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LETTER DATED 7 JULY 1976 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE LIBYAN ARAB REPUBLIC TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO  
THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In reference to the letter of the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan to your Excellency on 4 July 1976 and issued as a Security Council document (S/12122) on 5 July 1976, in which the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan claimed that the Libyan Arab Republic took part in the tragic events which took place in the Sudanese capital on 2 July 1976, I am instructed by my Government to state the following:

The Libyan Arab Republic is fully aware of its duties and commitments. Its principles do not allow interference in the internal affairs of a fraternal or friendly country. These principles do not allow participation in any coup attempt inside any other country. As is well known, the Libyan Arab Republic's participation and support are restricted to helping liberation movements struggling against imperialism, exploitation and foreign domination. This policy does not contradict the United Nations Charter and is entirely in harmony with United Nations principles.

The Libyan Arab Republic has no interest or objectives to overthrow the Numairi Government. In fact, the Libyan Government took a well-known position in 1971 which was a decisive factor in restoring President Numairi's Government and preventing its overthrow.

Our real interest in this concern is the welfare of our brotherly Sudanese people. For that reason, the Libyan Arab Republic has concluded and ratified several agreements of co-operation with the Sudanese Government in such fields as agriculture, maritime, and transportation. These agreements are currently under implementation.

The aide-mémoire enclosed with the complaint of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan raises many significant questions. This mémoire claims that no single Sudanese on active service had been a party to this act. This claim directly contradicts reports by the Sudanese Broadcasting System, which cited specific instances of broad-based Sudanese support of this coup. The mémoire approximated, within less than 48 hours following the coup, the material losses to be "at least 300 million dollars". The Libyan Government challenges the feasibility of the Sudanese authorities to determine the extent of material damage in such a brief period, while they failed to make any estimate of the loss

in human life. It is virtually impossible within a two-day period to evaluate this material damage. The gross fabrication is evident.

The aide-mémoire, in claiming that the Libyan Arab Republic provided arms, supplies, transportation vehicles and training for the so-called mercenaries, ignores significant geographical factors: the expansive desert areas located in the adjacent territories of both countries, constituting a major obstacle to any such attempt. The desert extending from Khartoum to the border between Libya and the Sudan stretches for approximately 1,000 miles. More than 1,000 miles of desert separates the Libyan border from the closest populated area within the Libyan Arab Republic. This desert expanse, particularly during this hot season, creates insurmountable obstacles to movement across this territory without any sort of detection by the Sudanese authorities. This crucial factor of geography and season demonstrates the insubstantial fabrication of the Sudanese Government.

These ambiguous statements and claims, which lack any basis of truth, affirm that the events which took place in the Democratic Republic of the Sudan were an internal uprising carried out by the Sudanese people themselves. This is not the first time the Sudanese people have manifested their feelings about the régime of President Numairi.

The Libyan Arab Republic is fully aware of the difficulties facing certain régimes in our area. Yet, it is not ready to be a scapegoat for all the difficult domestic problems which these régimes are experiencing.

The allegation of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan has been presented directly to the Security Council, disregarding two regional organizations, each of which is undoubtedly capable of discussing any complaint submitted by any of its members. Such disregard, in addition to the random accusations lacking sufficient proof, makes us question the validity of this allegation altogether and its underlying motivations. We believe that some macabre forces will exploit such a complaint to divert the attention from the fundamental issues concerning Africa and the Arab nation in order to prevent the Libyan progressive revolution from playing its role in supporting the legitimate fight of our peoples for liberation, progress and unity.

The Libyan Arab Republic totally rejects the baseless allegations formulated by the Government of the Sudan. The Libyan Government believes that bringing this issue before the Security Council serves merely propaganda purposes which will ultimately lead to more serious complications in the relations between the two fraternal countries. Moreover, it will undermine the efforts which are presently being made or contemplated by the Organization of African Unity and the Arab League.

I would be grateful if the text of this letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mansur R. KIKHIA  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

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