

children — innocent victims with no power to affect the course of events. In the year since I last addressed this body, there have been 11 hijackings, 19 kidnappings, 42 armed attacks and 112 bombings perpetrated by international terrorists. Over 70 people have lost their lives and over 200 have been injured.

It is time this Organization said to the world that the vicious murder and abuse of innocents cannot be absolved or excused by the invocation of lofty motives. Criminal acts against humanity, whatever the professed objective, cannot be excused by any civilized nation.

The threat of terrorism should be dealt with through the cooperative efforts of all countries. More stringent steps must be taken now to deny skyjackers and terrorists a safe haven. Additional measures are required to protect passengers in both transit and terminal areas, as well as in flight...

The United States will do everything within its power to work cooperatively in the United Nations and in other international bodies to put an end to the scourge of terrorism. But we have an obligation to protect the lives of our citizens as they travel at home or abroad, and we intend to meet that obligation. Therefore, if multilateral efforts are blocked by those determined to pursue their ends without regard for suffering or death, then the United States will act through its own legislative processes and in conjunction with others willing to join us...

...The plain truth — of tragic proportions — is that human rights are in jeopardy over most of the globe. Arbitrary arrest, denial of fundamental procedural rights, slave labor, stifling of freedom of religion, racial injustice, political repression, the use of torture, and restraints on communications and expression — these abuses are too prevalent.

The performance of the United Nations system in protecting human rights has fallen far short of what was envisaged when this Organization was founded. The principles of the Universal Declaration are clear enough. But their invocation and application, in general debates of this body and in the forums of the Human Rights Commission, have been marred by hypocrisy, double standards, and discrimination. Flagrant and consistent deprivation of human rights is no less heinous in one country or one social system than in another. Nor is it more acceptable when practiced upon members of the same race than when inflicted by one race upon another.

The international community has a unique role to play. The application of the standards of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights should be entrusted to fair and capable international bodies. But at the same time let us ensure that these bodies do not become platforms from which nations which are the worst transgressors pass hypocritical judgment on the alleged shortcomings of others.

Let us together pursue practical approaches:

— to build on the foundations already laid at previous Assemblies and at the Human Rights Commission to lessen the abominable practice of officially sanctioned torture...

The challenge to statesmanship in this generation is to advance from the management of crises to the building of a more stable and just international order — an order resting not on power but on restraint of power, not on the strength of arms but on the strength of the human spirit.

Global forces of change now shape our future. Order will come in one of two ways: through its imposition by the strong and the ruthless or by the wise and farsighted use of international institutions through which we enlarge the sphere of common interests and enhance the sense of community.

It is easy and tempting to press relentlessly for national advantage. It is infinitely more difficult to act in recognition of the rights of others.

Throughout history, the greatness of men and nations has been measured by their actions in times of acute peril. Today there is no single crisis to conquer. There is instead a persisting challenge of staggering complexity — the need to create a universal community based on cooperation, peace and justice.

If we falter, future generations will pay for our failure.

Angolan Prime Minister: Italy And Europe Must Lead In Africa

Oct. 1 (NSIPS) — The following excerpts are from a Sept. 30 press conference in Rome held by Prime Minister Lopo do Nascimento of the Popular Republic of Angola.

“...For a long time the Angolan people have had especially friendly relations with Italy, among all the countries of the West...During the first national liberation war (when) all the European countries closed their doors to our president, Italy, unselfishly, and with hospitality, hosted the leader of the Angolan revolution...During the second war of the national liberation...Italy did not give up its interest in Angola, despite the fact that it was undergoing a governmental crisis at that time; Italian political forces voted to recognize the (new Angolan) government proclaimed Nov. 11, 1975....

It is the duty of all the progressive forces of the world to reflect and seriously support the struggle for the freedom of Namibia, of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia — ed.) and of South Africa. In this respect I hope that Italy will be in the front row...The Italian republic is the first Western European country I have visited. At this point we take the opportunity to congratulate Italy for its new situation.”

(In response to a question on moratoria and the International Development Bank — ed.) “We believe that the proposals of the countries of the Third World deserve our support....We are not a member of the United Nations yet, but we support the Guyanan proposal (for debt moratoria) and hope that the U.S. government will support it.”

(In response to a question on Italy's potential role in southern Africa — ed.) “Italy is still lacking a large presence in Africa. Italy has all the elements for a more dynamic policy in Africa...Internal political reasons have prevented such a policy until now, and we hope that this (situation) will be rapidly overcome. Europe can make a larger contribution to the solution of southern African problems...not the countries in themselves, but the progressive forces within those countries....(These forces) should not always leave the initiative to the American political forces....”

(Answering a question on Angolan alliances) “...We are thinking of joining neither the European Common Market nor the Lome Convention (an economic agreement signed by 46 developing nations in Lome, Togo — ed.) for political and economic reasons. We do think of developing relations with countries of the EEC and with those of the Lome Convention. Our country has chosen socialism and this choice would be much more difficult within an institution that holds the opposite objectives....There is no conflict between a choice for socialism and nonalignment.”