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QUESTION OF THE COMORIAN ISLAND OF MAYOTTE

Letter dated 25 October 1977 from the Permanent Representative of Tunisia
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to request you to circulate as an official General Assembly document, under agenda item 125, the annexed resolutions adopted at the twenty-seventh ordinary session of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity (annex I) and the Programme of Action recommended by the Committee of Seven (annex II).

(Signed) Mahmoud MESTIRI
Permanent Representative of Tunisia
to the United Nations
Chairman of the African Group

ANNEX I

A. Resolution CM/497 (XXVII) on the Comorian Island of Mayotte

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity meeting in its Twenty-Seventh Ordinary Session at Port Louis, Mauritius, from 24 June to 3 July 1976,

Noting with satisfaction the unanimous admission of the Comoro Islands as a member State of the OAU on 18 July 1975,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the Comorian Island of Mayotte,

Recalling that all the people of the Republic of Comoro, in a referendum on 22 December 1974, expressed, by an overwhelming majority, their will to accede to independence in political unity and territorial integrity,

Considering that the so-called referendum imposed on the inhabitants of the Comorian Island of Mayotte constitutes an aggression against all Comorians and a violation of their territorial integrity,

Considering that France's occupation of the Comorian Island of Mayotte constitutes a flagrant aggression against the State of Comoro, a member of the OAU,

Considering that such an attitude adopted by France is a characteristic violation of the principles and relevant resolutions which confirm inter alia the inviolability of the borders inherited from the colonial administration,

Considering that the establishment of military bases in the Indian Ocean by France and all the other imperialist Western Powers constitutes a flagrant aggression against the independent States of Africa and Asia,

1. CONDEMNNS the so-called referenda of 8 February 1976 and 11 April 1976, which it considers null and void, and rejects in advance:

(1) any other form of referendum or consultation which may be organized subsequently in the Comorian territory of Mayotte by France;

(2) any act of law adopted by a French legislative body or government to legalize any form of French presence in the Comorian territory of Mayotte;

2. STRONGLY CONDEMNNS France's presence in Mayotte, which constitutes an aggression against the national unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of the independent Republic of Comoro and is prejudicial to the independence and security of the whole of Africa;

3. DEMANDS that the French Government should withdraw immediately from the Comorian Island of Mayotte, which is an integral part of the independent Republic of Comoro, and that it should respect the sovereignty of the new State;

4. CALLS ON the Chairman of the Council of Ministers, the Secretary-General of the OAU and the African Group at the United Nations to do everything possible to include the question of Comoro in the agenda of the forthcoming session of the United Nations General Assembly;

5. CALLS ON the Chairman of the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Council of Ministers and the Secretary-General of the OAU to request the inclusion of the question of the Comorian Island of Mayotte in the agenda of the Conference of Non-Aligned Countries in Colombo;

6. REQUESTS the Chairman of the Council, in co-operation with the OAU Secretary-General, to set up, during the session, a seven-member ad hoc committee, including Comoro, to study and formulate, under the auspices of the Secretary-General, all strategies and measures capable of promoting a rapid solution to the problem of the Comorian Island of Mayotte;

7. REQUESTS the Council of the League of Arab States to authorize, within the framework of Afro-Arab co-operation, through the Committee of 12, the sum of \$US 10 million, the grant of special and urgent financial aid to the Comoro Islands by the Arab Fund for the Development of Africa;

8. CALLS ON all OAU member States to give effective individual and collective aid to, and co-operate in all areas with, the Republic of Comoro to enable it to defend and safeguard its independence, territorial integrity and national sovereignty;

9. REQUESTS the Chairman of the Council of Ministers and the Secretary-General of the OAU to follow closely the development of events in the Comoro Islands with a view to taking the appropriate steps;

10. REQUESTS that the question of the Comorian Island of Mayotte be a permanent item on the agendas of various meetings and conferences of the OAU and the Co-ordinating Committee for the Liberation of Africa, as long as France will continue its illegal occupation of that island;

11. FURTHER REQUESTS that member States see to it that the question of the Comorian Island of Mayotte is put on the agendas of the forthcoming sessions of the Non-Aligned Countries, the United Nations General Assembly and the general conferences of all the institutions and organizations of the United Nations system and that they support resolutions condemning illegal occupation by France of the Comorian Island of Mayotte.

