

MR CHAIRMAN, IT HAS TRADITIONALLY NOT BEEN EASY FOR STATES TO REACH CONSENSUS ON INSTRUMENTS DEALING WITH ACTS OF TERRORISM. CONSENSUS, IN OUR VIEW, IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT IN THIS AREA. THE FACT THAT GENERAL AGREEMENT HAS CONSISTENTLY BEEN REACHED IN A NUMBER OF CASES IN LESS THAN TWO YEARS, AND THAT PRACTICAL MEASURES ARE BEING TAKEN IN ADDITION TO THESE INSTRUMENTS, IS QUITE REVEALING. IT FIRST DEMONSTRATES, THE DEEP AND PERSISTENT CONCERN OF STATES OVER THE PERSISTENCE OF THE SCOURGE OF TERRORISM. INDEED THE THREAT OF TERRORISM HAS NOT DISAPPEARED. NEW MANIFESTATIONS OF THIS PHENOMENON HAVE APPEARED, AND OTHERS HAVE INCREASED, THREATENING ALL STATES, THREATENING ALL HUMAN BEINGS, INDISCRIMINATELY. HOSTAGE-TAKING IS A CASE IN POINT. IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, PRACTICALLY ALL ACTS OF TERRORISM AIM AT HOLDING A GENERAL POPULATION HOSTAGE THROUGH THE USE OF TERROR TO ACHIEVE A GOAL. THE DEGREE OF AGREEMENT THAT IS NOW APPARENT ALSO SHOWS THAT STATES CONTINUE TO AGREE THAT THOSE ACTS MUST BE UNEQUIVOCALLY CONDEMNED, AND PUNISHED.

THESE DEVELOPMENTS FINALLY TELL US THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY REMAINS CONFIDENT THAT THE BASIC APPROACH THAT HAS NOW BEEN FOLLOWED FOR A LONG TIME IS THE RIGHT ONE. THAT APPROACH, WHICH CONSISTS OF IDENTIFYING SPECIFIC ACTS OF TERRORISM AND TAKING VARIOUS MEASURES AGAINST THEM, BY MEANS OF SPECIFIC INSTRUMENTS, REMAINS AT THE SAME TIME MORE EFFECTIVE AND MORE ACCEPTABLE TO DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF STATES THAN ATTEMPTS TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM GLOBALLY. NONE OF THOSE ATTEMPTS HAVE, SO FAR, BEEN SUCCESSFUL.