

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/12560
14 February 1978

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 14 FEBRUARY 1978 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In reference to the complaint lodged by the Chad Government against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in documents S/12554 and S/12555 dated 9 February 1978, I have the honour to inform you that the contents of that complaint are baseless and unfounded. They merely constitute fabricated accusations and fictitious claims. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, therefore, rejects the complaint entirely in form and substance.

It is our belief that the problem that the Chad régime is facing, and with which it is very preoccupied, is absolutely an internal one, that is, the revolt of the majority of the Chad people against it. This revolution of the Chad masses, especially in the north and the east, curtails the powers of the régime and, in fact, threatens its very existence. Thus, the problem is entirely an internal affair within the Chad territory about which the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has no concern or responsibility.

It is obvious, therefore, that the régime in N'Djamena has designed to implicate the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in its serious problem to make of it a scapegoat. Through this way, the said régime thinks that it can divert attention from the critical situation it is facing and conceal its failure to control the Chad people. In fact, such a tactic is not unprecedented in recent Chad history. The previous régime also, whenever confronted with similar situations resorted to empty accusations and false allegations against the Chad neighbours. To mention in this context as an example: the accusations made in 1966 against its neighbour, the Sudan, of interference in the internal affairs of Chad.

The revolution in Chad has been in existence since before the Libyan revolution - in fact since the period of French colonization. The area of instability referred to by the N'Djamena régime, is approximately 1,000 kilometres from the Libyan frontier. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya is not involved in the struggle between the Chad people and the Chad régime. It is solely an internal affair of Chad, and with which only Chad itself can be concerned. No one else bears any responsibility for it.

The régime in N'Djame, however, for the reasons and objectives I have explained, has been attacking the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on all occasions with

vicious accusations and senseless claims. That régime has also undertaken provocative measures against Libya and its citizens, such as for example the Libyan Embassy and diplomats in N'Djamena, at variance with diplomatic practice and tradition. Libyan nationals in Chad have been subjected to restrictions, provocation and persecution. As evidence of this, we in addition draw attention to some acts of provocation taken by the régime in N'Djamena against Libyan citizens and interests.

- The President of Chad assailed the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on 11 July 1977, accusing it of occupying a part of the territory of Chad, and claiming that as constituting a threat to the independence and unity of Chad.

- During the last session of the General Assembly, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chad, on 7 October 1977, attacked the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and claimed that his country was being exposed to measures undertaken by what he called the Qaddafi régime.

- In October 1976, the Libyan Ambassador in N'Djamena was summoned by the Foreign Ministry of Chad, and threatened with the expulsion of all Libyan nationals from Chad.

- On 2 October 1976, the Chad authorities closed the border with the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. Libyan nationals in Chad were subjected to inhuman treatment, including detention and arrest. Their bank accounts were frozen, their commercial enterprises were closed and they were prohibited from leaving Chad.

- The Chad authorities disconnected the telephone and telecommunication facilities of the Libyan Embassy and the residence of the Libyan Ambassador in N'Djamena. It froze the accounts of the Embassy and of its staff. One of the cars belonging to the Embassy was fired upon.

- On 15 January 1978, the Chad authorities stopped the carrier of the Libyan diplomatic pouch at N'Djamena Airport. The pouch was seized, searched and all the letters were opened.

- The Chad authorities stopped implementation of the agreements between the two countries designed to develop co-operation and good neighbourly relations between the two brotherly peoples.

- A committee of the Chad Ministry of Agriculture entered the premises of the Chad-Libyan Meat Company without informing the Libyan side, and confiscated the property of said company.

- The Chad authorities closed the Chad-Libyan Arab Joint Bank, expelled its employees, and froze its accounts.

- The Chad authorities closed the Libyan Cultural Center in N'Djamena and forcefully removed a member of its staff.

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None the less, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya does not consider that there exist serious problems between it and Chad. The so-called problem related to boundaries between the two countries could be dealt with by negotiations between the two countries, or in the context of the Organization of African Unity, whose charter and resolutions we adhere to and implement. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has demonstrated its willingness to co-operate with the Organization of African Unity in its attempt to resolve differences between the two parties. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya welcomed the efforts expended by our African brothers to restore cordial relations between Libya and Chad. Colonel Mu'ammarr Al-Qaddafi declared in Niamey on 22 January 1978 his acceptance of the request of President Kountche, to convene in Niamey a meeting of Foreign Ministers of Niger, Chad and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on 7 February 1978. In fact, the Libyan Secretary for Foreign Affairs arrived in Niamey on 6 February 1978 to participate at this meeting. The Chad authorities instead of attending this meeting, surprised everybody with its decision to suspend diplomatic relations between Chad and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, and to demand the departure of the Libyan Ambassador and all his staff from N'Djamena.

Thus, while the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has expressed its willingness to do its best to work together with the Chad régime within the framework of the Organization of African Unity and to co-operate with its Ad Hoc Committee formed for mediating the dispute between Chad and Libya, the Chad régime has not indicated any hint of readiness or willingness to develop an appropriate atmosphere in this regard for the Ad Hoc Committee to assume its task.

The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya strongly protests this behaviour and these measures taken by the Chad régime, and the attempts to implicate it in Chad's internal problems. It is obvious that in this attempt, the Chad régime is exploiting the propaganda campaign being waged by the imperialist and Zionist information media against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya because of its position in support of issues of liberation, thinking that the time is appropriate to attack Libya on the international level.

The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya bases its policy upon the principle of good neighbourly relations and is convinced of the importance of developing and strengthening brotherly and friendly relations with Chad in the common interest of our peoples. In this regard, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya was one of the first States to recognize the Chad régime upon its assumption of power on 13 April 1975. From the very first days of the new régime, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has permitted the overflight of Chad military and civilian aircraft across Libyan airspace without requiring prior permission. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya extended emergency medical assistance and supplies to Chad when it needed that. Upon the request of Chad, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya transported Chad citizens resident in Libya, returning them to their own country. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya accepted, upon the request of the Chad régime, to mediate between the Chad régime and the leaders of the opposition, by convening a meeting between the two sides so as to achieve national reconciliation between them. But the Chad Government for its part failed to undertake any measures that would demonstrate its good wishes or the sincerity of its intentions in this regard.

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S/12560
English
Page 4

The Chad régime responded with neglect and insult to the efforts and attempts of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to assist it in overcoming its difficult situation and helping national reconciliation in Chad. It met the good intentions of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya with distrust, provocations and manoeuvres.

I request that the above facts be brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and be distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mansur R. KIKHIA
Permanent Representative
