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LETTER DATED 20 FEBRUARY 1958 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF SUDAN  
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour, upon instructions from my Government, to request you to call an urgent meeting of the Security Council to discuss the grave situation existing on the Sudan-Egyptian border, resulting from the massed concentrations of Egyptian troops moving towards the Sudanese frontiers.

As a party to this dispute, I request that I be heard when the meeting is convened.

I attach herewith a communication received from His Excellency Prime Minister Abdulla Khalil of the Sudan.

Please accept, Excellency, etc.

(Signed) Yacoub Osman  
Permanent Representative of the Sudan  
to the United Nations

TEXT OF A LETTER DATED 20 FEBRUARY 1958 FROM  
H.E. PRIME MINISTER ABDULLA KHALIL TO THE  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SUDAN TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS

On the 1st of February, 1958, the Egyptian Government sent a note to the Sudan Government wherein she claimed sovereignty over the following Sudanese territories:

- (a) the North-eastern part of the Sudan, north of latitude 22 north and
- (b) that part of the Sudan which is situated north of the town of Wadi Halfa, comprising the Saras, Debeira and Faras region.

The Egyptian note demanded the handing over of these two territories to Egypt. Egypt alleges that the said two territories belong to Egypt under the 1899 Agreement concluded between Great Britain and Egypt. These two territories belong to the Sudan by virtue of agreements and treaties concluded between the Egyptian Government and the Sudan Government in 1902 and 1907. Since then the said territories have been under the exclusive administration and sovereignty of the Sudan. The inhabitants of these territories are of Sudanese nationality. At no time did they vote in any Egyptian parliamentary election or plebiscite. Moreover, they have voted as Sudanese nationals in the Sudanese Parliamentary elections in 1953 on the strength of the Self-Government Statute which had been enacted under the Agreement concluded between Great Britain and Egypt in February 1953.

On the 9th of February, reports were received by the Sudan Government that Egyptian troops were being sent to the north-eastern part of the Sudan north of latitude 22 north. The Sudan Government inquired from the Egyptian Government about the truth of these reports. Egypt denied them. On the 13th of February the Egyptian Government sent a note, dated 9th February, demanding that the Sudanese inhabitants of the said Sudanese territory should vote in the Egyptian Plebiscite which will be held on the 21st of February. Several representations were made to the Egyptian Government to allow sufficient time for the Government of the Sudan to study such an intricate matter - a matter which the Egyptian Government had chosen to raise at a time when the Sudan Government and the Sudanese people are busy with their parliamentary General Elections which will be held on the 27th of February.

The Egyptian Government, on 16th of February, informed the Sudan Government that it had decided to send into the said territory Plebiscite officials accompanied by Frontier troops to conduct the Egyptian Plebiscite. The Sudanese Government asked twice for time to negotiate with the Egyptian Government.

On 18th of February the Egyptian Government sent a note to the Sudan Government insisting to include the said territory in the Egyptian Plebiscite and asking the Sudan Government to withdraw therefrom a platoon which the latter had stationed there, to maintain law and order during the Sudanese Parliamentary Election - as has been done in other parts of the country. The Sudanese Government refuse to accept this demand which constitutes an infringement of its sovereignty. The Sudan Government, being eager for an amicable settlement of this dispute, had sent its Minister of Foreign Affairs to Cairo on the 18th of February to discuss the matter with the Egyptian Government. Unfortunately no settlement was reached. Reports reveal huge infiltration of Egyptian troops on the border. The Egyptian Government insist on conducting a Plebiscite in this Sudan territory.

The Sudan Government, though restrained in its action, views with deep concern this unprovoked and illegal attitude of the Egyptian Government which constitutes a breach of Sudanese sovereignty. Since the Sudan is determined to defend its territory the situation would result in a breach of the peace and, if uncontrolled, may develop into armed conflict. As a peace-loving nation, the Sudan requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to ask the Security Council to meet immediately and use its good offices to stop the impending Egyptian aggression. The Sudan Government will be submitting a note giving full evidence of its unquestionable right to the territories now claimed by Egypt.

Abdulla Khalil  
Prime Minister

