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LETTER DATED 9 OCTOBER 1978 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CHAD  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Following the issue of Security Council document S/12857 of 21 September 1978 concerning the communiqué of 12 September 1978, issued at Ndjamena by the Government of National Unity and appealing to those brothers still engaged in armed opposition to rejoin the great family of Chad, the Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya saw fit to follow up that communiqué with a letter that he requested should be distributed as a document of the Security Council (S/12870).

On the instructions of my Government, I am transmitting herewith a statement of clarification and request you to distribute the text as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) B. DESSANDE

Annex

By its action in having distributed a letter in response to the communiqué issued on 12 September 1978 by the Government of National Unity in which it appealed to those brothers still engaged in armed opposition to rejoin the great family of Chad, the Libyan Government, through its Representative to the United Nations, is demonstrating clearly to the world that it is genuinely and profoundly disturbed by what is happening in Chad.

The Libyan Representative maintains that the contents of the said communiqué with regard to accusations against the Libyan Jamahiriya are baseless and unfounded and "merely constitute fabricated accusations and fictitious claims".

There is reason to wonder what interest the Government of Chad might have in gratuitously accusing any of its neighbours unless it had irrefutable proofs of the latter's interference in its internal affairs. Contrary to the assertions in the Libyan letter, the Government of Chad has never denied the existence of internal difficulties.

That is, moreover, the essential reason why the Chad Armed Forces put an end, on 13 April 1975, to the régime which had created those difficulties.

Since that time, the new régime has made national reconciliation its highest priority, firmly convinced that on it depend the development and unity of the country. This national reconciliation has not been a mere statement of intent. The results achieved are ample proof of that. Nevertheless, if this work of national reconciliation has not been fully accomplished, that is primarily because it has been, and still is, seriously impeded by the Tripoli régime, which sees it as an obstacle to its expansionist aims.

It is common knowledge today that Libya is not only in military occupation of the Aouzou area in northern Chad but is giving material and financial aid to one of the armed opposition factions, which is so totally dependent on it as to have become its prisoner.

Furthermore, the members of the Libyan Armed Forces, trained by their foreign masters, are fighting openly beside this faction against the forces of order.

It is absolutely clear that the purpose of Libyan expansionism is to annex the whole Chad region of Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti and Kanem, or approximately one half of the national territory.

Libya is thus using certain Chad rebel elements in order to satisfy its hegemonist ambitions. That is, beyond any question, an attitude contrary to the principles of international law, in particular those relating to territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of other States.

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The truth is that Chad is being subjected to outright aggression by the Tripoli régime which, moreover, makes no secret of it. Otherwise, how can the following two contradictory statements in the letter in question be reconciled: "the problem that the Government of Chad is facing is absolutely an internal one and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has no responsibility in this regard" and "the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya did seek, and is always seeking a conciliation between the Governments of Chad and the Chadi revolutionaries"?

If Chad's problem is absolutely an internal one, as the Libyan representative states so categorically, why is Libya taking such an interest in it, when it has received no express invitation from the Government of Chad to become involved?

The Government of Chad has always asked Libya to refrain from interfering in its internal affairs. The affairs of Chad concern the people of Chad and them alone.

However, with the help of its wealth and its military power, Libya is using all possible means to create the worst possible difficulties in Chad in order better to dominate it and thereby annex a large part of its territory.

What other explanation is there for this unexpected, even hostile, reaction of Libya to a communiqué issued by the Government of National Unity as an appeal to all the people of Chad to unite in order to safeguard the unity of the country and ensure its economic and social development in peace?

It is truly heartbreaking to note that the Tripoli régime, with which the Ndjamená Government wishes to normalize its relations, is trying to sabotage any initiative aimed at the restoration of peace in Chad, the defence of its territorial integrity and the consolidation of its national unity.

In spite of the Libyan diversionist manoeuvres, Chad remains convinced that an urgent and equitable solution will be found to this serious dispute between two fraternal neighbouring countries, within the framework of the relevant resolution of the fifteenth Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, adopted in July 1978 at Khartoum. For the present, the Government of Chad, strengthened in its conviction that Chad is the victim of Libyan aggression, firmly upholds the terms of the communiqué of 12 September 1978.

With regard to the fallacious Libyan allegations, the Government of Chad would merely call to witness the international community in general and the members of the Security Council in particular and to request that a fact-finding committee be appointed forthwith to ascertain on the spot the truth of the statements which it has made and which it maintains.

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