

of foreign ministers, to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the Organization.

The meeting was chaired by the Foreign Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as President of the Security Council for September. Statements were made by the Foreign Ministers of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Thailand and Peru; by the Permanent Representative of Madagascar to the United Nations; by the Minister of State for Commerce of India; and by the Foreign Ministers of France, Egypt, Denmark, China, Burkina Faso, Australia, the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as well as by the Secretary-General.

The agenda for the commemorative meeting was: 'United Nations for a better world and the responsibility of the Security Council in maintaining international peace and security'.

The members of the Council welcomed the opportunity provided by the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations to reaffirm at a high level their obligations under the Charter and their continued commitment to its purposes and principles. They conducted a wide-ranging review of the international situation. They expressed their deep concern at the existence of various threats to peace, including the nuclear threat. While acknowledging that it has not always proved possible for the Organization to eradicate these threats, they underlined the continuing relevance of the United Nations as a positive force for peace and human advancement. They welcomed the continuing growth of the membership of the Organization to a point where the objective of universality of membership, which they endorsed, has almost been achieved.

The members of the Council were cognizant of the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security conferred by the Charter on the Security Council and of the special rights

and responsibilities of its permanent members. They stressed that a collegial approach within the Council was desirable to facilitate considered and concerted action by the Council as the main instrument for international peace. They acknowledged that the high hopes placed in the Organization by the international community had not been fully met and undertook to fulfil their individual and collective responsibility for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace with renewed dedication and determination. They agreed to employ appropriate measures available under the Charter when considering international disputes, threats to the peace, breaches of the peace and acts of aggression. They recognized the valuable contribution made on many occasions by United Nations peacekeeping forces. They called again upon the entire membership of the United Nations to abide by their obligations under the Charter to accept and carry out decisions of the Security Council.

They agreed that there was an urgent need to enhance the effectiveness of the Security Council in discharging its principal role of maintaining international peace and security. Accordingly, they resolved to continue the examination of the possibilities for further improvement of the functioning of the Security Council in carrying out its work in accordance with the Charter. In this context they paid special attention to the suggestions addressed to the members of the Security Council in the Secretary-General's annual reports on the work of the Organization. They thanked the Secretary-General for these reports and encouraged him to play an active role within the scope of his functions under the Charter.¹⁹

The Security Council thus concluded its business for the commemorative meeting.

¹⁹A/41/2, chap. 7, pp. 87 and 88.

11. LETTER DATED 26 SEPTEMBER 1985 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOTSWANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On 11 September 1985, the Secretary-General submitted a report¹ pursuant to Security Council resolution 568 (1985),² concerning the work of the mission dispatched by the Secretary-General to visit Botswana from 27 July 1985 to 2 August 1985. The report outlined projects that had been emphasized by the Government of Botswana to have been strictly related to the needs of refugees and, in particular, to the additional requirements consequent to the South African attack on Gaborone on 14 June 1985. The report stressed that, despite a deep sense of insecurity on the part of the population as a result of the 14 June attack, Botswana remained determined to keep its doors open to South African refugees and that the international community should enhance its assistance to Botswana in ensuring the safety, protection and welfare of refugees. At stake, the report concluded, was the right of refugee asylum countries to be secure from attack or coercion by refugee-producing countries, a fundamental principle of international treaties and conventions dealing with refugees.

By a letter dated 26 September 1985 addressed to the President of the Security Council,³ the representative of Botswana requested that a meeting of the Council be convened to consider and adopt the report of the Secretary-General pursuant to Security Council resolution 568 (1985).

At its 2609th meeting, on 30 September 1985, the Council included in its agenda the item entitled "Letter dated 26 September 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Botswana to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council", included in its agenda, and considered the item, together with the report of the Secretary-General pursuant to Security Council resolution 568 (1985), at the same meeting.⁴

The Council invited, at his request, the representative of Botswana to participate, without the right to vote, in the Council's discussion of the item.⁵

Decision of 30 September 1985 (2609th meeting): resolution 572 (1985)

At the 2609th meeting, on 30 September 1985, the President, at the outset of the discussion, drew the attention of the members of the Council to a draft resolution submitted by Botswana, Burkina Faso, Egypt, India, Madagascar, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago.⁶

The representative of Botswana said that Gaborone had been unjustly attacked by South African commandos on 14 June 1985 and that it was his Government's right to demand compensation for the damage caused to life and property and for the violation of his country's territorial

¹S/17453.

²For the consideration and adoption of Security Council resolution 568 (1985), see sect. 9.

³S/17497.

⁴For the adoption of the agenda, see S/PV.2609, p. 2.

⁵For details, see chap. III of the present Supplement.

