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LETTER DATED 13 FEBRUARY 1978 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF CHAD TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE
SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith two texts entitled respectively: Important communication from General Felix Malloum Ngakoutou Bey-Ndi, President of the Supreme Military Council and Head of State of Chad, to the heads of diplomatic missions accredited to Ndjamená, and Statement of General Felix Malloum Ngakoutou Bey-Ndi, President of the Supreme Military Council and Head of State of Chad.

In the communication of 8 February, after noting the refusal of Libya to seek a settlement by peaceful means and the military operations directed by remote control and supported materially by Tripoli, the Head of State declared to the diplomats that Chad was awaiting material assistance from their countries to enable it to defend the integrity of its national territory.

In the statement of 12 February an appeal for a cease-fire is again launched. Also, the Head of State declares that if by 16 February 1978 the cease-fire has gone into effect, the Supreme Military Council, which is the Supreme Organ of the Nation, will reconsider the complaint lodged by Chad with the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this communication circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) B. DESSANDE

Annex I

Communication dated 8 February 1978 addressed to the heads of diplomatic missions accredited to Ndjamena by General Felix Malloum Ngakoutou Bey-Ndi, President of the Supreme Military Council and Head of State of the Republic of Chad

During our previous meetings I have had occasion to stress that Chad intended to maintain good relations with all States. This attitude derives from the fact that no country can seek to escape the law of interdependence of nations. This continues to be our concern, provided that this principle does not give rise to any interference whatsoever in the internal affairs of any of the parties.

Good relations necessarily imply that any dispute between two partners should be solved by way of negotiation. In this spirit we have sought, since 13 April 1975, to find a basis of understanding with Libya. None of the initiatives undertaken along these lines has led to any positive result. Quite the contrary, this neighbouring country, conscious of its power, systematically avoids any dialogue on this very subject. While the Libyan leaders loudly proclaim their desire for the normalization of relations, they are unleashing in the B.E.T. a far-reaching military offensive. Yet the principle of a meeting between the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the two countries has been accepted by the Government of Chad. The aggression thus perpetrated is the doing of the Government at Tripoli only, for the military operations reflect the exact watchwords broadcast daily by Radio Tripoli. Thus no one has any illusions that Libya is disposed to seek a settlement of the situation by peaceful means, particularly since the work of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Organization of African Unity is not making any progress. Nor is it Chad that is the cause of the situation.

In addition to the above, there is the occupation by force of Aouzou. Libya is blocking all attempts at national reconciliation. However, it is clear that all forces are disposed to commit themselves to the process of genuine national reconciliation.

Despite the obstacles, the leaders of Chad are continuing to seek internal peace so as to be able to mobilize all the vital forces of the nation for the reconstruction and development of the country.

Today we have just cause for affirming on the basis of full evidence that this is a case of flagrant aggression against Chad. Libyan interference in Chad's internal affairs has gone beyond all bounds. The intensity of the fighting in the B.E.T., thanks to the large-scale provision of resources in the form of men and war matériel, gives ample proof of the presence of Libyan troops in the area.

Thus the annexationist ambitions of the Government of Tripoli are obvious. Yesterday it was Bardai, Zouar and Ounianga; today Faya and Fada are being attacked. What does tomorrow hold?

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You cannot fail to see that the prospects for Chad are alarming. Thus I have every justification for insisting on speaking to you about the matter so that you can inform your respective Governments. I am convinced that this is not a matter of information pure and simple, for the character of our relations requires that you should tell them clearly what is the nature of the assistance which we expect from them. Chad's resources being what they are, I have no hesitation in telling you that we expect to receive from the friendly and brotherly countries which you represent the military assistance called for in the circumstances. The purpose of this urgent appeal for assistance which we are making is to enable us to defend the integrity of our national territory threatened by a powerful neighbour.

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Annex II

Statement dated 12 February 1978 from General Felix Malloum Ngakoutou
Bey-Ndi, President of the Supreme Military Council and Head of State
of the Republic of Chad

"The fighting in the B.E.T. is causing the needless loss of many human lives. This is the observation made once again by the Supreme Military Council meeting, this evening. The principal task entrusted to the Supreme Organ of the Nation by GROFAT (Group of Officers of the Armed Forces of Chad) is to restore peace and harmony in the country. In this spirit the Supreme Military Council feels that it has the duty to appeal once again for a cease-fire. This appeal is addressed to all those who are fighting at the scene of the hostilities, so that their weapons may be silenced tonight at 2400 hours.

"Once again the Supreme Military Council stresses that it has never had the intention to seize power. This is not an empty statement. Thus the institutions of the State are provisional. Moreover, in the initiatives aimed at national reconciliation, no opposition tendency whatever has been excluded. On the contrary, all the opposing tendencies have been invited to make known the conditions for their return to the great Chad family. This willingness on the part of the Supreme Military Council to consider such conditions has led to negotiations which have had positive results.

"In making this statement, and at the urgent request of General Gaafar Mohamed Nimeiry, President of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan, the Supreme Military Council wishes it to be understood that it will reconsider the complaint lodged with the Security Council if by 16 February 1978 the cease-fire has gone into effect.

"In so doing, the Chad authorities hope that everything will be done to make possible an immediate cessation of hostilities. It can then be hoped that Libya will understand this new manifestation of good will."
