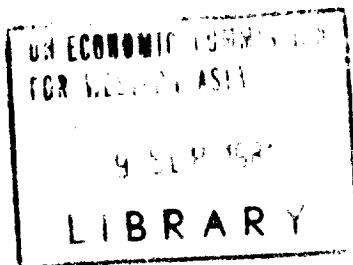




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Sana'a, Yemen

Communication from the Delegation of Egypt

(Note by the Executive Secretary)

On 6 May 1981 the Executive Secretary received the following communication from the Head of the Delegation of Egypt to the eighth session of the Commission.

"Sir,

I have the honour to request that the attached statement be circulated to the delegations participating in the Commission's eighth session at Sana'a.

(signed)

Mohamed Saïd Louffi

Head of the Delegation of Egypt

81-4114

Statement submitted by the delegation of  
Egypt to the eighth session of the  
Economic Commission for Western Asia

At the first working meeting of the ECWA session the Syrian delegation made a new attempt to create an atmosphere of tension and hostility and to introduce extraneous subjects aimed at causing the Commission to depart from its basic tasks which are of an economic nature.

It has been the policy of the Egyptian Arab Republic at this session to remain aloof from repetitive, useless and time-consuming bickering and to maintain a self-control which seems to have been misunderstood in some quarters. However, the unacceptable sophistry and deception contained in the Syrian statement has made it necessary for us to reply and to resist that attempt.

We, here present, are not those responsible for the formulation of policy in our countries, but it is not difficult for the ordinary individual in the Arab world to perceive the full extent of the deception and of the assault made upon member States contained in the statement of the Syrian delegation which has distorted the truth to such an extent as to do it grave violence. It has given fanciful details of Egyptian policy with a wonderful capacity for distorting facts and concealing information which leaves us astonished and has made us wonder whether the spokesman for the Syrian delegation was aware of the policy of his own country.

For Syria does accept Security Council Resolution 242(1967) which implies, in itself, the acceptance of a peaceful solution and the recognition of the existence of and secure borders for all States in the region. Syria has also accepted all Security Council resolutions calling for peaceful solutions to the Middle East problem.

.../

Syria also adheres scrupulously to the disengagement agreements and extends periodically and automatically the period of service of the international emergency forces on its borders.

Syria was, moreover, in the forefront of these countries which participated in the Baghdad Conference which accepted a peaceful solution to the problem.

Meanwhile the spokesman for the Syrian delegation suggested in his statement that the fifth Arab war of liberation was imminent.

At the same time, Egypt, which has sacrificed tens of thousands of martyrs and billions of its wealth in the Arab cause, considers its armed forces a protective shield in a state of constant readiness to defend every inch of Arab territory. This is our known and declared position, as can be objectively ascertained, and is not susceptible to falsification. The armed might of Egypt is at the disposal of whichever of its Arab brethren requests it and there is not a single member of this Commission who is ignorant of this fact.

Egypt is pursuing a course which it has never claimed to be the most perfect that it could wish for its cause, but it will certainly not abdicate any right or evacuate any territory and will exploit all the possibilities available to it in order to reach a just and peaceful solution to its cause and the cause of the nation to which it belongs without submitting to the tutelage of anyone. On the contrary, we shall not accept such tutelage. Let every party be aware of the true scope of its power, for we shall not suspend the course of time and await the end of those problems in which others are immersed."

ANNEX

1. Paragraph 1 of the sixth article of the Peace Treaty signed at Washington in 1978 stipulates as follows:

"This Treaty shall not impinge upon and shall not be interpreted in such a manner as to impinge upon the rights and obligations of the Parties thereto under the Charter of the United Nations."

2. In paragraph 10 of the explanatory note on Decision number 153, 1979 of the President of the Egyptian Arab Republic it is stated that:

"It should be noted that paragraph 5 of the sixth article of the Treaty states categorically that Article 103 of the charter of the United Nations, which gives precedence to the provisions of the Charter over those treaties, and the provisions of Chapter 8 of the Charter concerning regional arrangements and organizations, shall not be impinged upon and grants the right of legitimate collective defence under joint defence treaties."

3. In the statement of the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Mustafa Khalil, to the People's Assembly on 5 April 1979 it was stated that:

"The Treaty does not ~~impinge~~ upon the obligations of the Egyptian Arab Republic or upon its national and historical allegiance to the Arab nation and does not give Israel occasion to claim any special status in its relations with Egypt."