⁶S/17503, subsequently adopted as resolution 572 (1985).

integrity and national sovereignty. He stated that, in carrying out its international obligations towards refugees, Botswana should not and could not be left to its own devices and that the right of political asylum in peace and security was a fundamental principle that the international community had the obligation to defend and protect.⁷

The representative of Madagascar, speaking also in his capacity as current Chairman of the Group of African States, said that the report of the Secretary-General's mission to Botswana emphasized the following two points: (a) the economic burden that had been created by the assistance the Government was providing to the refugees; and (b) the security risk that was faced by Botswana because of the presence of those refugees on its territory. He recalled the South African practice of attacking neighbouring independent States and the brutality with which Pretoria repressed anti-apartheid demonstrations, which might result in a new influx of refugees, and said that it was in that context that they had considered the report submitted by the Secretary-General pursuant to Security Council resolution 568 (1985). He said that it was the wish of the sponsors of the draft resolution (S/17503) that the Council endorse the recommendations and conclusions of the report and ensure that South Africa paid reparation for the damage and loss that had resulted from its acts of aggression on 14 June 1985.⁸

The draft resolution was then voted upon and adopted unanimously as resolution 572 (1985).⁹ The resolution reads as follows:

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolution 568 (1985),

Having considered the report of the mission to Botswana appointed by the Secretary-General in accordance with resolution 568 (1985),¹⁰

Having heard the statement of the Permanent Representative of Botswana to the United Nations⁷ expressing the deep concern of his Government over the attack by South Africa against the territorial integrity of Botswana,

Deeply concerned that the attack by South Africa resulted in the loss of life and casualties to many residents and refugees in Gaborone as well as the destruction of and damage to property,

Noting with satisfaction the policy which Botswana follows in regard to the granting of asylum to people fleeing from the oppression

of apartheid as well as its respect for and adherence to the international conventions on the status of refugees,

Reaffirming its opposition to the system of apartheid and the right of all countries to receive refugees fleeing from the oppression of apartheid,

Noting the urgent needs of Botswana to provide adequate shelter and facilities to refugees seeking asylum in Botswana,

Convinced of the importance of international support for Botswana,

1. *Commends the Government of Botswana for its steadfast opposition to apartheid and for the humanitarian policies it is following in regard to refugees;*

2. *Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for having arranged to send a mission to Botswana to assess the damage caused by South Africa's unprovoked and premeditated acts of aggression and for proposing measures to strengthen Botswana's capacity to receive and provide assistance to South African refugees as well as for determining the level of assistance required by Botswana to cope with the situation resulting from the attack;*

3. *Endorses the report of the mission to Botswana pursuant to resolution 568 (1985);¹⁰*

4. *Demands that South Africa pay full and adequate compensation to Botswana for the loss of life and damage to property resulting from its act of aggression;*

5. *Requests Member States, international organizations and financial institutions to assist Botswana in the fields identified in the report of the mission to Botswana;*

6. *Requests the Secretary-General to give the matter of assistance to Botswana his continued attention and to keep the Security Council informed;*

7. *Decides to remain seized of the situation.*

In a letter dated 21 October 1985 addressed to the Secretary-General,¹¹ the representative of South Africa referred to Security Council resolution 572 (1985) and stated that his Government was under no obligation to pay compensation to Botswana. He added that his Government rejected inferences in resolution 572 (1985) that it had carried out an unprovoked "act of aggression" against Botswana or that "terrorist groups" that were established in and operating from Botswana were synonymous with "refugees". The letter concluded by reasserting that Pretoria had exercised its inherent and natural right of self-defence in order to curtail further "imminent acts of violence" in South Africa.

⁷S/PV.2609, pp. 6-12.

⁸Ibid., pp. 13-17.

⁹For the vote, see *ibid.*, p. 17.

¹⁰S/17453.

¹¹S/17586.

12. LETTER DATED 1 OCTOBER 1985 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TUNISIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

INITIAL PROCEEDINGS

By a letter dated 1 October 1985 addressed to the President of the Security Council,¹ the representative of Tunisia informed the members of the Council that, at 10.07 a.m. on the same date, six low-flying Israeli military aircraft had penetrated Tunisian airspace and dropped five delayed-action bombs, each weighing 1,000 pounds, on the civilian locality of Borj-Cedria, known as Hammam-Plage, in the southern suburbs of Tunis. The operation, for which

Israel had claimed responsibility, had resulted in the death of 50 and nearly 100 wounded; the search for bodies was continuing and there had been extensive material destruction. The Israeli raid constituted a blatant act of aggression against the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Tunisia and a violation of the rules and norms of international law and of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and the Government of Tunisia requested an immediate meeting of the Security Council to consider Israel's aggression and to take the steps that were required by the situation resulting from that aggression. The Government of Tunisia called upon the Council to

¹S/17509.