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

Letter dated 11 June 1979 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Algeria to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the message addressed by His Excellency Mr. Chadli Bendjedid, President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, and General Secretary of the National Liberation Front, to Marshall Mohammed Jaafar Numeiry, President of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan and current President of the Organization of African Unity.

On instructions from my Government I would request that you kindly arrange for this message to be issued as a General Assembly document under item 18 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Fathih BOUAYAD-AGHA
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

* A/34/50.

ANNEX

Message addressed on 9 June 1979 to Marshal Mohammed Jaafar Numeiry,
President of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan and current
President of the Organization of African Unity

The decision recently taken by the King of Morocco, concerning the exercise of an alleged right of hot pursuit with which he had previously threatened Algeria, prompts me to call your attention to the grave dangers now threatening the entire Maghreb region. This decision could well imperil peace and security in this part of the African continent.

Disregarding international ethics and the principles and resolutions of the United Nations, of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and of the non-aligned countries, Morocco has continued to occupy the territory of Western Sahara and forcibly to obstruct the exercise of the legitimate right of the people of Western Sahara to self-determination and independence although it is now recognized by the entire international community.

Morocco now wishes to embark on a new adventure and enter a new phase in the escalation, stating that it intends to extend its aggression to my country.

This bellicose attitude is being taken at a time when efforts, in addition to the peace initiatives of the Frente Polisario, are being made, particularly by our organization, to create a climate conducive to the quest for a just and lasting solution of the question of Western Sahara.

In application of the decision taken by the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the OAU, meeting under your distinguished chairmanship in your capital in July 1978, the Heads of State of Nigeria and Mali, members of the Ad Hoc Committee, accompanied by the Secretary-General of our organization, visited the Maghreb region to examine all the aspects of the question of Western Sahara, including the right of the people of that territory to self-determination.

The spirit prevailing during the exchange of views with all the parties concerned, including the Frente Polisario, strengthened our conviction that Africa, true to its noble traditions and its nature, can contribute to a just and lasting solution of the question of Western Sahara.

The United Nations, aware of the considerable responsibility it bears in the matter of decolonization of territories under colonial rule, affirmed the inalienable right of the people of Western Sahara to self-determination and independence at the thirty-third session of the General Assembly.

Mauritania, one of the parties directly concerned, recently reaffirmed, in a letter addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, its determination to seek, jointly with the Frente Polisario, a solution to the problem of Western Sahara through the exercise of the right of the people of that territory to self-determination, thereby recognizing that the question of Western Sahara is truly a problem of decolonization.

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Spain, the administering Power, only recently emphasized that it had never transferred sovereignty over that territory and that this decolonization problem called for an urgent political and peaceful solution for the territory as a whole, on the basis of respect for the principles and resolutions of the United Nations and the OAU on the subject, through the exercise of the right of the people of Western Sahara to self-determination.

Now, given the extent of the resistance on the part of the people of Western Sahara, the international following they have won, and the sympathy, solidarity and support shown to them, no one can deny the nature of the fight they are waging under the leadership of the Frente Polisario or disregard their determination to liberate their territory.

Only Morocco, with its intransigent attitude, continues to deny the existence of the people of Western Sahara and their right to self-determination. It persists in blaming Algeria for the military set-backs inflicted on it by the people of Western Sahara. This diversionary policy is designed to misrepresent a problem involving a struggle for national liberation as a bilateral dispute with Algeria.

But whatever manoeuvres Morocco attempts in order to create a situation of conflict with Algeria, they can never conceal the true origin of the problem, which arose as a result of the occupation of Western Sahara.

However, since it was itself the victim of colonial domination, Morocco should know that such domination inevitably engenders resistance among the people who have to endure it. This fact, which Morocco continues to disregard, has inevitably led it to apply colonial logic in resorting to so-called right of hot pursuit.

Is it not by virtue of that very same so-called right of hot pursuit that the racist régimes in Pretoria and Salisbury persist in committing repeated acts of aggression against Botswana, Zambia, Mozambique and Angola?

In the Middle East it is the same so-called right of hot pursuit that Israel resorts to in an attempt to justify its criminal attacks on Lebanon.

In the Maghreb, in southern Africa and in the Middle East the same diversionary tactics, characteristic of an obstinate refusal to deny the existence of peoples and the legitimacy of their struggle, are used to create artificially tense situations with neighbouring countries.

You yourself, Mr. President, have frequently had occasion to note the position of my country on the question of Western Sahara. This position remains unchanged. Algeria has no dispute with Morocco and has no claims on the territory of Western Sahara. The assistance and support which it is extending to the legitimate struggle of the people of that territory are a natural feature of its policy of supporting peoples struggling for their freedom and their independence.

Algeria, which has consistently encouraged all peace initiatives and all efforts to seek a just and lasting political solution to the question of Western

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Sahara on the basis of the principles and resolutions of the OAU and the United Nations, is firmly resolved to continue its activities to that end in the conviction that that is the only course likely to hasten the advent of a new and promising era for all peoples in this part of our continent.

In any case, Algeria wishes to reaffirm that no intimidation of any kind whatsoever can shake its convictions. It wishes once again to state its firm determination to oppose any infringement of its sovereignty and territorial integrity and it holds the Moroccan authorities entirely responsible for the inevitable consequences of violation of its frontiers.

(Signed) CHADLI Bendjedid
President of the People's Democratic
Republic of Algeria
General Secretary of the National
Liberation Front
