Legality of threats and responses					
Threat			Response		Comment In all to
Nature	Variations	Requirements	Nature	Requirements	Current legality
Carried out	armed attack	 a) illegal armed attack (Art. 51); b) other acts contained in the Definition of Aggression (Res. 3314); c) other acts accepted by the practice of states d) seriousness of damage caused 	Self-defence	a) necessity b) proportionality	legal
Imminent	classic-period formula	a) inevitable damageb) aggressive intentionc) gravityd) damage to the invoking state	Precautionary self-defence	a) necessity b) proportionality	generally illegal
	Webster formula	a) overwhelming b) no time for deliberation c) no chance to choose means of response			legal
	doctrine of interception	attack started, not yet completed			legal
	doctrine of anticipation	a) attack in the process of being launched b) attack inevitable			disputed
	doctrine of a sequence of events	a) attacks which are part of a series of attacks repeated over time b) imminent attacks already announced			disputed
Possible	prevention	a) armed conflict inevitable b) the threat will be greater in the future	Preventive self-defence	proportionality	generally illegal
Non-existent	peaceful conduct	No threat of future attack exists	Aggression	armed attack	illegal