



Security Council

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ORIGINAL: ARABICLETTER DATED 10 MAY 1983 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE
PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, I have the honour to draw your attention to the grave situation arising from the series of repeated aggressive terrorist exercises being carried out by the United States Administration against the security, sovereignty and independence of the people of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, violating its territorial waters and airspace. Those attacks, which are increasing daily and acquiring serious dimensions, are of a nature to threaten peace and security in the region. The most serious of these provocative acts were the movements of the United States Sixth Fleet on 25 to 26 April 1983, within the Tripoli aviation information area, when three types of military aircraft (F-14, A-6A, A-7A) took off from the deck of the United States nuclear aircraft-carrier Nimitz in intensive sorties along the Libyan Coast, from the city of Tripoli in the west to the city of Benghazi in the east, thus violating the territorial waters and airspace of the Jamahiriya.

The aircraft and the aircraft-carrier also jammed radar equipment, air defence devices and cable and wireless communications, endangering civil aviation. The details of these violations are as follows:

On 25 April 1983, at 1200 hours, United States aerial activity began north of Benghazi, north-east of Tripoli and north of Surt. These movements ended at 0415 hours on 26 April 1983. The number of sorties detected was 158, broken down as follows:

1. Tripoli and Misratah sector:

Twenty-four sorties violated the airspace and territorial waters in the coastal region east of Tripoli.

2. Benghazi sector:

Seventy-five sorties were detected in the coastal region north and north-west of Benghazi; they violated the territorial waters and airspace in that region.

3. Surt sector:

Fifty-nine sorties took place over the coastal region north of Surt, violating the territorial waters and airspace in that region a number of times.

All the aerial violations of the boundary of the territorial waters north and north-east of Surt occurred during the night. The speed of the hostile aircraft varied between 400 and 800 kilometres an hour, and their altitude varied between 3 and 8 kilometres. They all took off from the aircraft-carrier Nimitz, which was stationed opposite the Gulf of Sidra.

White House sources have announced unequivocally that these provocations were committed directly as a threat to the Jamahiriya and its revolution and people, which confirms the hostile intentions harboured by the United States Administration against the security and integrity of the Jamahiriya and the inviolability of the territory of a State Member of the United Nations.

The dispatch by the United States Administration of these aircraft, thus violating Libyan territorial waters and airspace, constitutes a clear provocation and a flagrant violation of the principles of international conduct and law and of the Charter of the United Nations.

These threats and provocations are not a chance occurrence or a transitory operation. They represent an established and deliberate policy of aggression that has been practised by the United States Administration over a long period, in the form of threats, provocations and direct and indirect aggression against Libya, as in the case of the aggression against the Gulf of Sidra in August 1981, the economic blockade aimed at the subjugation of the Libyan people and the disruption of economic and social development plans in the Jamahiriya and the accompanying tendentious information campaigns and political and economic pressures on other States to oppose the Jamahiriya.

United States violations of Libyan territorial waters and airspace have steadily increased so as to constitute a grave threat to the Libyan people and to the peace and security of the region. They are also regarded as a preliminary step for the launching of full-scale aggression against the Jamahiriya.

The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has brought the details of these provocations and their gravity before the Security Council on previous occasions, and they may be referred to in Council documents, of which we mention the following:

1. Document S/10939, dated 30 May 1973, on the violation of Libyan airspace by United States C-130 military aircraft for the purpose of reconnaissance and espionage;

2. Document S/14094 dated 6 August 1980, containing a list of violations of Libyan airspace by United States aircraft;

3. Document S/14636, dated 20 August 1981, on the interception and attacking of two Libyan aircraft by eight United States military aircraft belonging to the United States Sixth Fleet;

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4. Document S/14860, dated 5 February 1982, concerning the interception by two United States aircraft belonging to the United States Sixth Fleet of a Libyan Arab Airlines commercial aircraft on its regular flight from Tripoli to Athens.

In early 1982, three violations occurred in the Surt region, and, on 19 January 1983, two violations of Libyan airspace occurred in the Benghazi region. There were also a number of violations in the Surt region during February 1983.

That is in addition to the constant espionage operations carried out by United States AWACS planes over the whole of the eastern region of Libya.

The deliberations of the Security Council on 22 and 23 February 1983 during consideration of the provocations and threats launched by the United States Sixth Fleet and American spy planes against the Jamahiriya and the statements made expressed deep concern at the danger which threatens peace and security in the region as a result of the continuation of these provocative acts against the Jamahiriya. This is what prompts us to call upon the Security Council to take practical measures to deter the United States Administration and prevent it from continuing its repeated and escalating provocations and threats against the Jamahiriya and its peace-loving people.

It is incumbent on the Security Council to assume its full responsibilities under the Charter in order to deter the aggressor and put a halt to anything that threatens international peace and security, particularly in this explosive region of the world.

In drawing the attention of the Security Council to the gravity of these repeated provocations and threats on the part of a State that is a permanent member of the Security Council, the Jamahiriya reserves its full right to defend itself and to take the necessary measures to protect its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity and the inviolability of its airspace.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this letter to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ali Abdusalam TREIKI
Permanent Representative
