

ARTICLE 54

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ARTICLE 54

TEXT OF ARTICLE 54

The Security Council shall at all times be kept fully informed of activities undertaken or in contemplation under regional arrangements or by regional agencies for the maintenance of international peace and security.

NOTE

1. During the period under review, the Security Council and the General Assembly adopted no decisions containing explicit references to Article 54, nor was there any instance of a constitutional discussion relating to the interpretation and application of the Article.
2. The Security Council adopted one resolution which may be considered as bearing on the subject matter of Article 54. In its resolution 530 (1983) of 19 May 1983, in connection with the question of Nicaragua,¹ the Council, inter alia, urged the Contadora Group to exert all efforts in finding solutions to the problems in Central America and “to keep the Security Council informed of the results of these efforts”.² No references were made to the provisions of Article 54 during the Council’s deliberations on the item.
3. The practice whereby the Security Council was kept informed of activities undertaken or in contemplation by regional organizations was continued through communications from the Acting Executive Secretary of the Organization of African Unity (OAU),³ the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States (OAS),⁴ from States parties to a dispute or situation⁵ and from other States concerning matters before regional organizations.⁶
4. Summary accounts of communications on activities undertaken or in contemplation by regional organizations were included in the annual reports of the Security Council to the General Assembly.⁷
5. During the period under review, the General Assembly adopted successive resolutions in connection with cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity whereby the Assembly, inter alia, called upon the United Nations bodies, including the Security Council, “to continue to associate closely the Organization of African Unity with all their work concerning Africa”.⁸

¹ The agenda item read as follows: “Letter dated 5 May 1983 from the representative of Nicaragua on the Security Council addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/15746)”. The Council considered the item at its 2431st to 2437th meetings, from 9 to 19 May 1983.

² S C resolution 530 (1983), para. 4.

³ See section A of the annex to the present study.

⁴ Ibid., sect. B.

⁵ Ibid., sect. C.

⁶ Ibid., sect. D.

⁷ See G A (34), Suppl. No. 2; G A (35), Suppl. No. 2; G A (36), Suppl. No. 2; G A (37), Suppl. No. 2; G A (38), Suppl. No. 2; and G A (39), Suppl. No. 2.

⁸ See G A resolutions 34/21, para. 16; 35/117, para. 17; 36/80, para. 20; 37/15, para. 19; 38/5, para. 24; and 39/8, para. 25.

ANNEX

Tabulation of communications

- A. Communications from the Acting Executive Secretary of the Organization of African Unity**
- I. Letter^a dated 17 June 1981: transmitting the text of a decision adopted on 15 June 1981 by the Council of Ministers of OAU at its thirty-seventh ordinary session
- B. Communications from the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States**
- I. Telegram^b dated 2 January 1979: transmitting the text of a resolution adopted on 30 December 1978 by the Permanent Council of OAS
- II. Telegram^c dated 23 June 1979: transmitting the text of a resolution adopted on the same date by the Seventeenth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of OAS
- III. Telegram^d dated 30 January 1981: transmitting the text of a resolution adopted on 29 January 1981 by the Permanent Council of OAS
- IV. Telegram^e dated 5 February 1981: transmitting the text of a resolution adopted on 4 February 1981 by the Nineteenth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of OAS
- V. Telegram^f dated 26 April 1982: transmitting the text of a resolution adopted on the same date by the Permanent Council of OAS
- VI. Telegram^g dated 29 May 1982: transmitting the text of a resolution adopted on 29 May 1982 by the Twentieth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of OAS
- C. Communications from States parties to a dispute or situation**
1. *Members of the Organization of African Unity*
- I. Letter^h dated 5 April 1979: Uganda, withdrawing its request made by a letterⁱ dated 28 March 1979 for a meeting of the Security Council to consider aggression by the United Republic of Tanzania, in the light of its acceptance of an appeal from the Group of African States at the United Nations not to have a meeting at that stage
- II. Letter^j dated 24 April 1981: Egypt, rejecting charges contained in Chad's letter^k dated 22 April 1981 that it threatened Chad with armed aggression; affirming respect for the OAU resolutions on Chad; condemning the Libyan invasion of Chad; and charging that the Libyan invasion of Chad threatened peace and security in Africa

^a S C (36), Suppl. for April-June 1981, S/14553, annex.

^b S C (34), Suppl. for Jan.-March 1979, S/13004.

^c Ibid., Suppl. for July-Sept. 1979, S/13451.

^d S C (36), Suppl. for Jan.-March 1981, S/14352.

^e Ibid., S/14362.

^f S C (37), Suppl. for April-June 1982, S/15001, annex.

^g Ibid., S/15155.

^h Ibid., Suppl. for April-June 1979, S/13228.

ⁱ S C (34), Suppl. for Jan.-March 1979, S/13204.

^j Ibid., S/14465.

^k S C (36), Suppl. for April-June 1981, S/14455.

