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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE
STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 3 September 1980 from the Permanent Representative of
Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you the text of the letter dated 3 September 1980 addressed to Your Excellency by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Socialist Ethiopia, His Excellency Colonel Dr. Feleke Gedle-Giorgis.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the text of this message as an official document of the General Assembly under item 50 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Mohamed Hamid IBRAHIM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/35/150.

ANNEX

Letter dated 3 September 1980 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of
Ethiopia to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your urgent attention and, through you, to alert the international community and the entire world public on the grave danger posed to the very existence of my country, Ethiopia, as an independent State by the recent conclusion of a military base agreement between the Governments of the United States of America and the Democratic Republic of Somalia.

The acquisition of military bases at various places within Somalia and, more particularly, the air force and naval base at Berbera, a mere 150 kilometres distance from Ethiopia's internationally recognized boundaries, is primarily directed against Ethiopia. It has equally sinister and broader motives, as well as aggressive designs, with grave implications to the peace and security of the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf area and the entire African continent.

The unfolding drama over the last several years reveals that the over-all aggressive policy of the United States and its intensified military activities in the Indian Ocean and in the Gulf area are clearly directed at imposing its neo-colonialist domination on the entire African continent and the countries of the Middle East and the Gulf area which the United States considers its sphere of influence. Berbera is but the latest major addition to the chain of forward military bases which the United States Administration has feverishly set up recently in the Indian Ocean, the Red Sea and the Gulf area with the view to achieving its grandiose designs for regional and global domination and hegemony.

Your Excellency is, of course, very well aware that, throughout the ages, the history of the Ethiopian people has essentially been a history of constant struggle against expansionist invaders near and far. The latest of these expansionist invaders against which Ethiopia has been compelled to defend herself has been Somalia.

Ever since the emergence of Somalia as an independent State in 1960, successive régimes in Mogadishu have remained obsessed with expansionism and territorial aggrandizement at the expense of Somalia's neighbours, namely Ethiopia, Kenya and the Republic of Djibouti. The realization of their expansionist ambition has been the single and all-encompassing purpose of their foreign policy. They have sought and forged relationships with other countries solely with a view to advancing the ever-elusive dream of "Greater Somalia", a myth implanted by former colonialists.

Over a period of 17 years successive régimes in Mogadishu were accumulating sophisticated weapons and making intensive preparations for a final show-down with Ethiopia. To this end, they initiated frequent border skirmishes and launched unprovoked aggressions in 1960 and again in 1964. Having further prepared the ground over a long period by infiltrating a considerable number of well-trained saboteurs into Eastern and South-Eastern Ethiopia, and with his entire war machine

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deployed along the whole length of the Ogaden, Siad Barre finally launched an unprovoked and full scale brazen war of aggression against Ethiopia on 23 July 1977. Barre and his supporters in the imperialist and reactionary camps had apparently thought that, as Ethiopia was in the midst of a revolution, the time was most opportune for them to strike.

Secretly funnelling weapons and supplies to Mogadishu's expansionist war of aggression through third parties, the United States and other Western countries were threatening Ethiopia by offering to openly supply Somalia, the aggressor, what they conveniently termed "defensive weapons". Notorious reactionaries such as the late Shah of Iran had gone even further in their threats against my country, the victim of a brazen aggression, by boasting to directly intervene in the war on the side of the aggressor.

While Washington embargoed defensive equipment and spare parts for which Ethiopia had made advance payment, the Western media were celebrating the initial successes of the invading army and the prospect of the imminent disintegration of the Ethiopian nation, all the while falsely maintaining that not a single Somalia soldier had crossed the common boundary into Ethiopian territory.

In the spring of 1978, the Ethiopian Revolutionary Army routed the invading forces of Somalia, but exercised self-restraint from hot pursuit. Committed as Ethiopia is to the cardinal principles enshrined in the Charters and decisions of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, as well as the basic norms of the non-aligned movement, she has always exerted all her efforts for peace and stability in the region. Somalia has, however, committed barbaric atrocities and caused enormous death and destruction on Ethiopian soil. As these have also been widely seen by the international community, including senior officials of the United Nations system, I need hardly offer more detail.

