ARTICLE 54

CONTENTS

Text of Article 54
Note ................................................................. 1-4
Annex: Tabulation of communications
  A. Communications from the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU)
  B. Communications from the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States (OAS)
  C. Communications from States parties to a dispute or situation
  D. Communications from other States concerning matters before regional organizations
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, there was no constitutional discussion bearing on the interpretation or application of Article 54. Only incidental references were made to Article 54 in both the General Assembly and the Security Council. In the context of recalling that regional action is not precluded by the Charter, which, on the contrary, provides for regional arrangements and agencies so long as they are consistent with the purposes and principles of the Charter.1

2. The practice whereby the Security Council was informed of activities undertaken or in contemplation by regional organizations through communications addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations by the executive heads of the respective organizations,2 from States parties to a dispute or situation3 and from other States4 was continued during this period.

3. It should be noted that, during the period under review, more specifically at successive sessions since 1971, the General Assembly adopted resolutions regarding co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity,5 some of which contain provisions that might be considered as implicitly having a bearing on Article 54.6

4. In resolutions dated 15 November 1973,7 10 December 1974,8 28 November 1975,9 16 November 1976,10 11 November 197711 and 1 December 1978,12 the General Assembly inter alia drew the attention of the Security Council to the need to take effective measures to associate the Organization of African Unity regularly with all the Council's work concerning Africa, including the activities of the Council's committee established in pursuance of resolution 253 (1968) concerning the question of Southern Rhodesia.

ANNEX

Tabulation of communications

A. Communications from the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU)

1. Letter dated 9 October 1970: transmitting the texts of resolutions adopted by the seventh session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU on the question of the Middle East and the situation in southern Africa.

2. Letter dated 24 February 1971: transmitting the text of the memorandum on the Simonstown Agreement [relating to the transfer of the Simonstown Naval Base] prepared by the OAU.

B. Communications from regional organizations

C. Statements by representatives of regional agencies

D. Communications from the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU)

1. See, for example, statement by the representative of Belgium in the general debate: G A (25), Plen., 1856th mtg., para. 202; statement by the Secretary-General in connexion with consideration of measures for the maintenance and strengthening of international peace and security in Latin America in conformity with the provisions and principles of the Charter: S C (28), 1695th mtg., para. 27; statement by the representative of the Libyan Arab Republic in connexion with the question of co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity; G A (31), Plen., 67th mtg., para. 92; and statement by the representative of France in connexion with the question of deepening and consolidation of international detente and prevention of the danger of nuclear war: G A (32), 1st Com., 53rd mtg., p. 57.

2. See annex, section A and B. For invitations to representatives of a regional agency to address the Security Council, see this Supplement under Article 30, paras. 50 ff.

3. See annex, section C.

4. Ibid., section D.

5. See, for example, statement by the representative of France in connexion with the question of deepening and consolidation of international detente and prevention of the danger of nuclear war: G A (32), 1st Com., 53rd mtg., p. 57.

6. There were several instances during this period when resolutions adopted by the Council of Ministers and/or Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity were submitted to the General Assembly by the respective Chairmen of the African Group at the United Nations. In one instance documents of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity and League of Arab States were also submitted to the General Assembly. In no instance, however, was reference made to the obligation assumed by Member States and regional agencies under Article 54. G A (30), Annexes, a.i. 28, A/10109 and A/10297; G A (31), Annexes, a.i. 28, A/31/196; G A (32), Annexes, a.i. 29, A/32/61 and A/32/310; G A (33), Annexes, a.i. 29, A/33/235 and Corr.1.

7. The first two resolutions adopted during this period may be considered to fall outside the scope of Article 54. Thus, in its resolution 2863 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971, the General Assembly invited the Security Council to consider the request of the Organization of African Unity concerning the holding of meetings of the Council in an African capital. In its resolution 2962 (XXVII) of 13 December 1972, the Assembly placed the question of co-operation between two organizations in the broader context of co-operation between the Organization of African Unity, on the one hand, and the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system, such as UNDP, on the other.

8. G A resolution 3066 (XXVIII), para. 4.

9. G A resolution 3280 (XXIX), para. 4.

10. G A resolution 3412 (XXX), para. 5.


15. Letter dated 13 July 1971: transmitting the text of resolutions adopted at the eighth session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU.


A. Communications from the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU)

1. Letter dated 9 October 1970: transmitting the texts of resolutions adopted by the seventh session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU on the question of the Middle East and the situation in southern Africa.

2. Letter dated 24 February 1971: transmitting the text of the memorandum on the Simonstown Agreement [relating to the transfer of the Simonstown Naval Base] prepared by the OAU.

III. Letter dated 13 July 1971: transmitting the text of resolutions adopted at the eighth session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU.


the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, regarding the extent of the existing legal obligations of the Government of the United Kingdom, arising under the Simonstown Agreements of 1955.

5. G C (26), Suppl, for July-Sept., 1971, S/10742.


188
VII. Telegram dated 29 December 1978: transmitting the text of a resolution adopted by the Thirteenth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the OAS concerning the El Salvador/Honduras border.

II. Telegram dated 29 July 1975: transmitting the text of a resolution adopted by the Sixteenth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs concerning the principle of non-intervention.

III. Telegram dated 2 August 1976: transmitting the text of a resolution adopted by the Seventeenth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to consider the grave events which were occurring in Nicaragua.

V. Telegram dated 30 October 1978: Lebanon, informing the Secretary-General of the Arab League of the decision of the OAU Council of Ministers on 26 October 1978 to renew the mandate of the Arab peace-keeping force for six months.

D. Communications from other States concerning matters before regional organizations

I. Letter dated 26 January 1976: Uganda, forwarding a message to the Joint Commission on the question of the events which have occurred in Costa Rica.

II. Letter dated 15 February 1978: Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, transmitting the text of a letter dated 14 February 1978 from the President of Libya to the President of the OAU.

C. Communications from States parties to a dispute or situation

I. Letter dated 21 February 1974: Guinea, withdrawing the complaint against Senegal, following the visit of the President of the OAU to Guinea and in accordance with the joint communique issued on that occasion that the complaint would be discussed at the OAU level.

II. Letter dated 31 October 1975: Algeria, transmitting exchange of messages between the President of OAU and the President of Algeria concerning decolonization of the Sahara under Spanish rule.

III. Letter dated 13 July 1976: Algeria, transmitting the text of the resolution adopted by the OAU Council of Ministers at its thirty-first ordinary session regarding aggression and invasion attempts by mercenaries against Benin and Sao Tome and Principe.

IV. Letter dated 30 October 1978: Lebanon, informing the Secretary-General that the Council of the League of Arab States has decided on 26 October 1978 to renew the mandate of the Arab peace-keeping force for six months.

C. Communications from States parties to a dispute or situation

I. Letter dated 21 February 1974: Guinea, withdrawing the complaint against Senegal, following the visit of the President of the OAU to Guinea and in accordance with the joint communique issued on that occasion that the complaint would be discussed at the OAU level.

II. Letter dated 31 October 1975: Algeria, transmitting exchange of messages between the President of OAU and the President of Algeria concerning decolonization of the Sahara under Spanish rule.

III. Letter dated 13 July 1976: Algeria, transmitting the text of the resolution adopted by the OAU Council of Ministers at its thirty-first ordinary session regarding aggression and invasion attempts by mercenaries against Benin and Sao Tome and Principe.

IV. Letter dated 30 October 1978: Lebanon, informing the Secretary-General that the Council of the League of Arab States has decided on 26 October 1978 to renew the mandate of the Arab peace-keeping force for six months.

D. Communications from other States concerning matters before regional organizations

I. Letter dated 26 January 1976: Uganda, forwarding a message in connexion with the forthcoming Security Council debate on Namibia which, according to the letter, reflects the official position of the OAU.

II. Letter dated 15 February 1978: Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, transmitting the text of a letter dated 14 February 1978 from the Chairman of the thirteenth session of the Co-ordinating Committee for the Liberation of Africa.

Article 54

---

*S C (31), Suppl. for July-Sept., 1976, S/12126.
*S C (32), Suppl. for Apr.-June, 1977, S/12352.
*S C (30), Suppl. for July-Sept., 1975, S/11786.
*S C (31), Suppl. for July-Sept., 1976, S/12163.
*S C (33), Suppl. for July-Sept., 1976, S/12852.
*Ibid., S/12861.
*Ibid., S/12993.
HOW TO OBTAIN UNITED NATIONS PUBLICATIONS

United Nations publications may be obtained from bookstores and distributors throughout the world. Consult your bookstore or write to United Nations, Sales Section, New York or Geneva.

COMMENT SE PROCURER LES PUBLICATIONS DES NATIONS UNIES


КАК ПОЛУЧИТЬ ИЗДАНИЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ

Издания Организации Объединенных Наций можно купить в книжных магазинах и агентствах во всех регионах мира. Напишите, чтобы узнать, где можно найти книжный магазин в Вашем регионе. Организацию Объединенных Наций можно связаться по адресу: Организация Объединенных Наций, Секция продаж, Нью-Йорк или Женева.

COMO CONSEGUIR PUBLICACIONES DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

Las publicaciones de las Naciones Unidas están en venta en librerías y casas distribuidoras en todas partes del mundo. Consulte a su librería o diríjase a Naciones Unidas, Sección de Ventas, Nueva York o Ginebra.