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HUMAN RIGHTS AND SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Letter dated 28 April 1986 from the Permanent Representative of
the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the letter addressed to you by Mr. Kamel Hassan al-Maghur, Secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, concerning the United Kingdom propaganda machine's escalation of its hostile campaign against the Jamahiriya and its adoption of arbitrary measures terminating the studies of and expelling a large number of Libyan students enrolled at institutes in the United Kingdom.

I should be grateful if you would have the letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 97 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Ali Abdussalam TREIKI
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

In the context of the United Kingdom's role of complicity in the United States armed aggression against the security, safety and independence of the Libyan Arab people, launched against the Jamahiriya on 15 April 1986, the United Kingdom propaganda machine is escalating its hostile campaign against the Jamahiriya and its people in an ignominious attempt to cover up its complicity in the aggression against the Jamahiriya.

On 24 April 1986, the United Kingdom Government, within the framework of this hostile campaign, adopted arbitrary measures terminating the studies of and expelling a large number of Libyan Arab students enrolled at institutes and universities in the United Kingdom. Their residence and their enrolment for study at British institutes and universities had been arranged in accordance with legal procedures and with the consent of the United Kingdom authorities. The Jamahiriya pays all their expenses, including their tuition fees and health insurance for the students and their families.

These expulsion measures were adopted without prior consultation with the authorities which supervise their studies in the United Kingdom. On the contrary, the expulsion measures were assigned for implementation to United Kingdom police authorities, which applied to them arbitrary measures inconsistent with the dignity of their position as innocent students living peacefully and not contravening British laws. Nevertheless, the United Kingdom authorities took all kinds of arbitrary steps against them and treated them as though they were criminals facing legal prosecution, without any regard for the sanctity of knowledge or respect for the purposes for which they were there. These expulsion measures were accompanied by arbitrary acts carried out by the United Kingdom authorities without justification. As a result of these acts, the students and their families were subjected to Fascist practices on the part of the United Kingdom police authorities. These included the apprehension of students while in class, the raiding of their homes at various times, searches of the premises conducted in a deliberately provocative manner, the confiscation of their passports and the use of all possible means of intimidation and terrorization against them and against their wives and children, involving, inter alia, the detention of some of them in isolation cells in police stations. The United Kingdom authorities used all means of intimidation, provocation and pressure in order to persuade them to accept political asylum, in an attempt to recruit them to work against their country. All this constitutes another conspiratorial act against the Jamahiriya, in addition to being a cheap attempt to pillory Libyan citizens and an ignominious procedure using all means of psychological pressure in order to trump up false accusations against them.

These arbitrary measures taken by the United Kingdom authorities against Libyan students are contrary to all agreements and customs and principles of international conduct and are an expression of contempt for human rights and dignity. They constitute a violation of the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

These measures also conflict with the provisions of Article 1 (3) of the Charter of the United Nations, which advocates the achievement of international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion. These measures are a flouting of the Constitution and resolutions of UNESCO, which lay down the right of all peoples to knowledge and urge the development and strengthening of relations among peoples for the achievement of better mutual understanding.

These measures are a violation of the Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1975, which makes it the duty of all States to assist in the "establishment, strengthening and development of the scientific and technological capacity of developing countries".

The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya condemns these arbitrary actions taken by the United Kingdom authorities against Libyan students and regards them as a link in the chain of the policy of aggression pursued by the United Kingdom Government in collusion with the United States Administration and directed against a small peace-loving people and a State Member of the United Nations. It considers them a premeditated conspiratorial plot in which all the official and information organs of the United Kingdom Government are participating in order to pillory Libyan citizens before world public opinion. All this conflicts with the responsibilities of a State Member of the United Nations and a permanent member of the Security Council, whose responsibility it is to maintain peace and security and to work for the achievement of mutual understanding and co-operation among peoples, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations and of other international covenants.

While drawing your attention and the attention of the international community to the gravity of this deliberate escalation of the aggressive actions of the United Kingdom Government against the Libyan Arab people, which constitutes a clear and deliberate violation of the principles of the United Nations and UNESCO and the principles of human rights, we hope that this letter will be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 97 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Kamel Hassan AL-MAQHUR
Secretary of the People's Committee of the
People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison
