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

Letter dated 23 April 1981 from the Permanent Representative of the  
Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to bring to your attention the position of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan on the contents of document A/36/206.

In his letter to the Secretary-General (A/36/206), the Libyan Chargé d'Affaires a.i. enclosed a copy of a letter from the Libyan President Muammar Al-Qathafi to the Arab kings and heads of State containing accusations and incriminations which are entirely contrary to the facts and to the Sudan's well-known practices in its international relations.

It is regrettable that the Libyan President should make such accusations against the Head of a State which prides itself on its illustrious record and its positive contribution to efforts to strengthen international security. The Sudan has no need to emphasize once again its full commitment and strong desire to respect the lofty principles and ideals enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, which it has sought to implement in letter and spirit ever since it achieved independence in 1956 and became a Member of this Organization.

At the regional level, the Sudan has its honoured record of achievements with regard to positive and effective participation within the framework of its commitment and adherence to the charters of the League of Arab States, the Organization of African Unity and the Organization of the Islamic Conference and as a leader in the non-aligned movement, in the foundation of which it participated. The principles of respect for the independence and sovereignty of States, non-intervention in their internal affairs, good-neighbourliness, the settlement of disputes by peaceful means and the right of peoples to self-determination, which are enshrined in the charters of these organizations, all constitute a corner-stone of

\* A/36/50.

the Sudan's foreign policy and are confirmed by the practical implementation of that policy. The good-neighbourly relations between the Sudan and its African sisters, to which the Secretary-General paid a tribute in his annual report on the work of the Organization, 1/ bear testimony to this.

In the persistence of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan in holding to these firmly established principles in its foreign policy and in the practical implementation thereof at the regional and international levels lies the germ of the current dispute between the Sudan and Libya. The Sudan refuses as a matter of principle to accept that any State should set itself up as a guardian over the affairs of another State or other States, particularly those whose societies are passing through internal crises and struggles, and that is precisely what the Libyan Government has been doing in neighbouring States, which has sometimes led to the break off of diplomatic relations and on many occasions to the expulsion of Libya's diplomatic representatives. It was natural that the Sudan should oppose these efforts at hegemony, expansion and the imposition of influence by covert penetration and open aggression because of its conviction that Libya is turning the continent into battlefields, its peoples into fuel for them and its civilization into a wasteland and ruin and because Libya is opening wide the door to foreign intervention and the return of colonialism to the continent after its expulsion. This is the position of the Sudan and, indeed, the position of Africa, as stated by Mr. Gaafar Mohamed Nimeiry, President of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan, in his address to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session, in his capacity as Chairman of the Organization of African Unity, when he said:

"African security and peace are contingent on the strict observance of the principles of self-determination, independence, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, the rights of all peoples to protect their national borders, the settlement of disputes through peaceful means, and the illegality of the annexation of lands by the use of force." 2/

I request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 58 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Abdel Rahman ABDALLA  
Envoy Extraordinary  
Permanent Representative

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1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 1 (A/35/1).

2/ A/33/PV.10, p. 17.