- III. Letter^l dated 27 April 1981: Sudan, rejecting Chad's allegation; condemning Libya's armed intervention in Chad and reiterating its commitment to the Lagos accords of August 1979, the Freetown resolution of July 1980 and the Lomé communiqué of January 1981^m
 - IV. Letterⁿ dated 16 September 1981: Sudan, charging that Libyan armed forces in Chad had committed acts of aggression against the Sudan; that such aggression could destabilize the region and threaten international peace and security; and reserving the right to bring the matter before the Security Council
 - V. Letter^o dated 21 September 1981: Chad, claiming that the Sudanese allegations were aimed at covering up Sudanese destabilization operations against Chad in violation of the resolution of OAU calling upon neighbouring countries not to accommodate movements opposing the transitional government of Chad
 - VI. Letter^p dated 13 October 1981: Morocco, charging that armed bands that could have come only from neighbouring countries, in disregard of the relevant resolutions of OAU and its Implementation Committee regarding Western Sahara, had attacked Moroccan troops in the locality of Guelta Zemmur
2. *Members of the Organization of American States*
- I. Letter^q dated 1 February 1981: Ecuador, complaining of Peruvian aggression; and expressing support of a resolution of the Council of OAS to dispatch an observer mission to the area where the attacks had taken place
 - II. Letter^r dated 5 February 1981: Ecuador, transmitting the text of a resolution adopted on 4 February by the Nineteenth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of OAS
 - III. Letter^s dated 10 February 1981: Peru, transmitting, together with a resolution of the Nineteenth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of OAS, the texts of the statements made at that meeting by Argentina, Brazil, Chile and the United States of America, as countries guaranteeing the Peruvian-Ecuadorian Protocol of Peace, Friendship and Frontiers signed at Rio de Janeiro on 29 January 1942, and of the explanation given by Peru at the Meeting of Consultation of Ministers
 - IV. Letter^t dated 31 May 1982: Argentina, transmitting the text of a resolution adopted on 29 May 1982 by the Twentieth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of OAS
 - V. Letter^u dated 8 December 1983: Argentina, transmitting the text of a resolution adopted by the thirteenth regular session of the General Assembly of OAS on 17 November 1983

^l Ibid., S/14466.

^m See also sect. D.I below.

ⁿ Ibid., Suppl. for July-Sept. 1981, S/14693.

^o Ibid., S/14702.

^p Ibid., Suppl. for Oct.-Dec., 1981, S/14723, annex.

^q Ibid., Suppl. for Jan.-March 1981, S/14353.

^r Ibid., S/14363, annex. The resolution was also transmitted on the same date by telegram from the Secretary-General of OAS to the Secretary-General of the United Nations (S/14362, see above).

^s Ibid., S/14371, annexes.

^t S C (37), Suppl. for April-June 1982, S/15143, annex. The resolution was subsequently transmitted by telegram from the Secretary-General of OAS to the Secretary-General of the United Nations (S/15155, see above).

^u Ibid., Suppl. for Oct.-Dec. 1983, S/16210, annex.

D. Communications from other States concerning matters before regional organizations

- I. Letter^v dated 18 February 1981: Sierra Leone, transmitting, in relation to the situation in Chad, the texts of the following documents: the Lagos Accord on National Reconciliation in Chad, dated 18 August 1979; the resolution adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU at its seventeenth ordinary session; and the final communiqué issued at Lomé on 4 January 1981 of the Bureau of the seventeenth summit of the OAU and OAU Standing Committee on Chad
- II. Letter^w dated 20 February 1981: Chad, stating that the situation in Chad did not constitute a threat to international peace and security; objecting to the transmission by Sierra Leone to States Members of the United Nations of the OAU documents on Chad; and opposing any consideration of the situation in Chad by the Security Council
- III. Letter^x dated 23 February 1981: Argentina, Brazil, Chile and the United States of America, transmitting the text of the statement made on 4 February 1981 at the Nineteenth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of OAS in connection with the settlement of the border dispute between Ecuador and Peru
- IV. Letter^y dated 14 September 1981: Kenya, in its capacity as Chairman of OAU, transmitting the text of a decision adopted by the Implementation Committee on Western Sahara of OAU at its first ordinary session
- V. Letter^z dated 2 December 1981: Kenya, in its capacity as Chairman of OAU, informing the Security Council that the eighteenth ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU had adopted a resolution in June 1982 calling for the establishment of a pan-African peacekeeping force in Chad, and requesting the Council's assistance in deploying and operating the force
- VI. Letter^{aa} dated 3 December 1981: Lebanon, transmitting the text of a resolution adopted on 25 November 1981 by the Twelfth Arab Summit Conference
- VII. Letter^{bb} dated 23 March 1982: Honduras, transmitting the text of the statement made on the same date by the Minister of External Relations of Honduras to the Permanent Council of OAS.
- VIII. Letter^{cc} dated 31 March 1982: Chad, requesting the assistance of the Security Council in deploying and operating of the Pan-African Peacekeeping Force in Chad
- IX. Letter^{dd} dated 11 April 1983: Honduras, informing the Security Council of pending action on resolutions of OAS that would call for the holding of a meeting of Ministers of External Relations of Central American States
- X. Letter^{ee} dated 6 May 1983: Costa Rica, transmitting the text of a message sent on 4 May 1983 to the President of the Permanent Council of OAS
- XI. Letter^{ff} dated 19 August 1983: Congo, transmitting the text of the Declaration of Brazzaville of 16 August 1983 on the situation in Chad adopted by the Heads of State of Central Africa

^v S C (36), Suppl. for Jan.-March 1981, S/14378, annexes.

^w Ibid., S/14380.

^x Ibid., S/14384, annex.

^y Ibid., Suppl. for July-Sept. 1981, S/14692, annex.

^z S C (37), Suppl. for April-June 1982, S/15011.

^{aa} S C (36), Suppl. for Oct.-Dec. 1981, S/14779, annex.

^{bb} S C (37), Suppl. for Jan.-March 1982, S/14919, annex.

^{cc} Ibid., S/15012.

^{dd} S C (38), Suppl. for April-June 1983, S/15700.

^{ee} Ibid., S/15749, annex.

^{ff} Ibid., Suppl. for July-Sept. 1983, S/15936, annex.