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CELEBRATION OF THE FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fortieth year

Letter dated 25 October 1985 from the Permanent Representative
of Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose the text of the statement made by
Mr. Beji Caid Essebsi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Tunisia, on 24 October 1985
on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations.

I request that the text of this statement be circulated as an official
document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 39, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nejjib BOUZIRI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Tunisia issued on
24 October 1985 on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of
the United Nations

Today, the whole world is celebrating the fortieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Charter of the United Nations which was to mark a new page in the history of mankind by affirming the need to maintain international peace and security and by reaffirming the principle of sovereign equality among nations.

No one can deny the dedicated efforts made by the United Nations to maintain international peace since the Second World War, but this precarious peace contains the seeds of an unprecedented catastrophe. Each year this day reminds us of the need to reaffirm our commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter, but never before has this need been more urgent or more pressing.

Notwithstanding the criticism of its detractors, the United Nations remains the greatest hope of mankind, the last resort of the small nations and the instrument without which the law that might makes right would prevail among States and law and justice would be relegated to oblivion.

It might have been hoped that the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations which we are celebrating today, would coincide with a year of peace, settlement of disputes, a year of moderation, of international co-operation and friendship among peoples.

Unfortunately, while the international community celebrates the prestigious fortieth anniversary of the United Nations, yet another violation of the territorial integrity of Tunisia, a sovereign State, has been perpetrated in defiance of the rules of international law.

The aggression committed on the hospitable and peaceful soil of Tunisia represents an undeserved blow against a country which was the first to advocate dialogue in the Middle East conflict. The unanimous condemnation of this act by the international community revives the hope which we have always placed in the Organization, the custodian of international law and morality.

Nevertheless, this scandalous aggression can only strengthen further Tunisia's support for just causes and particularly for the struggles of the Palestinian, Namibian and South African peoples for freedom and dignity. The situation of the Palestinian and of the Namibian and South African peoples is a flagrant anachronism at a time when the United Nations is attempting to eliminate the last bastions of an obsolete colonialism which has become a dead letter.

Forty years after the creation of the United Nations, the international community has reached a critical stage in the evolution of international affairs. The thrust for a just, peaceful and stable international order seems to have weakened. Trust and understanding between peoples are being overshadowed by confrontations and scandalous injustices.

While it is true that the United Nations is not what it should be, we nevertheless consider that it represents one of the hopes of mankind and that there is therefore a need to strengthen and help it and to work within its central organs and specialized agencies so that the universal ideals on which it was founded shall not be silenced or jeopardized.

The multilateral approach which is the key to lasting solutions to most political and economic problems is often being replaced by unilateral or bilateral measures seeking limited and short-term goals. Hence there is a decline in mutual trust between nations which creates a climate for tension and conflict.

On this anniversary, an evaluation of international relations, even in their negative aspects, is not defeatism. Progress in the economic and social fields further ennobles the struggle of the United Nations against poverty and sickness and for the promotion of human rights.

The challenge facing us is therefore to strengthen our devotion to the United Nations and to mobilize the material and spiritual resources which will enable everyone to live in dignity in a climate of peace, stability and progress. By reiterating today our resolve to continue to work for the completion of this main task, we will once more be responding to the clarion call of the Charter of the United Nations for the establishment of a better world for all mankind.