B. Resolution CM/555 (XXIX) on the question of the
Comoro Island of Mayotte

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity meeting in its twenty-ninth ordinary session in Libreville, Gabon, from 23 June to 3 July 1977,

Noting the Secretary-General's report on the question of the Comoro Island of Mayotte,

Having heard the statement by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Comoro,

Having taken note of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee of Seven set up under resolution CM/496 (XXVII) in Mauritius,

Recalling that the entire population of the Republic of Comoro had, during the referendum of 22 December 1974, expressed by an overwhelming majority its desire to accede to independence in political unity and secure its territorial integrity,

Considering that the so-called referendum imposed on the people of the Comoro Island of Mayotte constitutes an open aggression against the State of Comoro and a violation of the territorial integrity of the Comoros,

Considering that France's occupation of the Comoro Island of Mayotte constitutes a naked aggression against the State of Comoro, a Member State of the OAU and the United Nations,

Considering that such an attitude of France constitutes a characterized violation of the OAU principles and relevant resolutions consecrating, in particular, the inviolability of frontiers inherited from colonial administration,

Considering that the establishment of military bases in the Indian Ocean by France and any other imperialist Powers constitutes a naked aggression against the independent States of Africa and Asia,

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and the OAU, particularly the resolution adopted by the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government in Mauritius, especially article 10 thereof,

1. CONDEMNNS the so-called referenda held in Mayotte on 8 February and 11 April 1976, which it voids, and rejects outright

(a) any other form of referenda or consultation that might subsequently be organized by France in the Comoro Island of Mayotte;

(b) any law or regulation enacted by a French governmental or legislative body to legalize the presence of any form of French colonial power in the territory of Comoro;

2. STRONGLY CONDEMNS France's illegal occupation of the Comoro Island of Mayotte, which constitutes an aggression against the national unity, the territorial integrity and the sovereignty of the independent Republic of Comoro, as well as the independence and sovereignty of Africa as a whole;

3. DEMANDS France's immediate withdrawal from the Comoro Island of Mayotte, which is an integral part of the Republic of Comoro, and its respect for the sovereignty of that State;

4. REAFFIRMS its total solidarity with the Government and people of the Republic of Comoro in their struggle for the total liberation of their national territory;

5. REQUESTS the OAU Secretary-General, the African Group in the United Nations and the Ad Hoc Committee, in particular, to ensure that the question of the Comoro Island of Mayotte becomes a permanent item on the agenda of:

The United Nations

The Non-Aligned Countries

The League of Arab States

The Islamic Conference

All other international conferences or meetings attended by OAU member States;

6. CALLS ON the current Chairman of the OAU to undertake the necessary consultations with the President of the Republic of France to resolve this problem in accordance with the relevant OAU and United Nations resolutions;

7. CALLS ON the individual OAU member States also to take steps with the French authorities to secure France's immediate withdrawal from Mayotte and to ensure that the territorial integrity and national sovereignty of the Republic of Comoro are respected;

8. CALLS ON the OAU Secretary-General to undertake discussions with the United Nations Secretary-General for the necessary steps to be taken to ensure the implementation of resolution No. of 21 October 1976 on the question of the Comoro Island of Mayotte, adopted by the thirty-first United Nations General Assembly;

9. CALLS FURTHER ON the OAU Secretary-General to get in contact with the Secretaries-General of the League of Arab States and the Islamic Conference and with the current Chairman of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries with a view to co-ordinating the actions of these organizations to ensure the implementation of their various resolutions adopted on the question of the Comoro Island of Mayotte;

10. REQUESTS the OAU Secretary-General to dispatch a mission to Comoro, including Mayotte, to assess the situation and submit a report to the next OAU Summit Conference;

11. CALLS on the member States and the General Secretariat of the OAU to give a wider publicity to the information on the situation in Comoro during the anniversary of important dates in the annals of Comoro;

12. CALLS ON the Committee of Twelve and the OAU Secretary-General to undertake consultations with the Committee of Twelve and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States so as to consider the possibilities of granting, within the framework of Afro-Arab Co-operation, an urgent and special financial assistance to Comoro, which is facing huge financial difficulties, especially following the repatriation of the 16,000 Comorians from Majunga (Madagascar) and the volcanic eruption which rendered more than 10,000 people homeless;

13. APPEALS to all OAU member States and international organizations to grant a direct assistance to the Comoro State to enable it to cope with the difficulties facing it, safeguard its independence, territorial integrity, national sovereignty and unity of the people;

14. HOPES that a joint economic ECA/OAU mission would visit Moroni to determine with the Comoro authorities the economic priorities of the State;

15. CALLS ON the OAU Secretary-General to take every practical step to ensure that the next meeting of the Committee of Seven is held at ministerial level, in Moroni in the month of August 1977, before the thirty-second United Nations General Assembly;

16. REQUESTS the current Chairman of the OAU to take every step to normalize relations between the Governments of Comoro and Madagascar.

