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

Note verbale dated 25 May 1982 from the Permanent Representative of  
Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to enclose herewith the text of a message from His Excellency President Hosni Mubarak, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, on the occasion of Africa Day.

I would be grateful if the enclosed message were circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 29 of the preliminary list.

\* A/37/50/Rev.1.

ANNEX

Message dated 25 May 1982 from the President of the  
Arab Republic of Egypt on the occasion of Africa Day

The Arab Republic of Egypt, together with other African States, celebrates Africa Day every year on this date. It was 19 years ago to the day that the birth of the Organization of African Unity was proclaimed when 32 African Heads of State and Government signed the charter providing for the establishment of OAU.

This great event marked the start of a new and decisive era in the history of the peoples of our great continent, and in its heroic march towards freedom, independence, unity and the achievement of prosperity and progress for its people.

Today, 50 countries representing one third of the international community have joined OAU. The Organization, moreover, plays a prominent and influential role in international and regional affairs, and deals with all political and economic problems in a manner commensurate with the interests of its people and the peoples of the world at large.

The Arab Republic of Egypt is happy to participate with the brotherly people of the continent in celebrating this glorious day, since Egypt is an integral part of Africa, and believes in all the principles and the noble objectives of OAU. In this regard, Egypt is motivated by the unity of objective and destiny which binds it to its African brethren.

Today as we celebrate Africa Day, and note with pride all the achievements realized by OAU for the liberation of the people of the continent, it is incumbent on us to make a conscious review of the current African situation, and the problems and challenges faced by our great continent, and discuss together the means to deal with them and find the most suitable and urgent solutions to those problems and challenges.

Indeed, the most serious danger facing our continent today, more than at any time before, is the danger of internal division which threatens the unity and the entity of OAU, and even its very existence, as a system embodying the aspirations of the people of the continent, and the objectives which it endeavours to attain.

We see no other way to deal with this danger except by maintaining the unity and independence of the continent, and keeping it away from the big Powers' struggle, and from the policy of hegemony pursued by some of those Powers or their interference in its internal affairs. We must abide faithfully and scrupulously by the provisions of the OAU charter, and respect all the resolutions adopted by the OAU summit conferences, in their capacity as the organization's highest forums.

The Arab Republic of Egypt welcomes, in this respect, every effort and every positive, constructive move undertaken by the African States to safeguard the cohesion of the organization, and avoid the eruption of divisions among its members.

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The Arab Republic of Egypt has contributed, and is still fully prepared to contribute, by assuming a role that would help to achieve this noble objective. Egypt is actually making strenuous efforts, because of its responsibility toward Africa and its vanguard role, to contain the current crisis facing OAU and to reconcile the views of its members in an effort to overcome the grave dilemma facing the organization and thus maintain its unity and steadfastness.

It is highly deplorable that, in the last decades of the twentieth century, there are still people in Africa who have not yet attained their independence and régimes that pursue a policy of racial segregation and persecution.

In spite of the struggle waged by these people, and despite the material and moral aid which they receive from the international community as represented in the United Nations, and from the African peoples represented in OAU, and in spite of the numerous resolutions adopted by the two organizations imposing a total embargo on the racist régime in South Africa, these people remain unliberated and continue to suffer from obnoxious racist policies.

Since the racist régime in South Africa has refused to comply with the judgement of world and African public opinion by desisting from such policies, it is imperative that we extend all possible aid and support to the Namibian people, led by SWAPO, in their heroic struggle to achieve their country's independence, and in their unabated struggle against the racist South African régime in order to achieve freedom, equality and dignity.

The Arab Republic of Egypt, motivated by its historical responsibility towards the people of the continent, and abiding by its principled position of supporting all African liberation movements, takes this opportunity to reaffirm that it will continue to support these liberation movements as it has always done, and to provide them with material and military aid until their people obtain their freedom and independence.

As the achievements of OAU this year include the formation of an African force to maintain peace and security in Chad following the withdrawal of foreign troops, we hope that the organization will finish the task which it has assumed of restoring peace and stability in an African State which suffered from foreign interference in its internal affairs, by bringing about a national reconciliation between the warring factions in that country. In this manner the brotherly people of Chad would be offered a suitable opportunity to rebuild their national economy and carry out the process of economic and social development in a proper climate.

It augurs well, indeed, that our celebration of Africa Day should coincide with the liberation of the remaining part of Sinai. For 25 April marks the completion of the Israeli withdrawal from an African land, thus bringing to an end Israel's occupation of part of an African State, and the return of a precious cherished land to Egypt.

The Government and people of the Arab Republic of Egypt take this opportunity to express their heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the African countries and to OAU for the full support and positive co-operation extended to Egypt in its struggle for peace, which was instrumental in helping it to regain all its lands.

As Egypt reaffirms its commitment to continue the peace process so that the Palestinian people may recover all their national legitimate rights, and so that just and over-all peace may prevail in the Middle East, it appeals to its brother African States to continue their aid and support for this process so as to achieve peace and stability in the area.

The deepening of African solidarity constitutes one of the most important factors and prerequisites in Egypt's foreign policy. Hence, believing in the importance of achieving this solidarity in the face of the economic challenges faced by the countries and peoples of the continent, Egypt endeavours to cement co-operation in this sphere, and diversify its forms and shapes at the level of African bilateral relations, or through co-ordination between the African countries and other developing countries in the North-South dialogue, or by deepening inter-African co-operation, as well as co-operation between the African and the developing countries (South-South dialogue).

Being keenly aware of the importance of pushing forward the wheel of economic development in Africa, and helping its countries with their endeavour to achieve this objective, Egypt has set up an Egyptian fund for technical co-operation with African countries. The fund provides education and training grants to African nationals, as well as Egyptian technical expertise to African countries in various spheres. This is in addition to Egypt's persistent and serious attempts to activate economic relations with other African countries in the best interest of the African people and their prosperity.

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