

JUL 29 1977



UNITED NATIONS

SECURITY
COUNCILDistr.
GENERALS/12374
28 July 1977
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 28 JULY 1977 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE
PERMANENT MISSION OF ALGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS TO THE
PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In a letter dated 7 July 1977 (S/12360), the Permanent Representative of Mauritania to the United Nations, acting on behalf of his Government, saw fit, once again, to implicate Algeria, in the wake of the losses that continue to be inflicted on it by the liberation forces of the Saharan people under the direction of the Frente POLISARIO. Once again, apparently, it must be stated that this manoeuvre of the Mauritanian authorities consists in justifying their military defeats in a conflict which directly opposes them to the Saharan people and in concealing the failure of their policy of annexation by spreading confusion around a problem which in its essence remains a question of decolonization and by creating diversions in order to mask their own responsibilities.

Since the conclusion of the Madrid agreement, which was in flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and which flouted all the resolutions of the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity and the Non-Aligned Countries, the policy of the Mauritanian Government has continuously thwarted the legitimate aspirations of the Saharan people by violent means, in particular by the military occupation of their Territory. This occupation, which is a continuation of colonial domination, represents a real challenge to the international community, as well as constituting an aggression against the Saharan people. It has provoked the legitimate reaction of the Saharan people, whose liberation struggle in the field increases in vigour day by day, inflicting heavy daily losses on the foreign forces of aggression and occupation, and thereby giving evidence of their determination to resist and their vitality in combating colonialism. The arguments advanced by the Nouakchott authorities are in every respect faithful to the logic of the oppressor, which consists in distorting a problem of decolonization, changing the basic facts thereof and, in the present case, placing on Algeria the responsibility for the situation, although this first and foremost lies with the Mauritanian Government. The irresponsible manoeuvres and reckless pursuit of policy cannot change the fact of first-degree aggression committed by the Mauritanian authorities, an aggression which is clearly established in the case of any State which directly opposes the self-determination of a people. The origins of the Western Sahara question are sufficiently well known to every State within the international community for the systematic accusations made by the Mauritanian Government not to elicit any response.

In affirming that the Western Sahara case is closed, the Mauritanian Government is seeking to conceal the truth, since the question of Western Sahara remains on the agenda of the United Nations General Assembly, in accordance with resolution 31/45 of 1 December 1976 and, furthermore, the decision taken recently at Libreville by the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity to hold a special session at the summit level, in October at Lusaka, devoted to the question of Western Sahara constitutes an unequivocal answer to that Government's assertions. It is quite obvious that this important decision is extremely vexing to the Nouakchott authorities. It was therefore to be expected that they would use every dilatory means to conceal this diplomatic failure and to attempt to discredit the liberation struggle of the Saharan people by deliberately confusing the heroic actions of the Frente POLISARIO combatants in the field with the assassination attempt made by agents provocateurs on a Mauritanian diplomat for the manifest purpose of alienating the steadily growing sympathy which international opinion constantly accords to the liberation struggle of the Saharan people. In any event, Algeria, while reiterating its attachment to peace, remains certain that the only reasonable way of securing a peaceful settlement of the Western Sahara question lies in the implementation of the decisions of the General Assembly, as they alone will permit the Saharan people to exercise freely its inalienable right to self-determination.

In accordance with instructions from my Government, I request that this letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Fathih BOUAYAD-AGHA
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Algeria
to the United Nations
