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Agenda item 19

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

QUESTION OF WESTERN SAHARA

Letter dated 6 November 1981 from the Permanent Representative of  
Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government I have the honour to request you kindly to have the following message (see annex) from His Excellency Mr. Chadli Bendjedid, President of Algeria, Secretary-General of the National Liberation Front, addressed to His Excellency Mr. Daniel Arap Moi, President of Kenya, current President of the Organization of African Unity, distributed as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 19.

(Signed) Mohammed BEDJAOUI



## ANNEX

Message from His Excellency Mr. Chadli Bendjedid, President of Algeria, Secretary-General of the National Liberation Front, addressed to His Excellency Mr. Daniel Arap Moi, President of Kenya and current President of the Organization of African Unity

With regard to the brotherly dialogue that we have instituted on all the problems of our continent, you have kindly informed me, by your message of 30 October 1981, of your feelings regarding the current consideration of the question of Western Sahara in the United Nations; in particular, you have thought that Algeria should withdraw the draft resolution which it has brought before the decolonization committee of the General Assembly.

First of all, I assure you that I understand the spirit which prompts your action as I greatly appreciate your untiring efforts to complete the peace process established by the eighteenth Summit Conference of the Organization of African Unity held in your beautiful and hospitable capital. Under your enlightened leadership and thanks to the lucid approach that you share with your eminent colleagues, the Heads of State members of the Implementation Committee, the practical modalities of the process for enabling the people of Western Sahara freely to determine their future by a general and regular self-determination referendum have been formulated.

As you are aware, the Nairobi Summit and the Implementation Committee have both provided for the participation of the United Nations in the organization and conduct of the referendum operations in Western Sahara.

It is perfectly natural for the United Nations, which has had the case of Western Sahara before it as a decolonization issue since 1966, should be dealing with this question this year again, specifically in the light of the decisions of the Organization of African Unity.

It is in this connexion that 44 States Members of the United Nations, some 30 of which, including Algeria, are African States, have submitted a draft resolution endorsing the debate of the United Nations decolonization committee on the question of Western Sahara.

This draft resolution is quite clearly a consensus text; indeed it welcomes and takes note of the decisions of the Organization of African Unity and of its Implementation Committee. It also provides a legal and political basis for the United Nations to participate with the Organization of African Unity in the implementation of its decisions.

Furthermore, with a view to enlisting the support of the international community for the work of the Organization of African Unity, this text does not, unlike previous years, contain substantive elements that might not win the agreement of the occupying Power.

This draft resolution rightly emphasizes the necessary negotiation between the parties to the conflict, as is, moreover, provided in the decision of the Implementation Committee. Reiterated by the United Nations, the appeal for negotiation and a cease-fire, contained in the decisions of the Organization of African Unity, takes on particular significance after the recent military operations carried out in Western Sahara by the combatant units of the Frente POLISARIO. Accordingly, in the exercise of its authority, the United Nations, by adopting this draft resolution, will be only strengthening the work of the Organization of African Unity and extending its action for peace in Western Sahara.

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