

all acts of terrorism, including those involving the use of explosives,

Determined to encourage the promotion of effective measures to prevent acts of terrorism,

Concerned about the ease with which plastic or sheet explosives can be used in acts of terrorism with little risk of detection,

Taking note of the International Civil Aviation Organization Council resolution of 16 February 1989, in which it urged its member States to expedite current research and development on detection of explosives and on security equipment,

1. *Condemns* all acts of unlawful interference against the security of civil aviation;

2. *Calls upon* all States to cooperate in devising and implementing measures to prevent all acts of terrorism, including those involving explosives;

3. *Welcomes* the work already undertaken by the International Civil Aviation Organization, and by other international organizations, aimed at preventing and eliminating all acts of terrorism, in particular in the field of aviation security;

4. *Urges* the International Civil Aviation Organization to intensify its work aimed at preventing all acts of terrorism against international civil aviation, and in particular its work on devising an international regime for the marking of plastic or sheet explosives for the purpose of detection;

5. *Urges* all States, and in particular the producers of plastic or sheet explosives, to intensify research into means of making such explosives more easily detectable, and to cooperate in this endeavour;

6. *Calls upon* all States to share the results of such research and cooperation with a view to devising, in the International Civil Aviation Organization and other competent international organizations, an international regime for the marking of plastic or sheet explosives for the purpose of detection.

26. The question of hostage-taking and abduction

Initial proceedings

Decisions of 31 July 1989 (2872nd meeting): statement by the President and resolution 638 (1989)

At its 2872nd meeting, held on 31 July 1989, in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations, the Security Council included in its agenda the item entitled "The question of hostage-taking and abduction".

Following the adoption of the agenda, the President (Yugoslavia) drew the attention of the members of the Council to a draft resolution submitted by Canada and Finland.¹ In accordance with the agreement reached in the Council's prior consultations, the President then made the following statement:²

As we consider the adoption of the draft resolution on hostage-taking and abduction, we meet under the shadow of recent events and the cruel reports that Lieutenant-Colonel Higgins, who served the United Nations on a peacekeeping mission in Lebanon, may have been murdered today. I wish to express the full support of the Security Council for the statement

made by the Secretary-General yesterday, 30 July, in this connection.

The Council will seek further facts on the developments of today, and urges those involved to act with reason, restraint and a proper respect for human life and dignity. The Council feels that it should proceed without delay to the adoption of the draft resolution that we have been discussing in private on the subject of hostage-taking and abduction.

There is a most tragic irony that our efforts to adopt a text on this matter should have coincided with the grave events of recent days.

This illustrates, with utmost clarity, that we need to underline the necessity for effective international action on the subject of hostage-taking and abduction. Indeed, the expression of the unanimous view of the Security Council will, I am sure, serve to deter such unlawful, criminal and cruel acts in the future.

Following his statement, the President put the draft resolution to the vote. It was adopted unanimously as resolution 638 (1989), which reads:

¹ S/20757.

² See *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1989*, p. 22.

The Security Council,

Deeply disturbed by the prevalence of incidents of hostage-taking and abduction, and the continued protracted incarceration of many of those held hostage,

Considering that the taking of hostages and abductions are offences of grave concern to all States and serious violations of international humanitarian law, having severe adverse consequences for the human rights of the victims and their families and for the promotion of friendly relations and cooperation among States,

Recalling its resolutions 579 (1985) of 18 December 1985 and 618 (1988) of 29 July 1988 condemning all acts of hostage-taking and abduction,

Bearing in mind the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages, adopted on 17 December 1979, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents, adopted on 14 December 1973, the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, signed on 23 September 1971, the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, signed on 16 December 1970, and other relevant conventions,

1. *Condemns unequivocally* all acts of hostage-taking and abduction;

2. *Demands* the immediate safe release of all hostages and abducted persons, wherever and by whomever they are being held;

3. *Calls upon* all States to use their political influence in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law to secure the safe release of all hostages and abducted persons and to prevent the commission of acts of hostage-taking and abduction;

4. *Expresses appreciation* for the efforts of the Secretary-General in seeking the release of all hostages and abducted persons and invites him to continue such efforts whenever so requested by a State;

5. *Appeals* to all States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents, the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft and other relevant conventions;

6. *Urges* the further development of international cooperation among States in devising and adopting effective measures which are in accordance with the rules of international law to facilitate the prevention, prosecution and punishment of all acts of hostage-taking and abduction as manifestations of terrorism.

27. United Nations peacekeeping operations

Initial proceedings

Decision of 30 May 1990 (2924th meeting): statement by the President

At its 2924th meeting, held on 30 May 1990 in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations, the Security Council included in its agenda the item entitled “United Nations peacekeeping operations”.

After the adoption of the agenda, the President (Finland) stated that, following consultations among the members of the Council, he had been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:¹

The members of the Council note with satisfaction that the United Nations has in recent years played an increasingly important and active role in restoring and maintaining international peace and security. The peacekeeping operations of the United Nations have become a valuable instrument

facilitating the settlement of international disputes. Recent successful peacekeeping operations have, for their part, contributed to the enhanced standing and effectiveness of the United Nations.

The members of the Council express their deep satisfaction with the growing support of the international community for United Nations peacekeeping and, in particular, with the participation of a growing number of Member States in the operations. They pay tribute to the Secretary-General and his staff for their tireless efforts in the conduct of those operations. They also commend States which have provided resources for such operations. Furthermore, they commend the peacekeeping forces for their exemplary and dedicated service in the cause of international peace and security.

The members of the Council consider it of vital importance that adequate resources are available for the preparation, deployment and maintenance of the United Nations peacekeeping operations. This must be underlined all the more in view of the new challenges in prospect. They urge Member States to respond positively and rapidly to requests from the Secretary-General for contributions of financial, human and

¹ S/21323.