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LETTER DATED 30 MAY 1973 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE LIBYAN ARAB REPUBLIC ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions of my Government, I have the honour to bring to Your Excellency's attention the grave situation resulting from acts of aggression being perpetrated by the United States of America against the Libyan Arab Republic.

The presence of the American Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean constitutes a direct threat to the security and safety of the Mediterranean coastal States. The activities and peregrinations of this Fleet, thousands of miles away from the American shores, represent a form of pressure and terrorism encroaching on the sovereignty of the Mediterranean States and hence jeopardizing their safety and security. The constant presence of the American Sixth Fleet is indeed a manifestation of terrorism and provocation tantamount to a direct interference in the sovereignty of these States.

This policy of muscle flexing demonstrated by the United States in the Mediterranean is a part of an over-all policy of aggression staged by the United States in many areas of the world, where it deploys armed forces to threaten, interfere or stage attacks against certain peoples or States.

The aggressive policies of the United States of America were clearly illustrated by the grave incidents which took place in the last few weeks, when the American armed forces carried out irresponsible and foolhardy missions, overtly directed against the Libyan Arab Republic, menacing its safety and security, intruding upon its sovereignty, endangering the safety and security of the entire area and, ultimately, jeopardizing international peace and security.

The United States of America has committed the following acts in attempt to provoke a confrontation in which the Libyan Arab Republic has no alternative but to defend its sovereignty, security and safety.

On 21 March 1973, an American military plane - type C-130 - entered the Libyan air space, executing one of a series of aggressive operations of reconnaissance and intelligence which are constantly perpetrated by the Sixth Fleet off the shores of the Libyan Arab Republic and other sovereign Mediterranean countries. When the Libyan Air Force intercepted this spy plane, the United States labelled this legitimate self-defence an incursion upon the safety of its citizens

and property, in a move designed to justify all the acts of aggression perpetuated by the presence of the Sixth Fleet in the area.

The United States State Department has acknowledged the military nature of missions carried out by this type of plane, and these facts have been confirmed by international and American news media.

On 30 April 1973, an American aircraft carrier of the Sixth Fleet was based near the Libyan coast, transmitting radar beams across the range of Libyan radar in order to detect the movements and whereabouts of the Libyan Air Force and, further, to jam the Libyan radar. At the same time, a wave of United States military planes were launched from the carrier to interfere with Libyan training flights in the area.

These two incidents have created a state of tension which may explode at any moment. They reveal the malevolent intent behind the incessant, irresponsible provocations by the Americans to lure the Libyan Air Force to react militarily to blatant aerial encounter. This tense situation is generated and perpetuated by the American aggressors in order to justify any acts of aggression against the Libyan Arab Republic.

The Libyan Arab Republic condemns these outrageous acts as an immediate threat to the peace and security of the area. While these actions reveal the aggressive intentions harboured by the United States of America toward the people of the Libyan Arab Republic, they further confirm the existence of an American plot to prevent the Libyan peoples from exercising their rights to control their natural resources and undo the grip of the American monopoly upon their resources.

Such acts of aggression and intrigue will not frighten the peoples of the Libyan Arab Republic and will not lessen their determination to control their country's resources or to defend their air space. Moreover, the threat to international peace and security caused by the American aggression necessitates immediate action on the part of the international community to put an end to such provocations in order to preserve peace in the area.

The Government of the Libyan Arab Republic brings these facts to the attention of the international community in order to impress upon world public opinion the gravity of these incidents of deliberate aggression by the United States of America. The constant attempt by the United States to maintain a state of tension in the Mediterranean is a visible pretext to perpetrate its aggression, as well as that of its agents, in order to interfere in the affairs of the region and encroach on the national sovereignty of States.

The Government of the Libyan Arab Republic, while informing the Security Council of these irresponsible and malicious acts committed by the United States of America, declares that it will not stand idle in the face of these provocations and that it is further prepared to take all the necessary measures to ensure its safety and defend its sovereignty. The peoples of the Libyan Arab Republic will not

be intimidated by the mass or strength of the aggressor's forces. They stand ready to confront the forces of aggression, whatever the sacrifices and whatever the consequences.

I have the honour to request that the text of this letter be circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kamel Hassan MAGHUR
Permanent Representative