To date, Somalia continues its provocative activities by infiltrating its regular troops into Ethiopia for acts of sabotage and wanton destruction with the view to achieving its expansionist ambition. The telegram which I have sent you on 8 August 1980 sufficiently outlines the ill-fated latest adventurist aggression which Somalia had launched against Ethiopia with massive troops and all kinds of heavy weapons of United States and NATO origin. Even as I write this letter to you, our defence forces are locked in combat against units of the invading army inside Ethiopian territory. These are facts about which the United States Government is fully aware.

The records of the United Nations are replete with Somalia's consistent violations of the cardinal principles of the Charter and such fundamental resolutions on good-neighbourliness, non-use of force in international relations, non-interference in the internal affairs of others and all other accepted norms of international law. The Charter provisions and decisions of the OAU, as well as the principles of the non-aligned movement have been equally and consistently flouted by the régime in Mogadishu. To date, Somalia continues to reject the OAU Cairo resolution (AHG/RES.16/I) on the respect of boundaries existing at the time of accession to independence.

In this context, you are, of course, fully aware that the OAU has, as far back as 1973, established a Good Offices Committee to help in normalizing the relations between the two neighbouring countries. At its recent meeting in Lagos last month, the Committee has adopted a five-point recommendation reaffirming, among other things, the OAU Cairo resolution of 1964 on the inviolability of frontiers of member States existing at the time of independence, non-interference in the internal affairs of others and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States. Just as Somalia has arrogantly walked out from the OAU session in Libreville and defied the decision of the Heads of State or Government in Khartoum, whenever its expansionist policy was condemned by our Continental Organization, so has it rejected the recommendations of the Lagos meeting of the Good Offices Committee. Moreover, Somalia continues to persistently refuse to unequivocally accept the binding force of international boundary treaties. The expansionist policy of Somalia and its intransigence to respect accepted principles of international law has consistently met with the disapproval and condemnation of African and other countries.

It is with such a government that Washington has recently concluded a military deal, knowing full well that the weapons it is supplying under the agreement will be used solely to advance Somalia's expansionist objectives against its neighbours, particularly Ethiopia. Whatever the pretext or cover, this irresponsible action by the Carter Administration is surely nothing other than connivance in and abetment of the expansionist objectives of Mogadishu and an open encouragement for further aggressions against my country. Moreover, the combined forces of Somalia and the United States quick intervention force have now taken an assault position at Berbera, posing a serious danger to the very survival of my country and the security of the other States in the region.

For our part, we are dedicating all our energies to the task of nation-building, economic development and cultural rejuvenation. We are engaged in an uncompromising struggle against illiteracy, disease and poverty. These are tasks which have been undertaken on a war footing and demand all the efforts and resources that we can possibly marshal. We can, therefore, ill-afford to dissipate much needed energy and resources in conflicts being habitually and constantly generated by the expansionist régime in Mogadishu.

Devoted as she is to the promotion of regional harmony, Ethiopia is justly proud in that, with the exception of Somalia, she has established close relations and mutually beneficial co-operation with all her neighbours.

Just as in the Fascist aggression of the 1930's, the independent existence of Ethiopia is imperilled once again. That a small country like Ethiopia should be the object of collusion between imperialism and die-hard expansionism must surely be a matter of grave concern to the international community.

In view of the gravity of the situation, it is my duty to strongly urge you and, through you, the international community to exert maximum influence on the Government of the United States of America with a view to making it heed the voice of sanity and seriously reconsider and reassess the wider implications of its

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irresponsible decision in particular to the peace and stability of the region and the maintenance of international peace and security in general.

Finally, I have the honour to request you to have the contents of this letter circulated to all Member States of the Organization as an official document of the United Nations.

(Signed) Feleke GEDLE-GIORGIS
Minister for Foreign Affairs
and Member of the Central
Committee of COPWE
