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LETTER DATED 17 MARCH 1983 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO
THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

With reference to the letter addressed to you in document S/15643 dated 16 March 1983, I have the honour to inform you of the following:

The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya categorically denies the allegations contained therein and affirms that it does not occupy any part of Chad territory and does not have any ambitions with regard to the territories of other countries. However, the Jamahiriya will not relinquish an inch of its own territory.

The Aouzou sector is an integral part of Libyan territory, its inhabitants are Libyan and they have held Libyan identity cards since independence. They are also represented in the General People's Congress, which is considered the legislative organ of the Jamahiriya. The Jamahiriya has taken care to maintain the relations of brotherhood and good neighbourliness linking the peoples of Libya and Chad and has worked continuously to ensure the unity of the brotherly people of Chad and the security and stability of their country. The Jamahiriya has been the first country to work for an end to the tragedy suffered by the people of Chad since the early 1960s and it was in its territory that the first conference of national reconciliation in Chad was held. It has participated in all the conferences which have been held ever since in Nigeria for the same purpose, resulting in the conclusion of the Lagos Agreement and the establishment of the interim Government of National Unity headed by Goukouni Oueddei, which includes all Chad groups and is recognized by the Organization of African Unity. The Jamahiriya most deeply regrets the renewal of the tragedy of the Chad people after the rebels had seized the capital, N'Djamena, and expelled the legitimate government.

The letter mentioned above constitutes an interference in the internal affairs of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and is an unfriendly act aimed at creating problems between the two countries and diverting world public opinion from the fighting in Chad between the rebel forces controlling the capital and the forces of the legitimate Government led by Goukouni Oueddei.

The question of Chad was one of the important issues considered by OAU, for which a special committee was established at the level of Heads of State, of which the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has the honour to be a member. There is no doubt that the forthcoming summit conference of the Organization to be held in Addis Ababa in June will consider the question anew.

It is common knowledge that, in spite of the seizure of the capital by the rebel Hussein Habré, the Government of Chad headed by Goukouni Oueddei continues to be the legitimate Government and controls most parts of Chad.

The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya is of the opinion that priority should be given to seeking a solution of the question of Chad in accordance with the Lagos Agreement. With regard to the issues concerning the bilateral relations between the two countries, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya is prepared to discuss them with a legitimate government representing, and recognized by, the Chad people. It should also be noted that there is a Commission of Good Offices between Libya and Chad established by OAU at the fourteenth summit conference, held in Libreville.

While we affirm that we see no need to convene the Security Council, we are prepared to co-operate with you and with the members of the Council in any action which could assist our Chad brethren in solving their problems and achieving national reconciliation.

I request that this letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ali A. TREIKI
Permanent Representative
