



UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



SECURITY
COUNCIL

Distr.
GENERAL

A/36/627
S/14736
27 October 1981

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Thirty-sixth session
Agenda item 33
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-sixth year

Letter dated 23 October 1981 from the Permanent Representative of
Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions of my Government, I have the honour to forward to you the text of a statement made by an official spokesman of the Arab Republic of Egypt commenting on a statement issued by the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics addressed to the Government of the United States of America, later quoted by the Soviet News Agency Tass on 12 October 1981 and circulated in document A/36/595-S/14727.

I kindly request that this letter and the text annexed thereto be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 33, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) A. Esmat ABDEL MEGUID
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Statement by an official spokesman of the Government of Egypt

Commenting on an official statement issued by the Government of the U.S.S.R. on 12 October 1981, and later quoted by the Soviet News Agency Tass, on a so-called pressure being exerted upon Egypt and attempts intended to interfere in Egyptian internal affairs, an official spokesman of the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt made the following statement:

"The rejection by Egypt of all policies of interference and intervention by foreign powers in the internal affairs of other countries has always been, and will remain, one of the fundamental principles of the foreign policy of Egypt which emanates from a full and profound belief in and adherence to the policy of non-alignment.

"Since the statement of the Government of the U.S.S.R amounts to an infringement upon Egyptian sovereignty and freedom in decision-making, the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt declares its full rejection of such a way of interfering in Egyptian national affairs under the guise of the so-called impact of recent developments around Egypt on the interests of Soviet security. This allegation, in itself, reveals a hegemonistic policy which the U.S.S.R attempts to exercise in the Middle East region thereby playing a primary role in fomenting turmoil therein.

"The Government of the U.S.S.R., which it seems, has taken it upon itself to defend Egypt against alleged interference in its internal affairs, is fully aware that the Egyptian people and leadership have always held to its freedom in decision-making and

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rejection of all forms and manifestations of interference and domination as among the basic fundamentals of the Egyptian foreign policy, which does not tolerate the imposition of tutelage by any foreign power upon the destiny of the Egyptian people.

"Soviet circles are apparently unable to differentiate between the policies of interference and the ties of friendship and co-operation based on mutual respect, the full liberty of peoples to decide for themselves, the latter being characteristic of the U.S.A.-Egyptian relations; and if anyone should claim the right to speak on the interference in the destinies of other peoples, Tass News Agency is definitely the last in such a claim. Peoples in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe stand as witnesses to the flagrant testimonies of interference and aggression in Afghanistan, Chad and elsewhere.

"Nobody dare level the accusation against Egypt that she has forfeited her sovereignty or freedom of decision-making, being one of the three founding members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and is still discharging her responsibilities in rectifying the performance of this Movement and protecting it from attempts at polarization. Again, it was Egypt who decided to launch the 1973 October War against the consensus of both super powers to freeze the situation in the Middle East at that time. Ultimately it is also Egypt who pursues singlehandedly the process of a comprehensive peace and the solution of the Palestinian question in all its aspects, in fulfillment of the aspirations of the Palestinian people in the exercise of their legitimate right to self-determination."