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LETTER DATED 26 NOVEMBER 1973 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF DEMOCRATIC YEMEN ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, and in connexion with the letter of the Chargé d'affaires, a.i., of Qabus of Oman, addressed to you and circulated as a Security Council document dated 20 November 1973 (S/11121), I have the honour to bring to Your Excellency's attention the following:

On 19 November 1973, the Foreign Minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen issued the following official statement.

"The Deputy Minister of Defense of the client Government of Qabus of Oman alleged that a military aircraft belonging to the air force of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen attacked positions inside the so-called Sultanate of Oman. The Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen categorically rejects these allegations. At a time when Arab national solidarity against zionism and imperialism is at its apex, such fabricated lies only serve to underline the state of panic in which the enemies of the legitimate aspirations of the Arab masses find themselves. The allegation of the puppets of colonialism in Oman is certainly aimed at concealing the military aggressive designs being hatched against our territorial integrity."

In our letter addressed to you on 25 September 1972, concerning similar allegations by Qabus of Oman, the following was mentioned, inter alia:

"The real problem of the Sultan and his protégées is not beyond the borders of Oman, where the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman and the Arabian Gulf has been and is waging a war of liberation against foreign domination. The Front has virtually liberated the Province of Dhofar, and the very capital of the Sultan no longer seems to enjoy colonial immunity."

The contention that "units of the 'South Yemen' regular army have been penetrating Oman" is absolutely baseless and unfounded. It is, however, true that both Qabus and his colonial masters are facing an armed revolution by the Omani masses under the leadership of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman and the Arabian Gulf, which celebrated its eighth anniversary on 9 June 1973. This Front was established long before the independence of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and cannot easily be dismissed as an "insurgency".

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Whatever the seemingly independent image of Oman, portrayed by its exuberant propaganda, the hard fact is that it is under colonial political, economic and military domination. The colonial military bases in Massirah and Sallalah protect not the oppressed masses of Oman but the throne of the Sultan. It is the Omani masses and their revolutionary Front that valiantly resist foreign domination and struggle to liberate their country from the yoke of a despotic régime supported by colonial domination.

I would kindly request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdalla S. ASHTAL  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

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