be viewed in the light of this reality.

3. The crisis which besets the world is not due to inexistence of sound principles and rules of international good conduct but to their inobservance. This is not a new phenomenon in the history of mankind, but the problem has acquired a new urgency in our times for reasons that are well known and need not be analysed here. Suffice it to say that, while peace and security is much talked about, there is a widespread climate of violence, local wars continue to take place and an Armageddon is avoided only by an "equilibrium of terror". It has become more obvious than ever that neither principles nor institutions avail anything, if the will to peace and security does not exist in inter-State relations.

4. The will to peace is incompatible with actions contrary to the fundamental principles of international good conduct. These are: respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all the other States without any discrimination; non-interference in the internal life of other States, no matter under what pretext; abstention from the use of force, whether direct or through third parties, against other States, except in self-defence; abstention from all forms of subversive activities directed against other States.

5. The United Nations should help stimulate the will to peace and security. And it is towards this end that the Organization should bend its efforts. It seems therefore that the first requisite is to undertake an honest examination of the causes which have prevented the United Nations from playing its part as an instrument of peace and security. The United Nations cannot achieve this purpose if the ideals and the principles governing it are made to subserve the particular interest of a section of its membership or, if in the name of a dynamic interpretation of the Charter, new doctrines are set up contrary to that fundamental law of the Organization. The United Nations should not be a platform for acrimonious wranglings over differences existing among Member States.

6. It is unrealistic to think that it will ever be possible to eliminate all political differences from inter-State relations. What is necessary is to search
for areas of agreement rather than base those relations on differences. This is where the United Nations can make a valuable contribution to the cause of international peace and security. And in so doing it would only be fulfilling the fundamental purpose for which it was created, namely to encourage the practice of tolerance and the spirit of harmony and co-operation among Member States.