



**Security Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

S/18026  
21 April 1986

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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LETTER DATED 21 APRIL 1986 FROM THE ACTING PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVE OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a statement by the Federal Government of Nigeria on recent events affecting the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

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

(Signed) Michael O. ONONAIYE  
Ambassador and  
Acting Permanent Representative

Annex

STATEMENT BY THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT

It is with a sense of deep disappointment and indignation that the Federal Military Government has learned of the aerial bombardment of targets in Tripoli and Benghazi by the military forces of the United States Government in retaliation for alleged acts of terrorism master-minded by the Government of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

Nigeria's disappointment stems from the fact that it was common knowledge that virtually all the Western allies of the United States had counselled restraint and it was our expectation that President Reagan's attitude would have been tempered somewhat by such a joint démarche. It has also come to light that while some of the Western allies have maintained their principled position on the matter, the United States fighter planes used military bases in the United Kingdom for the onslaught against Libya.

The Federal Military Government is shocked by the nature of the raid on Tripoli and Benghazi as well as the casualties in human life and property left in its wake. We are particularly concerned over the possible toll of death and injury among innocent civilians, not necessarily all Libyans.

As the United States is one of the world's super-Powers, Nigeria sees no justification whatsoever for this action. It is believed that, frustrating as the results have been, the United States Government, as a mature and responsible Power, should still not give up the search for a solution to the irksome irritants laid at the door of the Libyan Government.

The Federal Military Government condemns unequivocally this latest attack by the United States Government on the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and appeals to all concerned to exercise restraint.

Nigeria renews its solidarity with the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

Doxan Barracks, Lagos, 15 April 1986