ANNEX II

Programme of Action recommended by the Committee of Seven meeting at Moroni (Comoros) on 5 and 6 September 1977

INTRODUCTION

The OAU Committee of Seven on the Comorian Island of Mayotte, consisting of the following member States: Algeria, Cameroon, Comoro, Gabon, Madagascar, Mozambique and Senegal, meeting in conformity with resolution CM/496 (XXVII) on 5 to 6 September 1977 in Moroni in compliance with resolution 555 (XXIX),

Having taken note of the solemn declaration made by the Head of State of Comoro at the opening session wherein the Committee has noted with appreciation the will and the disposition of the Government of Comoro to opt for negotiation and a peaceful solution of the question of the return of Mayotte to the Republic of Comoro,

Having heard the comprehensive exposé of the Foreign Minister of Comoro on the political and economic situation prevailing in Comoro,

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary-General in the development of this issue,

Bearing in mind the pertinent resolutions adopted by the OAU, the United Nations, the Non-Aligned Conference, the Arab League and the Islamic Conference and whilst deploring the obstinately negative attitude of the French Government, adopts the following programme of action:

1. The Committee, having noted with great appreciation the diligence and determination with which the OAU current Chairman, His Excellency El Hadj Omar Bongo, accomplished his mission with the French President and urged him in the name of the whole of Africa to exert all necessary efforts with a view to bringing about the unconditional evacuation of France from the Island of Mayotte in the shortest possible time, thereby making possible its reintegration in the Republic of Comoro, requests him to continue his efforts.
2. That a mission consisting of Foreign Ministers of the Committee of Seven on the issue of the Comorian Island of Mayotte should meet the French Foreign Minister in order to ascertain France's designs and real intentions in connexion with the fate that she reserves for Mayotte. In their discussion with their French counterpart they should demand that France removes once and for all the restrictions imposed on the movement of persons and goods between the Comorian Island of Mayotte and the rest of the Comoro Archipelago.
3. That the Ambassadors of the seven member States, members of the Committee of Seven, resident in Paris should follow closely the development of this issue while undertaking collective moves with the appropriate French authorities each time this proves to be necessary.

4. The Committee recommends that the next meeting of the OAU Liberation Committee implement resolution CM/555 (XXIX), paragraph 12, on the Comorian Island of Mayotte, which calls upon the Liberation Committee to work out with the collaboration of the Comorian Government an appropriate strategy for the French withdrawal from Mayotte and the reintegration of the Mayotte Island into the Republic of Comoro.
5. The Committee appeals to all member States of the OAU to undertake individual and collective efforts with a view to bringing the French Government to bring a just and urgent solution, in collaboration with the Government of the Republic of Comoro, to this problem, which preoccupies the whole of Africa.
6. That the Foreign Ministers of the Committee of Seven should meet in New York during the coming session of the United Nations General Assembly to mobilize public and international opinion on the Mayotte issue. The African Group in New York should further adopt a collective stand on the Mayotte issue during the coming session of the United Nations General Assembly. It should demand that a United Nations-sponsored mission be undertaken to France and the Republic of Comoro to discuss the question of the evacuation of France from Mayotte Island and its reintegration in the Republic of Comoro. The Committee should also recommend that contacts should be made with the EEC countries, and the Scandinavian countries and other regional groups to enlist their support in the struggle undertaken by the OAU for the return of Mayotte to the Republic of Comoro.
7. Requests the African Group to see to it that the United Nations General Assembly adopts a resolution authorizing the ECA to undertake a joint mission with OAU to Moroni with a view to ascertaining, with the collaboration of the Government of the Republic of Comoro, the economic priorities of the Archipelago for the purpose of mobilizing and securing international assistance for the Comorian State.
8. The Committee recommends that resolution 555 (XXIX), which calls upon the Secretary-General to undertake consultations with the OAU Committee of Twelve and the Secretary-General of the Arab League with a view to granting economic, financial and urgent assistance to Comoro within the framework of Afro-Arab co-operation, should be implemented.
9. The Committee decided that there should be another meeting before the next ordinary session of the Council of Ministers to assess the results of the programme of action.
