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Thirty-seventh session
Item 29 of the preliminary list*

CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE
ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

Letter dated 3 March 1982 from the Permanent Representative
of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention the fact that at the thirty-eighth session of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity (a so-called "budgetary" session), held at Addis Ababa at the end of February 1982, a number of serious violations both of the provisions of the OAU Charter and the rules of procedure of the Council of Ministers and of the earlier decisions of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government were perpetrated with a view to attaining at all costs unavowed objectives likely to obstruct the peace process unanimously approved by the Conference and even to endangering the very existence of OAU.

A large number of member countries have refused to countenance these manoeuvres, which they have described as thoughtless and even as scandalous, and have therefore decided to suspend their participation in the Council's work, pending the adoption of even more far-reaching measures.

In these circumstances, all the decisions taken by this Council, which in fact no longer even had the quorum required by the Charter, are null and void.

No less than 19 member countries officially announced their withdrawal to the Chairman of the thirty-eighth session, who nevertheless considered it possible to proceed with the so-called "work" of the Council.

Following this new show of force, the 19 States which had withdrawn lodged a strong protest against this illegal procedure, and stated that all the decisions of that Council were null and void.

* A/37/50.

A/37/107

English

Page 2

I enclose the text of the message addressed to the Chairman of the Council of Ministers by the 19 countries which had announced their withdrawal.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this communication as a document of the General Assembly under item 29 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Mehdi MRANI ZENTAR
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Text of the message addressed to the Chairman of the thirty-eighth session of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, held at Addis Ababa in February 1982, on behalf of the representatives of the 19 member countries which withdrew from the work of the session

In the absence of a quorum at Sunday morning's meeting, after 19 States had notified you in good and due form of their withdrawal from the work, you nevertheless saw fit to allow the proceedings of this thirty-eighth session to continue. We the undersigned, representatives of the member States which withdrew from the work of this session:

(1) Strongly protest against this new show of force, which does not do credit to Africa and which, in addition, constitutes a flagrant violation of rule 18 of the rules of procedure of the Council of Ministers, despite the pertinent observations concerning the illegality of the procedure made by one delegation present at the meeting.

(2) Hereby announce that we consider all the decisions of this Council to be null and void. We request you to transmit the text of this letter to the current Chairman of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU and to the member States. Accept, Sir, the assurances of our highest consideration.

(Signed) D. Y. PENDGE
Secretary for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Zaire

For and on behalf of the following 19 countries:

Cameroon, Central African Republic, Comoros, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mauritius, Morocco, Niger, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia, Upper Volta and Zaire.