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CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE
ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

Letter dated 2 April 1986 from the Permanent Representative of Senegal
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the press release issued at Brazzaville on 28 March 1986, following the meeting between Their Excellencies Mr. Abdou Diouf, President of the Republic of Senegal and current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), and Colonel Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the People's Republic of the Congo, in connection with the question of Chad.

"The international community, particularly African opinion, recalls that the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU, at its twenty-first ordinary session, held at Addis Ababa from 18 to 20 July 1985, adopted resolution 143 (XXI) on Chad, by which the Organization renewed the mandate entrusted to the President of the People's Republic of the Congo to pursue the search for peace and national reconciliation in Chad in close collaboration with the current Chairman of OAU.

"In conformity with that resolution, the Congolese Government pursued the efforts it had already begun, by establishing numerous contacts with all the parties concerned with a view to organizing a meeting of national reconciliation, which would hold out promise of a lasting peace in Chad and for the unity and territorial integrity of that country. These efforts were pursued in close co-ordination with His Excellency Mr. Abdou Diouf, President of the Republic of Senegal and current Chairman of OAU.

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"Thus, having received the assurances of the Government of the Republic of Chad and of the Gouvernement de l'unité nationale du Tchad (GUNT) concerning their effective participation in a meeting without prior conditions to be held in the Congo under OAU auspices, the Head of State of the Congo, His Excellency Colonel Denis Sassou Nguesso, addressed invitations to His Excellency Mr. Hisssein Habré, President of the Republic of Chad and to Mr. Goukouni Weddeye, President of GUNT, to meet each other under his chairmanship on 28 March 1986, in Brazzaville, in the presence of the current Chairman of OAU.

"On 27 March 1986, His Excellency Mr. Hisssein Habré, Head of State of Chad, arrived in Brazzaville as expected. His Excellency Mr. Abdou Diouf, President of the Republic of Senegal and current Chairman of OAU, arrived in the Congolese capital at the same time.

"On 28 March 1986, the pre-arranged date, the current Chairman of OAU and the Head of State of the Congo noted with regret that Mr. Goukouni Weddeye, President of GUNT, despite the undertakings given to participate without prior conditions in the scheduled meeting, had not responded to the invitation, thereby rendering it impossible to hold the meeting.

"The current Chairman of OAU and the President of the People's Republic of the Congo, while welcoming the presence in Brazzaville of His Excellency Mr. Hisssein Habré, President of the Republic of Chad, regretted that the sons of Chad had once again let slip a chance whereby they themselves could have reached a final settlement of the conflict that is tearing apart their country, ravaged by long years of fratricidal conflict and foreign interference. On behalf of Africa, they appeal to all the sons of Chad to make a concerted national effort at last so as to save their own country.

"The current Chairman of OAU and the President of the People's Republic of the Congo reiterated the steadfast desire of OAU to assist the sons of Chad in finding a lasting political solution to their tragedy, a solution which depends above all on the patriotic and sincere undertaking of the people of Chad themselves."

I should be grateful if you would kindly have the text of this press release distributed as an official document of the General Assembly under item 27 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Massamba SARRE
