



**Security Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

S/21992  
10 December 1990  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

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LETTER DATED 10 DECEMBER 1990 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED  
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith press communiqué No. 90/21 of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), dated 10 December 1990, stating the Committee's position with respect to Libyan prisoners in Chad. The communiqué indicates that ICRC was unable either to provide protection to the Libyans as it would have wished or to interview the prisoners before their departure, contrary to the assertions of the United States that the departure took place in the presence and with the agreement of the Committee.

I should be grateful if you would have this communiqué circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ali A. TREIKI  
Permanent Representative

Annex

[Original: English]

Communication to the press No. 90/21  
10 December 1990

**LIBYAN PRISONERS IN CHAD: ICRC'S POSITION**

Geneva (ICRC) - Following the recent events in Chad, a number of prisoners of war have been transferred or repatriated. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has not been able to carry out protection work on their behalf as it would have wished. In particular, it was unable to interview the prisoners before their departure.

Since the outbreak of hostilities between Chad and Libya, the ICRC has been concerned about the plight of prisoners held by both sides. In spite of many oral and written representations, the previous government of Chad, in breach of the Third Geneva Convention, never allowed the ICRC to visit the prisoners it was holding. Only 53 of them were registered.

The ICRC trusts that in the near future it will be able to interview these prisoners without witnesses to ensure that their will was respected.

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