



UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



Distr.  
GENERAL

A/34/317  
14 June 1979  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

Thirty-fourth session  
Item 46 of the preliminary list<sup>2</sup>

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING  
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 14 June 1979 from the Permanent Representative  
of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-  
General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the two messages addressed by His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco to His Excellency Marshal Mohammed Jaafar El Numeiry, President of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan and current President of the Organization of African Unity, after the recent acts of aggression perpetrated by Algeria against Moroccan national territory.

On instructions from my Government, I would request that you kindly arrange for these two messages to be issued as official documents of the General Assembly under item 46 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Abdellatif FILALI  
Permanent Representative

\* A/34/50.

ANNEX I

Message dated 2 June 1979 from the King of Morocco addressed to  
His Excellency Mr. Mohammed Jaafar El Numeiry, President of the  
Democratic Republic of the Sudan and current President of the  
Organization of African Unity

As members of the Committee of Wise Men over which you preside, His Excellency Mr. Obasanjo, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and His Excellency Mr. Moussa Traoré, the President of the Republic of Mali, recently paid us a visit.

In the course of the fraternal, frank, straightforward and sincere meeting which we held, we made a point of assuring them of our desire for peace and of our complete readiness to do our utmost to put an end to the state of tension prevailing in the region.

We know that you, more than anyone, can fully appreciate the sincerity and honesty of this desire and readiness on our part.

We had hoped to encounter the same desire and the same readiness on the other side. Showing great self-restraint, Morocco refrained from any action so as to confirm its desire for peace and, above all, so as not to give Algeria the slightest pretext to justify its bad cause.

However, on Thursday, 31 May 1979, a Moroccan convoy was treacherously attacked as the result of an ambush laid for it not far from the town of Tarfaya.

The attack took place while the convoy was peacefully travelling through an uncontested part of our national territory that has not been the subject of any dispute since it was restored to the motherland in 1957, that is, just after the recovery of our independence, proclaimed in 1956.

As a result of this unjust and unjustifiable aggression, we suffered a toll of more than 20 dead and several dozen seriously wounded, while also sustaining substantial losses in equipment.

Naturally, our stated intention of putting an end to the tension and restoring peace in the region remains unshakable, whatever the proponents of war and the destabilization of our continent may think.

Nevertheless it remains our historical and our constitutional duty to defend, first and foremost, the independence and integrity of our national territory against all aggressors and against all attacks, wherever they may come from.

We are sure that, once again, with the intelligence and wisdom that have always distinguished your actions, you will be able to thwart the manoeuvres of all the enemies of Africa, whose ideological alibis cannot continue to mask indefinitely and with impunity their manifest and now indisputable intention of undermining the foundations of balance and stability on our continent.

ANNEX II

Message dated 4 June 1979 from the King of Morocco, addressed to His Excellency Mr. Mohammed Jaafar El Numeiry, President of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan and current President of the Organization of African Unity

Today, on Monday, 4 June 1979, we received Mr. Edem Kodjo, the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, who came to discuss with us some major problems currently confronting our organization.

We took the opportunity afforded by his visit to deliver to him the message we sent you after the violation of our national territory during the night of 31 May-1 June 1979.

While we were engaged in that discussion, we received a message from our general staff, announcing that our territory had just been violated again, on this very day, Monday, 4 June 1979.

This time the violation occurred at the town of Assa, which has been under Moroccan sovereignty from time immemorial.

In addition to the loss of forces and military equipment, we also lost six civilians.

The provocative nature of this action is obvious.

These forces of destruction and destabilization seem, without any doubt whatsoever, to have set as their immediate objective the undermining and obstruction of the work of conciliation undertaken by the Committee of Wise Men of the Organization of African Unity, over which you preside, just before the summit meeting which our organization will shortly be holding at Monrovia.

In addition, these same forces of evil are seeking to involve the countries of the region in an armed confrontation, whose dire consequences will affect the entire African continent.

Thus far, our firm determination to shield Africa from anything that could threaten its security, stability or equilibrium has always consistently prompted us to refrain from meeting blind force with an act of force that would be equally blind. Indeed, we have always weighed only too carefully the implications and extent of the responsibilities we have assumed in the African community so as not to involve it in an irreversible situation that would inevitably be fatal to it. Indeed, we have always considered it, and still consider it our main duty to place all our vital forces at the service of the cause of the strengthening and development of our young continent.

/...

However, the capacity of a head of State and of his people for doing the impossible and the wisdom that they draw on, inevitably have bounds which we will one day reluctantly have to break. The blame will lie solely with those who, without regard for law or justice, have been attacking and violating our territory and our national integrity for more than three years.

After two successive attacks on Moroccan soil in the space of four days, we have concluded that the situation had reached the maximum point of seriousness and could at any minute become explosive.

Even so, we have endeavoured to persist in our lucidity and wisdom so as to prevent the irreparable from occurring on our continent.

We have therefore decided to send Mr. Edem Kodjo, in his capacity as Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, to the highest Algerian authorities today. We are sure that, on your behalf and on behalf of our organization, he will succeed in calling their attention to the dangers to which the whole of Africa is exposed by ill-considered and irresponsible actions.

We will thus have done our utmost as an African head of State who is deeply and sincerely committed to the peace, stability and prestige of our continent.

Whatever may happen later will be beyond our control. It will be the bitter fruit of the persistence of others in their error and arrogance.

HASSAN II