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LETTER DATED 15 AUGUST 1983 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF EGYPT TO
THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

During the current debate in the Security Council, the delegation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya referred to document S/15912, and repeated the same tendentious misrepresentations regarding the joint military exercises which are being carried out in Egypt.

We need hardly refute these fallacious allegations; however, in order to set the record straight, my delegation wishes to state the following:

1. It is a well-known fact that these military training exercises, carried out in Egyptian territory, are of limited duration. Their date and scope had been decided upon and announced a long time ago, and hence are in no way related to the current developments in the region.
2. My delegation would also draw attention to the fact that the Egyptian authorities at the highest level have repeatedly declared that the military training exercises are not directed towards any State and that their sole objective is to intensify the defensive capabilities of the Egyptian Armed Forces.
3. The holding of such military training exercises, carried out in the Egyptian territory, is a legitimate sovereign right and indeed a duty that poses a threat to no one. Neither do we need to stress that the exercise of this right is fully consistent with international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

It is evident, Mr. President, that Libya's groundless allegations are but futile attempts to disguise and divert attention away from its destabilization designs in the region, its exposed continued interference in the internal affairs of Chad, its aggression against that country and its legitimate Government.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a Security Council document.

(Signed) Ahmed T. KHALIL
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
