LETTER DATED 18 NOVEMBER 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF NEW ZEALAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 9 November 1994 from the
Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General (A/49/667-S/1994/1279) outlining his Government’s support for
the Security Council increasing its reliance on public debate.

New Zealand supports this objective. Indeed, the Minister of Foreign
Affairs and Trade of New Zealand, Mr. Don McKinnon, in his statement to the
General Assembly on 27 September 1994 proposed that when disputes are first
placed before the Security Council, they should be the subject of an open
debate. He said, inter alia:

"I believe the Council should give affected States an adequate hearing
before addressing the problem behind closed doors. New Zealand’s
experience on the Security Council suggests the investment in openness that
would be achieved by developing a practice of collectively hearing directly
from the parties involved would be worthwhile."

My delegation looks forward to further discussion of this issue in the
Security Council at an early date.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this letter to be circulated
as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Colin R. KEATING
Permanent Representative