



## Security Council

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LETTER DATED 8 MAY 1996 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.  
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF  
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter addressed to you by Mr. Omar Mustafa Al-Muntasser, Secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, concerning statements being made by officials of the United States Administration that indicate that the United States is preparing to take large-scale military action against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ali Sunni MUNTASSER  
Deputy Permanent Representative  
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

Letter dated 7 May 1996 from the Secretary of the General  
People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International  
Cooperation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya addressed to  
the President of the Security Council

You have no doubt been following the statements that Secretary of Defense William J. Perry and other officials of the United States Administration have been making for more than a month now, all of them indicating that the United States of America is preparing for large-scale military action against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on the pretext of preventing it, as it says, from producing chemical weapons at a plant under construction near the town of Tarhunah.

The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya would like to alert you and the international community to the dangerous character of the designedly hostile intentions of the United States of America towards the people of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and to the threat posed by these intentions to peace and security in the Arab world and the Mediterranean region.

The gravity of the situation lies in the fact that the threatened use of force emanates from a country that is a permanent member of the Security Council and one that possesses enormous military capacities. It has long used these capacities in a tyrannical manner that has caused human catastrophes and human tragedies in various parts of the world. The brutal aggression committed by the United States Administration against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in 1986 is not far from our minds. On that occasion the United States Administration based its threat to use force on false allegations fabricated by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), a body with an ample record of producing reports and formulating positions that have led to grave mistakes. Examples we have cited in the past where such reports lacked any truth include the Berlin nightclub incident that was the pretext for the 1986 attack on the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the incident in which it was falsely claimed that the Chinese ship Vin He was carrying chemicals to be used in the development of chemical weapons, and the outcry contrived by the United States Administration in connection with the pharmaceutical plant at Rabtah.

The gravity of the situation lies also in the fact that current and former officials of the United States Administration have been led to imagine the kind of attack that can be made on the site of the plant. Media reports in this connection reveal dangerous flaws in thinking, just as they reveal contempt for humanitarian principles, norms and values. According to a former deputy assistant secretary of defense and expert in chemical weapons, everyone is engrossed in seeking the silver bullet that can solve the problem. Some of the media have even referred to CIA reports that address the possibility of destroying the plant with an atomic bomb, although this is incompatible with the undertakings given by the United States with regard to ensuring that nuclear weapons are not used against States that are parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Resort to such a reckless action is not unlikely, given that when asked of this Mr. Perry replied that he did not

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exclude any option. The most recent statement of relevance is that published by the magazine Al-Majallah and attributed to a programme director in the United States Department of Defense (copy attached). The frenzied call by the prime minister of the Zionist entity for an international alliance against Libya, Iraq and Iran must also be borne in mind in this connection.

The United States of America is trying to mobilize international public opinion against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and to incite countries against it, and it expresses its deep concern. It does all of this on the basis of reports fabricated by the CIA, and it is not ashamed to do so while turning a blind eye to the actual dangers of the Israeli nuclear arsenal. It is even the case that it expresses no concern at the risks arising out of the safety situation at the Israeli nuclear reactor at Dimona despite growing doubts in the region and even in Israel itself concerning safety procedures there.

As it denies in the strongest terms the United States claims that there is a plant for the production of chemical weapons near the town of Tarhunah, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya would like to call attention to the grave character of the United States threats, which are totally incompatible with the purposes of the United Nations as they relate to the maintenance of international peace and security and the promotion of friendly relations among nations. This policy is also incompatible with the principle of the non-use of force in international relations.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its enclosure circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Omar Mustafa AL-MUNTASSER  
Secretary of the General People's Committee  
for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation

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Enclosure

Article from Al-Majallah, issue No. 847, 5-11 May 1996, page 12

THE UNITED STATES NEEDS TWO YEARS TO DESTROY THE LIBYAN PLANT

Harold Smith, Assistant to the United States Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Defense Programs, has said that the United States will need at least two years to develop a non-nuclear weapon capable of destroying the chemical weapons plant that the United States Government claims Libya is presently building inside a mountain. The United States official indicated, in particular, that two unsuccessful experiments have thus far been carried out on a bomb capable of destroying underground sites such as that of the plant, which Libya denies is intended for weapons production.

The special fuzes designed to ignite the high explosives after the bomb penetrates deep inside the facility were unable to perform this task during the two experiments carried out at the White Sands proving ground in New Mexico.

The Libyan plant, which Director of Central Intelligence John M. Deutch says will be the largest chemical weapons factory in the world, may be ready to go into operation within a year according to United States officials. United States Secretary of Defense William J. Perry has stated that the United States cannot allow this to happen.

Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi, for his part, says that the plant is part of a water distribution network, and he has offered to give his agreement, subject to certain conditions, to allowing an inspection team to verify that fact.

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