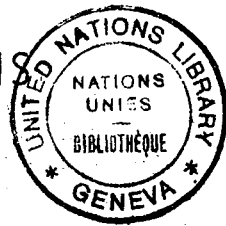


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Thirty-sixth session
Agenda item 9

THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND ITS APPLICATION
TO PEOPLES UNDER COLONIAL OR ALIEN DOMINATION OR FOREIGN
OCCUPATION

Letter dated 27 February 1980, addressed to the Chairman of the
Commission on Human Rights at its thirty-sixth session, by the
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations
Office at Geneva

The Permanent Mission of Iraq has the honour to transmit the text of the declaration by President Saddam Hussein and requests that the text should be circulated as an official document under item 9 of the agenda of the Commission on Human Rights.

Declaration by President Saddam Hussein

In the light of the present international situation and the possible course of events in the future, with the consequent dangers likely to threaten Arab sovereignty and national (qawmiya) security on the one hand, and peace and security throughout the world on the other; in response to the appeals for national (qawmiya) responsibility towards the Arab nation as a people, territory, civilization and traditions, and in conformity with the principles of the non-aligned movement, Iraq finds itself called upon to take the initiative of proclaiming this Declaration, which could constitute a charter aimed, in the first place, at governing national relations between the Arab countries (Aqtars) and then at ensuring a commitment on the part of the Arab nation towards neighbouring countries of the Arab motherland that proclaim their respect for and commitment to that charter.

This Declaration is based on the following principles:

- (1) The refusal to accept a foreign armed presence or foreign military forces and bases within the Arab motherland or to facilitate such a presence in any form or under any pretext or for any reason whatsoever; and isolation of any Arab regime refusing to commit itself to this principle, by means of a political and economic boycott and opposition to its policy by all lawful means;
- (2) Prohibition of the use of armed force by an Arab country against another Arab country, any conflicts arising between such countries to be settled instead by peaceful means, in accordance with the principles of joint national (qawmie) action and the overriding Arab interest;

(3) The principle mentioned in paragraph (2) shall be applied to govern relations between the Arab nation and its countries with other neighbouring nations and States, namely, prohibition of the use of armed force to solve a conflict with such States, except in the case of self-defence and of defence of sovereignty against threats which affect the security of the Arab countries and their fundamental interests;

(4) The solidarity of all the Arab countries against any aggression or violation by a foreign party affecting the territorial sovereignty of an Arab country in cases in which the latter enters into actual war with its aggressor. The Arab countries shall, together, oppose any such aggression or violation and thwart it by all means, including military action and measures for a collective boycott at the political and the economic levels and also in all areas required by the national need and interest;

(5) The assurance of the Arab countries to respect international laws and conventions concerning the use of territorial waters and airspace by any State which is not at war with any Arab country;

(6) The Arab countries shall stand aside from international wars and conflicts and shall be committed to complete neutrality and non-alignment in relation to any party to a conflict, so long as one of the parties does not violate Arab territorial sovereignty and the inalienable rights of the Arab countries guaranteed by international laws and conventions. In addition, the Arab countries shall refrain from making their armed forces participate wholly or partly in any wars and military conflicts arising inside or outside the region in place of any foreign State or party;

(7) The commitment of the Arab countries to establish developed and constructive economic relations among one another so as to strengthen and consolidate the common foundations of a developed Arab economic edifice and of Arab unity.

The Arab countries shall endeavour to avoid any action likely to harm such relations and to prejudice them by impeding their continuity and development, irrespective of any differences between the Arab regimes and marginal political conflicts that may arise among them, so long as the parties concerned remain bound by the principles of this Declaration. The Arab countries shall undertake to work for national economic integration. Those among them which are economically capable of doing so are required to furnish every kind of economic assistance to the other Arab countries in such a way as to keep them safe from resorting to any foreign support that might jeopardize their independence and their national will.

(8) In setting forth the principles of this Declaration, Iraq affirms its determination to commit itself to them in respect of any Arab country and any other party which commits itself to them. Iraq is willing to discuss this Declaration with its Arab brothers and to take account of their comments, something which will help to strengthen the effectiveness of its principles and enhance its content.

Iraq also affirms that this Declaration does not replace either the Charter of the Arab League or the Treaty of Joint Defence and Economic Co-operation between the Arab League States. It considers this Declaration as a strengthening and development of the said Charter and Treaty that responds both to the international circumstances that have arisen and to the dangers that threaten the Arab nation and the national responsibilities incumbent upon that nation in the present situation.

In presenting this Declaration, Iraq's point of departure is the national responsibilities incumbent on it, which go beyond any individual or regional interest. In addressing this Declaration to the Arab Governments, considered as the sole party responsible for promulgating it and for the requisite commitment, we are deeply convinced that the principles of this Declaration can be achieved and can constitute a charter for inter-Arab relations only through the struggle and support of the Arab people, because it preserves its fundamental interests and responds to its national aspirations in freedom and independence and eases the way to Arab unity.

Saddam Hussein
President of the Revolutionary
Command Council
President of the Republic of Iraq

Baghdad, 21 Rabin Al Awal
1400 of the Hegira
8 February 1980