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LETTER DATED 15 FEBRUARY 1979 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED
TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

With reference to the sore dispute between the two brother African countries, the United Republic of Tanzania and the Republic of Uganda, I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter addressed to Your Excellency from Dr. Ali Abdulsalam Al-Treiki, Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

I would be grateful if it could be arranged for the text of this letter to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mansur R. KIKHIA
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 15 February 1979 from the Secretary for Foreign
Affairs of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya addressed to the
Secretary-General

The dispute between brothers, which is now taking place on the borders of Uganda and Tanzania, is very regrettable. The continuation of this dispute will have negative effects on the two sister States and on the whole continent of Africa, which continues to face the aggression of its racist enemies, and continues the struggle for the full liberation of the African peoples. Furthermore, this dispute constitutes a threat to international peace and security.

Since the beginning of the dispute, the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya made intensive efforts to bring to an end the blood letting in the heart of Africa. Immediately after President Julius Nyerere's announcement that Ugandan troops had crossed the eastern borders and entered into Tanzania, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya began to work for the evacuation of the Ugandan troops. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya dispatched the Secretary of Information and Cultural Affairs to the area and received, in our country, several delegations from both countries.

We believe that the African peoples are able, based on the African spirit and tradition, to solve their problems by themselves, without interference from outside. We are confident that President Amin and President Nyerere did their utmost to avoid the dispute between their peoples and the peoples of Africa, and to prevent escalation and outside interference. In spite of all this, we made efforts to bring about the evacuation of the Ugandan troops in a friendly manner.

We find that President Amin's announcement, that Tanzanian troops have crossed the borders and entered into Uganda, a matter of great danger to the peace and security of Africa and we fear that it might lead to a further complication of the situation.

Therefore, Your Excellency, we deem it necessary and urgent to act, in order to bring about a peaceful evacuation of the Tanzanian troops and to reach a peaceful solution of this conflict. We hope that this can be achieved through the prompt actions of Your Excellency, so that the bloodshed will be stopped and the energies and capabilities of the African peoples will be freed, so that they can be used in the struggle for freedom against the racist enemies who now threaten them. We believe that all African States must unite their forces and direct them against their enemy in South Africa. We believe that it is our duty to make every effort to solve this dispute, and not allow it to be used by all those who wish to exploit it for their benefit.

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Again, Your Excellency, we hope that you will act promptly to end this dispute, guided by the principle that no State has the right to overthrow the régime of another State by peaceful means or any other means.

Dr. Ali Abulsalam AL-TREIKI
Secretary for Foreign Affairs
The Socialist People's
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
