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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION
ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE
TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-first year

Letter dated 17 May 1976 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a message addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, member of the Council of the Revolution and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, concerning the question of Western Sahara.

On instructions from my Government, I request you to arrange for this message to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdellatif RAHAL
Permanent Representative of Algeria
to the United Nations

* A/31/51.

ANNEX

Message from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of
the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
addressed to the Secretary-General

The agreement relating to the delimitation of the frontier between Mauritania and Morocco and the agreement on economic co-operation between the two countries in Western Sahara, signed on 14 April 1976 by the Governments of Rabat and Nouakchott, by arbitrarily deciding to divide that Territory, its people and its natural resources, fall fully within the framework of the policy of aggression and fait accompli pursued by those two Governments in Western Sahara since last autumn, and in particular since the tripartite agreement signed at Madrid on 14 November 1975.

The speed with which those agreements have been ratified by the countries occupying Western Sahara serves only one purpose, namely to consolidate the annexationist and expansionist nature of the policy pursued by Rabat and Nouakchott and to impede the measures envisaged by the General Assembly, in particular in its resolution 3458 A and B (XXX) adopted on 10 December 1975, to enable the people of Western Sahara to exercise their right to self-determination.

These developments testify to a fixed determination to block any avenue which might lead to a peaceful solution to the problem. In acting in this manner, the Governments of Mauritania and Morocco assume responsibility for a threat to peace and security in the region. It is, moreover, significant that the said agreements were signed only a few days after the Governments of Morocco and Mauritania had refused to comply with their obligations as States Members of the United Nations by not permitting the special representative of the Secretary-General to carry out his mission, which was to take all the necessary measures forthwith to enable the people of Western Sahara to exercise fully and freely their inalienable right to self-determination under the supervision of the United Nations.

Thus, the Moroccan and Mauritanian Governments persist in their attitude of aggressor States with all the consequences which that entails with regard to the relevant provisions of the Charter, of resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, containing the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, and of resolution 3314 (XXIX) of 14 December 1974, containing a definition of aggression, which indicates as a clear case of aggression the failure to comply with the "duty of States not to use armed force to deprive peoples of their right to self-determination, freedom and independence".

The agreements signed at Rabat on 14 April 1976, which, like the Madrid agreement of 14 November 1975 of which they are a corollary, were concluded against the wishes of the United Nations, constitute a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (resolution 1514 (XV)) and an additional obstacle to the efforts being made by the United Nations to ensure the peaceful and harmonious decolonization of the Territory of Western Sahara, whose population is today the target of a genuine policy of genocide to which the international community cannot remain indifferent.

While reiterating the position which it expressed with regard to the question of Western Sahara in the memorandum addressed to you and issued in document A/31/48-S/11971 of 6 February 1976, Algeria accords no validity to the agreements signed at Rabat on 14 April 1976, which it regards as null and void. The Governments of Morocco and Mauritania have no right to dispose of the Territory of Western Sahara, of the future of its people and of its natural resources. The people of Western Sahara, who are waging a liberation struggle in the face of a war of genocide imposed on them, are alone competent to decide on the future of their country, free from any pressure or interference.

The United Nations, which has a direct responsibility to ensure the implementation of the right of the people of Western Sahara to self-determination, has a bounden duty to require, as a matter of urgency, respect for international legality and the fundamental principles of the Charter which guarantee the people of Western Sahara the exercise of their inalienable right to self-determination by means of a free and genuine referendum under the supervision of the United Nations, and consequently to eliminate any threat to the peace and security of the region.

(Signed) Abdelaziz BOUTEFLIKA
Member of the Council of the Revolution
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
